

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 25, 2022
Pages 285 - 328
Volume 3

Reported by: Karly Powers, CSR No. 13991
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1 FEBRUARY 25, 2022 - 9:00 A.M.

2 * * * * *

3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE TOY: We'll go
4 on the record. It's 9:00 a.m., on February
5 25, 2022, the time and place for the second
6 day of Evidentiary Hearing in Application
7 20-10-018, Application of Southern California
8 Edison Company for the Catalina Water
9 Utility.

10 I have before me the updated exhibit
11 list. We'll get to that. I did not receive
12 any expected cross-exhibits for today's
13 testimony. If anybody has any, please let,
14 me know now.

15 Off the record.

16 (Off the record.)

17 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

18 I'd like to remind everybody to
19 please speak clearly for the benefit of the
20 court reporters so that they can take
21 accurate transcription of the hearing. I'd
22 like to remind all the attorneys that the
23 attestations they swore to yesterday are
24 still in effect.

25 I believe our first witness will be
26 Mr. Varvis.

27 THE WITNESS: I'm ready, your Honor.

28 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

1 Off the record.

2 (Off the record.)

3 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

4 We'll now have the witness
5 attestations of Mr. Varvis. Please start
6 with your full name spelled out and your
7 place of business.

8 Off the record.

9 (Off the record.)

10 ALJ TOY: Back on the record, please.
11 Again, state your full name spelled out and
12 your place of business, Mr. Varvis.

13 THE WITNESS: Sure. My name is Alan
14 Varvis, A-l-a-n, V-a-r-v-i-s. I work for
15 Southern California Edison out of our
16 Rosemead headquarters.

17 ALJ TOY: Could you read the
18 attestation at this time?

19 THE WITNESS: Sure.

20 I, Alan Varvis, do solemnly state
21 under penalty of perjury that the testimony I
22 give in the case now pending before this
23 Commission shall be the truth, the whole
24 truth, and nothing but the truth;

25 I, Alan Varvis, attest I will
26 testify based on my own knowledge and memory,
27 free from external influences or pressures;

28 I, Alan Varvis, attest I will adhere

1 to all formal requirements of testifying
2 under oath, including the prohibition against
3 being coached;

4 I, Alan Varvis, attest I will only
5 refer to materials provided by the parties,
6 exhibits premarked and identified by the
7 parties and previously shared with the
8 opposing party;

9 I, Alan Varvis, attest I will not be
10 making any recording of the proceeding; I
11 attest I understand that any recording of a
12 proceeding held by Webex, including
13 screenshots or other visual copying of a
14 hearing, is absolutely prohibited;

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

23 I, Alan Varvis, attest I will not
24 engage in any private communications by
25 phone, text or email or any other mode of
26 communication while under oath and being
27 examined;

28 If, I Alan Varvis, experience any

1 attempts to tamper with my witness testimony,
2 I'll report the occurrence to the presiding
3 officer immediately.

4 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

5 SCE, your witness is available.

6 ALAN VARVIS, called as a witness by
7 Southern California Edison Company,
8 having been sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. FU:

12 Q Thank you, your Honor.

13 Good morning, Mr. Varvis.

14 A Good morning.

15 Q Are you sponsoring testimony in
16 connection with this matter in Exhibits
17 SCE-04 and SCE-10 as indicated in the table
18 of contents of those exhibits?

19 A Yes. That is correct.

20 Q Was this testimony prepared by you
21 or at your direction?

22 A Yes, it was.

23 Q And is this testimony to the extent
24 it's factual, true, and correct to the best
25 of your knowledge?

26 A Yes, it is.

27 Q To the extent it reflects your
28 opinion or judgment, is it your best opinion
or judgment?

1 A Yes, it is.

2 Q Do you have any corrections to your
3 testimony at this time?

4 A No, I do not.

5 MR. FU: Mr. Varvis is available for
6 cross-examination, your Honor.

7 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

8 Just to double-check, is there
9 specific sections that Mr. Varvis would be
10 responsible for?

11 MR. FU: In SCE-04, he is sponsoring
12 the sections dealing with rate base, working
13 cash, net plant-in-service, and depreciation
14 expense. In rebuttal he is sponsoring the
15 sections dealing with those same issues,
16 specifically it would be Section Roman
17 Numeral VI.

