

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GARRETT TOY, presiding

)	EVIDENTIARY
)	HEARING
Application of Southern California)	
Edison Company (U338E) for Authority)	
to Increase Rates for its Class C)	
Catalina Water Utility and Recover)	Application
Costs from Water and Electric)	20-10-018
Customers.)	
)	
)	

REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT
Virtual Proceeding
February 28, 2022
Pages 329 - 453
Volume 4

Reported by: Karly Powers, CSR No. 13991
Shannon Ross Winters, CSR No. 8916
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VIRTUAL PROCEEDING

FEBRUARY 28, 2022 - 9:07 A.M.

* * * * *

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE TOY: We are on the record. It is February 28, 2022, at 9:07 a.m. This is the time and place for Evidentiary Hearings in Application 20-10-018, Southern California Edison's application for Catalina Water Company.

Right now we are going to take care of some administrative things with the exhibits. We are going to mark exhibits. I have the exhibit preliminarily marked SCE-10WP-C, titled: SCE-10WP-C, Rebuttal, Confidential Version, sponsored by Southern California Edison, and that will be marked as SCE-10WP-C.

(Exhibit No. SCE-10WP-C was marked for identification.)

ALJ TOY: I have an exhibit sponsored by Cal Advocates, preliminarily marked as Cal Advocates-01-C, titled: Report and Recommendation, Confidential Version, and I'll be marking that as Cal Advocates-01-C.

(Exhibit No. CAL ADVOCATES-01-C was marked for identification.)

ALJ TOY: I have Exhibit CP-20, sponsored by Catalina Parties, titled:

1 Letter Granting Allocation to 217 Metropole
2 Museum, M-e-t-r-o-p-o-l-e. I'll be marking
3 that as CP-20.

4 (Exhibit No. CP-20 was marked for
5 identification.)

6 ALJ TOY: And the following five
7 exhibits are all on behalf of the Catalina
8 Parties. I have CP-21, titled: Email
9 Approving Two Swimming Pools. I'll be
10 marking that as CP-21.

11 I have an exhibit preliminarily
12 marked as CP-22, titled: A 109-W (Part 1
13 of 1). I'll be marking that as CP-22.

14 I have an exhibit preliminarily
15 marked as CP-23, titled: SCE Water Schedule
16 14.1. I'll be marking that as CP-23.

17 I have an Exhibit CP-24, titled:
18 SCE Advice 116-W, filed 1/28/2020. I'll be
19 marking that as CP-24. I have an exhibit
20 preliminarily marked as CP-16 (Corrected),
21 titled: Corrected, SCE Water Produced, Water
22 Sold, and System Water Loss from 2004 to
23 2020. I'll be remarking that as CP-16-E.

24 (Exhibit Nos. CP-21, CP-22, CP-23,
25 and CP-24 were marked for
identification.)

26 (Exhibit No. CP-16-E was marked for
27 identification.)

28 ALJ TOY: Do the parties have any

1 comments on the SCE exhibit?

2 MR. FU: None, your Honor.

3 MR. SUNG: Paul Sung for SCE. We have
4 one -- sorry. I wasn't exactly clear as to
5 what was already marked. We're looking to --
6 the new edition is the public version of the
7 workpapers for SCE-10. Your Honor, you had
8 already identified the Confidential Version
9 so that was my mistake for not being clear on
10 that.

11 ALJ TOY: I see. Okay. The original
12 confidential version was already marked
13 SCE-10; is that correct?

14 MR. SUNG: Dash C, your Honor. That is
15 correct.

16 ALJ TOY: Dash C. Okay.

17 It's already been premarked.
18 Continuing on with the marking of exhibits, I
19 have an exhibit sponsored by SCE, titled:
20 SCE-10WP -- titled: SCE-10WP Rebuttal,
21 Public Version, and I'll be marking that as
22 SCE-10WP, and the marking of SCE-10WP-C,
23 which we discussed earlier already took place
24 on the 24th.

25 (Exhibit No. SCE-10WP was marked for
26 identification.)

27 ALJ TOY: Any other comments?

28 MR. SUNG: No, your Honor. Thank you.

1 ALJ TOY: Ms. Fisher, any comments?

2 MS. FISHER: No, your Honor. Thank
3 you.

4 ALJ TOY: Any comments, Mr. Bishton?

5 MR. BISHTON: No comments.

6 ALJ TOY: Off the record for a second.
7 (Off the record.)

8 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

9 We will now proceed with testimony
10 for today. Mr. Hite, can you please state
11 your full name, spelling it for the court
12 reporter, and your place of business and the
13 party on whose behalf your testimony is for.

14 THE WITNESS: My name is Ronald Hite,
15 R-o-n-a-l-d, H-i-t-e. I work for Southern
16 California Edison on Catalina Island. I'm
17 here to testify on behalf of Southern
18 California Edison.

19 ALJ TOY: Thank you. Could you please
20 read the witness attestation on the screen
21 ahead of you.

22 THE WITNESS: I, Ronald Hite, do
23 solemnly state under penalty of perjury that
24 the testimony I give in this case now pending
25 before this Commission shall be the truth,
26 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;

27 I, Ronald Hite, attest I will
28 testify based on my own knowledge and memory,

1 free from external influences and pressure;

2 I, Ronald Hite, attest I will adhere
3 to all formal requirements of testifying
4 under oath, including the prohibition against
5 being coached;

6 I, Ronald Hite, attest I only refer
7 to and (sic) materials provided by the
8 parties if it's premarked and identified by
9 the parties and previously shared with the
10 opposing party;

11 I, Ronald Hite, attest I will not
12 make any recording of the proceeding. I
13 attest I understand that any recording of a
14 proceeding held by Webex, including
15 screenshots or other visual copying of a
16 hearing is absolutely prohibited;

17 I, Ronald Hite, attest that I
18 understand that violation of these
19 prohibitions may result in sanctions,
20 including removal from the evidentiary
21 hearing, restricted entry to future hearings,
22 denial of entry to future hearings or any
23 other sanctions deemed necessary by the
24 Commission;

25 I, Ronald Hite, attest I will not
26 engage in any private communications by
27 phone, text or email, any other mode of
28 communication while under oath and being

1 examined;

2 If I, Ronald Hite, experience any
3 attempts to tamper with my witness testimony,
4 I will report the occurrence to the Presiding
5 Officer immediately.

6 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

7 SCE, your witness.

8 RONALD HITE, called as a witness by
9 Southern California Edison Company,
10 having been sworn, testified as
11 follows:

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. FU:

14 Q Thank you, your Honor.

15 A Good morning, Mr. Hite.

16 Q Good morning.

17 Q So you are sponsoring testimony in
18 connection with this proceeding?

19 A Yes.

20 Q If you'll bear with me, I will be
21 identifying certain exhibits and portions
22 thereof for the record, and that will be
23 Appendix B of Exhibit SCE-01; that is the
24 Water Systems Summary.

25 SCE-02, Operations and Maintenance.
26 SCE-02E, that would be the errata volume.

27 SCE-3, Capital Projects.

28 SCE-03E with the errata.

SCE-05, specifically Sections Roman

1 Numeral I and II.

2 Exhibit SCE-10, Rebuttal volume,
3 specifically Section Roman Numeral IV, V and
4 VII.

5 Now, are you sponsoring testimony
6 in the exhibits or portions thereof that I
7 just identified?

8 A Yes.

9 Q This is testimony prepared by you
10 or at your direction?

11 A Yes.

12 Q To the extent that the testimony is
13 factual in nature, is it true and correct to
14 the best of your knowledge?

15 A Yes.

16 Q To the extent that testimony
17 reflects your opinion or judgment; is it your
18 best opinion or judgment?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you have any corrections to your
21 testimony at this time?

22 A (Inaudible.)

23 Q Sorry. Mr. Hite, did you hear me?

24 A I did. I answered, "No."

25 MR. FU: Your Honor, this witness is
26 ready for cross-examination.]

27 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

28 Is Public Advocates ready to conduct

1 its cross-examination?

2 MS. FISHER: Emily Fisher for Public
3 Advocates.

4 Yes, we are, your Honor.

5 ALJ TOY: Great. Go ahead when you're
6 ready.

7 MS. FISHER: Emily Fisher with Public
8 Advocates.

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. FISHER:

11 Q Good morning, Mr. Hite.

12 A Morning.

13 Q So I understand you are
14 testifying -- you sponsored Appendix B of
15 SCE-01 as Mr. Fu just said.

16 A Yes.

17 Q Mr. Hite, do you agree with the
18 position that given the challenging
19 conditions on Catalina and also relative to
20 other water utilities of similar size that
21 SCE's water loss percentage is reasonable?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Could you please turn to page B-3
24 in SCE-01 Appendix B.

25 A Okay.

26 Q Now, starting at line 9 on page B-3
27 you explain that the Catalina water system is
28 actually made up of five separate water

1 systems. Is that correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Mr. Hite, based on the American
4 Water Works Association or AWWA audit data,
5 isn't it true that Catalina's real water loss
6 has increased every year from 2015 to 2019?

7 A Can you reference an exhibit that
8 indicates such.

9 Q Sure. I'd like to show
10 cross-exhibit Cal Advocates-X-08.

11 MS. FISHER: And I will need presenter
12 privileges.

13 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

14 (Off the record.)

15 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

16 Please continue, Ms. Fisher.

17 MS. FISHER: Thank you, your Honor.

18 Emily Fisher with Cal Advocates.

19 BY MS. FISHER:

20 Q Mr. Hite, I am now showing you
21 cross-exhibit Cal Advocates-X-08. And these
22 consist of an excerpt from SCE's workpapers
23 WPSCE-01. And these are audit reports from
24 2015 through 2019.

25 Can you see that exhibit?

26 A Yes.

27 Oh, please restate your question.

28 Q Based on these AWWA audit reports,

1 isn't it true that Catalina's real water loss
2 has increased every year from 2015 to 2019?

3 A What you're seeing here on these
4 reports are the formulas that help us
5 calculate the water loss. And it all comes
6 down to a validity score. And what SCE is
7 focused on right now is improving that
8 validity score because any areas where you
9 don't have solid data yet you take the worse
10 case scenario number and plug it in.

11 And I believe looking at your
12 exhibit if you see -- if you go through the
13 period here, the data validity scores
14 actually drop which would result in a higher
15 water loss number each consecutive years
16 those numbers drop. And the reason those
17 numbers were dropped is because we had just
18 simply initiated using this tool a few years
19 ago and we're getting more and more
20 comfortable with it and learning how to use
21 it or understand it.

22 And so early on I believe we had
23 higher validity scores than we likely
24 actually did. So as we learned to use this
25 tool, that validity score has come down which
26 in turn shows higher water losses through
27 each subsequent year.

28 Currently, we are working

1 diligently to improve those validity scores
2 and anticipate those getting significantly
3 higher over the next couple of years.

4 Q Okay. Thank you.

5 But again, based on this data
6 validity score aside, isn't it true that the
7 amount of real water loss has increased since
8 2015?

9 Here's 2015. And let's see. 2015
10 showing real losses. They're 51.926?

11 A Yeah. So again, those numbers are
12 tied to the data validity score. The lower
13 the score, the higher the resulting losses.

14 Q Okay. And there's a validity score
15 of 60 for 2016 and real losses of 52.89. Is
16 that correct?

17 A Quote that again, please. Which
18 year are you looking at?

19 Q This is 2016. And it indicates
20 real losses of 52.890. I assume there's a
21 multiplier for every year?

22 A Yes.

23 Q See that number? Okay.

24 A I do.

25 Q And then 2017, as you mentioned,
26 the validity score has gone down a little
27 bit. There are real losses of 83.367?

28 A Yes.

1 Q And 2018 has the validity score of
2 56. There are losses of 116.026. Is that
3 correct?

4 A Yes.

5 Q In 2019 again the same validity
6 scores as the previous year; 56 with real
7 losses of 151.732. Is that correct?

8 A Yes. So in this case, I would
9 agree that 2019's losses were higher than
10 2018.

11 Q Okay. Along with real losses
12 reported here in terms of overall water loss
13 as a percentage of water supplied between
14 2015 and 2019, that percentage increased from
15 21.3 percent to 39.1 percent. Is that
16 correct?

17 A I would need to go through these --
18 this exhibit to check. That's possible.

19 Q Sure, sure.

20 A Again, it's tied to the data
21 validity.

22 Q I understand.

23 Okay. So here's 2015. And new
24 revenue water as percent volume of water
25 supplied is at 21.3 percent. Is that
26 correct?

27 A Yes.

28 Q And here in 2016 it actually

1 dropped just a tiny bit to 20.8 percent.

2 Do you see that?

3 A Yes.

4 Q In 2017, however, it was at
5 27.4 percent. Is that correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q 2018 non-revenue water is percent
8 by volume supplied at 31.7. Is that correct?

9 A It's just tough to read these
10 numbers, but I believe it is.

11 Q I can make it a little bit larger
12 if that would --

13 A Yes, please.

14 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, can you please
15 explain mathematically how a validity score
16 adjusts the real losses.

17 WITNESS HITE: The details behind the
18 formulas I'm not certain, your Honor. What I
19 do know is if you don't have empirical, hard,
20 solid data -- in other words, coming in from
21 SCADA or somewhere to plug in to these
22 formulas -- it's calculated as worse case
23 scenario.

24 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

25 MS. FISHER: Okay. Emily Fisher again.

26 BY MS. FISHER:

27 Q So that is 2018. And for 2019 the
28 non-revenue water as percentage by volume

1 supplied is at 39.1 percent. Is that
2 correct?

3 A I see that, yes.

4 Q Mr. Hite, do you know when the 2020
5 AWWA audit information will be available?

6 A I do not.

7 Q For the years 2015 through 2019 SCE
8 does not have water loss data at the
9 individual system level for any of its five
10 isolated systems. Is that correct?

11 A Repeat the question, please.

12 Q Sure. For the years 2015 through
13 2019 that we have just looked through, SCE
14 does not have water loss data at the
15 individual system level for any of its five
16 individual systems. Is that correct?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q I would like to show Cal
19 Advocates -- cross-exhibit Cal
20 Advocates-X-09. And this consists of a
21 response to their request set Public
22 Advocates-SCE-05-SI, question eight.

23 Mr. Hite, can you see this exhibit
24 okay?

25 A Yes.

26 Q So as you just indicated in stating
27 SCE does not have water loss information for
28 its individual systems, would you then agree

1 that SCE has not performed water -- AWWA
2 water audits at the individual subsystem
3 level?

