PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 21, 2023

Ronald K. Moore Senior Regulatory Analyst Golden State Water Company 630 East Foothill Blvd. San Dimas, CA 91773

Dear Mr. Moore,

The Water Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has approved Golden State Water Company's Advice Letter No. 1897, filed on June 30, 2023, regarding Water Cost of Capital Mechanism Trigger.

Enclosed are copies of the following revised tariff sheets, effective July 31, 2023, for the utility's files:

P.U.C.	
Sheet No.	Title of Sheet
9150-W	Preliminary Statement,
	Part GG, Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism
9151-W	Table of Contents, Page 1

Please contact Jeremy Ho at JRY@cpuc.ca.gov or 415-703-1905, if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Enclosures

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION DIVISION OF WATER AND AUDITS

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Utility Name:	GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY	Date Mailed to Service List:	6/30/2023
District:	COMPANY WIDE		
CPUC Utility #:	133 W	Protest Deadline (20th Day):	7/20/2023
Advice Letter #:	1897-W	Review Deadline (30th Day):	7/30/2023
Tier	$\Box 1 \boxtimes 2 \Box 3 \Box $ Compliance	Requested Effective Date:	7/31/2023
Authorization		Rate Impact:	\$0
Description:	Water Cost of Capital Mechanism Trigger	Kate Impact.	0%

The protest or response deadline for this advice letter is 20 days from the date that this advice letter was mailed to the service list. Please see the "Response or Protest" section in the advice letter for more information.

Utility Contact:	Marcus Gomez	Utility Contact:	Brad Powell
Phone:	(909) 394-3600 x 432	Phone:	(909) 394-3600 x 422
Email:	Marcus.Gomez@gswater.com	Email:	Brad.Powell@gswater.com
DWA Contact:	Tariff Unit		
Phone:	(415) 703-1133		

Email: Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

DWA USE ONLY				
DATE	STAFF		COM	IMENTS
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[] APPROVED		[]WITHDRA	AWN	[] REJECTED
Signature:		Commer	nts:	
Date:				



June 30, 2023

Advice Letter No. 1897-W

(U 133 W)

Concoling

California Public Utilities Commission

Golden State Water Company ("GSWC") hereby submits this advice letter applicable to all of water operations.

<u>CPUC Sheet No</u> Revised No. 9150-W	<u>Title of Sheet</u> Preliminary Statement, Part GG, Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism	Cancernig <u>CPUC Sheet No.</u> Revised No. 5607-W
Revised No. 9151-W	Table of Contents, Page 1	Revised No. 9149-W

Subject: Water Cost of Capital Mechanism Trigger - 2023

Purpose

This AL is submitted to adjust GSWC's authorized Cost of Capital adopted in California Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") Decision No. ("D.") 23-06-025¹, adopted June 29, 2023 and General Order No. ("GO") 96-B.

The purpose of this AL is to propose an adjustment to GSWC's adopted cost of capital for the year 2023 and 2024. D.23-06-025 authorizes GSWC to continue with its Water Cost of Capital Mechanism (WCCM) for years 2023, and 2024, using the base year 2022². GSWC has followed the directives previously adopted in D. 09-07-051 (and continued in D.12-07-009 and D.18-03-035) to adjust its authorized cost of capital for 2023.

Background

On May 3, 2021, GSWC along with California-American Water Company, California Water Service and San Jose Water Company, filed simultaneous applications for approval of their respective proposed cost of capital for the three-year period beginning

¹ Ordering Paragraph 3 and 7

² Ibid

January 1, 2022. On June 29, 2023, D.23-06-025 was adopted, which adopted the cost of capital for 2022 and continued the WCCM.

Ordering Paragraphs 3 and 7 of the Decision state,

3. Golden State Water Company is authorized an 8.85% return on equity and a 5.10% cost of debt with a 43.00% debt to 57.00% equity ratio resulting in a 7.24% return on rate base for the calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

7. California-American Water Company, California Water Service Company, Golden State Water Company, and San Jose Water Company shall continue with their Water Cost of Capital Mechanism for the years 2023, and 2024, using the base year 2022 adopted in this decision.

