

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY (U 133 W) for an order (1) authorizing it to increase rates for water service by \$87,060,700 or 22.95% in 2025; (2) authorizing it to increase rates by \$20,699,200 or 4.42% in 2026, and increase rates by \$22,408,200 or 4.57% in 2027 in accordance with the Rate Case Plan; and (3) adopting other related rulings and relief necessary to implement the Commission's ratemaking policies.

Application 23-08-010

DECISION GRANTING PETITION TO MODIFY DECISION 25-01-03**Summary**

This decision grants the petition to modify Decision (D.) 25-01-036, filed by Golden State Water Company (GSW). Accordingly, Ordering Paragraph 11 of D.25-01-036 is modified to exclude the Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA) from the list of accounts to be closed after amortization of its balance.

This decision closes the proceeding.

1. Procedural History

On August 14, 2023, Golden State Water Company (GSW) (U133W) filed Application (A.) 23-08-010 for an order (1) authorizing it to increase rates for water service by \$87,060,700 or 22.95% in 2025; (2) authorizing it to increase rates by \$20,699,200 or 4.42% in 2026, and increase rates by \$22,408,200 or 4.57% in 2027 in accordance with the Rate Case Plan; and (3) adopting other related rulings and relief necessary to implement the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) ratemaking policies

On July 12, 2024, GSW and the Public Advocates Office filed a Joint Motion for Adoption of Settlement Agreement. On January 30, 2025, the Commission adopted Decision (D.)25-01-036, approving the settlement agreement, resolving the remaining issues, and authorizing a general rate increase for GSW for 2025 through 2027.

On May 1, 2025, GSW filed Petition for Modification (PFM) of D.25-01-036, seeking to exclude the Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA) from the list of accounts to be closed after amortization of balance. GSW notes in the PFM that the Public Advocates Office does not oppose the request.

2. Petition to Modify Decision 25-01-036

Pursuant to Rule 16.4(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a petition for modification must concisely state the justification for the requested relief and must propose specific wording to carry out all requested modifications to the decision.

The decision resolving this proceeding adopts the Settlement Agreement, which resolves many of the issues of this proceeding. As part of that Settlement

Agreement, GSW and the Public Advocates Office (the Parties) proposed that GSW's Drinking Water Fees Memorandum Account (DWFMA), which tracks all drinking water fees charged by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). GSW notes in its PFM that the memorandum account for this particular mechanism appears to have changed from the Drinking Water Fees Memorandum Account to the Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA).¹ The Applicant goes on to state that while it did close the former, it did not intend to close the latter. In other words, GSW "inadvertently requested to close the DWFBA when that account should remain open."²

GSW's specific changes to Ordering Paragraph 11 of D.25-01-036 entail striking "(6) Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account" from the list of balancing accounts to be closed when amortization is complete.

3. Discussion

3.1. Timeliness of the Petition

Rule 16.4(d) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, petitions for modification must be filed and served within one year of the effective date of the decision proposed to be modified. In this case, the PFM was filed on May 1, 2025, whilst the decision it seeks to modify has an effective date of January 30, 2025. Accordingly, we find that GSW has satisfied the timeliness requirement of Rule 16.4(d).

3.2. Relief Requested

¹ See PFM at 2.

² See PFM at 3.

Upon review of the Petition for Modification, the Commission finds the relief requested by GSW to be reasonable and grants the petition to modify D.25-01-036, and modifies Ordering Paragraph 11 to remove the DWFBA from the list of those to be closed upon expiration of amortization. Ordering Paragraph 11 of D.25-01-036 is modified as follows:

11. When the amortization expires, Golden State Water Company shall transfer any residual balance in the following accounts to its General Ratemaking Area Balancing Account, close the following accounts, and remove reference to them from Golden State Water Company's Preliminary Statement: (1) Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account – COVID-19; (2) Aerojet Water Litigation Memorandum Account; (3) Clearlake Supply Expense Balancing Account; (4) Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account – Extreme Heat Event; (5) Water Conservation Memorandum Account; ~~(6) Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account.~~

4. Summary of Public Comment

Rule 1.18 allows any member of the public to submit written comment in any Commission proceeding using the "Public Comment" tab of the online Docket Card for that proceeding on the Commission's website. Rule 1.18(b) requires that relevant written comment submitted in a proceeding be summarized in the final decision issued in that proceeding. No relevant public comments regarding the PFM were submitted to the Docket Card of this proceeding.

5. Comments on Proposed Decision

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 311(g)(2) of the Pub. Util. Code and

Rule 14.6(c)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.³

6. Assignment of Proceeding

Darcie L. Houck is the assigned Commissioner and Amin Nojan is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. GSW filed a petition to modify less than a year after the effective date of D.25-01-036.
2. No party opposes GSW's Petition for Modification of D.25-01-036.
3. GSW states that the inclusion of the Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account in the list of those to be closed upon expiration of amortization was inadvertent and mistaken.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Petition satisfies the requirements of Rule 16.4.
2. GSW's Petition should be granted.
3. This Application should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Petition for Modification of Decision 25-01-036, filed by Golden State Water Company on May 1, 2025, is granted.
2. Ordering Paragraph 11 of D.25-01-036 is modified as follows:
 11. When the amortization expires, Golden State Water Company shall transfer any residual balance in the following accounts to its General Ratemaking Area Balancing Account, close the following

³ Transcript at 19, ln 12-17: Applicant waives comment period.

accounts, and remove reference to them from Golden State Water Company's Preliminary Statement: (1) Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account – COVID-19; (2) Aerojet Water Litigation Memorandum Account; (3) Clearlake Supply Expense Balancing Account; (4) Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account – Extreme Heat Event; (5) Water Conservation Memorandum Account; (6) Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account.

3. This proceeding is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at Sacramento, California.