4 A As indicated in our response to
5 question eight, this will be done as part of
6 the water master plan development which is
7 behind schedule. That will be completed this
8 year. And we will have those values for each
9 individual system.

10 Q But the information is not yet
11 available; is that correct?

12 A Correct.

13 Q So is it accurate to say that SCE
14 has so far been able -- excuse me -- has so
15 far been unable to identify where or in which
16 systems specifically the real water losses
17 are occurring?

18 A That would be correct. We have a
19 picture of the overall system but not each
20 individual one on this topic.

21 Q But it's still your position that
22 the amount of water losses is reasonable even
23 though you don't know where or why the loss
24 is happening?

25 A As we indicated, we don't know why
26 the losses are happening.]

27 Q Well, that information hasn't been
28 provided. So is it fair to say that SCE does

1 not know why the losses are happening?

2 MR. FU: Objection. Assumes facts not
3 in evidence. Mr. Hite indicated in his
4 initial response that he did not agree with
5 the premise of Ms. Fisher's question. That's
6 the reason for my objection.

7 MS. FISHER: Your Honor, did you want
8 me to respond?

9 (Crosstalk.)

10 THE REPORTER: Judge, you're on mute.

11 ALJ TOY: Sorry about that.

12 Ms. Fisher, could you please restate
13 your question?

14 MS. FISHER: Sure.

15 ALJ TOY: Or provide a response if you
16 would like to.

17 MS. FISHER: Sure. So I'll restate the
18 question.

19 Q Mr. Hite, even though you don't
20 know where the water loss is happening, it is
21 still your position that the amount of water
22 loss is reasonable; is that correct?

23 A The amount of water loss is
24 consistent with our peers in the industry.
25 Edison is working diligently to improve in
26 this area. And a number of the projects we
27 have on the capital section of this testimony
28 help support that.

1 Q Thank you.

2 Now, if you could please refer to
3 page 27 of Exhibit SCE-10?

4 A You said 27?

5 Q Yes. And I will -- let me unshare
6 this.

7 Are you there?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Starting at line 5 there, on
10 page 27, you explain that SCE had not
11 previously provided invoices to fully support
12 the volume-related expenses for the cost of
13 pumping indicated in the general ledger; is
14 that correct?

15 MR. FU: Objection. Document speaks
16 for itself.

17 ALJ TOY: Please continue, Mr. Hite.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes. I mean, if you
19 would like me to reread what's written, I can
20 do that.

21 BY MS. FISHER:

22 Q No, I read it close enough. So,
23 thank you.

24 This missing information
25 consisted of detail and invoices documenting
26 power for pumping expenses in 2019; is that
27 correct?

28 A Yes.

1 Q In a January 2021 data request,
2 didn't Cal Advocates specifically request
3 supporting documentation for 2019
4 volume-related expenses?

5 A I don't recall. I would have to
6 see the document to refresh my memory.

7 Q If I could refer you to page 43 of
8 SCE's workpapers for Exhibit SCE-10; do you
9 have that available?

10 A I do. Okay.

11 Q And I believe there you should see
12 the -- Cal Advocates' data request dated
13 January 2021.

14 A We're talking about Catalina
15 workpapers, rebuttal testimony -- at where?

16 Q Let's see. Yes.

17 Catalina workpapers, rebuttal
18 testimony, page 43?

19 A I must be in the wrong volume,
20 because what I see there is Table 4-8,
21 regarding A&G expenses.

22 ALJ TOY: I see that as well, Mr. Hite.

23 MS. FISHER: Okay. I apologize. I may
24 have the incorrect page reference. But I can
25 share the workpaper that I'm referring to,
26 the page, if that's okay with your Honor?

27 ALJ TOY: Yes. Off the record for a
28 second.

1 (Off the record.)

2 ALJ TOY: Okay. We're going to go back
3 on the record.

4 BY MS. FISHER:

5 Q This is page 43 of SCE's workpapers
6 to SCE-10.

7 A Please scroll down, Ms. Fisher, so
8 I can see the contents of the page and
9 whether it matches what I'm holding.

10 Okay. I have it, Ms. Fisher.

11 Q Okay. Thank you.

12 ALJ TOY: For the record, this is
13 page 146 the PDF to WPSCE-10-C.

14 Please continue, Ms. Fisher.

15 MS. FISHER: Thank you.

16 Q So, Mr. Hite, as you can see, this
17 was a data request served on January 21st of
18 2021. And SCE provided its response on
19 January 28th, the same month. And here, Cal
20 Advocates requests details for recorded
21 expenses for 2019, specifically the
22 volume-related expenses for refresh and
23 desal; is that correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And SCE's rebuttal testimony, the;
26 Exhibit SCE-10, served on December 2021, is
27 the first time that SCE provided the missing
28 information; is that correct?

1 A Where are you reading that?

2 Q I just asked you a question based
3 on page 27 of SCE-10.

4 A Okay. So you're asking whether in
5 this data request response, that's the first
6 that we sent the information to you?

7 Q Well, I'm asking if the first time
8 that you sent the missing information was in
9 your rebuttal testimony SCE-10?

10 A I don't know. I suspect we did not
11 understand or know it was missing, had --
12 otherwise, we would have included it -- until
13 you asked the question.

14 Q Okay. Thank you.

15 Mr. Hite, are you familiar with the
16 -- excuse me -- the California Water and
17 Waste Water Arrearage Payment Program
18 administered by the State Water Resources
19 Control Board?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And are you familiar with SCE's
22 participation in the program?

23 A Yes.

24 Q I would like to show Cross Exhibit
25 Cal Advocates-X-10. And this exhibit
26 consists of a response to a data request from
27 Public Advocates dated February 9th, 20- --
28 2022.

1 Can you see the exhibit, Mr. Hite?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Mr. Hite, do you anticipate that
4 funds SCE received and distributed under this
5 program will be tracked in an operations and
6 maintenance expense category?

7 A Please restate the question.

8 Q Will funds that SCE received or
9 distributed under this arrearages program be
10 tracked in an operations and maintenance
11 expense category?

12 A Well, on my response that you're
13 displaying there, section B at the bottom,
14 indicated SCE was awarded over 81,000 and
15 distributed 71,000 of those funds back to our
16 water customers.

17 Q Okay. And my question would be:
18 Where are those funds tracked in
19 terms of SCE's O&M accounts?

20 A I don't know at this time.

21 Q Would they be applied to offset
22 uncollectable accounts' expenses?

23 A I don't know.

24 Q Thank you, Mr. Hite.

25 No further questions.

26 ALJ TOY: Thank you.]

27 Before we proceed, I believe Cal
28 Advocates cross-exhibits 8, 9 and 10 were not

1 marked earlier, and so I'm going to mark them
2 now.

3 MS. FISHER: Thank you, your Honor.

4 ALJ TOY: And I have Cal
5 Advocates-X-08, titled: Cal Advocates
6 Excerpt from WPSCE-01, AWWA Water Audit
7 Report, pages 352 to 361. I'll be marking
8 that as Cal Advocates-X-08.

9 I have an exhibit marked Cal
10 Advocates-X-09, titled: Response to Data
11 Request Set PubAdv-SCE-05-XL, Question 08,
12 and I'll be marking that as Cal
13 Advocates-X-09.

14 I have an exhibit marked Cal
15 Advocates-X-10, titled: SCE Response to Data
16 Request Set PubAdv-SCE-60-ER, Arrearages
17 Program Payment, and I'll be marking that as
18 Cal Advocates-X-10.

19 (Exhibit Nos. Cal Advocates-X-08,
20 X-09 and X-10 were marked for
identification.)

21 ALJ TOY: SCE, do you have any
22 redirect?

23 MR. FU: I do have a few questions,
24 your Honor.

25 ALJ TOY: Please continue.

26 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

27 BY MR. FU:

28 Q Mr. Hite, are there a number of

1 different factors that could impact water
2 loss relative to Catalina's water system?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And would one of those factors that
5 could impact water loss include the use of
6 the desalination?

7 A Please restate. I don't
8 understand.

9 Q Certainly. Has SCE increased its
10 use of desalination over the periods that
11 Ms. Fisher referenced since 2015?

12 A Yes. Very significantly.

13 Q Would that have an impact in terms
14 of the AWWA result relative to water losses?

15 A It could. And the way that it
16 could is because when we have short-duration
17 outages for maintenance on the desal plant,
18 that plant gets bypassed. And so the meter
19 on the seawater pump is counting gallons
20 produced; yet the product water coming out of
21 the plant at that point during those sort
22 duration outages is not turning.

23 The reason we do short-term
24 maintenance that way is because it takes many
25 hours to start those seawater wells once you
26 stop them. So if we are doing something as
27 simple as changing a couple of filters, we
28 need to simply bypass the plant, and yet

1 we're pumping large volumes of water around
2 the plant back to the ocean.

3 Q Ms. Fisher also asked you about an
4 exhibit, Cal Advocates-9, a data request
5 response concerning Cal Advocates' request
6 for certain invoices, general ledger entries
7 related to the pumping of fresh and
8 desalinated water; do you recall that?

9 A Yes.

10 Q What Ms. Fisher termed as
11 "information," those were invoices that had
12 not been attached to that data request
13 response; correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Those invoices were attached as
16 part of SCE's Exhibit 10WP as part of its
17 rebuttal; correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Correction: SCE-10WP-C; correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q That didn't change any of the
22 figures that were reflected in SCE's
23 testimony; correct?

24 A Correct.

25 Q It was just a matter of providing
26 the invoices that had erroneously not been
27 included with data request responses?

28 A Correct.

1 MR. FU: No further questions, your
2 Honor.

3 ALJ TOY: Ms. Fisher, do you have any
4 recross?

5 MS. FISHER: Just briefly.

6 ALJ TOY: Proceed.

7 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. FISHER:

9 Q Mr. Hite, so is it still your
10 position that although the audit data shows
11 that SCE is losing more and more water each
12 year and SCE does not know where the water
13 loss is occurring within its system that you
14 still agree that SCE's water loss is
15 reasonable?

16 MR. FU: Objection; misstates
17 Mr. Hite's testimony.

18 ALJ TOY: Do you have a response,
19 Ms. Fisher.

20 MS. FISHER: Your Honor, I believe I've
21 already asked those questions and Mr. Hite
22 responded; so I'm okay to move on.

23 Q In the redirect, Mr. Hite, you
24 indicated that during maintenance times,
25 water from the freshwater wells is pumped out
26 back into the ocean; is that correct?

27 A No. From the seawater wells.

28 Q From the seawater wells.

1 So the water pumped from the
2 seawater wells, has it been treated before
3 it's pumped?

4 A No.

5 MS. FISHER: Thank you. No further
6 questions.

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY ALJ TOY:

9 Q Mr. Hite, just a couple of
10 questions. Does SCE track at all perceived
11 losses that are coming through those pumps
12 even though they are, perhaps, true losses?

13 A It all gets calculated on how much
14 water is pumped versus how much water is
15 sold.

16 Q Okay.

17 A That goes for all the resources.

18 Q SCE is not tracking the losses that
19 occur when maintenance occurs to the desal
20 plant.

21 A What we do is when we need to
22 calculate water loss, we go out and we read
23 all the meters, how much volume is pumped,
24 and then we look at our reports on how much
25 is sold, if it compares.

26 ALJ TOY: Okay. Thank you.

27 Why don't we take a ten-minute break
28 until 10:10, and then we'll return with the

1 cross by Mr. Bishton and Catalina Parties.

2 Off the record.

3 (Recess taken.)

4 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

5 I realized I forgot to ask SCE
6 whether they had any additional redirect.

7 MR. FU: Nothing further, your Honor.

8 ALJ TOY: We'll now proceed then with
9 the cross-examination of Mr. Hite by the
10 Catalina Parties.

11 Mr. Hite, I want to remind you that
12 you are subject to the same attestations you
13 repeated earlier.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, your Honor.

15 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, please proceed
16 with your cross.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. BISHTON:

19 Q Hi. My name is Norris Bishton,
20 representing Catalina Parties. Let's start
21 with water loss --

22 (Reporter clarification.)

23 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

24 (Off the record.)

25 BY MR. BISHTON:

26 Q Mr. Hite, there's a variety of
27 sources, water sources, available on the
28 island; is that correct?

1 A It depends on your definition of
2 "variety."

3 Q There's both wells and there's
4 desal; those are two sources of water.

5 A Yes.

6 Q And the wells and the desal that
7 produce water for use in the City of Avalon,
8 in the Avalon system, that's about 90 percent
9 of the water produced by Edison for sale?

10 A Roughly.

11 Q And about 7 percent of the water
12 produced is for the isthmus; is that correct?

13 A I would have to check that number,
14 but would seem close.

15 Q Approximately 3 percent is for
16 isolated campgrounds and residences,
17 approximately?

18 A Subject to check, yes.

19 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, I need
20 sharing please.

21 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

22 (Off the record.)

23 BY MR. BISHTON:

24 Q I'll show you what has been marked
25 as Exhibit 12, water loss reports, water
26 produced, water sold, and system water loss,
27 source of information is annual reports.

28 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, you said 12.

1 That's 16; correct?

2 MR. BISHTON: I'm sorry. 16E. My
3 mistake 16E.

4 Q And Edison files annual reports
5 with the PUC every year reporting, providing
6 information on its operation of the water
7 system?

8 A Is that a question?

9 Q Yes. Are those reports filed every
10 year?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And in those reports, does it
13 detail the water produced and the water sold;
14 does it show that in those reports?

15 A Yes.

16 Q This draft is based upon those
17 reports. It shows what was produced and what
18 was lost from 2004 all the way over to 2020.

19 Now, in terms reports, they're
20 filed under oath; are they not?

21 Someone has signed a declaration
22 that they're accurate under oath?

23 A I do not recall if they're under
24 oath, but they are generally signed. Yes.

25 Q These reports show the annual
26 reports for 2007, 2008, 2009 with the
27 exception of one number. Exactly the same
28 amount was produced by all the sources of

1 water in three years running. Would those
2 numbers be accurate? The wells would -- the
3 desal would produce exactly the same amount
4 three years running?

5 MR. SUNG: Objection; compound.

6 ALJ TOY: Please break up your
7 question, Mr. Bishton.

8 BY MR. BISHTON:

9 Q Mr. Hite, annual reports for 2007,
10 2008, 2009 with a slight exception showed
11 that same amount being produced by wells and
12 the desal plant for three years in a row; is
13 that accurate?