Workpapers outlining the calculations relating to the change in return on equity, longterm debt costs and preferred stock costs are being submitted with this advice letter to the Commission's Water Division and to the Public Advocates Office.

Discussion

The automatic adjustment process is triggered in any year where the difference between the current 12-month October through September average Moody's utility bond rates and the existing rate benchmark exceeds the 100-basis point trigger. An automatic adjustment to GSWC's return on equity (ROE) is made as follows:

• ROE is adjusted by one-half of the difference between the AA utility bond average for AA credit-rated utilities or higher and BAA utility bond average for BBB credit-rated utilities or lower and the current benchmark.

Long-term debt and preferred stock costs are updated to reflect actual August monthend embedded costs in that year and forecasted interest rates for variable long-term debt and new long-term debt and preferred stock scheduled to be issued. Although long-term debt costs have been updated, the updates have resulted in no change to the adopted cost of debt in D.23-06-025.

Adopted Cost of Capital Structure

D.23-06-025 approved the following capital structures, cost of equity, cost of debt and rate of return for GSWC for the period 2022-2024:

Golden State Water Company Adopted Base Year 2022					
	Cost of Equity	Cost of Debt	Capital Structure	Rate of Return	
	8.85%	5.10%	43.00% debt, 57.00% equity	7.24%	

Trigger Calculation

The comparison between the October 2021-September 2022 12-month average AA utility bond rate of 3.913%, and the benchmark of 2.885%, is a difference of 103 basis points. Because this difference is greater than 100 basis points, an automatic cost of capital adjustment is triggered.

Cost of Capital Adjustment

As described above, the trigger rate was higher than the benchmark by 103 basis points. ROE is therefore adjusted upward by one half that amount, or 51 basis points to 9.36% from 8.85%. GSWC's long-term debt cost adopted in the D.23-06-025 is unchanged. Incorporating the new ROE into the authorized capital structure results in a revised total rate of return on rate base of 7.53%, an increase of 29 basis points from its previous authorized level of 7.24%.

Proposed 2023 Cost of Capital Structure

Golden State Water Company Proposed Year 2023					
Cost of Equity Cost of Debt Capital Structure Rate of Return					
	9.36%	5.10%	43.0% debt, 57.0% equity	7.53%	

Revenue Requirement

The conditions of the WCCM require that when a trigger event occurs, GSWC is to file an advice letter incorporating revenue requirement adjustments. Because of the delay in the GRC proceeding, before implementation of the GRC rates, GSWC must submit advice letters to determine the 2023 escalation year rates³. At this time, it is not currently possible to calculate the adjustment to 2023 revenue requirements at this time.

Tier Designation

This advice letter is submitted with a Tier 2 designation.

Effective Date

GSWC requests that this filing become effective on July 31, 2023.

Response or Protest

Anyone may submit a response or protest for this Advice Letter (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 are:

1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the AL;

³ D.23-06-024, OP 6

- 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.

WD must receive a response or protest via email (<u>or</u> 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 is:

California Public Utilities Commission Water Division 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 **E-mail:** <u>Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov</u>

On the same day the response or protest is submitted to WD, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy of the protest to Golden State Water Company, addressed to:

Golden State Water Company Attn: Marcus Gomez 630 East Foothill Blvd. San Dimas, CA 91773 **E-mail:** regulatoryaffairs@gswater.com

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.

<u>Replies</u>

The utility shall reply to each protest and may reply to any response. Any reply must be received by WD 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.

No individuals or utilities have requested notification of filing of tariffs. Distribution of this advice letter is being made to the attached service list in accordance with General Order No. 96-B.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Marcus Gomez</u> Marcus Gomez Senior Regulatory Analyst Regulatory Affairs Deptartment

cc: Jim Boothe, CPUC – Water Division Victor Chan, CPUC- CalPA Richard Rauschmeier, CPUC- CalPA Jeremy Ho, CPUC- Water Division

Preliminary Statement Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism

GG. Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism

Golden State Water Company ("GSWC") requests to establish a Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism.

