

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 14, 2020

Jeffrey T. Linam  
Vice President of Rates & Regulatory  
California-American Water Company  
4701 Beloit Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95838-2434

Dear Mr. Linam,

The Commission has approved California-American Water Company's Advice Letter No. 1275, filed on December 19, 2019, regarding the Public Safety Shut-off Memo Account.

Enclosed are copies of the following revised tariff sheets for the utility's files:

<b>P.U.C.</b>	
<b>Sheet No.</b>	<b>Title of Sheet</b>
9371-W	Preliminary Statement (Summary Table) (Continued)
9372-W	Preliminary Statement (Continued)
9373-W	Preliminary Statement (Continued)
9374-W	Table of Contents (Page 1)

Please contact Bradley Leong at 415-703-2307, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

/s/ROBIN BRYANT

Robin Bryant  
Water & Sewer Advisory Branch  
Water Division

Enclosures





4701 Beloit Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95838  
[www.amwater.com](http://www.amwater.com)

P (916)-568-4251  
F (916) 568-4260

December 19, 2019

ADVICE LETTER NO. 1275

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Pursuant to General Order 96-B, California-American Water Company (California American Water) (U210W) hereby submits for review this advice letter, including the following tariff sheets, which are attached hereto:

<u>C.P.U.C. Sheet No.</u>	<u>Title of Sheet</u>	<u>Canceling Sheet No.</u>
9371-W	Preliminary Statement (Summary Table) (Continued)	9364-W
9372-W	Preliminary Statement (Continued)	NEW
9373-W	Preliminary Statement (Continued)	NEW
9374-W	Table of Contents (Page 1)	9370-W

### **PURPOSE**

California American Water is seeking authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to establish a Public Safety Power Shut-Offs Memorandum Account (PSPSMA). The purpose of the PSPSMA is to record incremental Operation and Maintenance expenses and carrying costs of the new facilities costs, that are not otherwise covered in California American Water's revenue requirement, to address public safety needs in the event of a proposed or declared Public Safety Power Shut-Off (PSPS) event by an electric utilities that provide electric service to California American Water's ratemaking areas, including advanced preparation costs.

On November 27, 2019 the Commission approved Golden State Water Company's Advice Letter No. 1781-A, filed on November 20, 2019, requesting a PSPSMA. As explained below, California American Water requests an equivalent PSPSMA.

### **BACKGROUND**

On December 19, 2018, the Commission issued Order Instituting Rulemaking No. (R. or Rulemaking) 18-12-005, to examine its rules allowing electric utilities under its jurisdiction to de-energize power lines in the event of dangerous conditions that threaten life or property in California, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Sections 451 and 399.2(a) and Rule 6.1 of the

Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Following this Rulemaking's issuance, California American Water, proactively, began evaluating and preparing to respond to possible PSPS events. California American Water initially understood that the PSPS events would be short in duration and infrequent. San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric are California American Water's primary electricity providers.

On May 30, 2019, the Commission issued Decision No. (D.) 19-05-042 in R.18-12-005, Order Instituting Rulemaking to Examine Electric Utility De-Energization of Power Lines in Dangerous Conditions. This decision allows for power to be shut off to electric lines that may fail in certain weather conditions in order to reduce the likelihood that electric utility infrastructure could cause or contribute to a wildfire; also known as PSPS or de-energization events. Additionally, D.19-05-042 addresses communication and notification guidelines for the electric investor-owned utilities to water utilities. This decision recognizes that maintaining potable water service to customers and emergency responders is critical during PSPS events. Further, there are health and safety benefits to maintaining water pressure during de-energization events to reduce the likelihood of contaminants entering the drinking water system, which can lead to serious health concerns. The decision acknowledges the importance of maintaining water service during PSPS events by requiring that water utilities, as well as other Public Safety Partners, receive "priority notification" of planned de-energizing events.<sup>1</sup>

R.18-12-005 is divided into two phases. The first phase, D.19-05-042, adopts de-energization parameters and protocols in anticipation of the upcoming 2019 wildfire season. The second phase will focus on de-energization practices, including mitigation, and additional coordination across state agencies and utilities.

