

**DIVISION OF WATER AND AUDITS**

**Advice Letter Cover Sheet**

**Utility Name:** Del Oro Water Co. **Date Filed:** 3/6/2023  
**[District Name]:** [ALL Districts]  
**CPUC Utility #:** WTB 61 **Protest Deadline (20<sup>th</sup> Day):** 3/26/2023  
**Advice Letter #:** 537 **Review Deadline (30<sup>th</sup> Day):** 4/6/2023  
**Tier:** 3

**Req. Effective Date:**

**Authorization for Filing:**  
**Compliance Filing:**

**Description:** Statewide General Rate Case

**Utility Contact:** Janice Hanna **Alternate:** Bob Fortino  
**Phone:** (530) 809-3960 **Phone:** (530) 809-3970  
**Email:** [jeh@corporatecenter.us](mailto:jeh@corporatecenter.us) **Email:** [corp.ceo@corporatecenter.us](mailto:corp.ceo@corporatecenter.us)

**DWA USE ONLY**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Comments</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

ACCEPTED  WITHDRAWN  REJECTED

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



March 6, 2023

Advice Letter No. 537

## TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Del Oro Water Company, Inc. (DOWC) hereby transmits this Advice Letter No. 537 for filing on behalf of all DOWC Districts (DISTRICTS) for General Rate Cases to modify its Annual General Metered Service Rates. Following the catastrophic wildfire in Butte County (The CAMP Fire) in which four DISTRICTS sustained heavy losses, DOWC needs to adjust previously authorized sales forecasts for the affected districts and reallocate its statewide and regional operating expenses for its current count of 6,903 customers, compared to the prior count of 6,458 customers which was done on August 18, 2020 with Resolution W-5229.

The fire area districts lost a total of 2,162 customers. A total of 470 customers have returned for water service. Based on this information, the recovery will continue to be very slow in this area for some time.

DOWC will be filing (20) individual GRC Workbooks. DOWC requests that the Commission Staff review these workbooks so DOWC can modify its Annual General Metered Service Rates to reflect the losses DOWC has incurred and bring its revenue requirement back to a reasonable rate of return on its assets.

First, DOWC submitted standard GRC Workbooks which reflect rate increases based on each district's number of customers, water usage, meter sizes, and (3) year historical expense history along with the actual increased costs of purchased water, power, insurance, payroll, and health benefits. Expenses have increased 31.17% over (3) years which is approximately 10.39% per year. DOWC's average asset increase total is \$82,109 or .07% statewide and using the requested 9.33% statewide rate of return (ROR), the total net revenue increase requested is \$7,285 or .06% over the previous GRC in 2020. Percentage rate increases (decreases) for these workbooks vary from 73.27% to (10.07%).

DOWC also submitted rates showing increases based on number of remaining customers (6,903) and the net revenue request which would equal \$154.03 per customer annually or \$12.84 per customer monthly over their current rates. Percentage rate increases (decreases) vary by district from 54.28% to (9.68%) due to the number of customers.

Lastly submitted, GRC Workbooks with ROR adjustments by Regions and Districts, where it is shown the percentage rate increases are from 42.66% to 0.98% with an average statewide percentage rate increase of 22.36%. This approach provides no percentage decreases and minimizes the rate impact for the Camp Fire area. DOWC suggests that staff considers this approach for the GRC.

It should be noted that DOWC has not requested any annual CPI rate increases or balancing account offsets since the August 18, 2020 Resolution W-5229 was approved.



Del Oro Water Company, Inc.  
Advice Letter No. 537, DOWC Statewide General Rate Case  
Page Two

DOWC has filed a claim with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and has engaged in litigation with the Trust. There still has not been a settlement amount discussed or received. Upon receipt of any monies from the PG&E litigation, DOWC will file a Tier 3 Advice Letter proposing an allocation or distribution of such litigation monies.

The CPUC staff will make a thorough investigation of the utility's request. Following the investigation, the CPUC may grant the utility's request in whole or in part, or may deny it. Customers who would like to call the CPUC's attention to any problems concerning their water service, or who would like to provide any other information or comments regarding this requested change should do so by writing to the CPUC.