18 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

19 I believe we only have cross planned
20 for by the Public Advocates Office.

21 Ms. Fisher, are you ready to conduct
22 your cross-examination?

23 MS. FISHER: Yes, your Honor. Thank
24 you. I do have one question though. My
25 exhibit numbering may be off, but I
26 understand that Mr. Varvis also sponsored a
27 portion of Exhibit SCE-08; is that correct?

28 MR. FU: I'll double-check that.

1 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

2 (Off the record.)

3 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

4 We will now have Public Advocates
5 Offices cross-examination of Mr. Alan Varvis.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. FISHER:

8 Q This is Emily Fisher for Public
9 Advocates. Good morning, Mr. Varvis.

10 A Good morning.

11 Q I just wanted to check if you have
12 a copy of Exhibit SCE-03 on hand?

13 A Yes, I do.

14 Q Okay. Great.

15 And I just want to make sure that I
16 understand some of the terms I'm about to
17 use. Specifically, "net salvage rate." And
18 as I understand it, the net salvage rate is a
19 means for the utility to recover the costs of
20 removal or demolition of assets after their
21 useful life, but the cost is spread over the
22 useful life of asset.

23 Is that more or less correct?

24 A Yeah. So it's intended to cover
25 future net salvage. So we recover it over
26 its life so that it's been recovered by the
27 time we replace it, so that's the goal.

28 Q Okay. Thank you.

1 A And just to take that one step
2 further, the salvage is basically growth
3 salvage, less cost of the removal. So
4 there's typically not a lot of growth
5 salvage; so it ends up being what we call a
6 negative net salvage because it's generally
7 mostly cost of removal.

8 Q Okay. Thank you.

9 Could you please turn to page 78 of
10 SCE-10.

11 A Yes.

12 Q Starting line 20: "Account 342,
13 Reservoirs and Tanks," you state that SCE
14 proposes a negative 120 percent net salvage
15 rate based on recent recorded retirement data
16 rather than industry averages; is that
17 correct?

18 A That is correct.

19 Q And didn't SCE use industry
20 averages to develop the net salvage rate
21 forecast for all the other accounts?

22 A We did. We used industry comps in
23 areas where we had little or no retirement
24 experience to rely on.

25 Q And the industry averages consisted
26 of data from several water utility rate
27 jurisdictions for major California water
28 utilities such as Cal Water, California

1 American Water, Suburban Water Systems, San
2 Gabriel Valley; is that correct?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q And the industry average net
5 salvage rate for these California utilities
6 for this Account 342 came in at around 15 or
7 16 percent; is that correct?

8 A Subject to check. Yes.

9 Q Given the amount of territory
10 covered by those water utilities and how much
11 of California is fairly rural and
12 mountainous, isn't it reasonable to assume
13 that their Account 342 net salvage rate would
14 reflect cost of the tank retirements in some
15 pretty remote, rugged areas?

16 A Like I said, in the absence of any
17 retirement data that we have of our own, it's
18 reasonable to use those industry comps, but
19 being that we had a specific example in our
20 own service area, which, you know, is very
21 unique and that it is an island, and it also
22 presents its unique challenges, we felt it
23 more appropriate to use experience we had
24 recently had to project what we would like to
25 see in the future.

26 Q Okay. So it's your position that
27 the cost of removing this one tank near the
28 Catalina airport provided the best available

1 information in this case?

2 A That's correct.]

3 Q In Footnote 211 on page 79 of
4 SCE-10, you refer to the discussion of the
5 Airport Tank Demolition in SCE-03. Could you
6 turn to page 19 of SCE-03?

7 A Sure. Give me one second.

8 Okay. I'm on page 19.

9 Q Okay. So it describes this tank at
10 the airport, the process of demolition
11 starting at line 18. It states that:

12 The out-of-service water tank was
13 demolished using hand tools and a
14 dump truck. The entire tank
15 structure including floor and
16 exposed inlet and outlet piping
17 sections were demolished and
18 removed. All non-needed
19 foundation materials were removed.
20 The area was restored to natural
21 grade.

22 Is that correct?

23 A I do see that.

24 Q Didn't the initial results of using
25 the airport tank -- excuse me -- the initial
26 results of using the airport tank data for
27 the net salvage rate forecast produced a rate
28 almost double what Edison is currently

1 proposing?

2 A That is correct.

3 Q And if you could turn back to
4 page 79 of SCE-10?

5 A I'm there.

6 Q Great. At line 3, you indicate
7 that the forecast initially yielded negative
8 229 percent net salvage rate; is that
9 correct?

10 A That is correct.

11 Q Mr. Varvis, if the airport tank
12 demolition provided the best available
13 information, shouldn't it have produced a
14 result somewhat more proportionate to the
15 rest of California?

16 (Crosstalk.)

17 A Repeat that?

18 Q If the airport tank demolition data
19 provided the best available information for
20 forecasts for the net salvage forecast for
21 this account, shouldn't it have produced a
22 result somewhat more proportionate to
23 averages in the rest of the state?

24 A I would say not necessarily. It's
25 a specific project, like I said, on our
26 island territory. So it yielded a result
27 that was, you know, specific to the
28 conditions, you know, on the island and so

1 forth. So It's hard to say whether it would
2 be -- or why it's so much higher, let's say,
3 than those industry averages.

4 Q But without any California --
5 excuse me. Without any other Catalina
6 examples for comparison, isn't it possible
7 that the airport tank result was really an
8 outlier?

9 MR. FU: Objection. Calls for
10 speculation.

11 ALJ TOY: Do you have a response,
12 Ms. Fisher?

13 MS. FISHER: I believe it calls for a
14 response. It's within the scope of
15 Mr. Varvis's expertise and experience.

16 ALJ TOY: Could you repeat the
17 question?

18 MS. FISHER: Sure.

19 Q Without any other Catalina examples
20 for comparison, isn't it possible that the
21 airport tank result was an outlier?

22 MR. FU: May I be heard, your honor?

23 ALJ TOY: Yeah.

24 MR. FU: Given the way the question's
25 phrased, "isn't it possible," that seems to
26 specifically call for the witness to
27 speculate.

28 ALJ TOY: Yeah. Could you please

1 rephrase your question, Ms. Fisher?

2 BY MS. FISHER:

3 Q Were there any other Catalina
4 examples for comparison to the airport tank?

5 A At this time, no, there were not.
6 This is the example that we had in our recent
7 history.

8 Q Without any other examples for
9 comparison, can you be certain that the
10 airport tank result was not an outlier?

11 MR. FU: Same objection. Calls for
12 speculation.

13 ALJ TOY: (Inaudible) Ms. Fisher, could
14 you, I guess, be more specific with your
15 question? Maybe ask about more specific
16 characteristics.

17 BY MS. FISHER:

18 Q How can you determine, Mr. Varvis
19 -- let's see.

20 Without any other examples for
21 comparison, how can you confirm -- how can
22 you confirm the result of the airport tank
23 forecast as -- as actually reflecting the
24 rate for the rest of Catalina? I think my
25 original question was more specific than
26 that.

27 A So I think the -- like I said, this
28 tank represented the best evidence we have of

1 costs on the island and what it would cost to
2 move tanks on the island. I will point out
3 that because it is an estimate of future
4 removal cost for other tanks, we did cap that
5 proposal. But we do believe that given the
6 evidence, which is what we have and it's our
7 specific evidence rather than like a
8 generalized industry cost. We felt it more
9 appropriate to rely on that evidence to
10 project what it would cost to remove tanks on
11 the island.

12 Q Thank you. And given Catalina had
13 challenges in being separated from the
14 mainland, but the general terrain of the
15 island is fairly similar to much of Southern
16 California isn't that true?

17 A I'm not going to (indecipherable)
18 generally that's true. But obviously
19 operating on an island presents challenges
20 that the mainland doesn't experience.

21 MS. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Varvis. No
22 more questions.

23 ALJ TOY: Did you have something to
24 say, Mr. Fu?

25 MR. FU: No. I did have some
26 questions.

27 ALJ TOY: I just have one question I
28 wanted to -- what were the drivers of

1 difference between the Catalina Tank and the
2 removal of -- the Catalina Airport tank --
3 (inaudible.)

4 MR. FU: I'm sorry, your Honor. Can
5 you repeat that?

6 ALJ TOY: Sure. I guess this tank
7 forecasted negative 229 NSR.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

9 ALJ TOY: I believe the Catalina
10 Airport was at 60 percent.

11 THE WITNESS: No. Actually the 229 was
12 based on using the Catalina Airport --

13 (Crosstalk.)