Electric utilities are expected to declare PSPS events during periods of high fire danger and where there is specific risk of electrical facilities causing a fire. California American Water will receive priority notification of such events. California American Water's main electric providers are San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric. Power outages in any of California American Water's ratemaking areas could significantly affect water facilities and water quality. California American Water is determined to be prepared to maintain water service, to the extent possible, during any PSPS event. To this end, California American Water is requesting a memorandum account to record incremental Operation and Maintenance expenses and carrying costs of the new facilities costs, that are not otherwise covered in California American Water's revenue requirement, to address public safety needs in the event of a proposed or declared PSPS event by any of the electric utilities that provide electric service to California American Water's ratemaking areas, including advanced preparation costs.

The PPSMA will be amortized at the ratemaking area level.

Incremental Operation and Maintenance costs California American Water expects to incur include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Purchased fuel for generators;
- Service contracts for generator maintenance, inspection and repair

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<sup>1</sup> D.19-05-042, Section 5.1.2

Incremental plant investment California American Water expects to make<sup>2</sup> include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Generator costs;
- Automatic transfer switch costs;
- SCADA integration costs (i.e. programming to incorporate generator into SCADA system for remote monitoring and data acquisition);
- Equipment installation costs;
- Generator site preparation costs (i.e. cabling, hook ups, electrical box panel switches, and ancillary equipment to properly operator generators);
- Engineering and design costs;
- Project Management costs;
- Permitting costs

The PSPSMA shall only be used to track costs associated with potential and declared Public Safety Power Shut-off events. Costs that are duplicative or requested in a general rate case shall not be recorded.

As stated above, on November 27, 2019 the Commission approved Golden State Water Company's Advice Letter No. 1781-A, filed on November 20, 2019, requesting a PSPSMA. California American Water hereby requests an equivalent PSPSMA.

### **REQUEST**

In accordance with the Commission Standard Practice U-27-W, California American Water requests to establish a memorandum account to record incremental Operation and Maintenance expenses and carrying costs of new facilities costs that are not otherwise covered in California American Water's revenue requirement, in the event of a PSPS event to a portion of or to an entire individual ratemaking service territory.

A Commission authorized memorandum account tracks costs related to events of an exceptional nature that meet the following conditions:

***a. The expense is caused by an event of an exceptional nature that is not under the utility's control.***

The costs tracked in the PSPSMA will be incurred due to the directives outlined in D.19-05-042 and the electric utilities' role in determining PSPS events, which are both out of California American Water's control. California American Water, acting as a responsible Class A water service provider, is proactively committed to preparing and equipping its facilities to withstand power outages.

***b. The expense cannot have been reasonably foreseen in the utility's last general rate case and will occur before the utility's next scheduled rate case.***

California American Water could not have anticipated duration and frequency of the PSPS events when it filed its pending general rate case (GRC) Application (A.) 19-07-004 on July 1,

2019, and certainly not when it filed its July 1, 2016 GRC, A.16-07-002. The need to implement “hardening” upgrades to critical systems and remote assets is discussed in A.19-07-004 with respect to increasing resiliency in the face of wildfire risks. The unexpected duration and frequency of the PSPS events underscores the need to implement similar “hardening” upgrades to critical systems and remote assets and to do so before California American Water’s pending GRC Application is resolved.

***c. The expense is of a substantial nature as to the amount of money involved when any offsetting costs decreases are taken into account.***

California American Water believes that the incremental Operation and Maintenance costs and the carrying costs for new facilities will be substantial and that the amount of money involved is worth the effort of requesting and processing a memorandum account.

California American Water will request that Commission staff in its next GRC, to provide the Public Advocates Office an opportunity to review the account’s activity and recorded expenses, review the PSPSMA.

***d. The ratepayers will benefit by the memo account treatment.***

California American Water customers will benefit from the establishment of this memo account. The work to be performed under the memo account will create significant ratepayer benefits by maintaining a reliable supply of water during PSPS events. Before recovery is granted, the expenses tracked in the PSPSMA will go through a prudence review by the Commission’s Water Division and the Public Advocates Office to make sure the company did not spend money without discretion. Additionally, California American Water intends to monitor the mitigation measures of its electric utilities partners, to align its PSPS program goals effectively and efficiently.