**Customer notices will not be sent until Commission Staff and DOWC agree on the recovery method.** At that time customers will be encouraged to contact Del Oro at (530) 717-2500 with any questions regarding this General Rate Case. DOWC will also work with the CPUC staff regarding meetings Statewide for the GRC. In addition, there are two ways to respond to this notice. You may send a protest to the CPUC's Water Division, and if you do, you must send a copy of the protest to DOWC, or you can send a response to the CPUC and mention "DOWC Statewide General Rate Case".

**File a PROTEST:**

A protest is a document stating that you object to the utility receiving all or some part of its request. If you wish to file a protest, you must state the facts constituting the grounds for the protest, how the advice letter affects you, and the reasons why you believe the whole advice letter, or part of it, is not justified.

If the protest requests an evidentiary hearing (an evidentiary hearing is a legal proceeding held before an administrative law judge at the Commission to obtain evidence), your protest must state the facts you would present at the evidentiary hearing to support your request for a complete or a partial denial of the advice letter. The filing of a protest does not ensure that an evidentiary hearing will be held. The decision whether or not to hold an evidentiary hearing will be based on the content of the protest.

**File a RESPONSE:**

A response is a document that does not object to the request sought in the application, but nevertheless, presents information you believe would be useful to the Commission in acting on the application. Comments should mention that they pertain to the "DOWC Statewide General Rate Case".



Del Oro Water Company, Inc.  
Advice Letter No. 537, DOWC Statewide General Rate Case  
Page Three

CPUC, Water Division 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Fax: (415) 703-2655 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:water.division@cpuc.ca.gov">water.division@cpuc.ca.gov</a>	and	DOWC, Director of Community Relations Drawer 5172 Chico, CA 95927 Fax: (530) 717-2639 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:CommunityRelations@delorowater.com">CommunityRelations@delorowater.com</a>
---	-----	--

Protests and Responses must be sent no later than twenty (20) days after the date this notice was mailed. If you have not received a reply to your protest from the utility within 10 business days, contact Del Oro's corporate offices at 530-717-2500.

A copy of Del Oro Water Company's filing may be inspected in its business office: 426 Broadway, Suite 301, Chico, California 95928 or at its website: [www.delorowater.com](http://www.delorowater.com). By calling 530-717-2500, you may request a copy to be mailed to you. You will be billed for the copies at \$0.10 per page. Further information may be obtained from the utility at its business office or from the Commission at the above address.

This filing is made under the provisions of General Order No. 96-A.

As this is a Tier 3 filing, a notice of the Statewide General Rate Case request will be mailed to the customers after the Commission Staff and DOWC agrees on the recovery method and meeting locations.

This filing will not cause withdrawal of service nor conflict with any other schedule or rule.

Del Oro Water Company, Inc.

**JANICE HANNA**  
Director Corporate Accounting & Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of Advice Letter No. 537 on all interested persons and organizations in these filings or their attorneys as shown on the attached list.

Dated: March 6, 2023 at Chico, California



---

Janice Hanna

## NOTICE

Interested Persons and Organizations should notify the Water Division, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 4002 San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to ensure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the Resolution number on the service list on which your name appears.

**Del Oro Water Company**  
**All Districts**  
**Service List for Advice Letter No. 537**

**California Public Utilities Commission**

Public Advocates Office  
[PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov)

**California Public Utilities Commission**

Division of Water and Audits  
[water.division@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:water.division@cpuc.ca.gov)

**County of Butte, Board of Supervisors**

Attn: Robin Bennett  
747 Elliott Road  
Paradise, CA 95969  
1-530-872-6304  
[dteeter@buttecounty.net](mailto:dteeter@buttecounty.net)

**Buzztail Community Services District**

Attn: Jim McCrossin, President  
PO Box 7303  
Chico, CA 95927  
[jim@mccrossin.us](mailto:jim@mccrossin.us)  
[bookwormto@aol.com](mailto:bookwormto@aol.com)