14 A Well, this document you're
15 sharing -- I don't recall from memory, but
16 the document you're sharing I'm just simply
17 not familiar with.

18 Q You're familiar with the annual
19 reports; are you not?

20 A I am, but I don't have them in
21 front of me.

22 Q Can you explain why the annual
23 reports show the same amount of water
24 produced three years running?

25 MR. FU: Objection; lack of foundation;
26 assumes facts not in evidence.

27 ALJ TOY: I'm going to uphold that
28 objection.

1 Mr. Bishton, would you please
2 restate your question as to how the annual
3 reports are compiled.

4 BY MR. BISHTON:

5 Q Where -- who prepares the annual
6 reports that are filed each year with the
7 PUC?

8 A Edison staff.

9 Q Do you review them before they're
10 filed?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Three years running - 2007, 2008,
13 2009 - it shows the exact same amount being
14 produced by the wells and the desal plant.
15 Can you explain how that is accurate?

16 MR. FU: Same objections; lack of
17 foundation; assumes facts not in evidence.

18 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, are you able to
19 produce the annual reports?

20 MR. BISHTON: I can pull them all up,
21 your Honor. I can move on. If the witness's
22 answer is he does know, we can move on.

23 ALJ TOY: Okay. Please move on.

24 BY MR. BISHTON:

25 Q Again, in the years following 2010
26 and 2011, it shows an exact amount from the
27 same sources two years running. Can you tell
28 us why or how that amount can be produced for

1 two years running?

2 MR. FU: Same objections; lack of
3 foundation; assumes facts not in evidence.

4 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, this was put
5 together by Mr. Brady I believe.

6 MR. BISHTON: Yes. I personally have
7 verified it against each one of the annual
8 reports.

9 ALJ TOY: Okay. Could you please --
10 assuming the testimony goes past the lunch
11 hour, could you please dig up the annual
12 reports and come back to this after the
13 lunch?

14 MR. BISHTON: Could you repeat that. I
15 didn't quite hear, your Honor.

16 ALJ TOY: Sure. Assuming this
17 testimony goes past the lunch hour, could you
18 please dig up those reports.

19 MR. BISHTON: Yes, your Honor.

20 ALJ TOY: Okay. Please do that and
21 move on from this line of questions.

22 BY MR. BISHTON:

23 Q Mr. Hite, this exhibit shows amount
24 of water lost, the difference between water
25 produced and water sold starting in 2004, and
26 the percentage of loss the first year was 22
27 percent and if you go across to all of 2020,
28 where the loss is 40 percent with an average

1 of 29 percent for all those years.

2 Is it your explanation -- it's your
3 testimony that that's reasonable water loss?

4 MR. FU: Objection; lack of foundation;
5 the document speaks for itself.

6 ALJ TOY: Can you please repeat your
7 question, Mr. Bishton more simply.

8 BY MR. BISHTON:

9 Q The information taken from the
10 annual reports shows that the 22 percent loss
11 of water difference between water produced
12 and water sold according to the annual
13 reports in the year 2004 has the same
14 percentage; for example, as in 2013, it was
15 47 percent. It was 40 percent in -- the
16 average of 29 percent.

17 Is it your testimony that that is
18 reasonable water loss?

19 MR. FU: Objection; lack of foundation;
20 assume facts not in evidence; the document
21 speaks for itself.

22 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, please proceed
23 as if those are the water loss totals.

24 THE WITNESS: Subject to check because
25 I'm not aware or familiar with this document.
26 As stated, Mr. Bishton, both earlier with
27 Ms. Fisher, as well as, I believe last week
28 with Ms. Barcinas, those unaccounted for

1 water figures are within the realm of other
2 similar water utilities, and over a ten-year
3 period averages roughly 28 percent.

4 When I refer to my comments earlier
5 with Ms. Fisher, it relates to the scoring in
6 the AWWA formulas that we started using a few
7 years back and --

8 (Crosstalk.)

9 BY MR. BISHTON:

10 Q Informing --

11 MR. FU: He interrupted his response,
12 your Honor.

13 ALJ TOY: Please wait, Mr. Bishton.

14 Mr. Hite, continue.

15 THE WITNESS: So as we become more and
16 more familiar with that scoring sheet and
17 understand what we need to do to gain
18 confidence in each one of those scores, which
19 will drive the confidence number higher,
20 which will then decrease the calculated loss.

21 BY MR. BISHTON:

22 Q You testified or agreed earlier
23 that 90 percent of the water is produced for
24 the Avalon system; correct?

25 A Yes.

26 Q Approximately 7 percent, the
27 isthmus. You can't lose 40 percent of the
28 water produced on the isthmus because it's

1 only a tiny amount of production; isn't that
2 correct?

3 MR. FU: I'm sorry. I didn't hear
4 Mr. Bishton's question. Can I have it read
5 back?

6 BY MR. BISHTON:

7 Q 90 percent of the water is produced
8 to be used in the Avalon system. That is
9 where the loss of 40 percent of the water,
10 the bulk of it has to occur; not in a system
11 like the isthmus, which is only 7 percent of
12 the water; correct?

13 A No. That's not correct. As stated
14 earlier, we do not have a system-by-system
15 breakdown at this point. That will be coming
16 later this year.

17 Q Directing your attention to SCE-01,
18 Appendix B, page 6.

19 MR. FU: Did you say, "Appendix 1"?

20 MR. BISHTON: SCE-01, Appendix B,
21 sponsored by Mr. Hite, page 6.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm there,
23 Mr. Bishton.

24 BY MR. BISHTON:

25 Q Mr. Hite, you testified over the
26 past five years, SCE has prepared an average
27 95 leaks per year for approximately one leak
28 every four days; do you see that?

1 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, could you please
2 repeat that question. You cut off at the
3 end.

4 BY MR. BISHTON:

5 Q Mr. Hite, you testified as follows
6 in Appendix B: Over the past five years, SCE
7 has repaired an average of 95 leaks per year
8 for approximately one leak every four days.

9 A Is that a question?

10 Q Is that your testimony?

11 A Yes.

12 Q That's for the last five years?

13 A Yes.

14 Q But the prior five years, has the
15 same approximate number of leaks been
16 repaired?

17 A I don't know. I don't have that
18 data in front of me.

19 Q These five years of leaks that
20 you've testified here, where were those leaks
21 located?

22 A I don't have that data in front of
23 me either.

24 Q That's 95 leaks a year. Over the
25 five-year period, that's 475 leaks; correct?
26 That's the math.

27 A Yes.

28 Q 475 leaks over five years indicates

1 that there's something -- there's a problem
2 with water loss in your opinion?]

3 A As stated again, Mr. Bishton, it's
4 right in line with our peers. And we have a
5 very different system here. And we are very
6 unique in that as opposed to many other --
7 most other systems, virtually all, who
8 consist of mainly mains and service lines
9 through urban and suburban streets. Our
10 water system is mainly -- if you look at
11 miles of pipeline -- criss-crossing very
12 rugged terrain that is in many cases nowhere
13 near roads. So it's very different than most
14 other water utilities you're going to find,
15 but yet we are still in line with industry
16 average for our peers.

17 Q Mr. Hite, I'm showing you Exhibit
18 SCE-12 which is water reports from your
19 workpapers that show losses and it shows
20 non-revenue water loss 58.130 in the first
21 period in 2016. It leaps to 91.272
22 non-revenue water loss. It goes to 122.62 or
23 82,620 in 2018. It goes to 164,710
24 non-revenue water in 2019.

25 Losses have been growing year after
26 year after year, correct, as reflected in
27 these reports?

28 A Yes. I believe Ms. Fisher and I

1 just finished discussing these same
2 documents, and I answered those same
3 questions.

4 Q And despite repairing 475 leaks
5 during the same period, water losses continue
6 to grow; correct?

7 A Please restate your question.

8 Q Despite repairing 475 leaks,
9 according to your own testimony, for the last
10 five years the water losses continue to grow?

11 A Mr. Bishton, I have explained what
12 you're looking at here in your exhibit and
13 that those calculations increase based mainly
14 on our data validity score decreasing.
15 However, what I did discuss with Ms. Fisher
16 is the incremental increase from '18 to '19
17 with the same validity score.

18 Q Mr. Hite, you testified that
19 systems on Catalina Island are complex and
20 there are 47 miles of pipeline. Is that
21 correct?

22 A I don't know. Are you referencing
23 my testimony for those numbers?

24 Q Yes. I don't want to --
25 Does that sound correct?

26 A You'd have to direct me to what
27 you're talking about.

28 Q Turning your attention to

1 Exhibit CP-10, which is a published decision
2 of ALJ Robert Barnett issued in 2012, I
3 direct your attention to what he found as to
4 the system on Catalina Island. The water
5 system on Catalina Island is not complex. It
6 is really five separate systems all of which
7 are basically the same.

8 Water is pumped from wells to a
9 tank or tanks, and it flows by gravity to the
10 point of use. The only treatment is this
11 core main system serving the city of Avalon
12 includes 95 percent of the connections. To
13 serve Avalon, water from three wells in
14 Middle Canyon is pumped to the Wrigley
15 Reservoir and then to the Baker tank, then
16 flows by gravity to the points of use. In
17 this system pump house number two moves water
18 less than 2 miles. It's an approximate 400
19 foot rise. In terms of water systems, that
20 is insignificant.

21 There is a desalination plant which
22 is monitored and maintained primarily by
23 changing filters. Because of the height of
24 the bigger tank and the Wrigley Reservoir,
25 pressure regulators are required.

26 Do you remember that finding by
27 Judge Barnett?

28 MR. FU: Objection. Lack of

1 foundation, document speaks for itself. Also
2 I'm confused about the relevance given this
3 is just a proposed decision. It was never
4 adopted by the Commission. So I'd actually
5 move to strike Mr. Bishton's -- basically his
6 recitation of the proposed decision.

7 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, what are you
8 using this decision to show?

9 MR. BISHTON: I asked the witness if
10 Judge Barnett found the system is not
11 complex. That was a finding.

12 ALJ TOY: I'm sorry?

13 MR. FU: I object. Same objections,
14 your Honor.

15 ALJ TOY: Yeah. Mr. Bishton, I'm not
16 seeing use of this decision at least at this
17 point as making sense. I'm not sure what --
18 you're assuming a lot of the witness in
19 asking him about what was written in this
20 decision -- proposed decision almost ten
21 years ago now. Certainly, I don't think you
22 need this decision to ask Mr. Hite's opinion
23 on the system.

24 Do you have a response? Sorry.

25 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, I will move
26 on.

27 ALJ TOY: Okay. You can certainly ask
28 Mr. Hite anything about the system itself. I

1 don't know that using this particular exhibit
2 for this purpose makes sense.

3 Please continue with your cross.

4 BY MR. BISHTON:

5 Q Mr. Hite, is it your testimony that
6 this is a complex system?

7 A Yes.

8 Q The distance of water as moved from
9 Middle Canyon to the Wrigley Reservoir is
10 less than five miles. Is that correct?

11 A I don't know.

12 Q You don't know what that distance
13 is?

14 A I don't. We'd have to look at a
15 map and measure it. I believe it to be more
16 than five miles, but I don't know for
17 certain. I've never measured it.

18 Q You're not aware that it's
19 4.84 miles to be exact from a map?

20 A Again, I've never measured it.

21 Q The distance from the Wrigley
22 Reservoir to the Baker tanks is 1.2 miles.

23 Does that sound correct?

24 A That seems correct based on my
25 familiarization with that distance.

26 Q And the distance from the Baker
27 tanks to the city of Avalon is .63 miles.
28 Does that sound correct?

1 A No, because I believe the Baker
2 tanks to be within the city of Avalon.

3 Q My question was the distance from
4 the Baker tanks to the distribution point in
5 Avalon. They're not that far. About
6 .63 miles.

7 A It could be. I don't know.

8 Q And the distance from the desal
9 plants to Baker tanks is 1.64 miles?

10 A I don't know. Never measured it.

11 Q Eighty-five to 90 percent of the
12 connections are within the city of Avalon --
13 city limits of the city of Avalon; correct?

14 A Subject to check that sounds close
15 to accurate.

16 Q Okay. The city of Avalon is 2.6
17 square miles. So 85 to 90 percent of your
18 connections are all within 2.6 square miles?

19 A Is that a question?

20 Q Yeah. That's where 85 to
21 90 percent are located within a 2.6 square
22 miles that make up the city of Avalon?

23 A I don't know the total square miles
24 of Avalon, but I suspect it's larger than two
25 square miles.

26 Q I said 2.6 square miles.

27 A Okay. I don't know, Mr. Bishton,
28 the size of the city of Avalon.

1 Q But they are all 85 to
2 95 percent -- the connections are within the
3 square footage of the city of Avalon whatever
4 that square footage accurately is?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Now, there -- Brian Brady, our
7 expert, identified other Class B and Class C
8 located on the mainland.

9 Do you think any of that 95 percent
10 or 85 of the customers are located within 2.6
11 square miles?

12 MR. FU: Objection. Lack of
13 foundation, compound.

14 ALJ TOY: I'm sorry, Mr. Bishton.
15 Could you please verify your question.

16 And don't answer yet, Mr. Hite. I
17 lost the train of thought of your question,
18 Mr. Bishton.

19 BY MR. BISHTON:

20 Q Mr. Hite, having all or 85 percent
21 of its connections within a very small area
22 is a benefit to a water company, is it not?

23 ALJ TOY: Do you have any objections to
24 that, Mr. Fu?

25 MR. FU: It's vague and ambiguous.
26 Objection. Vague and ambiguous, your Honor.

27 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, could you please
28 speak to the benefits and challenges of

1 operating the Catalina Water Utility.

2 WITNESS HITE: Sure.

3 ALJ TOY: In terms of the geographical
4 size and nature of the island.

5 WITNESS HITE: Sure.

6 The layout of our water utility is
7 very unique in that as opposed to an urban or
8 suburban traditional water utility where you
9 buy and/or import most of your water and you
10 have nothing but mains and service
11 connections whether they're in one square
12 mile or a thousand square miles. Very, very
13 simple.