**Memorandum Account Treatment**

California American Water is aware that a memorandum account is not a guarantee of eventual recovery of expenses, nor is it carried as a regular account under the uniform system of accounts for water utilities. It is carried “off the books” as a memorandum account. Further, it is also known that the Commission’s policy on memorandum account treatment has always been that the burden of proof of the reasonableness of expenses charged to the account is the responsibility of the utility requesting reimbursement of such expenses.

**TIER DESIGNATION & EFFECTIVE DATE**

This advice letter is designated as a Tier 2 Advice Letter with an effective of date of August 22, 2019.

This advice letter does not request any rate changes.

**SERVICE LIST**

Pursuant to Section 4.3 of General Order No. 96-B, a copy of this advice letter is being sent to those entities listed in the attached service list. Copies of the detailed work papers and the documents supporting this Advice Letter have also been furnished to the Commission Staff.

**RESPONSE OR PROTEST**<sup>2</sup>

Anyone may submit a response or protest for this AL. 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 AL. A **protest** objects to the AL in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based. These grounds<sup>3</sup> are:

1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the AL;
2. The relief requested in the AL 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 AL contain material error or omissions;
4. The relief requested in the AL is pending before the Commission in a formal proceeding;  
or
5. The relief requested in the AL requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the AL process; or
6. The relief requested in the AL is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory, provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the Commission.

A protest may not rely on policy objections to an AL where the relief requested in the AL follows rules or directions established by statute or Commission order applicable to the utility. A protest shall provide citations or proofs where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest.

DWA must receive a response or protest via email (**or** postal mail) within 20 days of the date the AL is filed. When submitting a response or protest, **please include the utility name and advice letter number in the subject line.**

The addresses for submitting a response or protest are:

**Email Address:**

[Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov)

**Mailing Address:**

CA Public Utilities Commission  
Division of Water and Audits  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

On the same day the response or protest is submitted to DWA, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy of the protest to Cal-Am at:

**Email Address:**

[preet.nagra@amwater.com](mailto:preet.nagra@amwater.com)

**Mailing Address:**

4701 Beloit Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95838

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<sup>2</sup> G.O. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.1

<sup>3</sup> G.O. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.2

[sarah.leeper@amwater.com](mailto:sarah.leeper@amwater.com)

555 Montgomery Street, Suite 816  
San Francisco, CA 94111

[jonathan.morse@amwater.com](mailto:jonathan.morse@amwater.com)

4701 Beloit Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95838

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform DWA, within the 20 day protest period, so that a late filed protest can be entertained. The informing document should include an estimate of the date the proposed protest might be voted on.

**REPLIES**<sup>4</sup>

The utility shall reply to each protest and may reply to any response. Any reply must be received by DWA within five business days after the end of the protest period, and shall be served on the same day on each person who filed the protest or response to the AL.

The actions requested in this advice letter are not now the subject of any formal filings with the California Public Utilities Commission, including a formal complaint, nor action in any court of law.

This filing will not cause the withdrawal of service, nor conflict with other schedules or rules.

If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, please contact me at (916) 568-4255.

CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

*/s/ Jeffrey T. Linam*

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Jeffrey T. Linam  
Vice President of Rates & Regulatory

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<sup>4</sup> G.O. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.3



