



April 26, 2022

Advice Letter No. 532

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Del Oro Water Company, Inc. (DOWC) on behalf of all of its Districts, hereby transmits for filing the following changes in tariff schedules applicable to its Water Operations and which are attached hereto:

| <u>Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.</u> | <u>Title of Sheet</u> | | <u>Canceling Cal.P.U.C. Sheet No.</u> | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------|---|--------|
| Delete | Paradise Pines District Schedule No. 14.1 | 1754-W | 1755-W | 1756-W |
| | Water Shortage Contingency Plan with Staged | 1757-W | 1758-W | 1759-W |
| | Mandatory Reduction and Drought Surcharges | 1760-W | 1761-W | 1965-W |
| | | 1763-W | 1764-W | 1765-W |
| | | 1966-W | 1767-W | 1768-W |
| | | 1769-W | 1770-W | |
| Delete | River Island District Schedule No. 14.1 | 1053-W | 1054-W | 1055-W |
| | Stage Mandatory Water Conservation and | 1056-W | 1057-W | |
| | Rationing River Island District | | | |
| New | All Districts Schedule No. 14.1 | | | |
| | Water Shortage Contingency Plan with Staged | | | |
| | Mandatory Reductions and Drought Surcharges | | | |
| ___-W | Rule 14.1 | 1734-W | 1735-W | 1736-W |
| ___-W | | 1737-W | 1738-W | 1739-W |
| ___-W | | 1740-W | 1741-W | 1963-W |
| ___-W | | 1743-W | 1744-W | 1964-W |
| ___-W | | 1746-W | 1747-W | 1748-W |
| ___-W | | 1749-W | 1750-W | 1751-W |
| ___-W | | | | |
| ___-W | Table of Contents | 2437-W | | |
| ___-W | | 2430-W | | |
| ___-W | | 2325-W | | |
| ___-W | | 2438-W | | |



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With this Advice Letter, DOWC requests authorization to update its Schedule 14.1 (Attachment A) and Rule 14.1. (Attachment B)

Governor Gavin Newsom issued drought declarations on April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, and then again on July 8, 2021, declaring severe drought conditions in 50 counties in the State of California. In his declaration on July 8, 2021, the Governor cited, “climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought in all parts of the State and extreme or exceptional drought in most of the state.

On July 8, 2021, Terence Shia, Water Division Director sent a letter calling on investor owned utilities (IOUs) to implement voluntary water conservation measures to achieve the 15 percent reduction in water use from the 2020 levels.

DOWC followed his request, notifying its customers through a bill insert reminding them of voluntary water conservation measures and encouraging actions to reduce water usage. DOWC has continued to note on its monthly billing statement conservation measures and where to find drought updates on its web site.

DOWC updated its Water Shortage Contingency Plan in conjunction with its Urban Water Management Plan requiring six mandatory conservation stages.

DOWC is therefore requesting to modify its existing Schedule 14.1 and Rule 14.1 in the following ways:

Rule 14.1. The primary change to Rule 14.1 is the removal of the “Mandatory Staged Restriction of Water Use” section. The modified Rule 14.1 now only includes water use restrictions that are in place at all times, which better reflects the intended purpose of a generally applicable tariff “rule.” If additional measures and/or enforcement are needed, Schedule 14.1 will be implemented.

Schedule 14.1. The primary change to Schedule 14.1 is the update from four to six mandatory conservation stages. This renders it consistent with DOWC’s current update to its WSCP. Section 10632(a)(3) of the California Water Code now requires the inclusion of “Six standard water shortages and greater than 50 percent shortage.” This requirement necessitates the movement of restrictions from the previous four-stage system to a six-stage system. In most cases, restrictions either remain in their current stage, or move one stage up or down.

Other changes include: removing introductory language referencing the previous drought (which is no longer relevant); adjusting the minimum flow rate of a flow-restrictor in Section (D)(7) from



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3 Ccf/month to .5 gallons/minute, which better aligns with how flow is measured and with other water suppliers that allow flow-restrictor installation, and modifying the description of “Mandatory Water Budgets,” which begins in Stage 3, to allow DOWC to provide details when implementation is requested so that the most up-to-date information can be incorporated into enforcement of the Schedule.

DOWC is only requesting modifications to its existing Schedule 14.1 and Rule 14.1 at this time and is not requesting activation of a higher mandatory conservation state. There are no public hearings scheduled that relate to the proposals in this Advice Letter.

Requested Effective Date

DOWC is submitting this as a Tier 2 Advice Letter consistent with Finding and Conclusion No. 12 of Resolution W-4976 which states that “Rules providing for modification of an existing Schedule 14.1 should be adopted through a Tier 2 Advice Letter request.” DOWC requests that the proposed tariffs become effective April 26, 2022.

Notice

Customer Notice: Individual customer notice of this Advice Letter is not required under General Order 96-B, Water Industry Rule 3.1 (Method of Notice for Advice Letter increasing Rates) because it does not propose a rate increase or trigger any other customer notice requirement.

Service List: In accordance with General Order 96-B, General Rules 4.3 and 7.2, and Water Industry Rule 4.1, a copy of this advice letter will be mailed or electronically transmitted on April 26, 2022 to competing and adjacent utilities and other utilities or interested parties having requested such notification.

Response or Protest

Anyone may respond to or protest this advice letter. When submitting a response or protest, please include the utility name and advice letter number in the subject line. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the Commission in evaluating the advice letter. A protest objects to the advice letter in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based. These grounds are:

- (1) The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the advice letter;



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- (2) The relief requested in the advice letter would violate statute or Commission order, or is not authorized by statute or Commission order on which the utility relies;
- (3) The analysis, calculations, or data in the advice letter contain material error or omissions; Del Oro Water Company, Inc.
- (4) The relief requested in the advice letter is pending before the Commission in a formal proceeding; or
- (5) The relief requested in the advice letter requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the advice letter process; or
- (6) The relief requested in the advice letter is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided such a protest may not be made where it would require re-litigating a prior order of the Commission.)

A protest shall provide citations or proofs where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. A response or protest must be made in writing or by electronic mail and must be received by the Water Division within 20 days of the date this advice letter is filed. The address for mailing or delivering a protest is:

Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd floor
California Public Utilities Commission,
505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102
water.division@cpuc.ca.gov

On the same date the response or protest is submitted to the Water Division, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy by mail (or e-mail) to DOWC at the following address:

DOWC, Director of Community Relations
Drawer 5172
Chico, CA 95927
Fax: (530) 717-2639
E-Mail: CommunityRelations@delorowater.com

Cities and counties requiring Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform the Water Division within the 20-day protest period so a late-filed protest can be entertained. The informing document should include an estimate of the date the proposed protest might be voted on. The advice letter process does not provide for any responses, protests or comments, except for the utility's reply, after the 20-day comment period.



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Replies: The utility shall reply to each protest and may reply to any response. Each reply must be received by the Water Division within 5 business days after the end of the protest period and shall be served on the same day to the person who filed the protest or response. If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact Del Oro Water Company at (530) 717-2500.

Del Oro Water Company, Inc.

JANICE HANNA

Director Corporate Accounting & Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures