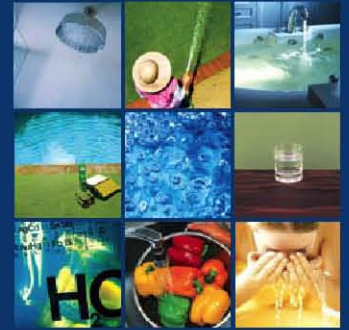


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The Weekly Wrap



March 16, 2012

No. 2012-11

TO: CWA Member Companies
FROM: Jack Hawks, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Highlights for the Week Ending March 16, 2012

Commissioner Ferron Gains Easy Confirmation by State Senate—The State Senate confirmed Mark Ferron as Commissioner of the California PUC on March 15th in a 35-2 vote. Previously on March 7th, he enjoyed a routine, uncontroversial hearing by the Senate Rules Committee, which pushed his confirmation to the full Senate on a 5-0 vote. California American Water's Evan Jacobs, chair of CWA's Legislative Committee, testified for CWA in support of Ferron at the committee hearing.

At the hearing, Ferron drew on his 25-year career in finance, banking and operations, saying he was "comfortable in dealing with complex and quantitative issues and in making long-term decisions based on assessing future trade-offs under uncertainty." He went to state that the Commission's most urgent mission "is to help rebuild the sense of trust that the public has in its utility service providers -- and in their government regulators -- something which had been eroding slowly over time, and which was severely shaken by the horrible tragedy in San Bruno."

He said became interested in public service at the CPUC because of his concern about "what we were passing onto the next generation and my desire to help shape this future." He also said he brings three things to the Commission – commercial experience; an outsider's viewpoint; and a quantitative approach to decision-making.

At Deutsche Bank Global Markets, where he was Chief Operating Officer, Ferron said he had to balance the entrepreneurial nature of his sales and trading staff with the need to ensure they didn't subject the bank to excessive risk. He said, "I was essentially the internal regulator for the bank: encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, while setting rules to ensure the right behavior and the right overall outcome."

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At the Commission, Ferron said his focus has been on energy issues, and specifically electricity. In addition to his “fair share” of cases involving water, telecom and transportation, roughly two-thirds of his cases have been on energy; specifically, he is focusing on the renewable portfolio standard, energy efficiency and resource adequacy. He also noted that his office had authored more than a dozen significant decisions or resolutions relating to energy issues, with an additional six major policy decisions that will come before the CPUC in the next couple of months. Needless to say, I hope he decides to adopt the utility-DRA settlement in the water cost of capital proceeding shortly, so as to move these applications sooner rather than later.

Evan also reported that Ferron wants to do more analysis of overall trends by gathering better data (aka putting his training as an economist to good use). Sen. Elaine Alquist (D-San Jose) asked him if he cared more about profit or service, and he said #1 was safety and second was an adequate rate of return. Committee Chair Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) asked about the Public Records Act as it relates to the CPUC, and Ferron said “sunlight equals disinfection” and that General Order 66-C will address safety related records – i.e., the Commission will open those records to the public unless a need is demonstrated otherwise. Sen. Bob Dutton (R-Rancho Cucamonga) said he was told that affordability is Ferron's second concern after safety and that California utilities are already 40-50 percent more expensive than in surrounding states.

In the Commission’s news release announcing his confirmation, Ferron said, “I thank the members of the Legislature for their confirmation of my appointment to the CPUC. I look forward to continuing my work to help rebuild the public’s sense of trust in its utility service providers and in their government regulators.”

Prior to his appointment, Ferron was a senior partner at Silicon Valley Social Ventures and a board fellow of the New Teacher Center. From 2001 to 2009 he worked as chief operating officer for the Global Markets Division of Deutsche Bank in London. Before joining Deutsche Bank in 1996, Commissioner Ferron was a vice president at Salomon Brothers from 1994 to 1996, and was a vice president at Bank of America from 1986 to 1994.

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CWA Adopts Initial Positions on 2012 Legislative Bills—CWA’s Legislative Committee, chaired by Evan Jacobs of California American Water, met March 12th to review the new water, utility and California PUC-related bills recently introduced. In her monthly legislative report, CWA Legislative Advocate and Nossaman Senior Policy Advisor Meg Catzen-Brown said CWA is tracking 70 bills this year, including a number of “spot” bills that are ripe for substantive amendments and that will remain on CWA’s “radar screen.” As reported in the Feb. 24th Weekly Wrap, Senate Bill 1364 remains our greatest concern. Meg, Evan and CWA Regulatory Committee Chair Tom Smegal of Cal Water met with Sen. Huff and his staff in early March to discuss our concerns with the bill, and though there is every expectation that there will be amendments (the California PUC is opposing the bill outright), it’s not clear what form they will take at this point. Sen. Huff basically said he was committed to the bill and was being responsive to his constituents in Claremont. The Legislative Committee will continue refining its opposition in advance of the first hearing (to be scheduled).

In the meantime, below is a table of the bills reviewed thus far, along with CWA’s initial position. CWA will be sending letters and/or testifying on those bills where a position other than Watch has been taken. Here is the legend: Support=S; Support If Amended=SIA; Watch=W; Oppose=O; Oppose Unless Amended=OUA.

Assembly

AB 328 (Smyth)	Inverse condemnation; comparative fault	OUA
AB 467 (Eng)	Safe Drinking Water ... Bond Act of 2006 (amend)	S
AB 685 (Eng)	Access to clean, affordable water is a human right	W
AB 838 (Hill)	CPUC: Public Safety Director on staff	S
AB 1456 (Hill)	Gas corporations; base rate of return on safety record	W
AB 1514 (Lowenthal)	Public works: excavations; violations	W
AB 1541 (Dickinson)	Removes CPUC exemption from Public Records Act	W
AB 1650 (Portantino)	Public utilities: emergency and disaster preparedness	W
AB 1651 (Buchanan)	Public utility service	W
AB 1669 (Perea)	Safe drinking water and water quality projects	W
AB 1703 (Perea)	Electricity: rates; fixed charge in lieu of upper tiers	W
AB 1755 (Huber)	Legislative authority to construct peripheral canal only	W

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AB 1813 (Buchanan)	Spot bill; Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act	W
AB 1830 (V.M. Perez)	Water service for mobilehome parks	W
AB 1843 (Hill)	CPUC: Whistleblower protection	W
AB 1871 (Logue)	Water supplies; drought preparedness	W
AB 1971 (Buchanan)	Theft: junk, metals and secondhand materials	S
AB 1982 (Wagner)	Regulations: legislative review of CPUC regulations	O
AB 1986 (Davis)	Hazardous waste: public utilities	W
AB 1990 (Fong)	Public utilities: rates and charges; spot bill	W
AB 2000 (Huber)	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Plan; spot bill	W
AB 2003 (Torres)	Junk dealers and recyclers: nonferrous materials	W
AB 2011 (Gatto)	CalConserve State Revolving Fund	W
AB 2050 (Huffman)	Corporations: political activity; reporting	O
AB 2051 (Campos)	Requires MCL for Chromium 6	S
AB 2056 (Chesbro)	Point-of-use devices for drinking water	W
AB 2063 (Alejo)	Regional water quality control boards: interaction	W
AB 2075 (Fong)	Conservation and recycling most cost-effective; spot	W
AB 2091 (Berryhill)	Regulations: new or emerging technologies	W
AB 2105 (Grove)	Junk dealers: scrap metal; spot bill	W
AB 2143 (Buchanan)	CPUC: inspections; spot bill	W
AB 2157 (Mansoor)	California Safe Drinking Water Act; spot bill	W
AB 2180 (Alejo)	California Safe Drinking Water Act; spot bill	W
AB 2208 (Perea)	Community water systems: consolidation, mergers	SIA
AB 2217 (Pan)	Call centers: relocation;	W
AB 2230 (Gatto)	Recycled water: car washes	W
AB 2235 (Hagman)	Public utilities: inverse condemnation	O
AB 2238 (Perea)	Public water systems: consolidation, mergers	OUA
AB 2298 (Archadjian)	Theft: scrap metal and alloys; spot bill	W
AB 2334 (Fong)	California Water Plan: address affordability; spot bill	W
AB 2398 (Huseo)	Water recycling: enacts Water Recycling Act of 2012	S (likely)
AB 2421 (Berryhill)	Delta: Peripheral canal; spot bill	W
AB 2422 (Berryhill)	State Water Resources Development System; spot bill	W
AB 2423 (Berryhill)	Comprehensive Delta planning; spot bill	W
AB 2439 (Eng)	Tax payments on websites	O

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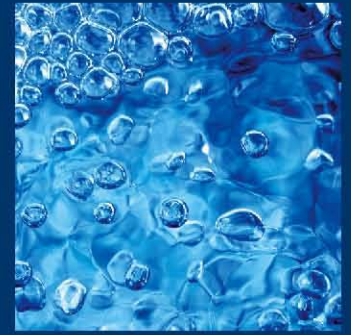
AB 2506 (V.M. Perez)	State government; Review of state regulatory actions	O
AB 2529 (Beall)	Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund: interim regulations	W
AB 2539 (Nielsen)	Water treatment devices; spot bill	W
AB 2556 (Allen)	Electrical lines; tree-trimming	W
AB 2584 (Bradford)	Unplanned service outages: retention of evidence	W
AB 2595 (Hall)	Desalination; streamlining regulatory process	S

Senate

SB 962 (Anderson)	Public water systems: point-of-use treatment	W	
SB 981 (Yee)	CPUC Employee prohibition working for utilities; vice-versa	OUA	
SB 982 (Evans)	Political activities: shareholder disclosure	O	
SB 1000 (Yee)	Removes CPUC exemption from Public Records Act	W	
SB 1063 (Gaines)	Exempts Lake Alpine Water from Bear Lake Reservoir use	S	
SB 1097 (Fuller)	Public utilities; spot bill	W	
SB 1146 (Pavley)	Wells: reports; public availability	W	
SB 1208 (Leno)	Corporations: retiree compensation; disclosure	O	
SB 1314 (Blakeslee)	Public Utilities Act: fees; spot bill	W	
SB 1364 (Huff)	Water corporations: imposes burdens on water utilities	O	
SB 1387 (Emmerson)	Metal theft: prohibitions on junk dealers		SIF
SB 1403 (Yee)	CPUC: Assign cases by majority vote	W	
SB 1495 (Wolk)	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009	W	
SB 1498 (Emmerson)	LAFCO: powers would intrude on CPUC authority	O	
SB 1538 (Simitian)	Safe Drinking Water Plan for California	W	
SB 1558 (Kehoe)	Urban water management plans; spot bill	W	

CWA Sends Opposition Letter to Senate on SB 981—CWA sent an “Oppose Unless Amended” today to Sen. Alex Padilla and the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee requesting amendments to Senate Bill 981 (Yee), which would prohibit utility company executive officers from being a California PUC Commissioner, executive employee or attorney for the Commission until two years has elapsed since leaving the utility. Likewise, it would prohibit CPUC executive employees and Commissioners from acting as an agent or attorney for any party subject to Commission regulation, again for two after leaving the Commission.

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In its letter, CWA said the bill's intent was "laudable," but that it lacked symmetry and balance because it only affected agents and employees of regulated utilities, while ignoring all of the other special interest groups that participate in Commission proceedings and whose conflicts of interest are comparable to regulated utilities. We offered to meet with the author to rectify this imbalance.

Specifically, CWA recommended amendment language that extends the prohibitions on hiring and representation "to all similarly situated employees and agents of organizations that regularly appear before the Commission and that represent interests other than those of regulated utility." CWA explained that the proposed legislation would enjoy a "fair strengthening" with the inclusion of relevant employees or agents of an organization that has intervened or appeared before the Commission (or has received intervenor compensation from the Commission) during the previous two years.

The bill has its first hearing on March 20th, and CWA Legislative Advocate Meg Catzen-Brown will testify on behalf of CWA. We'll keep you posted.

CUWCC Focuses on "Cash for Grass" at Plenary Meeting—The San Francisco PUC hosted the California Urban Water Conservation Council's (CUWCC) quarterly plenary meeting on March 14th, and the main agenda topic was "Landscape Conversion Programs," or more crassly, "Cash for Grass." Representatives from Australia, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, City of Roseville, City of Santa Rosa and the City of San Diego all gave presentations on their respective programs.