PRELIMINARY STATEMENT  
Summary Table

Sheet 2

Reference	Account	Tariff
AC	Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism	9294-W
AD	Water Contamination Litigation Expense Memorandum Account	9295-W
AE	West Placer Memorandum Account	9296-W
AF	Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) & Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA)	9297-W,9298-W,9299-W,9300-W
AG	Leak Adjustments Memorandum Account (LAMA)	9301-W
AH	Low Income Customer Data Sharing Memorandum Account	9302-W
AI	Operational Energy Efficiency Program Memorandum Account (OEEPMA)	9303-W,9304-W
AJ	Purchased Water, Purchased Power, & Pump Tax Balancing Account	9305-W
AK	Temporary Interest Rate Balancing Account (TIRBA)	9306-W
AL	School Lead Testing Memorandum Account	9307-W
AM	The Memorandum Account for Environmental Improvement and Compliance Issues for Acquisitions	9308-W
AN	Dunnigan Consulting Memorandum Account	9309-W
AO	Water-Energy Nexus Program Memorandum Account	9310-W
AP	PCWA SFF Memorandum Account	9311-W
AQ	Monterey District Pre-2015 Residential Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism/Modified Cost Balancing Account ("WRAM/MCBA") undercollection/recovery Balancing Account	9312-W
AR	Monterey District Pre-2015 Residential Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism/Modified Cost Balancing Account ("WRAM/MCBA") undercollection/recovery Balancing Account	9313-W
AS	Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Memorandum Account	9314-W
AT	General Rate Case Interim Rate True-up Memorandum Account	9315-W
AU	Cost of Capital Memorandum Account	9316-W
AV	Monterey County District Leak Adjustment Balancing Account	9317-W
AW	Tax Accounting Memorandum Account (TMA)	9318-W
AX	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Memorandum Account (SGMA)	9319-W
AY	Group Insurance Balancing Account (GIBA)	9320-W
AZ	Groundwater Management Memorandum Account	9321-W
BA	Rio Plaza Transaction Memorandum Account	9322-W
BB	Public Safety Power Shut-Off Memorandum Account	9371-W

(N)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)		ISSUED BY	(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)	
Advice	1275	J. T. LINAM	Date Filed	<u>12/19/2019</u>
Decision		DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory	Effective	<u>12/19/2019</u>
			Resolution	_____

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT  
(Continued)

Sheet 61

**BB. Public Safety Power Shut-Off Memorandum Account (PSPSMA)**

(N)

1. **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the PSPSMA is to record the incremental Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses and carrying costs of the new facilities costs, that are not otherwise covered in California American Water's revenue requirement, to address public safety needs in the event of a proposed or declared Public Safety Power Shut-Off (PSPS) event by any of the electric utilities that provide electric service to California American Water's ratemaking areas, including advanced preparation costs.

2. **APPLICABILITY:**

Incremental O&M costs California American Water expect to incur include, but are not limited to the following:

- Purchased fuel for generators;
- Service contracts for generator maintenance, inspection and repair

Incremental plant investment California American Water expects to make include, but are not limited to the following:

- Generator costs;
- Automatic transfer switch costs;
- SCADA integration costs (i.e. programming to incorporate generator into SCADA system for remote monitoring and data acquisition);
- Equipment installation costs;
- Generator site preparation costs (i.e. cabling, hook ups, electrical box panel switches, and ancillary equipment to properly operator generators);
- Engineering and design costs;
- Project Management costs;
- Permitting costs

The PSPSMA shall only be used to track costs associated with potential and declared Public Safety Power Shut-off events. Costs that are duplicative or requested in a general rate case shall not be recorded.

3. **RATES:**

The memorandum account currently has no rate component.

4. **ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE:**

**Expenditure Entries:**

- a. A debit entry shall be made to the PSPSMA to record all PSPS-related costs including but not limited, purchased fuel for generators and service contracts.

(N)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)  
Advice 1275  
Decision

ISSUED BY  
J. T. LINAM  
DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory

(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)  
Date Filed 12/19/2019  
Effective 12/19/2019  
Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT  
(Continued)

Sheet 62

**BB. Public Safety Power Shut-Offs Memorandum Account (PSPSMA) (Continued):**

(N)

**Revenue Requirement Entries:**

- a. Amounts equal to the revenue requirements of each capital expenditures at California American Water's authorized rate of return and related expenses (including return, income taxes, ad valorem tax, depreciation, and other taxes and fees).

**Interest:**

- b. Interest shall accrue on the PSPSMA on a monthly basis by applying a rate equal to one-twelfth of the 3-month Commercial Paper Rate, as reported in the Federal Reserve Statistical Release, to the average of the beginning-of-month and the end-of-month balances.