14 What we have is the opposite. We
15 have extremely challenging terrain that's
16 completely isolated from -- from anything.
17 And once we get the water to get to the city
18 of Avalon, yes, we have what one would
19 consider a traditional system made up of
20 mains and service connections. But the real
21 challenges are getting it from the source to
22 the town of Avalon as we criss-cross
23 mountainous terrain along with a couple
24 thousand feet of elevation involved as well.

25 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, please continue.

26 BY MR. BISHTON:

27 Q Mr. Hite, the water used in the
28 isthmus coming from Howland's Landing well is

1 in fairly close proximity to the isthmus
2 area; correct?

3 A No. That's wrong.

4 Q Where does the water come from?

5 A It comes from the center of the
6 island and it traverses approximately nine to
7 ten miles on a transmission pipeline from the
8 Cottonwood and Sweetwater wells to the
9 million gallon tank and then drops down into
10 two harbors.

11 Q Is water coming from the Howland's
12 Landing?

13 A We have an emergency backup
14 connection that should -- if necessary, we
15 can send water from the twin tanks which
16 originates at Howland's well into two
17 harbors.

18 Q I'll move on to a different topic.

19 Mr. Hite, I'll show you a document
20 marked as Exhibit CP-17 which is an
21 organizational chart taken from Edison's
22 workpapers.

23 Did you prepare this organizational
24 chart?

25 A I didn't hear the question. Please
26 restate.

27 Q This is an organizational chart
28 from Edison's workpapers. And I'm asking you

1 whether you prepared this chart.

2 A I personally did not.

3 Q This chart reflects that there are
4 13 water employees, 13 individuals involved
5 in maintaining the water system, does it not?

6 A What the document you're showing
7 refers to and what you've got outlined in red
8 is that we've got 13 full-time employees that
9 are dedicated to the water and the gas
10 utilities. There are many more beyond this
11 that support the water utility as well.

12 Q These are the employees on the
13 water -- on the island that dedicate at least
14 part of their time to the water system?

15 A These are full-time employees that
16 dedicate the majority of their time to the
17 water system. And they do reside on the
18 island. However, there are others outside of
19 your red cloud that reside on the island and
20 also support the water utility.

21 Q And who are those employees?

22 A Well, some of them are indicated on
23 that same chart. For example, the
24 maintenance planning advisor, the warehouse
25 clerk, the environmental science advisor, and
26 others that are not shown on this chart.

27 Q And those that you've indicated
28 work for all three utilities on the island,

1 do they not?

2 A No. The employees you have clouded
3 in red do not work for the electric utility
4 at all.

5 Q I'm talking about the additional
6 employees that are not clouded in red that
7 you identified. They work for all three
8 utilities on the island?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Is there anyone on the island that
11 handles customer complaints?

12 A If a customer has a complaint,
13 frequently they come to me. But we do not
14 have a specified position for customer
15 service clerk on the island, that's correct.

16 Q Of any of the individuals on the
17 island is there anyone who handles billing
18 issues for customers on the island?

19 A Informally, yes. However, we no
20 longer have a dedicated customer service
21 representative full time on the island.

22 Q These 13 individuals work part-time
23 and they also work on the gas utilities, do
24 they not?

25 A They split their time between those
26 two utilities.

27 Q In SCE-testimony-02 at page 6 it
28 says "Approximately 85 percent of the water

1 gas crew's time is spent supporting the water
2 utility based on labor expenses as shown in
3 Table II-5 below."

4 Is that correct about 85 percent of
5 these 13 people's time is spent on the water?

6 A Just a moment. And I am looking up
7 what you just cited.

8 Okay. Please restate your
9 question.

10 Q My question is of these 13 people
11 85 percent of their time, as testified to in
12 SCE-02 at page 6, is spent on just water
13 utility?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And their compensation of these 13
16 people is reflected in Account 630 in the
17 annual reports? Labor?

18 A Yes.

19 Q In 2019 in the annual report it
20 shows that labor Account 630 was \$1,600 --
21 \$1,677,000. Divide that by 13 employees --
22 part-time employees, the average compensation
23 would have been \$129,000. Does that sound
24 correct?

25 A Well, if you do simple math, I
26 suppose that could be. However, we just
27 talked about there are other SCE employees
28 that support -- directly support the water

1 utility --

2 Q My question is --

3 A -- that are beyond the 13 that you
4 have -- that you're counting in your average.

5 Q But they are not reflected in
6 Account 630, are they?

7 A I don't know why they wouldn't be.
8 They're employee labor.

9 Q Is it your testimony that some of
10 these other people are in Account 630?

11 A Subject to check I believe they
12 are.

13 Q 2021 -- pardon me. For 2020
14 Account 630 was \$3,803,469 for 13 employees
15 which would be \$292,575 if you divide it by
16 13.

17 Does that sound like the
18 compensation those 13 received in 2020?

19 A Do you have an exhibit you can show
20 me where you're pulling this data from.

21 Q If necessary I can show you where
22 it comes -- it comes out of what is reported
23 in the annual reports. It's all -- only
24 information available to ratepayers is what
25 is in the annual reports.

26 A All I'm asking is whether you have
27 that available for us to view.

28 Q It was semi-annual reports over

1 lunchtime prepared by the direction of
2 Judge Toy.

3 A I'll just note, Mr. Bishton, that
4 Account 630 does include the 13 employees you
5 referenced, but it includes many others, as I
6 mentioned earlier, as well that support the
7 utility. So your simple math just doesn't
8 work here.

9 Q So it's your testimony that these
10 employees are in 630?

11 A Yes.

12 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, can you say
13 approximately how much of the expense can be
14 attributed to the full-time employees versus
15 the employees not listed on the screen in
16 front of you.

17 WITNESS HITE: I cannot unless -- no.
18 I don't have access to that kind of data.
19 BY MR. BISHTON:

20 Q These full-time employees -- these
21 13 employees are members of the International
22 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers?

23 A Not all of them that you have
24 clouded in red.

25 Q Which ones are not?

26 A Frank Beach, Catalina Gas & Water
27 production supervisor.

28 Q The other 12 are?

1 A Yes, the remaining positions are
2 represented.

3 Q Because he's in a supervisory
4 position is why he's not represented by the
5 union?

6 A Yes.

7 Q It is Edison's choice to operate
8 the water utility with electrical workers, is
9 it not?

10 MR. FU: Objection. Lack of
11 foundation.

12 ALJ TOY: Do you have a response,
13 Mr. Bishton?

14 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, throughout
15 the testimony they reference IBEW employees
16 are -- at least 12 of them are under the
17 jurisdiction of. My question is it's
18 Edison's choice to use union workers or
19 electrical union workers to operate a water
20 company.

21 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, please answer that
22 question.

23 WITNESS HITE: No. You're incorrect,
24 Mr. Bishton. The employees worked with the
25 National Labor Relations Board and made a
26 decision and took a vote to join the
27 International Brotherhood of Electrical
28 Workers that represent the majority of

1 Edison's employee -- represented employees on
2 the mainland.

3 So these employees clouded in red
4 here that work and focus their time on the
5 water and gas utilities are not electrical
6 workers except for the instrument control and
7 electrical workers that do support the water
8 utility. But the water operators, mechanics
9 are dedicated water utility professionals.

10 BY MR. BISHTON:

11 Q Mr. Hite, drought is not an
12 unfamiliar or unusual occurrence on Catalina
13 Island, is it?

14 A Droughts on Catalina Island are
15 becoming more and more frequent.

16 Q Has there ever been a period since
17 1962 -- extended period when there wasn't
18 periodic droughts?

19 A Is your question since 1962 there
20 were or were not? I couldn't understand.

21 Q Intermittent droughts over those
22 years; correct?

23 A Well, you would need to refer to
24 the definition of drought. But what the
25 island frequently has are periods of no rain
26 or little rain for a couple of years in a row
27 which takes our reservoirs and aquifers down.
28 And then we generally get refilled a couple

1 years later. And that's a continuing cycle.
2 Some of those dips are deeper than others,
3 but it's becoming more and more frequent to
4 see those dips in rainfall.

5 Q Drought is one of the challenges
6 Edison had faced since 1962 in order to
7 provide an adequate supply of water to the
8 customers on Catalina Island.

9 A Please restate that question.

10 Q It has been the responsibility of
11 Edison, has it not, since 1962 to find -- to
12 deal with droughts and find a way to provide
13 an adequate supply of water during periods of
14 drought?

15 A It's Edison's responsibility to
16 manage the system in a way that maintains
17 consistent, safe, reliable drinking water
18 supply all the time.

19 Q Directing your attention to SCE-01
20 at page 20 --

21 A I'm sorry, but I don't have SCE-01
22 as I don't believe I sponsored that
23 testimony.

24 Q Let me read the portion then that
25 applies to drought. "SCE was an early
26 adopter of conservation practices. SCE's
27 Staged Mandatory Conservation and Rationing
28 Plan (Water Rationing Plan) was originally

1 adopted in 1977. SCE has implemented its
2 Water Rationing Plan on numerous occasions
3 over the years to maintain an adequate supply
4 of water during periods of prolonged
5 drought."

6 That sound correct to you?

7 A Well, I can't see what you're
8 referencing, but I do know we developed and
9 instituted and got Comission approval to
10 implement a conservation and rationing plan
11 in the late '70s.]

12 Q It says in your -- in the
13 testimony, "1977."

14 A I don't believe that's my
15 testimony.

16 Q 1977 -- which is referenced in that
17 testimony that I read -- to the present, is
18 55 years.

19 What has Edison done to assure an
20 adequate supply of water during periods of
21 drought for --

22 (Court reporter clarification.)

23 MR. BISHTON: During that 55-year
24 period.

25 ALJ TOY: Could you repeat the question
26 in full for the court reporter, Mr. Bishton?

27 (Crosstalk.)

28 BY MR. BISHTON:

1 Q What has Edison done during that
2 55-year period to provide -- in order to
3 provide an adequate supply of water during
4 periods of drought on Catalina Island?

5 A I guess I'm confused about the 55
6 years. How are you calculating that, from
7 what year to what year?

8 Q 1977, when first 14 -- schedule
9 14.1 was put in position, to the present?

10 A Yeah. I believe that to be
11 45 years.

12 Q 45 years.

13 A Right.

14 Q I stand corrected. Yes.

15 MR. FU: Objection. Lack of
16 foundation. Vague and ambiguous.

17 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, can you just speak
18 to the actions SCE takes in order to respond
19 to drought, to your knowledge? It does not
20 have to be back to 1977.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.

22 So -- yeah, I mean, the conservation
23 and rationing plan that you brought up is a
24 great example of that. Because, for example,
25 during this last significant drought, it
26 worked very, very effectively -- just as it
27 should -- in that we were able to continue to
28 provide service through, as the Governor of

1 the State of California noted, the worst
2 drought since the 1800s. And yet, we did not
3 run out of water as a result of that
4 conservation and rationing plan.

5 In addition to that, Edison has
6 added to the system wells, tanks, et cetera,
7 to help support Catalina Island as, during
8 that time, there's been significant
9 population growth, significant increases in
10 tourism, et cetera.

11 BY MR. BISHTON:

12 Q Other than the recent drilling of
13 the Howland's Landing Well 3R, what was the
14 -- what well was drilled prior to that?

15 A I think what you're asking is if --
16 whether any resources were added between the
17 70s and Howland's Landing Well about 6 or
18 7 years ago.

19 Is that your question?

20 Q Yes.

21 A Okay. Well, obviously, the
22 majority of that period was before my time on
23 the island. However, we have added the
24 Cottonwood Wells in and around 1977; we have
25 redrilled some of the wells in Middle Ranch
26 during that period of time; we've also added
27 desal production to the system, all to help
28 mitigate the potential impacts of drought.

1 Q During the recent drought,
2 customers on Catalina Island reduced their
3 water usage by 40 percent; is that correct?

4 A Yes. There were different levels
5 through the period of the last drought. But
6 at one period, yes, a group of customers
7 reduced their consumption to, roughly, 40
8 percent.

9 Q This is all customers, not just a
10 group of customers?

11 A No. There were some customers at
12 50 percent during that period, as well.

13 Q But the average was 40 percent?

14 A I don't recall. Do you have an
15 exhibit or information to lead me to, so I
16 can confirm that?

17 Q Direct your attention to SCE-01, on
18 page 20, where it says:

19 During the recent historic
20 drought, Catalina water customers
21 reduced usage by approximately
22 40 percent on average, far
23 exceeding Governor Brown's
24 then-mandated reduction of
25 20 percent.

26 A Not having sponsored that
27 testimony, I don't have it in front of me.
28 However, that sounds accurate.

1 Q That is over the period of the
2 drought, 40-percent reduction?

3 MR. FU: Objection. Asked and
4 answered.

5 ALJ TOY: You've already stated that in
6 the -- in your question, Mr. Bishton. Please
7 move on to your next question.

8 BY MR. BISHTON:

9 Q Okay. In the recent drought,
10 Edison activated schedule 14.1, Stage 1, I
11 believe, on June 1st, 2013.

12 Does that sound correct?

13 A That sounds about right.

14 Q And you lifted the drought
15 restriction -- on February 13th, 2019, you
16 lifted Stage 1?

17 A Is that a question?

18 Q Is that correct?

19 A That sounds about right.

20 Q And during that period of time, you
21 obtained permission to create memorandum
22 accounts, and you charged drought-related
23 costs to memorandum accounts; is that
24 correct?

25 A Yes.

26 Q And your authority to be in
27 rationing comes from schedule 14.1; is that
28 correct?

1 A Yes.

2 Q (Inaudible.)

3 (Webex audio glitch.)

4 (Court reporter clarification.)

5 MR. BISHTON: Edison's authority to
6 ration water comes from schedule 14.1; is
7 that correct?

8 MR. FU: Objection. Asked and
9 answered.

10 ALJ TOY: I believe he was repeating
11 the question for the court reporter. But I
12 think the court reporter was asking about
13 which document this is --

14 (Crosstalk.)

15 (Court reporter clarification.)

16 ALJ TOY: Which document is this,
17 CP-23?

18 (Crosstalk.)

19 ALJ TOY: Okay. It's CP-23. And
20 please speak up, Mr. Bishton.

21 MR. BISHTON: I will try to do so.

22 Q Mr. Hite, I direct your attention
23 to Exhibit CP-23, schedule 14.1.A.

24 And it says:

25 This schedule is only effective in
26 times of mandatory conservation
27 and rationing, as required by
28 Rule 14.1. It has to be effective

1 only in times of mandatory
2 conservation.

3 That's your authority -- Edison's
4 authority?

5 A Please, before you cite a section,
6 would you please indicate where you're going
7 to cite from, so I can get there?

8 Q It's right here --

9 A Okay.

10 Q -- the very first provision, second
11 sentence?

12 A Yes.

13 Q This is only effective in times of
14 mandatory conservation and rationing;
15 correct --

16 A Yes.

17 Q -- that's your authority?
18 And you go down here, Stage 1
19 allows --

20 (Zoom audio glitch.)

21 (Reporter clarification.)

22 MR. BISHTON: I'll start again.

23 THE REPORTER: No problem. Thank you.

24 MR. BISHTON: And I apologize, I --
25 it's hard for you, and it's hard for us.

26 THE REPORTER: No problem. We'll get
27 through it. Thank you.

28 ///

1 BY MR. BISHTON:

2 Q I'm going down to C, stages of
3 mandatory water conservation and rationing.
4 And it provides your authority to go into
5 Stage 1 is as follows:

6 Mandatory water conservation is
7 declared by SCE or the Commission
8 when water levels in the Middle
9 Ranch Reservoir fall below 600
10 acre-feet.

11 Is that correct?

12 THE WITNESS: That's what it says.

13 MR. FU: Objection. The document
14 speaks for itself.

15 BY MR. BISHTON:

16 Q I mean, that's what -- that's your
17 authority to go into rationing; correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Thompson Reservoir is an unlined
20 reservoir from which Edison draws no water?

21 ALJ TOY: Is there a question there,
22 Mr. Bishton?

23 BY MR. BISHTON:

24 Q What is the Thompson Reservoir?

25 A What is the Thompson Reservoir?

26 So, the Middle Ranch Reservoir is a
27 slightly-over-1,000-acre-foot water storage
28 component of our system. And it holds water

1 that is hydraulically tied to the adjacent
2 well field in Middle Ranch, which serves all
3 of Avalon.

4 Q And that is the measurement for
5 determining your authority to go into Stage
6 1. And when it measures 600 feet or less,
7 you have authority to go into Stage 1;
8 correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And when you want to go into Stage
11 1, you apply -- you have to apply by advice
12 letter through the Commission for permission;
13 is that correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. Turning your attention to
16 CP-22, which is Advice Letter 109, filed by
17 Edison on February 15th, 2019.

18 And that is -- pursuant to this
19 advice letter, you sought permission to lift
20 Stage 1 -- correct? -- and that's what ended
21 the drought period?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And I direct your attention to the
24 "purpose" section:

25 On March 14, 2019, following
26 multiple recent rain events, the
27 middle reservoir reached its full
28 capacity 1,054 acre-feet.

1 Is that -- do you see that?

2 And that is a true statement?

3 MR. FU: Objection. Compound.

4 ALJ TOY: Please break up your
5 question, Mr. Bishton.

6 BY MR. BISHTON:

7 Q States on Mar- -- in exhibit -- or
8 in this Advice Letter 109:

9 On February 14, 2019, following
10 multiple recent rain events, the
11 Middle Ranch Reservoir reached its
12 full capacity of 1,054 feet.

13 Is that -- do you recall that event
14 occurring?

15 A Well, I see it in writing here.
16 So --

17 Q And that's the basis for lifting
18 the Stage 1?

19 A Well, this letter has many
20 components. So, that's a large piece of it,
21 yes.

22 Q What is the authority for Edison to
23 retain Stage 1 after measurement -- the
24 Thompson Reservoir reached 600 acre-feet
25 until it's full at 1,054 acre-feet?

26 ALJ TOY: Could you please break up
27 that question, Mr. Bishton? It's a little
28 difficult to follow.

1 BY MR. BISHTON:

2 Q Yes. Let's go to page three here
3 of this document. Focus your attention on
4 the paragraph that begins at the very bottom
5 of the page, it reads:

6 On March 7th, 2017, following
7 significant rainfall during the
8 2016 and '17 rain season, SCE
9 deactivated Stage 3 and returned
10 to Stage 1 of the water rationing
11 plan. On April 6, 2017, the water
12 level in the MRR exceeded 600
13 acre-feet before climbing to a
14 level of 736 acre-feet or 69
15 percent of total capacity on
16 August 9th, 2017.

17 My question to you is:

18 What authority did Edison have to
19 stay in Stage 1 rationing, once the water
20 level in Thompson Reservoir rose above
21 600 feet?

22 MR. FU: Objection, your Honor.
23 Outside of the scope of the witness's
24 testimony. Also, outside the scope of this
25 proceeding. I don't think the subject of
26 this proceeding is challenging SCE's stages
27 of its mandatory conservation plan.

28 ALJ TOY: Where is this line of

1 questioning going to, Mr. Bishton?

2 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, they have
3 been charging to the memorandum account's
4 costs during the whole period well beyond
5 their authority to be in Stage 1, which has
6 that 600 acre-feet, and they were not lifted
7 until 1,045 feet. And that's -- the purpose
8 of this is to show that they were charging
9 money -- costs to these memorandum accounts
10 long after they had authority to be in
11 Stage 1.

12 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, please just speak
13 to your understanding of Edison's authority
14 for being in Stage 1 --

15 THE WITNESS: Sure.

16 ALJ TOY: -- past March 2017.

17 THE WITNESS: Well, if we keep reading
18 where Mr. Bishton stopped reading on this
19 advice letter, it becomes clear. And I'll
20 just read it:

21 This was the first time Middle
22 Ranch Reservoir had reached its
23 capacity since September 2012.
24 However, with the prohibitions on
25 wasteful water practices still in
26 effect in accordance with
27 Executive Order B-4017,
28 anticipation of new regulation

1 implementing the Governor's order,
2 making conservation a California
3 way of life, establishing
4 permanent prohibitions on wasteful
5 water practices, and the
6 estimation of the Middle Ranch
7 Reservoir water level dropping
8 below 600 acre-feet within the
9 next year, SCE elected to maintain
10 Stage 1 mandatory conservation for
11 the Catalina Water customers.
12 Stage 1 mandatory conversation is
13 currently in effect.

14 So this is -- we've done this in
15 the past, your Honor, where we've been in, in
16 this case, Stage 1, which does not incur
17 mandatory rationing. There's just some added
18 conservation measures, which actually match
19 perfectly with the Governor's order. And
20 it's about not wastefully using water. And
21 when we came up to just barely over that
22 600-foot mark, and we were in the beginning
23 stages of summer, we knew it was going to
24 come right back down.

25 So in the interest of saving costs
26 for our customers and time and efforts on
27 Water Division staff, we made this decision
28 and submitted this in the advice letter to

1 the Water Division to maintain those measures
2 of conservation, assuming we were going to
3 drop right back into Stage 1 in a very short
4 period of time.

5 BY MR. BISHTON:

6 Q Mr. Hite, is it your testimony that
7 you submitted something to the Water Division
8 or to the PUC to seek permission to stay in
9 Stage 1, even though the measurement was
10 above 600 acre-feet --

11 (Crosstalk.)

12 MR. FU: Objection. Misstates Mr.
13 Hite's testimony.

14 THE REPORTER: And, Mr. Bishton, your
15 question was cut off at the end due to the
16 objection, if you'd like to repeat your
17 question.

18 MR. FU: I apologize.

19 MR. BISHTON: I'll repeat the whole
20 question.

21 Q Mr. Hite, did Edison ever submit an
22 advice letter to the PUC, or to the Water
23 Division, seeking permission to stay in
24 Stage 1 and continue to add costs to the
25 memorandum accounts, beyond the point when
26 the levels of reservoir reached 600
27 acre-feet?

28 MR. FU: Objection. Compound.

1 ALJ TOY: Could you please break up
2 your question, Mr. Bishton, for clarity?

3 BY MR. BISHTON:

4 Q Mr. Hite, this Advice Letter 109
5 was submitted in February of 2019; correct?

6 That's the date on it. I can show
7 you the date.

8 A Yes. Correct.

9 Q Between the time that the -- it
10 indicates here that 600 acre-feet -- just a
11 second here. Let me get this straight.

12 On April 6th, 2017, you exceeded
13 600 acre-feet in the reservoir. At any time
14 between April 6, 2017, when it exceeded to
15 600 feet, until February of '19 -- except
16 2019 -- did Edison seek permission or consent
17 by advice letter from the Commission to keep
18 in Stage 1?

19 MR. FU: Assumes fact -- objection.
20 Assumes facts not in evidence.

21 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, please answer the
22 question as to your knowledge of whether the
23 CPUC was notified of the Middle Ranch
24 Reservoir going above 600 feet.

25 THE WITNESS: I don't recall.

26 BY MR. BISHTON:

27 Q Mr. Hite, during that same reset
28 point on April 2017, when it was over 600,

1 the ratepayers on the island had been saving
2 water by 40 percent -- they had reduced their
3 water usage by 40 percent.

4 Is it your testimony that Edison
5 felt compelled in order to conserve water,
6 and encourage them to conserve water, that it
7 needed to stay in Stage 1 and continue to
8 send costs into the memorandum accounts?

9 MR. FU: Objection. Compound.

10 ALJ TOY: Could you please restate your
11 question, Mr. Bishton? Break it up.

12 BY MR. BISHTON:

13 Q As of April 6th, 2017, when the
14 water level reached 600 acre-feet, Edison
15 ratepayers, water ratepayers, had reduced
16 their usage by 40 percent.

17 Did Edison feel it was necessary to
18 continue in Stage 1 -- continue adding costs
19 to the memorandum accounts despite the fact
20 that ratepayers had reduced their usage by
21 40 percent?

22 MR. FU: Objection. Compound.

23 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, can you speak to
24 why SCE felt that Stage 1 conservation was
25 still required, despite the ongoing
26 conservation and the increase in the MMR
27 water level?

28 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I think I've

1 answered that. And it's clearly written here
2 in this advice letter.

3 And so, on March 7th, we exited and
4 deactivated Stage 3, which would have
5 required mandatory rationing measures. So
6 this 40 percent that Mr. Bishton was alluding
7 to, were lifted. And in that elimination of
8 Stage 3, we would have filed an advice letter
9 with Water Division staff that would have
10 certainly indicated what the levels were at
11 that point. And then what we did is, we went
12 to Stage 1, which does not require any
13 mandatory rationing, again, just conservation
14 measures that match the Governor's orders.

15 BY MR. BISHTON:

16 Q Mr. Hite, did Edison continue to
17 accumulate drought-related costs in its
18 memorandum accounts right up to
19 February 15th, 2019?

20 A I don't know. We would have to
21 evaluate those details, which I don't see
22 here.

23 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, approximately
24 how much is left in your cross?

25 MR. BISHTON: I'm not going to finish,
26 I don't think, before lunch.

27 ALJ TOY: Okay. Off the record for a
28 second.

1 (Off the record.)

2 ALJ TOY: Back on the record. We're
3 going to take a short five-minute break and
4 come back at 11:30.

5 Off the record.

6 (Off the record.)

7 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

8 Please continue with your cross, Mr.
9 Bishton.

10 BY MR. BISHTON:

11 Q Mr. Hite, are you -- the Cal
12 Advocates asked an inquiry, which is their
13 Exhibit X-02, in which they asked that -- why
14 no allocations have been assigned by Edison
15 for a period of time --

16 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, I don't believe
17 Cal Advocates ever used X-02.

18 Is that your recollection, Ms.
19 Fisher?

20 MS. FISHER: I believe that is correct,
21 your Honor. If I'm recalling correctly, X-02
22 was an attachment from Cal Advocates'
23 testimony. And we did not need to refer to
24 it during cross; but I could be wrong about
25 that.

26 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, then I --

27 ALJ TOY: Okay.

28 Mr. Bishton, what are you using it

1 for?

2 MR. BISHTON: I want to use the list
3 that was supplied in response to it. And I
4 have that as an exhibit, which is my exhibit
5 CP-14.

6 ALJ TOY: Okay. So you can just refer
7 to CP-14 and not --

8 MR. BISHTON: Okay.

9 ALJ TOY: -- Cal Advocates'.

10 BY MR. BISHTON:

11 Q Mr. Hite, have you seen this list
12 that was provided to Cal Advocates' water
13 people, individuals and entities, requesting
14 allocations of water? -- and I have it up
15 here on the screen.

16 A Well, I heard mention of -- which
17 one am I looking at here? -- CP-14. And when
18 I scroll through there, it appears to be the
19 same list that you are showing on the screen.
20 But I am not certain.

21 Q And that is the list that was
22 provided to Cal Advocates by Edison in
23 response to an inquiry?

24 ALJ TOY: Is that a question, Mr.
25 Bishton?

26 MR. BISHTON: Yes.

27 Q Is -- was this provided to Cal
28 Advocates by Edison?

1 I'm trying to get to the origin of
2 this list.

3 A Just a moment, and I will review
4 what I have in front of me to make that
5 determination. So what I'm looking at is
6 data request set Public Advocates SCE-020-JR.
7 And it appears that we attached a document --
8 a spreadsheet that looks very similar to what
9 you're showing there.

10 Q Okay. During the period of time in
11 this most recent drought, from 2013 to 2019,
12 was any water allocated to any -- any new
13 allocations made?

14 A Mr. Bishton, it was really hard to
15 hear the question.

16 Could you please restate?

17 Q During the period from 2013 to
18 2019, while Edison was in various stages of
19 water rationing, were any allocations of
20 water made -- delivered to any -- anyone?]

21 A Well, through that period, as you
22 stated, we were in various phases of
23 rationing, and our conservation and rationing
24 plan does not allow allocations to be granted
25 during that period.

26 Q Directing your attention to this
27 list that is on the screen right now, which
28 was provided to Cal Advocates, is that a full

1 and complete list as of the dates it
2 referenced people seeking allocations of
3 water?

4 A It would be tough for me to answer
5 that; however, again, I'm referencing this
6 data request language that we provided, and
7 in that case, yes, I would believe it to be
8 full and complete at that time.

9 Q Mr. Hite, Rule 3 requires you to
10 maintain and hold open for public inspection
11 the company's Santa Catalina Island Office on
12 a first-come-first-serve Fresh Water
13 Allocation List to provide fresh water
14 service on a first-come basis; is that
15 correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Is this the list on a first-come
18 basis at how water would be provided?

19 A I don't know because that request
20 is not made very often. In fact, I can't
21 recall the last time someone made that
22 request. It would seem logical because it is
23 stripped of things like customer names, et
24 cetera, and this would seem reasonable.

25 Q I direct your attention to Catalina
26 Parties Exhibit 13. It is a water list
27 provided to me on February 8 of this year
28 pursuant to my request to counsel for SCE; do

1 you see that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q It is different in a number of
4 respects from the list. This is a list that
5 is boldly maintained pursuant to Rule 3. It
6 shows the first item, which is not on the
7 prior list, the one that went to
8 Cal Advocates, 1-27-03, in 2003, a request
9 for Vineyard and Resort, 8.81 acre feet of
10 water; do you see that?

11 A Yes.

12 Q This is an outstanding allocation,
13 a request for an allocation?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And then second one is not on the
16 list that refers to Cal Advocates. It's 887
17 Country Club Drive, 48 units, another 8.62
18 acres of water; do you see that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q That's still on the list; right?

21 MR. FU: Your Honor, I'm going to
22 object on lack of foundation. Mr. Bishton
23 was comparing apples and oranges. If you
24 look at the data request itself, it was
25 requesting something different than what
26 Mr. Bishton apparently says he requested.

27 MR. BISHTON: Right. The one that's on
28 the screen right now is an accurate list of

1 pending allocations to be served on a
2 first-come-first-serve basis to be maintained
3 by Edison and provided to me by Mr. Sung.

4 MR. FU: Your Honor, I would request a
5 ruling on my objection.

6 ALJ TOY: Was this document provided by
7 SCE to Mr. Bishton, SCE?

8 MR. SUNG: I'm currently reviewing
9 that, your Honor. I believe this is the list
10 I provided to Mr. Bishton in response to the
11 request, but there was a separate exhibit
12 that was not...

13 ALJ TOY: Okay. What was that request?
14 Mr. Bishton, what was that request you made
15 to SCE?

16 MR. BISHTON: I requested a list and
17 it's called for by Rule 3, which I just
18 read earlier.

19 (Telephone ringing interruption.)

20 MR. BISHTON: You have to maintain a
21 list, open to the public for inspection on a
22 first-come-first-serve Fresh Water Allocation
23 List to provide fresh water services on a
24 first-come basis. That is a list they're
25 mandated to make available to the public.

26 ALJ TOY: Can you please restate your
27 objection, SCE?

28 MR. FU: Mr. Bishton seems to be

1 comparing what he identified as CP-13 and
2 CP-14, and I believe it's CP-14 that is the
3 one that -- the list provided in response to
4 a specific Cal Advocates data request as
5 opposed to what Mr. Bishton is claiming is
6 something received from SCE based upon a
7 different request. That's why --

8 (Crosstalk.)

9 MR. BISHTON: I'm just noting that
10 these are two that were not on the other
11 list.

12 (Crosstalk.)

13 MR. FU: -- what the request was from
14 Cal Advocates as to Exhibit CP-14. Sorry.

15 ALJ TOY: Is there a reason why you'd
16 like to differentiate between the two,
17 Mr. Bishton.

18 MR. BISHTON: I'm trying to identify
19 what allocations are pending at the
20 presenting time that have not been honored
21 since 2013.

22 ALJ TOY: I would say stick to CP-14
23 and ask --

24 (Crosstalk.)

25 MR. BISHTON: I will stick to --

26 ALJ TOY: Please continue with your
27 cross.

28 MR. BISHTON: 13 is a full list that I

1 got from --

2 ALJ TOY: Yes. Sorry. Excuse me. I
3 misspoke.

4 MR. BISHTON:

5 Q We're looking at the second item,
6 which has been pending since August 9,
7 2013 --

8 ALJ TOY: Somebody is typing and it's
9 coming through.

10 MR. FU: I'm sorry.

11 ALJ TOY: Please continue, Mr. Bishton.

12 BY MR. BISHTON:

13 Q Item 2 on this list on the screen,
14 for 8.62 for 887 Country Club Drive for
15 approximately 48 apartments, that's still
16 pending on the list; is it not?

17 A I don't have today's current list
18 in front of me, but it would appear that it
19 was at the time that this document was
20 produced.

21 Q I'm representing this was produced
22 to me on February 8th of this year. Has
23 anything been added to the list since then?

24 A I don't know. I don't have today's
25 active list in front of me.

26 Q Mr. Hite, at the top of the list,
27 8.81 acre feet of water, Edison under Rule 3
28 will not provide the allocation to anybody,

1 even for hose bibb, until that allocation is
2 completed, satisfied?

3 A I believe this request was asked
4 and answered by Ms. Barcinas. Am I to answer
5 this again?

6 MR. FU: Could I get the question read
7 back.

8 (Record read.)

9 MR. FU: Objection; Mr. Bishton is
10 interposing the same question to the witness.

11 ALJ TOY: Is there a particular reason
12 these questions are going to Mr. Hite?

13 MR. BISHTON: Yes. I'm trying to
14 figure out or deal with how to apply first
15 come first serve that prevents -- the request
16 at the top of the list prevents any
17 allocation now further down on list. I want
18 to clarify that's how they operate.

19 ALJ TOY: Please answer the question,
20 Mr. Hite.

21 THE WITNESS: Okay. Although I
22 recognize I don't believe anywhere in my
23 testimony this is discussed, we, according to
24 our rules, it's first-come-first-serve basis;
25 however, a year ago, we filed Advice Letter
26 123-W that allows us some flexibility here to
27 address each one of these requests based on
28 what system they're connected to. So as of

1 today, we do have some flexibility.

2 BY MR. BISHTON:

3 Q I represent to you, but you can
4 look at it, no requests on this list, Exhibit
5 CP-14, for any area outside of Avalon?

6 A Is that a question?

7 Q Are you familiar with this list?
8 Can you identify anything on this list with
9 the address in the City of Avalon, the
10 Isthmus, or any other place on the island?

11 A No, Mr. Bishton. You're absolutely
12 incorrect. The number one request that you
13 were referring to of 8.1 acre feet is not on
14 the Avalon system.

15 Q I stand corrected. There's only
16 one on this list that I can identify.

17 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, you're breaking
18 up.

19 BY MR. BISHTON:

20 Q I cannot identify any other, other
21 than No. 1 here, that is in the City of
22 Avalon -- not in the City of Avalon. All of
23 these addresses are within the City of
24 Avalon; are they not?

25 A I don't know. You'll have to give
26 me a moment to look.

27 ALJ TOY: To what are you driving at,
28 Mr. Bishton?

1 MR. BISHTON: Focus on -- if 123 is
2 correct, it allows for a look at the City of
3 Avalon separately --

4 (Reporter clarification.)

5 ALJ TOY: Please ask your question.

6 BY MR. BISHTON:

7 Q 123 increased the safe annual yield
8 number, total number, to 636.8 acre feet;
9 correct?

10 A I don't understand what you're
11 asking, Mr. Bishton.

12 Q Advice Letter 123 increased total
13 safe annual yield to 636.8 acre feet;
14 correct?

15 A I don't know. I don't have Advice
16 Letter 123-W in front of me. I don't see it
17 on the exhibit list.

18 Q You testified that they divided the
19 total allocations into two elements, Avalon
20 and outside of Avalon?

21 ALJ TOY: Where in his testimony did
22 he --

23 BY MR. BISHTON:

24 Q You didn't testify to that?

25 MR. FU: (Inaudible.)

26 ALJ TOY: What are you referencing when
27 you say --

28 (Crosstalk.)

1 BY MR. BISHTON:

2 Q Item 2 here, calling for 8.62 acre
3 feet of water, has to be satisfied under
4 Rule 3 before any of the ones below it will
5 be provided water -- is that correct -- under
6 Rule 3 as it exists?

7 A Were you referring to wait-list
8 item W-1 in your question?

9 Q Item 2.

10 A Item 2. Yes. The way Rule 3
11 states is that -- the way Rule 3 is written
12 it's first come first serve.

13 Q Right. Even though Edison does not
14 have sufficient water -- assuming Edison does
15 not have sufficient water to meet 8.62, but
16 has sufficient water to meet 0.09 or 0.009,
17 those lower-number requests will not honored
18 until 8.62 acres have been provided to that
19 request; is that correct?

20 A No. So let me first look at
21 what -- you keep referencing this hose bib,
22 0.0009. Recognizing that is not within the
23 Avalon system. So your two examples W-1 and
24 W-30 are the two items on the list that do
25 not apply here to the Avalon system, No. 1;
26 No. 2, Advice Letter 123-W does have elements
27 that allow us to allocate water beyond the
28 first item on the list in the Avalon system,

1 W-2, but I ask -- we are here to talk about
2 rates today, and this has been asked and
3 answered.

4 Q Rule 3 has not changed at all by
5 123, Advice Letter 123; was it?

6 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, what is your
7 ultimate point here with regards to --

8 MR. BISHTON: I'll move onto another
9 aspect.

10 Q Were you aware that Cal Advocates
11 asked questions, inquired, as to allocations
12 that have been made during the period of
13 time -- actually made during the period of
14 time drought conditions were in place and
15 that Edison replied as follows:

16 Yes. To SCE's knowledge there are
17 two instances of a
18 applicant/customer filing a
19 complaint relating to denial of an
20 allocation request. 2015 in an
21 historic drought conditions, the
22 Catalina Island Museum filed an
23 informal complaint to the CPUC to
24 obtain a freshwater allocation
25 during this period.

26 And it goes on to say:

27 The complaint resulted in granting
28 the museum an allocation of 3.83

1 AFY in May of the same year.

2 Are you aware of that grant?

3 MR. FU: Judge -- sorry, your Honor.

4 Go ahead.

5 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, this was already
6 asked and answered of Ms. Barcinas. Is there
7 a reason it needs to be asked of Mr. Hite?

8 MR. BISHTON: Because I have concerns
9 Mr. Hite said the opposite of what
10 Ms. Barcinas said.

11 ALJ TOY: I'm still unclear with what
12 the ultimate point is.

13 BY MR. BISHTON:

14 Q The letter dated January 28, 2011
15 from Mr. Hite. Mr. Hite, do you recognize
16 this letter?

17 A Well, it is unsigned; so I can't
18 guarantee it's authenticity, but I do recall
19 the situation.

20 (Reporter clarification.)

21 ALJ TOY: CP-20.

22 BY MR. BISHTON:

23 Q Mr. Hite, in this letter you say:
24 I am pleased to inform you that
25 fresh water availability has
26 improved, and there is now
27 sufficient water available for
28 your project. Thus, the water

1 allocation for your project at 217
2 Metropole Avenue is being granted.

3 The intent of your project is to
4 build a new museum building with
5 five one-bedroom apartments, a
6 restaurant with 106 seats, an
7 auditorium with 192 seats, retail
8 and office space.

9 The allocation in the amount of
10 3.93 acre feet per year will be
11 honored even if Phase I rationing
12 is reinstated.

13 Is that a letter sent by you?

14 A Again, I will state I cannot
15 guarantee the authenticity of this document
16 as it is unsigned. I'm not sure where you
17 acquired it.

18 ALJ TOY: Can you please ask the
19 question, Mr. Bishton.

20 BY MR. BISHTON:

21 Q Mr. Hite, at the time the water was
22 provided to the museum, actually provided to
23 that project, was Edison in one of --

24 A The last part of that question cut
25 off. Please restate.

26 Q Edison was in an actual rationing
27 stage when water was actually delivered for
28 the museum?

1 ALJ TOY: Sorry. I didn't understand
2 the question.

3 BY MR. BISHTON:

4 Q Water was ultimately delivered to
5 the museum -- correct -- pursuant to this
6 allocation?

7 A The museum in the end got their
8 water allocation; that is correct.

9 Q They received it during the period
10 of time state rationing was going; is that
11 correct?

12 A I believe so.

13 Now, I'm just going to take this
14 opportunity to eliminate this complete waste
15 of time and explain this at a high level
16 because this is just maddening.

17 Mr. Bishton, they applied for water
18 years in advance; so, hence, a letter like
19 you see here was issued to them. However,
20 when they were prepared to actually execute
21 the agreement and get their water, we were in
22 rationing; therefore, I denied the allocation
23 as per our tariffs.

24 They came back to Edison with a
25 request to use ERDA water machines until
26 rationing was lifted to be able to open their
27 facility. They attempted to get permits for
28 that from the County; they were denied.

1 So the museum came back to me and
2 asked: What else can we do?

3 I said: I can't help you. We have
4 rules that we have to follow.

5 So they appealed that denial to the
6 Commission to Water Division staff. Water
7 Division staff subsequently ordered SCE to
8 issue the allocation, and that's what we did.
9 End of story.

10 Q Do we have a written document from
11 the Water Division issuing that allocation?

12 A Yes, we do.

13 Q Is it contained in the workpapers
14 that you have provided?

15 A I don't believe so because it
16 doesn't appear to be relevant to this case.]

17 Q Turning to Exhibit 13, which is a
18 water allocation list, if water has been
19 allocated to someone but they haven't been
20 able to use it, are they still on this list
21 or is there a separate list?

22 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, what is the line
23 of question regarding water allocations going
24 to?

25 MR. BISHTON: So this is not, I don't
26 believe, a complete list. There is water
27 allocated that will go ahead of other people
28 that is not reflected on this list. For

1 example, water has been allocated to
2 developments at Hamilton Cove that I am fully
3 well aware of that are not -- that's not on
4 this list.

5 ALJ TOY: I believe you asked these
6 questions of Ms. Barcinas. Is that correct?

7 MR. BISHTON: No, I did not. I did not
8 present this list or get into the list at all
9 with Ms. Barcinas. It was not her testimony.

10 ALJ TOY: Is there a reason that
11 Mr. Hite should be testifying as to this?

12 MR. BISHTON: He's the head of the
13 operations. If anybody should know about it,
14 it should be Mr. Hite.

15 ALJ TOY: Is there a particular part of
16 the testimony that you want to point out that
17 this goes to?

18 MR. BISHTON: It's dealing with the
19 topic of failure to provide service and
20 allocation. Someone going to get this list
21 from the public will not be advised as this
22 list was presented to me of other allocations
23 that have been made that have not been
24 delivered that had already been approved but
25 have not been drawn on. And I'm asking why
26 those are not listed on this list in order to
27 provide accurate information to the public.

28 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, I think earlier you

1 stated that you did not prepare this
2 document; is that correct?

3 WITNESS HITE: I personally did not.
4 However, this appears to be a current or the
5 wait list as of that particular date.

6 And I can ask -- I can answer his
7 question that he just posed.

8 ALJ TOY: Okay. Please answer.

9 WITNESS HITE: Yeah. So, Mr. Bishton,
10 again all these baseless claims. The reason
11 you don't see Hamilton Cove on here, of which
12 you're the association president, is you
13 should recognize that we gave you an
14 allocation and, therefore, it is no longer
15 waiting. Therefore, it's not on the wait
16 list.

17 BY MR. BISHTON:

18 Q The allocation that it's been given
19 for a total of 88 units of which only six
20 have been built so far; is that correct?

21 MR. FU: Objection, your Honor. I
22 really think we're going far afield in both
23 Mr. Hite's testimony and this proceeding.

24 ALJ TOY: Do you have a response,
25 Mr. Bishton?

26 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, I'm trying to
27 show that this is not an accurate list that
28 would inform the public of what their chances

1 are to obtain a water allocation. It doesn't
2 list that there had been allocations given
3 that have not been used, not drawn on, and
4 they're not on this list. Yet, those are
5 going to take precedence over the rest of the
6 people on this list.

7 MR. FU: May I be heard, your Honor?

8 ALJ TOY: Yes.

9 MR. FU: I have no idea how that is
10 relevant to this proceeding. Could
11 Mr. Bishton please explain that.

12 MR. BISHTON: Issues of failure to
13 serve were explored by Cal Advocates and are
14 also contained in our protest. That is one
15 of the issues in this GRC whether or not
16 Edison has properly and fairly and adequately
17 served the customers on the island.

18 MR. FU: Sorry. May I be heard, your
19 Honor?

20 ALJ TOY: Yes.

21 MR. FU: This seems to be about
22 granting allocations, granting allocations
23 for additional water usage. I -- I still
24 have no idea how this relates to any of
25 Mr. Hite's testimony beyond this proceeding
26 itself.

27 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, do you have
28 additional exhibits that show these missing

1 allocations that should be on this list?

2 MR. FU: Does your Honor want to take a
3 lunch break? We're into the noon hour.

4 ALJ TOY: Yeah, let's take a break
5 until 1:10 and then we will continue this
6 cross-examination of Mr. Hite by the Catalina
7 parties.

8 Off the record.

9 (Whereupon, at the hour of 12:04, a
10 recess was taken until 1:10 p.m.)

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1 AFTERNOON SESSION - 1:10 P.M.

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4 ALJ TOY: We'll go back on the record.

5 We will now continue with the
6 cross-examination of Mr. Ron Hite by the
7 Catalina parties.

8 RONALD HITE,
9 resumed the stand and testified further as
10 follows:

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION RESUMED

12 BY MR. BISHTON:

13 Q Sir, one or two last questions
14 about Exhibit 13, which is a list that SCE
15 Mr. Sung requested allocations. I'm not
16 asking you for specifics, but are there
17 allocations that have been made with what has
18 not yet been provided that are not on this
19 list such as one for Hamilton Cove?

20 A Allocations that have been
21 provided?

22 Q Water allocated but they haven't
23 drawn on the approved allocation.

24 A Yeah, they do not sit on the wait
25 list once they've been allocated. They go to
26 a committed area of the calculation. So they
27 are not yet seen in sales, but they're not on
28 the wait list. They go to committed.

1 Q When they go to committed, they
2 stay -- those are ahead of anybody on this
3 list Exhibit 13?

4 A No. They go to committed because
5 they have been granted an allocation, but we
6 don't yet see the result of those commitments
7 in sales yet.

8 Q But if it's --

9 ALJ TOY: I'm going to ask you to move
10 on. I think Mr. Hite has answered your
11 questions on this topic.

12 BY MR. BISHTON:

13 Q Mr. Hite, in the last GRC you
14 requested, I believe, \$2,327,000 for a SCADA
15 system; correct?

16 A I don't recall the exact figure.
17 Do you have -- can you point to my
18 testimony.

19 Q I don't have it on your testimony.
20 But did you get -- you expended a
21 considerable amount of money on a SCADA
22 system as of the last GRC; correct?

23 A I do recall that we had the
24 SCADA -- capital project SCADA system in the
25 last rate case.

26 Q Okay. And you're requesting
27 another -- strike that.

28 Has that system operated ever since

1 the last rate case?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Can you point to any savings that
4 have been achieved through the SCADA system
5 since the last rate case?

6 A The SCADA system, you know, are
7 clearly stated in my testimony in a CEO-3.
8 But to summarize, really the primary benefits
9 that we've realized from systems are things
10 like our ability to acquire data, to support
11 reporting requirements, our ability to
12 quickly identify problems in the field with
13 infrastructure that in some cases is a
14 two-hour drive away. So it has been very
15 effective.

16 Q Can you put a dollar amount on any
17 savings that have resulted from this SCADA
18 system since the last GRC?

19 A No. I don't have a specific dollar
20 amount.

21 Q You're requesting an additional one
22 million -- one million four -- this is GRC
23 for \$1,413,362 to add to or work around the
24 SCADA system?

25 MR. FU: Objection. Compound.

26 ALJ TOY: Please simplify your
27 question, Mr. Biston.

28 BY MR. BISHTON:

1 Q Mr. Hite, you're seeking -- Edison
2 is seeking additional money for the SCADA
3 system in this GRC; correct?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And that amount is \$1,413,362. I'm
6 reading -- or that's the number that I found
7 in the testimony. Does that sound right?

8 A I don't know unless you -- I've got
9 a lot of volumes of testimony here. If you
10 can direct me to that, I can confirm it.

11 ALJ TOY: It's SCE-03, page 34.

12 WITNESS HITE: Okay. What was your
13 question, Mr. Biston?

14 BY MR. BISHTON:

15 Q Is that the amount you're
16 requesting for the SCADA system in this GRC?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did you prepare a cost benefit
19 study to justify this expenditure?

20 A If it's not in the testimony, I
21 don't believe we did.

22 Q I've searched through all of the
23 workpapers. I find no cost benefit study to
24 justify this 1,413,362.

25 Are you aware of one being
26 prepared?

27 A No.

28 Q Explain how this will reduce costs

1 for the operation.

2 A In the testimony provided
3 specifically in rebuttal, it's clear. The
4 system was installed back in 2008. What's
5 that? 14 years ago. And it's mainly made up
6 of IT, slash, technology equipment which gets
7 outdated and needs to be replaced and
8 upgraded over time.

9 For example, back in 2008 I suspect
10 we were using a very old version of Windows
11 to run this system, very old computer
12 hardware compared to today's standards. And
13 all the sensors in the system, et cetera,
14 need to be replaced and refurbished over
15 time.

16 Q Bringing your attention to the
17 Howland's Landing well, after it was put in
18 operation, it was damaged, was it not?

19 MR. FU: I'm sorry. Was there a
20 question?

21 BY MS. BISHTON:

22 Q Wasn't Howland's Landing well
23 three, sometimes referred to as well three
24 sometimes, damaged during operations?

25 A Howland's HL-3 after installation
26 ended up with a crack in the casing not
27 long -- I don't recall the -- exactly how
28 long after the installation, but then we went

1 in and repaired it.

2 Q And what caused the crack?

3 A I don't recall.

4 Q Was it during -- was the well being
5 operated by the contractor who dug the hole
6 or was it being operated by Edison at the
7 time it was damaged?

8 A Well, based on the fact that it was
9 placed into operation, that would be Edison
10 operating the well.

11 Q The well replaced H-1 which was a
12 hand-hug well dug in 1930; correct?

13 A It was dug sometime in the '30s.
14 I'm not specific on which year.

15 Q But it was a hand-dug well?

16 A I don't recall.

17 Q And that is the only well you
18 operated to serve that area from 1962 until
19 you replaced it through the H-1?

20 MR. FU: Objection. Vague and
21 ambiguous as to "that area."

22 ALJ TOY: Please restate the question.
23 Please restate the question in full,
24 Mr. Biston, clarifying.

25 BY MR. BISHTON:

26 Q From 1962 until H-1 failed. That
27 was the only source of water for the area
28 north of (inaudible).

1 (Court reporter interrupted.)

2 ALJ TOY: Please -- I don't believe you
3 asked Mr. Hite the question, Mr. Biston

4 BY MR. BISHTON:

5 Q Mr. Hite, from 1962 until H-1
6 failed, that was the only source of water for
7 the area immediately north of the isthmus; is
8 that correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And during that period of time from
11 1930 until H-1 failed was there any effort to
12 build or dig a second source -- a well for a
13 second source of water in that area?

14 A I can only speak for the period
15 which I have been on the island. And during
16 that time, no. It was unnecessary.

17 Q Having a second source of water is
18 not necessary particularly when you're
19 relying upon a well -- a hand-dug well from
20 1930? You don't need a second source? Is
21 that your testimony?

22 A So I will explain to you,
23 Mr. Biston, how that system works. That well
24 had been operating since the '30s. It had
25 not one single problem such as the one we saw
26 in 2014 other than a severe drought in 1977.
27 So it would not have been in the ratepayer's
28 best interest for us to spend additional

1 money drilling additional wells that were
2 unnecessary to simply guard against a 101 and
3 180 year drought.

4 Q When did Edison first learn that
5 there was a problem with the lining of the
6 million gallon tank?

7 A Late December 2005.

8 Q Between 2005 and -- when did --
9 Strike that.

10 When did Edison learn the lining
11 contained PCB?

12 A Just answered that. Late 2005.

13 Q And when did Edison rehabilitate
14 the million gallon tank?

15 A We would have initiated that --
16 initiated that project in 2013.

17 Q Why did Edison not remedy this
18 problem from 2005 to 2013?

19 A Well, there are a lot of the
20 elements that went into this including the
21 fact that that tank was also found to have
22 lead-based paint on the exterior. So our
23 first project was to eliminate that.

24 As this tank was built in 1967,
25 these were common materials back then. We
26 have -- we addressed first the exterior. We
27 remediated that and then moved to the
28 interior.

1 Q Had the outer exterior coating on
2 the million gallon tank threatened the
3 quality of the water that was being supplied
4 to people on the west end of the island?

5 A No, but there is a potential to
6 impact the surrounding environment.

7 Q But as to the lining you knew in
8 2005 that potentially affected the water
9 being produced and sold to customers on the
10 west end of the island?

11 A No. I'll explain to you what
12 happened in late 2005 is we received results
13 from the dive inspection in 2005 where the
14 material that was analyzed that came out of
15 the vacuum equipment used by the divers
16 contained chips that contained PCB. So
17 the -- within hours of receiving that
18 analytical report we were on the phone with
19 our primary water quality regulator which at
20 the time was the State Department of Public
21 Health Division of Drinking Water.

22 They indicated to us that there is
23 no acute immediate health hazard to the
24 situation we were in and to work with them
25 and others in formulating a plan to address
26 the long-term issue. So we spoke with them
27 as well as USCPA.

28 Q Were any documents given to Edison

1 authorizing them to continue to deliver water
2 from a tank that they knew the lining with
3 flaking and it contained PBSs?

4 MR. FU: Objection. Assumes facts not
5 in evidence.

6 MR. BISHTON: The question is does he
7 have any documents to back up what he just
8 testified to.

9 ALJ TOY: That's a different question
10 then what you just asked, Mr. Biston. Please
11 ask that question.

12 BY MR. BISHTON:

13 Q Does Edison have any documents from
14 any governmental entity authorizing
15 continuing serving water from the million
16 gallon tank starting in 2005 when you
17 discovered the lining with PCBs?

18 MR. FU: Same objection. Assumes facts
19 not in evidence.

20 ALJ TOY: Mr. Hite, when you
21 communicated with the Department of Drinking
22 Water, is that -- what was the nature of
23 those communications? Was there an official
24 document sent to you?

25 WITNESS HITE: No. It was all by
26 telephone. This happened to be, I believe,
27 if I recall, on Christmas Eve, the evening of
28 Christmas Eve. We had a lot of trouble

1 reaching the relevant folks over there, but
2 we finally did. We explained to them what we
3 had and that we were initiating, you know,
4 response options of sending water -- bottled
5 water to the island, et cetera.

6 We were advised to stand down, that
7 this was not an acute health hazard, and to
8 take a very measured long-term approach to
9 this because there are many, many, many of
10 these tanks around the country that are in
11 the same situation.

12 ALJ TOY: Please continue with your
13 questions, Mr. Biston.

14 BY MR. BISHTON:

15 Q From time to time was the million
16 gallon tank always filled with a million
17 gallons of water?

18 A No, no.

19 Q Has the level of water ever dropped
20 below 90 percent or 900,000 gallons?

21 A There probably have been occasions
22 when it has dropped below 900,000 gallons.
23 However, we cannot leave it full because then
24 there's the threat of overflow. So we
25 generally keep that tank between 900,000
26 gallons and a million.

27 Q Sometimes it drops below \$900,000?

28 A What I'm suggesting is it may have.

1 I don't know for certain.

2 MR. BISHTON: No further questions,
3 your Honor.

4 ALJ TOY: Okay. Does SCE have any
5 redirect?

6 MR. FU: Briefly, your Honor.

7 ALJ TOY: Go ahead.

8 MR. FU: Certainly.

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. FU:

11 Q I can share my screen as well.

12 Mr. Hite, Mr. Biston asked you some
13 questions around Exhibits CP-13 and CP-14. I
14 only need to direct you to Exhibit CP-14.
15 Can you pull that up.

16 Sorry. Oh, I do have the ability
17 to share. Excellent.

18 A I've got it up.

19 Q Okay. Can you see my screen?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. Now, this Exhibit CP-14
22 contains SCE's response to a Cal Advocates
23 data request specifically JR-605; correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Now, looking at the query in that
26 data request which is on page marked
27 CP-14-003, do you see under the questions
28 02.a-b?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And if you look at subpart b, it
3 specifically requests "Please list the
4 permits that were requested and not issued
5 since the previously GRC with a reason why
6 each permit was not issued." Correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And so there were two conditions to
9 what should be listed; correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q First condition was a permit was
12 requested since the previous GRC; correct?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And then also the permit was not
15 issued since the previous GRC; correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q So the list that was provided on
18 the page marked CP-14-005, that was a list
19 generated to respond to that specific
20 request; correct?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And then without requiring you to
23 turn back to it, CP-13 reflects what
24 Mr. Bishton had requested as the current
25 public waiting list; correct?

