

Decision 23-03-021 March 16, 2023

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Authority to Increase Rates for its Class C Catalina Water Utility and Recover Costs from Water And Electric Customers.

Application 20-10-018

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until December 29, 2023.

**1. Background and Justification**

On October 30, 2020, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed the instant application (Application) for approval of a Test Year 2022 general rate case (GRC) for its Santa Catalina Water utility (Catalina Water). The Application seeks recovery of costs from Catalina Water customers and system-wide electric customers. The Application proposes to recover these costs via phased-in increases in Catalina Water customer rates, as well as collecting \$28.969 million from SCE electric customers. The Utility Reform Network (TURN), a group of Catalina businesses (Catalina Parties), and the Commission's Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates) filed protests to the Application.

A prehearing conference was held on January 7, 2021, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary. An initial scoping memo was issued January 29, 2021 (Scoping Memo) and required that the parties file preliminary briefing on the limited issue of SCE's proposal to recover Catalina Water utility costs from its electric ratepayers. Opening briefs on this issue were filed March 5, 2021, and reply briefs were filed March 19, 2021, by all parties. A public participation hearing was held virtually on March 30, 2021. On May 27, 2021, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a ruling instructing SCE to provide testimony on alternative cost recovery proposals by August 5, 2021, given the outstanding question of Commission authority to grant cost recovery in the manner proposed by SCE. Following a granted request for extension by SCE, supplemental testimony with additional alternatives was served August 19, 2021. Reply testimony was served October 19, 2021, by TURN, the Catalina Parties, and Cal Advocates. Rebuttal testimony was served by SCE on December 3, 2021. Evidentiary hearings were held, from February 24 to March 7, 2022.

The assigned Commissioner issued an Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling (Amended Scoping Memo) on April 8, 2022, amending the schedule and extending the statutory deadline to March 30, 2023. Parties filed Opening Briefs on May 13, 2022 and Reply Briefs on June 10, 2022.

The Commission is in the process of reviewing the Application and comments. It is anticipated that a proposed decision will be issued shortly. Given the important nature of the matters presented in this Application, the Commission requires additional time to conduct a technical workshop, prepare and issue a proposed decision for public review and comment, and to deliberate

and issue a final decision. We estimate that an extension of time until December 29, 2023 should provide sufficient time for the Commission to complete this proceeding.

## **2. Waiver of Comment Period**

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may waive the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment on a decision that extends the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings pursuant to Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code § 1701.5. Under the circumstances of this proceeding, it is appropriate to waive the 30-day period for public review and comment.

## **3. Assignment of Proceeding**

Genevieve Shiroma is the assigned Commissioner and Garrett Toy is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

## **Findings of Fact**

1. The current statutory deadline for resolving Application (A.) 20-10-018 is March 30, 2023.
2. A.20-10-018 cannot be completed by March 30, 2023.
3. An extension of the statutory deadline until December 29, 2023 is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

## **Conclusion of Law**

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended to December 29, 2023.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended until December 29, 2023.

This order is effective today.

Dated March 16, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

GENEVIEVE SHIROMA

DARCIE L. HOUCK

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

Commissioners