The main takeaways from the presentations were that these programs work, the media loves "cash for grass," and customers want a simply application process ("sign up, dig up, cash in"), and that grass removal has become the new toilet rebate program. The rebates in the various locales range from \$0.50 - \$1.50 per square foot, although most were in the \$1.25-1.50 range.

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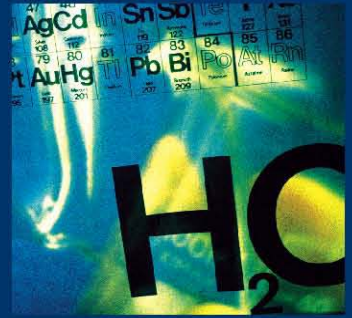
Other than the usual agenda items (budget review, executive director report, etc.), the other item of note at the plenary was the cost-effectiveness of water conservation programs. There were two presentations on this subject, one from the Pacific Institute (PI) and one from Maddaus Water Management. The PI's Matt Heberger explained that his group's approach uses Microsoft Excel and Access to calculate a "suite" of standard financial metrics that allow water managers to compare proposed conservation measures and rank alternatives. The PI approach allows evaluation from the customer's standpoint or the utility's standpoint, or a combination. The PI method also calculates wastewater, gas and electricity savings. The spreadsheet and user manual are free and will be available soon on PI's website at www.pacinst.org.

Lisa Maddaus presented the CUWCC's newly updated cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) tool, which covers the Best Management Practices Reports, the GCPD Calculator, the BMP Cost and Savings Study, the Avoided Cost Model and the Environmental Benefits Model. The CEA tools run the gamut of individual BMPs spreadsheet analysis, a benefit-cost analysis and a Decision Support System model for end-use analysis. She used various CUWCC foundational and programmatic BMPs as examples to show how each tool worked. Both her presentation and the PI presentation are on the Council's website at www.cuwcc.org.

UC-Davis Report Underscores Nitrate Problem in Groundwater—One in 10 people living in California's most productive agricultural areas is at risk of exposure to harmful levels of nitrate contamination in their drinking water, according to a report released March 13th by the University of California, Davis. The study was funded by the State Water Resources Control Board in response to state legislation passed in 2008 that required an examination of nitrate contamination in the Tulare Lake and Salinas basins.

The report, *Addressing Nitrate in California's Drinking Water*, is the first comprehensive scientific investigation of nitrate contamination in the Tulare Lake Basin, which includes Fresno and Bakersfield, and the Salinas Valley, which includes Salinas and areas near Monterey. It defines the extent of the problem, suggests promising solutions and outlines possible funding mechanisms.

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Nitrogen in organic and synthetic fertilizers has dramatically increased crop production in California in recent decades, the report found. Also, excess nitrate in groundwater from surface nitrogen use has been linked to thyroid illnesses, some cancers and reproductive problems. In the report, the UC Davis scientists, including Jay Lund, director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences and a co-author, examined data from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, parks, lawns, golf courses and farms. The report concludes that more than 90 percent of human-generated nitrate contamination of groundwater in these basins is from agricultural activity.

Since the 1940s, synthetic fertilizer use, increased manure applications to cropland, and a shift from pasture-raised dairy cattle to confined animal facilities have resulted in the accumulation of excess nitrate in groundwater, the report says. Much of that excess is only now beginning to affect water quality in the Tulare Lake Basin and Monterey County portion of the Salinas Valley. Today's discharges will continue to contaminate drinking water decades from now, the report says.

Fixes for drinking water systems in these basins could cost about \$20 million to \$35 million per year for decades, the report concluded. As nitrates continue to spread, drinking water system costs could increase for Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley communities. The UC Davis report outlines several potential funding solutions, including a fee on nitrogen fertilizer use to help fund drinking water costs.

The report found that 10 percent of the 2.6 million people in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley rely on groundwater that may exceed the nitrate standard of 45 milligrams per liter set by the California Department of Public Health for public water systems. The problem is likely to worsen for decades, as nitrogen applied to today's crops slowly makes its way into groundwater as nitrate.