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism is to provide an automatic(T)adjustment, up or down, to Golden State Water's adopted return on equity for 2022 (and thus its(T)overall rate of return on rate base for 2022) for calendar years 2023 and 2024 only if there is a(T)positive or negative difference of more than 100 basis points between the then current 12-month(T)October 1 through September 30 average Moody's utility bond rates and a benchmark.(T)

- 2. <u>Applicability</u> All Regions of Golden State Water Company.
- 3. GSWC shall maintain the Water Cost of Capital Adjustment Mechanism as follows:
 - a. For 2023, Golden State Water's initial benchmark is equal to the average interest rate of (T) Moody's Aa utility bonds if it has an AA or A credit-rating or higher, or Moody's Baa utility bonds if Golden State Water has a BBB+ credit-rating or lower for the period of October 1, 2020 (T) to September 30, 2021. The subsequent October 1 through September 30 average shall be based (T) on the foregoing parameters.
 - b. If the 100 basis point "deadband" (a range of change in interest rates that may occur without automatically triggering a change in return on equities) is exceeded, Golden State Water's return on equity will be adjusted by one-half of the difference between the benchmark and the October 1 to September 30 average.
 - c. In any year where the 12-month October through September average of Moody's utility bond rates triggers an automatic return on equity adjustment, that average becomes the new benchmark.
 - d. If the 100 basis point "deadband" is exceeded, Golden State Water will file a Tier 2 advice letter by October 15 that updates return on equity and related rate adjustments to become effective on January 1 of the following year. The advice letter would also update long-term debt and preferred stock costs to reflect actual August month-end embedded costs in that year and forecasted interest rates for variable long-term debt and new long-term debt and preferred stock scheduled to be issued.
 - e. Golden State Water's capital structure, as adopted for base year 2022, shall not be adjusted. (T)
 - f. Workpapers outlining the calculations relating to the change in return on equity, long-term debt costs and preferred stock costs are required to accompany the advice letter.
- 4. Effective Date

 The WCCM shall be effective for rates implemented in 2023 after a final decision is adopted in
 (T)

 A.21-05-001, et seq., and for rates implemented in 2024, unless modified by order of the
 (T)

 Commission.
 (T)

(T)

GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY (U 133 W)

630 E. FOOTHILL BLVD. – P.O. BOX 9016 SAN DIMAS, CALIFORNIA 91773-9016

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The following tariff sheets contain all effective rates and rules affecting rates and service of the utility, together with information relating thereto:

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Issued By **R. J. Sprowls President**

Sacramento Suburban Water Dist.

3701 Marconi Avenue – Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95821 <u>HHernandez@sswd.org</u> <u>DYork@sswd.org</u>

Carmichael Water District 7837 Fair Oaks Blvd. Carmichael, CA 95608-2405

Cypress Ridge Owner's Association Attn: President

1400 Madonna Road San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

City of Folsom

50 Natoma Street Folsom, CA 95630 myasutake@folsom.ca.us

Director Sacramento County Water Agency 827-7th Street, Room 301 Sacramento, CA 95814 DWRexecsecretary@saccounty.net

Bay Point Municipal Advisory Council 3105 Willow Pass Road Bay Point, CA 94565-3149

Contra Costa Water District P. O. Box H2O

Concord, CA 94520

Diablo Water District

P. O. Box 127 Raley's Shopping Center – 2107 Main Street Oakley, CA 94561-0127 Dmuelrath@diablowater.org cbelleci@diablowater.org **Citrus Heights Water District** 6230 Sylvan Road Citrus Heights, CA 95610

California-American Water Co. 520 Capitol Mall, Suite 630

Sacramento, CA 95814 <u>ca.rates@amwater.com</u>

Fair Oaks Water District 10317 Fairoaks Blvd. Fairoaks, CA 95628

Orange Vale Water Co P. O. Box 620800 9031 Central Avenue Orange Vale, CA 95662

City of Antioch P. O. Box 5007 Antioch, CA 94531

City of Brentwood

Public Works Operations James Wolfe, Water Operations Manager 2201 Elkins Way Brentwood, CA 94513 jwolfe@brentwoodca.gov

Contra Costa County Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board 651 Pine Street, Room 106 Martinez, CA 94553 Jami.napier@cob.cccounty.us

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Cambria Community Services Dist.