**2. EFFECTIVE DATE:**

The PSPSMA shall have the effective date of December 19, 2019.

**3. DISPOSITION:**

Disposition of amounts recorded in the PSPSMA shall be determined in California American Water's next General Rate Case application or by as otherwise determined by the Commission, if the account's cumulative balance exceeds 2% of California American Water's adopted gross revenues.

(N)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)

Advice 1275

Decision

ISSUED BY

J. T. LINAM

DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory

(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)

Date Filed 12/19/2019

Effective 12/19/2019

Resolution \_\_\_\_\_



**ALL DISTRICTS SERVICE LIST**  
**CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**  
**ADVICE LETTER 1275**

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**BY MAIL:**

	Lloyd W. Lowrey, Jr., ESQ. Noland, Hamerly, Etienne & Hoss 333 Salinas Street Salinas, CA 93901	Mark Brooks Utility Workers Union Of America 521 Central Ave. Nashville, TN 37211
Maxine Harrison California Public Utilities Commission Executive Division 320 West 4th Street Suite 500 Los Angeles, CA 90013	Wallin, Kress, Reisman & Krantz, LLP 11355 West Olympic Blvd., SUITE 300 Los Angeles, CA 90064	Ann Camel City Clerk City of Salinas 200 Lincoln Avenue Salinas, CA 93901
Gregory J. Smith, County Clerk County of San Diego County Administration Center 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260 San Diego, CA 92101	Barbara Delory 4030 Bartlett Avenue Rosemead, CA 91770-1332	Carol Nickborg POB 4029 Monterey, CA 93942
Jim Sandoval, City Manager City of Chula Vista 276 Forth Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91910	Gary E. Hazelton County Clerk – Recorder Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street, Room 210 Santa Cruz, CA 95060	Steven J. Thompson 5224 Altana Way Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento County WMD 827 7th Street, Room 301 Sacramento, CA 95814	Henry Nanjo Department of General Services Office of Legal Services, MS-102 PO Box 989052 West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052	Hatties Stewart 4725 S. Victoria Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90043
Citrus Heights Water District 6230 Sylvan Road Citrus Heights, CA 95610 rchurch@chwd.org	City of Chula Vista Director of Public Works 276 Forth Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91910	Anne Moore, City Attorney City of Chula Vista 276 Forth Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91910
San Gabriel County Water District 8366 Grand Ave Rosemead, CA 91770	City of Camarillo 601 Carmen Drive Camarillo, CA 93010	California Water Service P.O. Box 49062 San Jose, CA 95161-9062
Louis A. Atwell Director of Public Works City of Inglewood One W. Manchester Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90301	Los Angeles Docket Office California Public Utilities Commission 320 West 4th Street, Suite 500 Los Angeles, CA 90013	Marcus Nixon Asst. Public Advisor 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500 Los Angeles, CA 90013

**ALL DISTRICTS SERVICE LIST**  
**CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**  
**ADVICE LETTER 1275**

James R. Lough, City Attorney  
City of Imperial Beach  
825 Imperial Beach Blvd.  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Robert C. Baptiste  
9397 Tucumcari Way  
Sacramento, CA 95827-1045

Mario Gonzalez  
111 Marwest Commons circle  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

William M. Marticorena  
Rutan & Tucker, LLP  
611 Anton Blvd., 14th Floor  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1931

James L. Markman  
Richards, Watson & Gershon  
355 South Grand Avenue, 40th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90071-3101

Rex Ball  
SR/WA, Senior Real Property MGMT  
County of Los Angeles  
222 South Hill Street, 3rd Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

City of San Gabriel  
City Clerk  
425 S. Mission Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

Michelle Keith  
City Manager  
City of Bradbury  
600 Winston Avenue  
Bradbury, CA 91008

Penngrove/Kenwood Water Co  
4984 Sonoma Hwy  
Santa Rosa 95409

Ventura County Waterworks District  
7150 Walnut Canyon Road  
P.O. Box 250  
Moorpark, CA 93020