The report also calls for a statewide effort to integrate water-related data collection by various state and local agencies. Key findings include:

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- Drinking water supply actions, such as water treatment and finding alternative water supplies, are most cost-effective. However, well supplies will become less available as nitrate pollution continues to spread.
- While many options exist to provide safe drinking water, there is no single or ideal solution for every community affected.
- Agricultural fertilizers and animal manure applied to cropland are the two largest regional sources of nitrate leached to groundwater — representing more than 90 percent of the total.
- Reducing nitrate in the groundwater is possible, with methods such as improved fertilizer management and water treatment. Costs range from modest to quite expensive.
- Directly removing nitrate from large groundwater basins is extremely costly and not technically feasible.

The State Water Board will be conducting a public workshop on May 23 to consider public comment, as well as discuss the findings and options outlined in the UC Davis report. The board will review the public comment and issue recommendations to the state Legislature, as called for in the legislation. In the meantime, if you're interested, you can access the report at: <http://groundwaternitrate.ucdavis.edu/>.

Agenda Highlights for the March 22nd California PUC Open Meeting—The California PUC has posted its agenda for Thursday's Open Meeting, which starts at 9:00 a.m. Relevant water agenda items are summarized below. If you want to view any of the related documents, just copy and paste the website link into your Internet browser.

Consent Agenda

Item 5 – Res W-4908; Valencia Water Company's Request to Permit Payment of Bills Using a Credit or Debit Card. Advice Letter No. 137-W filed on June 9, 2011 - Related matters. Proposed outcome:

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- Order approving in part, with conditions, Valencia's request to permit payment of water bills using a credit or debit card; and allowing Valencia's request to permit customers to receive their billing statements electronically.

Estimated cost: None.

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=576945

Item 6 – A10-02-006; Modification of Decision 11-09-040. In the matter of the application of Alco Water Service, (Alco) a California Corporation, for an order 1) authorizing it to increase rates for water service by \$3,709,633 or 62.6% in test year 2010; 2) authorizing it to increase rates on July 1, 2011 by \$1,752,844 or 18.2% and July 1, 2012 by \$1,016,639 or 8.9% in accordance with Decision 08-11-035, and 3) adopting other related rulings and relief necessary to implement the Commission's ratemaking policies. Proposed outcome:

- Clarifies the process where Alco Water Service must file a Tier 3 Advice Letter for certain transactions.
- Closes the proceeding.

Estimated cost: No change in rates or service. (Comr Peevey - ALJ Long)

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=576965

Item 15 – Res W-4910; Great Oaks Water Company's Order Affirming the Division of Water and Audits' Disposition. Advice Letter 217-W filed on November 15, 2011 - Related matters. Proposed outcome:

- Rejects without prejudice the request to amortize Great Oaks Water Company's (Great Oaks) Monterey-style Revenue Adjustment Mechanism through Advice Letter 217-W.
- The utility shall submit a Tier 2 advice letter with a new tariff sheet for Preliminary Statement J, Monterey-style Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism, clarifying that the two percent threshold is based on total authorized revenues.
- In future requests for amortization of its Monterey-style Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism, Great Oaks shall exclude recovery of meter service charge revenues.

Estimated cost: None.

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http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=575597

Item 16 – Res W-4909; Spreckels Water Company’s General Rate Increase to Produce Additional Annual Revenue for Test Year 2011 and for Escalation Year 2012. Advice Letter 17 filed on September 9, 2011 - Related matters. Proposed outcome:

- To file a supplement to Advice Letter (AL) 17-A to make effective the revised rates in Appendix B.
- Adopts quantities in Appendix D used to develop the Division of Water and Audit’s recommendations.
- To file a Tier 1 AL within 30 days to update its revised rules and forms.
- To file a Tier 2 AL on or before November 20, 2012, for the escalation rate of 2012 and the escalation rates shall be made effective on January 1, 2013.
- The utility shall not request recovery of the Consumer Price Index increase for years 2011 and 2012.

Estimated cost: \$61,524 or 34.64% for test year 2011; \$64,672 or 27.04% for escalation year 2012.

