



# California Public Utilities Commission

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CPUC APPROVES SMALL WATER COMPANIES FEES

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today approved late payment, return check, and reconnection charges which small water companies, those with less than 2,000 customers, may charge customers who are late in paying bills.

When customers do not pay their bills on time, utilities, especially small ones, experience cash flow problems. Also, utilities' costs are increased because they have to spend extra time and money getting customers to pay. Previously, these costs were added to the utilities operating costs and collected, through rates, from all customers. Today's action is intended to encourage customers to pay on time, and when they don't, enable small water utilities to collect the costs directly from those who are late.

Fees approved are:

**\$5.00 - Late payment fee** for bills that are not paid when due.

**\$20.00 - Return check fee** for any check or electronic fund transfer not honored by the bank.

**\$25.00 - Reconnection charge** for turning service back on - during regular working hours - after it has been disconnected for nonpayment. It also will be charged to customers who wait until the utility employee shows up to disconnect service and the customer gives payment to the employee.

**\$40.00 - Reconnection charge** for turning service back on - at times other than regular working hours - after service was disconnected for nonpayment.

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