Michelle Keith  
City Manager  
City of Bradbury  
600 Winston Avenue  
Bradbury, CA 91008

City of Sand City  
City Hall  
California & Sylvan Avenues  
Sand City, CA 93955  
Attn: City Clerk

Yazdan Enreni, P.E.  
Public Works Director  
Monterey County DPW  
168 West Alisal Steet, 2nd Floor  
Salinas. CA 93901-4303

Fruitridge Vista Water Company  
P.O. Box 959  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Monterey Regional Water Pollution  
Control Agency (MRWPCA)  
5 Harris Court Road. Bldg D.  
Monterey, CA 93940

Carol Smith  
6241 Cavan Drive, 3  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Anthony La Bouff, County Counsel  
Placer County  
175 Fulweiler Avenue  
Auburn, CA 95603

Will and Carol Surman  
36292 Highway One  
Monterey, CA 93940

Temple City  
City Clerk  
9701 Las Tunas Dr.  
Temple City, CA 91780

City of Los Angeles  
Department of Water and Power  
111 North Hope Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Attn: City Attorney

Darryl D. Kenyon  
Monterey Commercial Property Owners  
Association  
P.O. Box 398  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Edward W. O'Neill  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
505 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111-6533

Marc J. Del Piero  
4062 El Bosque Drive  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953-3011

Barbara Morris Layne  
36652 Hwy 1, Coast Route  
Monterey, CA 93940

Irvin L. Grant  
Deputy County Counsel  
County of Monterey  
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd floor  
Salinas, CA 93901-2680

Deborah Mall, City Attorney  
City of Monterey  
512 Pierce Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

City of Thousand Oaks Water Dept.  
2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

**ALL DISTRICTS SERVICE LIST**  
**CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**  
**ADVICE LETTER 1275**

City of Monrovia  
City Clerk  
415 South Ivy Ave  
Monrovia, CA 91016

Don Jacobson  
115 Farm Road  
Woodside, CA 94062-1210

Rio Linda Water District  
730 L Street  
Rio Linda, CA 95673

City of Rosemead  
City Clerk  
8838 E. Valley Blvd  
Rosemead, CA 91770

Jose E. Guzman, Jr.  
Guzman Law Offices  
288 Third Street, Ste. 306  
Oakland, CA 94607

Robert A. Ryan, Jr.  
County of Sacramento  
Downtown Office  
700 H Street, Suite 2650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Alco Water Service  
249 Williams Road  
Salinas, CA 93901

Sacramento Suburban Water District  
3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95821-5303

Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board  
County of Monterey  
P.O. Box 1728  
Salinas, CA 93902

Karen Crouch  
City Clerk,  
Carmel-By-The-Sea  
PO Box CC  
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921

**BY E-MAIL:**

Public Advocates Office  
California Public Utilities Commission  
dra\_water\_al@cpuc.ca.gov

Lori Ann Dolqueist  
Nossaman LLP  
50 California Street, 34<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
ldolqueist@nossaman.com

Morgan Foley, City Attorney  
City of Coronado  
1825 Strand Way  
Coronado, CA 92118  
mfolley@mclex.com

Richard Rauschmeier  
California Public Utilities Commission  
PAO - Water Branch, Rm 4209  
505 Van Ness Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
rra@cpuc.ca.gov

Ms. Lisa Bilir  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Public Advocates Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
lwa@cpuc.ca.gov

**ALL DISTRICTS SERVICE LIST**  
**CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**  
**ADVICE LETTER 1275**

Sunnyslope Water Company  
1040 El Campo Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
sswc01\_jcobb@sbcglobal.net

City of Duarte  
City Clerk  
1600 Huntington Drive  
Duarte, CA 91010  
akanam@accessduarte.com

B. Tilden Kim  
Attorney At Law  
Richards Watson & Gershon  
355 South Grand Avenue, 40th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

[tkim@rwglaw.com](mailto:tkim@rwglaw.com)  
Monterey Peninsula Water Mgmt Dist.  
Chief Financial Officer  
P.O. Box 85  
Monterey, CA 93942  
[suresh@mpwmd.net](mailto:suresh@mpwmd.net)  
[arlene@mpwmd.net](mailto:arlene@mpwmd.net)