1316 Tamson Drive – Suite 201 P.O. Box 65 Cambria, CA 93428

Los Osos CSD 2122 - 9th Street

Los Osos, CA 93402

S & T Mutual Water Co.

P.O. Box 6391 Los Osos, CA 93412 STMutualwater@gmail.com

Nipomo Community Services Dist.

147 S. Wilson Street Nipomo, CA 93444-0326 <u>MIglesias@ncsd.ca.gov</u>

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Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 staylor@calleguas.com

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Community Services District P. O. Box 6064 Los Osos, CA 93412

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eriddiough@morrobayca.gov pnewman@morrobayca.gov

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City of Lakewood Water Department P.O. Box 220 Lakewood, CA 90714-0220

Honorable Mayor Karen Bass City of Los Angeles 200 N. Spring Street – Room 303 Los Angeles, CA 90012

City of Norwalk Water Department 12700 Norwalk Blvd. – Room #5 Norwalk, CA 90650

City of Santa Fe Springs Water Department 11736 E. Telegraph Road Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

City of Torrance Water Department 3031 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA 90503

California Water Service Co. 2632 West 237th Street Torrance, CA 90505-5272 mduque@calwater.com

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City of Whittier 13230 Penn Street Whittier, CA 90602

California Water Service Rancho Dominguez District 2632 West 237th Street Torrance, CA 90505-5272 hwind@calwater.com

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Maywood Mutual Water - No. 3 6151 Heliotrope Avenue Maywood, CA 90270-3418

Orchard Dale County

Water District 13819 East Telegraph Road Whittier, CA 90604 <u>rsilvett@odwd.org</u> ecastaneda@odwd.org Mliskey@odwd.org

San Gabriel Valley Water Co.

11142 Garvey Avenue El Monte, CA 91733 ratesdepartment@sgvwater.com

Tract 180 - Mutual Water Co.

4544 E. Florence Avenue Cudahy, CA 90201 <u>Tract180@hotmail.com</u>

Central Basin MWD

General Manager 6252 Telegraph Road Commerce, CA 90040-2512

Hilda Solis – 1st District L.A. County Board of Supervisors 856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Admin 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Robert Kelly, VP of Regulatory Affairs Suburban Water Systems 1325 N. Grand Avenue, Suite 100 Covina, CA 91724-4044

Water Replenishment District

4040 Paramount Blvd. Lakewood, CA 90712-4127 General Manager: <u>stucker@wrd.org</u> Rob Beste: <u>rbeste@wrd.org</u>

West Basin MWD

Uzi Daniels – Manager of Operations E. J. Caldwell – Interim General Manager 17140 S. Avalon Blvd. – Suite 210 Carson, CA 90746-1296

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California Department of Corrections P. O. Box 5001 7018 Blair Road Calipatria, CA 92233

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Barlen Mutual Water P. O. Box 77 Barstow, CA 92311

California Dept. of Forestry 7105 Airway Drive Yucca Valley, CA 92284

County Water 222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor San Bernardino, CA 92408

Daggett Community Service P.O. Box 308 Daggett, CA 92327

East Pasadena Water Co.

3725 Mountain View Avenue Pasadena, CA 91107 Larry@epwater.com

Jurg Heuberger, CEP, Executive Officer LAFCO 1122 W. State Street, Suite D El Centro, CA 92243-2840

Local Agency Formation Commission

215 North D Street – Suite 204 San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490 <u>lafco@lafco.sbcounty.gov</u>

Morongo Valley Community Service Distribution P.O. Box 46

Morongo Valley, CA 92256

Rancheritos Water Co. P. O. Box 348

Apple Valley, CA 92307 RMWC1954@gmail.com

Seeley County Water District P. O. Box 161 Seeley, CA 92273

Sheep Creek Water Company P. O. Box 291820 Phelan, CA 92329-1820 Attn: Chris Cummings

Twentynine Palms Water District 72401 Hatch Road P.O. Box 1735 Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

East Orange County Water District

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