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=575585

Item 18 – A07-04-010; California Water Service Company to Extend Service Territory. Application of California Water Service Company for Authorization to Extend its Territory to Serve the City of Salinas Future Growth Area Located between San Juan Grade Road and Williams Road, north of East Boronda Road to the Extension of Russell Road at the Intersection with Old Stage Road. Proposed outcome:

- Dismisses California Water Service Company’s application to extend its service territory to serve customers in a section of the City of Salinas future growth area as the Commission has already approved another utility’s request to serve this area.
- Closes the proceeding.

Estimated cost: None. (Comr Florio - ALJ Rochester)

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=E55550

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Item 20 – Res W-4911; Lake Alpine Water Company’s Refund of Excess Funds in the Trust Account and an Increase in Surcharge Rates. Advice Letter (AL) No. 97 filed on December 28, 2011 and Supplemented AL 97-A filed on January 11, 2012 - Related matters. Proposed outcome:

- Authorizes Lake Alpine Water Company to refund to customers via surcredit for a period of 5 months approximately \$251,336 from its Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Trust Account and to increase surcharge rates to fund under collection.

Estimated cost: \$239,773.12 from July 1, 2012 to January 1, 2028.

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=577387

Item 32 – A08-05-019; Order Extending Statutory Deadline. Application of California Water Service Company for an order confirming its discontinuance of the ESP program as provided in D.07-12-055, Ordering Paragraph 19, approving accounting for the residual affiliate transaction, and confirming under D.07-12-055, Ordering Paragraph 16 that Applicant's residual services to its affiliate CWS Utility Services comply with applicable law. Proposed outcome: Extends the statutory deadline until May 29, 2012. Estimated cost: None. (Comr Florio - ALJ Walwyn).

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=576508

Item 39 – R09-12-017; Compensation to Disability Rights Advocates. Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission’s Own Motion to Determine Whether Sharing of Customer Information Between Regulated Water Utilities and Regulated Energy Utilities/Municipal Energy Providers Should be Required; and if so, to Develop the Rules and Procedures Governing Such Sharing. Proposed outcome: Awards Disability Rights Advocates \$14,929.48 for substantial contribution to Decision 11-05-020. Estimated cost:

- The Ratepayers of San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, California Water Service Company, Great Oaks Water Company, Suburban Water Systems, Valencia Water Company, Park Water Company, California-American Water Company, Golden State Water Company, San Jose

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Water Company, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, and Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company will pay \$14,929.48, plus interest.

(Comr Peevey - ALJ Division)

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=576028

Item 40 – R09-12-017; Compensation to The Utility Reform Network. Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's Own Motion to Determine Whether Sharing of Customer Information Between Regulated Water Utilities and Regulated Energy Utilities/Municipal Energy Providers Should be Required; and if so, to Develop the Rules and Procedures Governing Such Sharing. Proposed outcome: Awards The Utility Reform Network \$13,000.76 for substantial contribution to Decision 11-05-020. Estimated cost:

- Ratepayers of San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, California Water Service Company, Great Oaks Water Company, Suburban Water Systems, Valencia Water Company, Park Water Company, California-American Water Company, Golden State Water Company, San Jose Water Company, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, and Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company, will pay \$13,000.76, plus interest.

(Comr Peevey - ALJ Division)

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Cyberdocs/AgendaDoc.asp?DOC_ID=575857

Regular Agenda - Legislative and Other Matters

Item 56 (Rev.) – AB 1703 (Hill); Public Utilities: Reporting: Safety Issues.

This bill would require a public utility to file a completed report with the California Public Utilities Commission within 30 days as to any final judgment, arbitration award, compromise or settlement in excess of \$50,000 in any civil action brought by an employee, former employee, contractor or subcontractor of the utility against the utility regarding safety issues. (Legislative Subcommittee Recommendation: Support if amended).

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Item 57 (Rev.) – AB 1830 (Pérez, V); Water Service: Mobilehome Parks. This bill would authorize the California Public Utilities Commission, if it finds after investigation that a mobilehome park has charged an unjust or unreasonable rate in violation of existing law, to order the mobilehome park to reimburse the complainant and any other current and former tenants affected by the rate. (Legislative Subcommittee Recommendation: Support if amended).

Item 58 (Rev.) – AB 1843 (Hill); Whistleblower Protection. This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a comprehensive whistleblower protection program to protect public utility employees, former employees and third party contractors and subcontractors from retaliation for bringing information to the CPUC or other specified public entities regarding, but not limited to, safety issues. (Legislative Subcommittee Recommendation: Support if amended).