Jame Polanco, Rates Clerk  
California Water Service Company  
1720 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95112  
jpolanco@calwater.com

Laura Nieto  
City of Irwindale  
Chief Deputy City Clerk  
5050 North Irwindale Avenue  
Irwindale, CA 91706  
[lnieto@IrwindaleCA.gov](mailto:lnieto@IrwindaleCA.gov)

Dana McRae  
County Council  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street, Room 505  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
dana.mcrae@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Citrus Heights Water District  
6230 Sylvan Road  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
rchurch@chwd.org

East Pasadena Water Company  
3725 Mountain View  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
larry@epwater.com

David E. Morse  
1411 W. Covell Blvd., Suite 106-292  
Davis, CA 95616-5934  
demorse@omsoft.com

Barry Gabrielson  
[bdgabriel1@aol.com](mailto:bdgabriel1@aol.com)

John Corona  
Utilities Superintendent  
City of Arcadia Water Dept.  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
[jcorona@arcadiaca.gov](mailto:jcorona@arcadiaca.gov)

San Gabriel Valley Water Company  
11142 Garvey Blvd.  
El Monte, CA 91734  
dadelloso@sgvwater.com

City of Inglewood  
City Hall  
One W. Manchester Blvd.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
brai@cityofinglewood.org

James Boulter  
Larkfield/Wikiup Water District Advisory  
133 Eton Court  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
jboulter@comcast.net

Tim & Sue Madura  
411 Firelight Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
suemadura@sbcglobal.net

Veronica Ruiz, City Clerk  
City of San Marino  
2200 Huntington Drive, 2nd floor  
San Marino, CA 91108  
vruiz@cityofsanmarino.org

Jay T. Spurgin, PE  
City Engineer  
City of Thousand Oaks  
2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91363  
jspurgin@toaks.org

Placer County Water Agency  
Customer Service Department  
customerservices@pcwa.net

John K. Hawks  
Executive Director  
California Water Association  
601 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 2047  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3200  
jhawks\_cwa@comcast.net

Mary Martin  
4611 Brynhurst Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90043  
Marymartin03@aol.com

Brent Reitz  
Capital Services  
P.O. Box 1767  
Pebble Beach CA 93953  
reitzb@pebblebeach.com

Marvin Philo  
3021 Nikol Street  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
mhphilo@aol.com

Jim McCauley, Clerk-Recorder  
Placer County  
2954 Richardson Drive  
Auburn, CA 95603  
skasza@placer.ca.gov



**ALL DISTRICTS SERVICE LIST**  
**CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**  
**ADVICE LETTER 1275**

Johnny Yu  
5356 Arnica Way  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
johnnyyu@sbcglobal.net

Florin County Water District  
P.O. Box 292055  
Sacramento, CA 95829  
fcwd@sbcglobal.net

George Riley  
Citizens for Public Water  
1198 Castro Road  
Monterey, CA 91940  
georgetriley@gmail.com

City of Del Rey Oaks  
City Hall  
650 Canyon Del Rey Road  
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940  
Attn: City Clerk  
citymanager@delreyoaks.org  
kminami@delreyoaks.org

David C. Laredo and Fran Farina  
Attorneys at Law  
DeLay & Laredo  
606 Forest Ave  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
[dave@laredolaw.net](mailto:dave@laredolaw.net)  
[fran@laredolaw.net](mailto:fran@laredolaw.net)

City of El Monte  
Chief Deputy City Clerk  
11333 Valley Blvd  
El Monte CA 91731-3293  
Cityclerk@elmonteca.gov

Lloyd Lowery Jr.  
Noland, Hammerly, Etienne & Hoss P.C.  
333 Salinas St  
PO Box 2510  
Salinas, CA 93902-2510  
llowrey@nheh.com

City of Sacramento, Water Division  
1391 35th Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95822  
dsherry@cityofsacramento.com

Amy Van, City Clerk  
City of Citrus Heights  
6237 Fountain Square Drive  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621  
avan@citrusheights.net