26 A Yes.

27 Q And that is not subject to those
28 conditions that were referenced in Cal

1 Advocates' data request; correct?

2 A Yes.

3 MR. FU: Okay. I have no further
4 questions, your Honor.

5 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, do you have any
6 recross?

7 MR. BISHTON: No further questions,
8 your Honor.

9 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

10 Mr. Hite, I have a couple of
11 questions for you.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY ALJ TOY:

14 Q I believe the desalination phase 1
15 enhancement project is in progress now.

16 Do you know where that is in terms
17 of progress?

18 A I believe, your Honor, that we have
19 been recommended for award for a large grant
20 for that project, but so far there has been
21 no construction taking place yet. It's all
22 engineering and design work at this point.

23 Q Okay. I believe your testimony
24 stated that the project had to be -- some
25 portion of the project needs to be completed
26 by the end of 2022. Is that my
27 understanding?

28 A There may be some milestones we

1 need to meet.

2 Q Regarding the meter replacement
3 project -- if you want to reference it, it's
4 SCE-03 at page 63. Has there been any sort
5 of research done on the meters that have been
6 replaced so far? I understand a few have
7 been replaced.

8 A Yeah, I have not yet seen the
9 results of how many of them were running slow
10 yet although that data should be coming in
11 soon.

12 Q Okay. And would you expect -- oh,
13 no.

14 Do you have any data of what the
15 new apparent losses would be after the
16 replacement of the meters? In your
17 testimony -- sorry. Excuse me -- it states
18 there is about a 2.2 percent apparent loss to
19 your system right now.

20 What would you expect that to drop
21 to after the replacement of new meters?

22 A Well, the hope would be as close to
23 zero as we can get. The logic here is, you
24 know, those meters over time slow down. And
25 so that's revenue we are not collecting from
26 the customer. So that's, you know, what
27 we're focused on.

28 But at the same time we're also

1 focused on analyzing each month meter reads
2 that come in and whether there is any zero
3 reads. And we're investigating those. And
4 we're also looking at -- making sure that
5 we're evaluating and looking for any other
6 anomalies as well as the meter reads come in.
7 And since that time we have found either
8 meters bypassed or meters not functioning
9 correctly.

10 So if we see a zero reader, a very
11 low read, we visit the home. We see that
12 there's a lot of activity there, we're
13 investigating those as well.

14 Q And do you have any sort of data or
15 research to differences between meter sizes
16 and the readings you're getting from them? I
17 guess that is to say do you have any data
18 showing that possibly the smaller than
19 one-inch meters are showing more apparent
20 losses than, say, the larger one-inch meter?

21 A Not yet. That's the data I'm
22 waiting for that we haven't collected yet.
23 As we pull these meters and send them off to
24 be tested -- because unfortunately, you know,
25 we haven't spent the money to do in-house
26 testing in a laboratory. So we send them
27 away. I have not yet seen that data. But we
28 are replacing all classes of meters so we

1 will be looking for trends such as that.

2 Q And when do you expect to get that
3 data?

4 A Probably later this year as we're
5 out there replacing meters currently.

6 Q Okay. And regarding the SCADA and
7 VERSIFY System, can you speak a little bit to
8 the difference between the two, what each do
9 differently, and whether there is any overlap
10 between the two?]

11 A Sure. Yeah.

12 They are very different, in that
13 the SCADA System connects to our
14 infrastructure in the field. And that goes
15 for things like tank levels, whether a pump
16 is on or off, how many gallons per a minute
17 that pump is pumping, what the chlorine
18 injection rate is at that moment, on and on,
19 and on and on -- a lot of data.

20 The Versify system does two things.
21 It does logging -- so, currently, what we
22 have -- or in the past, what we had are paper
23 log books put out all throughout the system.
24 So, for example, an operator would go to a
25 particular reservoir, he would take the
26 reading -- on the level of the reservoir is
27 like -- also, like, a chlorine residual in
28 the reservoir, et cetera -- log that in that

1 paper logbook, and keep it there. And then
2 move on. So as we needed to report on this
3 data for annual reports and other things, we
4 would have to scour those written --
5 handwritten paper documents -- which were at
6 risk for, you know, all kinds of reasons --
7 and then transpose that, and do a whole lot
8 of work.

9 And so what Versify allows us to do
10 is, that same operator visits that same site
11 today, and he will automatically log that in
12 that handheld computer, putting that in a
13 live database that we have access to full
14 time. The other thing that Versify does is,
15 it allows the operators to use our work
16 management system in the field.

17 So prior to versify, an operator
18 would be assigned a couple work orders for
19 him to go out and handle during his day in
20 the field -- his or her day. And if anything
21 changed throughout the day, or some more
22 urgent orders came through, or anything -- or
23 if the operator wanted a completed order
24 while he's two hours away from the office, he
25 couldn't do any of that. He had to rely on
26 handwritten notes, come back at the end of
27 the day, and do all of that work. With
28 Versify, that can all be done on the fly in

1 the field.

2 So it handles our logging work in
3 the field. But it also handles our work
4 management work in the field; as opposed to
5 SCADA, which simply collects data and allows
6 us to control -- turn equipment on and off,
7 adjust it high, low, et cetera.

8 Q Okay. Thank you.

9 And now I'm looking at page 66 of
10 SCE-03. And you state that, currently, on
11 line 23:

12 The 12-year old version of eSOMS
13 -- which I understand is precursor
14 for Versify -- is obsolete and no
15 longer supported.

16 If that's the case, what would be
17 the, sort of, alternative if Versify isn't
18 used?

19 A That's --
20 (Crosstalk.)

21 ALJ TOY: I'm sorry. No, go ahead.

22 THE WITNESS: The reference to eSOMS
23 was something that was not ever used in --
24 specific in our water utility. It was used
25 through the rest of the generation
26 organization, so at the other power plants.
27 What was used at the water utility was just
28 what I explained. It was paper logbooks

1 spread across the island at each location.

2 BY ALJ TOY:

3 Q Okay. So would that be the
4 alternative if Versify --

5 A Yes. It would be to go back to
6 paper -- paper logbooks spread across the
7 island.

8 Q Okay. Thank you.

9 And regarding your earlier
10 discussion regarding HL-1, the Howland's
11 Landing Well 1?

12 A Yes.

13 Q You stated that the well had
14 previously had trouble in a drought -- I
15 believe you said 1976?

16 A '77.

17 Q '77. Okay.

18 Given that there have previously
19 been issues due to a drought, was there any
20 sort of actions SCE took around, I believe
21 2014, to check to see if the well was under
22 duress?

23 A So the drought of 1977 was the
24 next-most-severe drought to the one that was
25 coming at the time in 2014. And, obviously,
26 2014 was a period that was very early in this
27 latest severe drought. So, at that point, we
28 didn't have reason to believe that that well

1 -- that particular well would have seen that
2 type of failure that early in the drought,
3 but it did.

4 And regarding the question of
5 whether, you know, would it have been wise
6 for us to drill a new well out there years
7 ago, just as a precautionary measure, I
8 mentioned that it was not a prudent
9 expenditure, and partly because that end of
10 the island is virtually unpopulated through
11 the majority of the year. There are a
12 handful of people that live out there to
13 maintain the facilities year-round, some of
14 which are completely deserted through most of
15 year. And those facilities are really --
16 their focused use is in the summertime.

17 The largest population is the Boy
18 Scout camp. So the Boy Scouts, during the
19 summer, will bring a whole lot of Boy Scouts
20 out there. So it did not appear to be a
21 justifiable expense to add another well.

22 Now, since then, your Honor -- so
23 again, this whale (sic) -- this well had salt
24 water intrusion very, very, very early in
25 this drought. And so, luckily, we reacted
26 very quickly. But what happened since then
27 is, we have installed recording equipment in
28 all of our wells to record the levels in

1 those wells so we can trend them. But along
2 the coastal wells, we've also installed
3 salinity monitors so that regardless of
4 history, and when we think we should may run
5 into a problem with that well, we'll have
6 data to indicate well before that that we're
7 headed in that direction.

8 Q Okay. And but for the salinity
9 issues, would there have been any reason that
10 the well would have needed replacement?

11 A Well, what happens is, underground
12 you have an aquifer and the well on the top.
13 And since that well was so close to the
14 ocean, what happened is, as the level in that
15 underground aquifer got to a certain point,
16 that pressure from the salt water overcame
17 the pressure in the aquifer. And then salt
18 water started to infiltrate, and that's what
19 we saw at the top.

20 Again, that didn't happen in 1977.
21 It happened much later and much deeper. In
22 this case, what that showed us is that this
23 well, perhaps, is not as sturdy as it was --
24 and decades before -- and, therefore,
25 necessitated, you know, the need to not only
26 replace it, but move it further away from the
27 ocean -- which we did, and drilled a deep
28 bedrock well a couple thousand feet from this

1 one, away from the ocean.

2 Q Okay. Thank you.

3 Moving to Howland's Landing Well 3,
4 which you discuss on page 11 of SCE-03?

5 A Okay.

6 Q A treatment system was put in place
7 due to iron issues --

8 A Yes.

9 Q -- detected in the water?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Was there a particular reason these
12 iron issues weren't discovered prior to
13 drilling the well?

14 A Well, that's when you find them, is
15 -- you know, we drill these wells 360-ish
16 feet. And that's when we discovered there
17 was an enormous amount of iron down there.
18 So then we initiated the procurement of a
19 temporary treatment system, while we
20 continued to develop the well, put it in
21 service to understand exactly how much iron
22 we were going to see in production, and then
23 made the specifications and procured a
24 permanent treatment system.

25 Q Okay. Thank you.

26 Moving to SCE-10, page 49 -- this
27 is going to start a little bit of an
28 accounting discussion.

1 A Okay.

2 Q There's a discussion regarding the
3 use of account 674, employee pensions and
4 benefits, and account 684, insurance, as
5 opposed to SCE, which has utilized account
6 650, I believe.

7 Is there a particular reason why
8 SCE has chosen not to use account 674 to
9 track pensions and benefits for employees?

10 A Yeah -- yes, your Honor.

11 That is very difficult for us to
12 do, because the water utility is not a
13 standalone corporation. It's simply a
14 department within a large complex utility.
15 And these employees all work for that large
16 complex utility, as well as those that
17 support the water utility from the
18 headquarters.

19 So what we have done -- what Edison
20 has done is used standard practice U-6-W to
21 -- which allows for us to use four factor to
22 account for A&G and insurance for water
23 utilities. So we do comply with the elements
24 of the (inaudible) A&G allocation -- well, we
25 -- the uniform system of accounts, we comply
26 with. And there's that one element in U-6-W
27 that allows for us to account for it the way
28 we are. But the reason why is because these

1 employees all work for the large complex
2 utility, as opposed to a standalone utility.

3 Q Has SCE done any tracking of the
4 employees that are particularly assigned to
5 the water company?

6 If my understanding of that
7 organizational chart that Mr. Bishton
8 referenced earlier is correct, those 13
9 employees are assigned to the water company?

10 A Yeah. Those 13 are assigned to the
11 water company, but also to the gas utility as
12 well --

13 Q Gas.

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Okay.

16 A So their time is split.

17 And that's -- when I say this gets
18 very, very complicated, that's why we use the
19 method we do -- the Commission-approved
20 method we do.

21 Q Okay. Thank you.

22 Moving to SCE-02. Okay. On line 9
23 -- I believe this number has been updated --
24 but you state that:

25 As part of SCE's commitment to
26 mitigate the risk of wildfires, we
27 are forecasting an additional
28 43,000 per-year wildfire

1 mitigation expenses for water
2 facilities.

3 A Oh, I'm sorry. I was looking at
4 the wrong -- okay. Page 20; correct?

5 Q Right. I believe there's actually
6 an updated number in your rebuttal testimony
7 of 35,000.

8 A So are we talking about tank
9 inspections?

10 Q Just general wildfire mitigation
11 expenses, I believe.

12 A Okay. Let me look at rebuttal.

13 Q It would be rebuttal page 34.
14 That's the starting point.

15 A Okay. What's your question, your
16 Honor?

17 Q What sort of, I guess, analysis has
18 SCE done in determining what facilities --
19 water facilities may be more or higher risk
20 than others?

21 A We've had comprehensive reviews
22 from teams within SCE with subject matter
23 experts from both electrical services,
24 generation, and business resiliency and
25 wildfire management survey these facilities
26 and prioritize where we need to add
27 resiliency. And -- so, I'll give you an
28 example:

1 We've got wells out in the interior
2 of the island that are out in the open. And
3 they have electrical components -- electrical
4 infrastructure supporting those wells. And
5 we need to be sure that that electrical
6 infrastructure is in a state that will not
7 cause a wildfire. Because, as you may know,
8 the entire island outside the city limits of
9 Avalon have been designated by the CPUC
10 agency as a high-fire area. So it's critical
11 that we assess and prioritize and make
12 adjustments to our infrastructure, as well as
13 vegetation management, to be sure that we
14 don't ignite a fire out there.

15 Q And what, if any, of these expenses
16 could be duplicated by a task done by the
17 electric utility?

18 A The electric utility does the same
19 thing, but for their portions of the
20 infrastructure -- meaning, the poles and
21 wires that traverse the island.

22 Q Would it --

23 A Our -- oh, go ahead.

24 Q Would it not be the same employees
25 conducting the inspections?

26 A It could be some of them, the folks
27 from wildfire management, from business
28 resiliency could be the same employees. But

1 other than that, no. They will need folks
2 who are intimately familiar with the water
3 equipment to join the teams to do the
4 assessment for the water infrastructure.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Because, frankly, there's electric
7 utility employees who may not even know where
8 all of our assets are in the field.

9 Q And has SCE done any sort of
10 ranking of its assets that need to be
11 expected or --

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. Okay.

14 That is all the questions I have
15 for you. Mr. Hite, you are dismissed for
16 today.

17 A Thank you, your Honor.

18 ALJ TOY: Okay. Off the record for a
19 second.

20 (Off the record.)

21 ALJ TOY: Going back on the record. We
22 have heard our only testimony for today.

23 We'll continue on Wednesday, March
24 2nd, at 9:00 a.m. with Mr. Dave Fox and Mr.
25 Reuben Behlihomji.

26 We are adjourned for today for
27 evidentiary hearings. Thank you, everyone.

28 Off the record.

1 (Whereupon, at the hour of 1:55
2 p.m., this matter having been continued
3 to 9:00 a.m., March 2, 2022, via Webex,
4 the Commission then adjourned.)

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