Item 69 (Rev.) – SB 1364 (Huff); Water Corporations. This bill would expand the authorization to inspect the accounts, books, papers, and documents to any business that is a subsidiary or affiliate of, or a corporation that holds a controlling interest in, a water corporation, eliminate customer notice exceptions for advice letters filed by water corporations, expand reporting requirement for water corporations, expand penalties for water corporations, eliminate the requirement that certain decisions of the California Public Utilities Commission pertaining to a water corporation be brought in the Supreme Court, and revise the definition of a water corporation customer. (Legislative Subcommittee Recommendation: Oppose).

Item 70 – SB 1403 (Yee); California Public Utilities Commission. This bill would remove the power of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) President to direct the executive director, the attorney, and other staff of the CPUC; to assign cases; to direct the attorney for the CPUC to intervene, if possible, in any action or proceeding involving any question arising pursuant to the Public Utilities Act; to authorize the attorney for the CPUC to commence, prosecute, and, among other things, require the executive director to keep a full and true record of all proceedings of the CPUC. These powers would instead be vested in the full commission. (Legislative Subcommittee Recommendation: _____).

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Upcoming Industry Meetings/Conferences/Events:

- March 20, 2012 – California Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife - Oversight Hearing: Untapped Potential of Water Reuse for California's Future Water Supply Reliability (9:00a-12:00n; Room 437; State Capitol, Sacramento); J. Hawks will attend.
- March 21, 2012 – CWA Public Information Committee and CWA USDP Committee Meetings (10:00a-1:30p; Suburban Water Systems; 1325 N. Grand Ave., Suite 100, Covina, CA 91724); J. Hawks will attend.
- March 22, 2012 – CWA Long-Term Strategic Plan Meeting (9:30a-4:00p; California Club; 538 S. Flower St., Los Angeles 90071); J. Hawks will attend.
- March 22, 2012 – California PUC Open Meeting (9:00a – 12:00p; 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 94102)
- March 25-27, 2012 – Water Reuse Association - 2012 WaterReuse California Annual Conference (Sheraton Grand Hotel; 1230 J St., Sacramento 95814).
- March 26, 2012 – Annual Report of CPUC President Peevey to Assembly Utilities & Communications Committee (3:00p-5:00p; Room 437, State Capitol, Sacramento); J. Hawks will attend.
- March 27-28, 2012 – Water Education Foundation – 29th Annual Executive Briefing (8:30a-4:30p; Doubletree Hotel; 2001 Point West Way; Sacramento); J. Hawks will attend in part.
- March 28, 2012 – California Urban Water Conservation Council – CII Task Force Meeting (9:30a – 3:30p; 815 S St., Sacramento 95814); J. Hawks will attend.
- April 4, 2012 – Department of Water Resources – Water Plan Update 2013 Public Advisory Committee (9:00a – 4:30p; Cal EPA Building, 1001 I St., Sacramento 95814); J. Hawks will attend.
- April 6, 2012 – Northern California Minority Supplier Diversity Council Annual Awards Dinner (5:30p-10:00p; Westin St. Francis Hotel, Post & Powell Sts., San Francisco); J. Hawks will attend.

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- April 12, 2012 - CWA Directors Meeting (9:30a-2:30p; Golden State Water; 2143 Convention Center Dr., Suite 110, Ontario, CA 91764); J. Hawks will attend.
- April 19, 2012 – California PUC Open Meeting (9:00a – 12:00p; 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 94102).
- April 30, 2012 – California PUC – Water Recycling Workshop (9:00a – 4:00p; 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 94102); J. Hawks will attend.
- May 8-11, 2012 – Association of California Water Agencies – Spring Conference & Exposition (Portola and Marriott Hotels, Monterey, CA); J. Hawks will attend in part.
- May 10, 2012 – California PUC Open Meeting (9:00a – 12:00p; 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 94102)
- May 15, 2012 – CWA Directors Meeting (9:30a-2:30p; Valencia Water; 24631 Avenue Rockefeller, Valencia, CA 91355); J. Hawks will attend.

—CWA—