**Fresno County Administrator**

Jean Rousseau  
2281 Tulare, Suite 304  
Fresno, CA 93721  
1-559-600-1710  
[naortiz@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:naortiz@co.fresno.ca.us)

**Glenn County**

516 West Sycamore St.  
Willows, CA 95988  
1-530-934-6400  
[gcboard@countyofglenn.net](mailto:gcboard@countyofglenn.net)

**Humboldt County Administrator**

Loretta A. Nickolaus,  
825 Fifth Street, Room 111  
Eureka, CA 95501-1153  
1-707-445-7266  
[cao@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:cao@co.humboldt.ca.us)

**Kern County Administrator**

Mr. John Nilon  
1115 Truxton Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
1-661-868-3198  
[caomailbox@kerncounty.com](mailto:caomailbox@kerncounty.com)

**Larry Lees, Shasta County Administrative Officer**

1450 Court Street, Ste. 308A  
Redding, CA 96001-1673  
1-530-225-5561  
[lrees@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:lrees@co.shasta.ca.us)

**Tulare County Administrator**

Jason Britt  
2800 West Burrel Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93291-4582  
1-559-636-5005  
[jtbritt@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:jtbritt@co.tulare.ca.us)

**Tuolumne County Offices**

Mr. Craig Pedro, County Administrator  
2 South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
1-209-533-5511

**Arbuckle Public Utility District**

Jim Scheimer, Manager  
P.O. Box 207  
Arbuckle, CA 95912  
530-476-2054  
[apud@frontiernet.net](mailto:apud@frontiernet.net)



**Del Oro Water Company**  
**All Districts**  
**Service List for Advice Letter No. 537**

**Burney Water District**

William Rodriguez  
20222 Hudson Street  
Burney, CA 96013  
1-530-335-3582  
[burneywd@yahoo.com](mailto:burneywd@yahoo.com)

**California Hot Springs Water Service**

P. O. Box 146  
California Hot Springs, CA 93207  
No Email

**Ferndale Enterprise**

PO Box 1066,  
Ferndale, CA 95536  
[editor@ferndaleenterprise.us](mailto:editor@ferndaleenterprise.us)

**Lassen Pines Mutual Water Company**

9367 Mountain Meadow Road  
Shingletown, CA 96088  
530-474-5120  
[lpmw@frontiernet.net](mailto:lpmw@frontiernet.net)

**McFarland Mutual Water Company**

Mr. Rocio Mosqueda  
209 W. Kern Avenue  
McFarland, CA 93250  
1-661-792-3058  
[rmosqueda@mcfarlandcity.org](mailto:rmosqueda@mcfarlandcity.org)

**City of Orland**

815 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Orland, CA 95963  
(530) 865-1610  
[evonasek@cityoforland.com](mailto:evonasek@cityoforland.com)

**Paradise Irrigation District**

Mr. Tom Lando  
P.O. Box 2409  
Paradise, CA 95967  
1-530-877-4971  
[tlando@paradiseirrigation.com](mailto:tlando@paradiseirrigation.com)

**Riverside Community Services District**

Nancy Trujillo  
P.O. Box 857  
Ferndale, CA 95536  
1-707-786-9772  
No-email

**Springville Public Utility District (SPUD)**

Attn: Marilyn  
P.O. Box 434  
Springville, CA 93265  
1-559-539-2869  
[Spud@springvillewireless.com](mailto:Spud@springvillewireless.com)

**Strawberry Homeowners Association**

Mr. Dennis Kelley, Webmaster  
1963 Curtner Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95124-1303  
408-626-9153  
[webmaster@strawberrypropertyowners.com](mailto:webmaster@strawberrypropertyowners.com)

**Tuolumne Utilities District**

Mr. Tom Haglund  
18885 Nugget Blvd.  
Sonora, CA 95370  
1-209-532-5536  
[thaglund@tudwater.com](mailto:thaglund@tudwater.com)

**Del Oro Water Company**

Janice Hanna, Director of Corporate Accounting  
[jeh@corporatecenter.us](mailto:jeh@corporatecenter.us)

**Del Oro Water Company, Inc.**

[servicelist@delorowater.com](mailto:servicelist@delorowater.com)