Linda Garcia, City Clerk  
City of Isleton  
P.O. Box 716  
Isleton, CA 95641  
lgarcia@cityofisleton.com

Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board  
County of Monterey  
P.O. Box 1728  
Salinas, CA 93902  
boydap@co.monterey.ca.us

Bernardo R. Garcia  
PO Box 37  
San Clemente, CA 92674-0037  
uwua@redhabanero.com

Mike Niccum  
General Manager  
Pebble Beach Community Svcs. District  
3101 Forest Lake Road  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953  
mniccum@pbcbsd.org

Carmel Area Wastewater District  
3945 Rio Road  
Carmel, CA 93923  
buikema@cawd.org

Jim Heisinger  
P.O. Box 5427  
Carmel, CA 93921  
hbm@carmellaw.com

Laura L. Krannawitter  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Executive Division, Rm 5303  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
llk@cpuc.ca.gov

City of Monterey  
City Hall  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Attn: City Clerk  
connolly@ci.monterey.ca.us

City of Seaside, City Hall  
Seaside, CA 93955  
Attn: City Clerk  
[dhodgson@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:dhodgson@ci.seaside.ca.us)  
[to'halloran@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:to'halloran@ci.seaside.ca.us)  
[cityatty@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cityatty@ix.netcom.com)  
[cityattorney@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:cityattorney@ci.seaside.ca.us)

City of Salinas  
Vanessa W. Vallarta – City Attorney  
200 Lincoln Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901  
vanessav@ci.salinas.ca.us  
chrisc@ci.salinas.ca.us

Audrey Jackson  
Golden State Water Company  
630 E. Foothill Blvd.  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
afjackson@gswater.com

David Heuck  
Accounting  
2700 17 Mile Drive  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953  
heuckd@pebblebeach.com

**ALL DISTRICTS SERVICE LIST**  
**CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY**  
**ADVICE LETTER 1275**

Linda K. Hascup, City Clerk  
City of Coronado  
1825 Strand Way  
Coronado, CA 92118  
[cityclerk@coronado.ca.us](mailto:cityclerk@coronado.ca.us)

Thomas Montgomery, County Counsel  
County of San Diego  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[thomas.montgomery@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.montgomery@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Sheri Damon  
City of Seaside, City Attorney  
440 Harcourt Avenue  
Seaside, CA 93955  
[cityatty@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cityatty@ix.netcom.com)  
[cityattorney@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:cityattorney@ci.seaside.ca.us)

Rafael Lirag  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Administrative Law Judge  
505 Van Ness Avenue Room 4101  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3214  
[Rafael.lirag@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Rafael.lirag@cpuc.ca.gov)

Monterey Peninsula Water Mgmt Dist.  
Chief Financial Officer  
P.O. Box 85  
Monterey, CA 93942  
[suresh@mpwmd.net](mailto:suresh@mpwmd.net)

Jacque Hald, City Clerk  
City of Imperial Beach  
825 Imperial Beach Blvd.  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932  
[ibcclerk@cityofib.org](mailto:ibcclerk@cityofib.org)

Susan Sommers  
City Of Petaluma  
P.O. Box 61  
Petaluma, Calif. 94953  
[suesimmons@ci.petaluma.ca.us](mailto:suesimmons@ci.petaluma.ca.us)

County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
[wspc@ventura.org](mailto:wspc@ventura.org)

Mr. Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney  
City of San Diego  
202 'C' Street  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[cityattorney@sandiego.gov](mailto:cityattorney@sandiego.gov)

Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk  
City of San Diego  
202 'C' Street  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[cityclerk@sandiego.gov](mailto:cityclerk@sandiego.gov)

Jon Giffen  
City Attorney  
City of Carmel-By-The-Sea  
P.O. Box 805  
Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA 93921  
[jgiffen@kaglaw.net](mailto:jgiffen@kaglaw.net)

William Burke  
Deputy County Counsel  
County of Sacramento  
600 8th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[burkew@saccounty.net](mailto:burkew@saccounty.net)