14 (Reporter clarification.)

15 ALJ TOY: My question was: What is --
16 what are driving the costs, I guess, in the
17 forecast and how do they differ between the
18 Catalina Airport -- (inaudible.)

19 THE WITNESS: So the forecast, the
20 negative 229 percent that we're talking about
21 was based on the airport tank removal so we
22 used that example. And we converted the cost
23 of that removal into a per-gallon estimate
24 and then we extrapolated that across the
25 service territory to come up with the 229.
26 So the 229 was directly related to cost
27 experience we had on the airport tank
28 removal.

1 ALJ TOY: Okay. Thank you.

2 Mr. Fu, do you have any redirect?

3 MR. FU: I do. Just a few questions,
4 your Honor.

5 ALJ TOY: Okay. Proceed when ready.

6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. FU:

8 Q Mr. Varvis, now, you understand
9 that Cal Advocates' proposal is recommending
10 a negative 15 percent NSR; correct?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And I guess I can just direct your
13 attention to the same page in SCE-10 that
14 Ms. Fisher had referred you to.

15 A Excuse me. I'm there.

16 Q Directing your attention to lines
17 10 through 12, you indicate:

18 The impact of using Cal
19 Advocates's NSR proposal will
20 likely be to defer recovery and
21 pass that cost differential on to
22 future customers.

23 Do you see that?

24 A Yes, I do.

25 Q And Cal Advocates' NSR Proposal
26 began to use negative 15 percent; correct?

27 A Correct.

28 Q Can you just explain what you mean

1 by that in terms of defer recovery and pass
2 that cost differential on to future
3 customers?

4 A Sure. So in setting these net
5 salvage rates, we're attempting to collect
6 for the future cost of removal from the
7 customers enjoying the benefit of the asset.
8 So throughout the asset's life, we would be
9 collecting these costs so at the end of the
10 life we've collected enough money to actually
11 fund the removal cost. So by setting those
12 rates at something less than what we think
13 they will be.

14 When you do get to the end of life,
15 the cost to remove that asset will exceed
16 what we've collected and will require us to
17 collect that from future generations of
18 customers.

19 So idea is to, like I said, collect
20 from the customers that are enjoying the
21 benefit of the asset. And so the concept of
22 intergenerational equity or inequity is that
23 very thing is trying to assign the cost of
24 the asset to the customer who is enjoying the
25 benefit of that asset.

26 In this case, that -- part of that
27 cost is not only the asset itself, but the
28 cost to remove it when it's taken out of

1 service.

2 MR. FU: No other questions, your
3 Honor.

4 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

5 Ms. Fisher, do you have any recross?

6 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. FISHER:

8 Q Just one. I'm curious about one
9 issue in the event that the net salvage rate
10 is inflated actually exceeds the cost of
11 removal of that asset. Given that those
12 funds have been recovered throughout the
13 lifetime of the asset, what happens if the
14 recovery -- if there's an over-recovery?

15 A It works the same way. The future
16 customers will benefit from that
17 over-recovery and pay less. The goal is to
18 set at the right amount. Obviously it's a
19 forecast, but we're trying to use the most
20 informed judgement we can to set it at the
21 right rate so that we collect the right
22 amount.

23 MS. FISHER: Thank you.

24 No further questions.

25 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

26 Mr. Bishton, I have you down for
27 zero cross for Mr. Varvis; is that correct?

28 MR. BISHTON: That's correct, your

1 Honor.

2 ALJ TOY: Okay.

3 Then, Mr. Varvis --

4 Actually, Mr. Fu? Is there any --

5 (Crosstalk.)

6 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

7 (Off the record.)

8 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

9 Thank you for your participation
10 today. You are dismissed.

11 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.

12 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

13 (Off the record.)]

14 ALJ TOY: Okay. Back on the record.

15 We have a new witness on behalf of
16 Southern California Edison. Could you please
17 state your full name, spelling it, and your
18 place of business?

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Cooper
20 Cameron, C-o-o-p-e-r, C-a-m-e-r-o-n. My
21 place of business is Rosemead, California.

22 ALJ TOY: And your testimony is on
23 behalf of Southern California Edison?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is.

25 ALJ TOY: Would you please proceed with
26 reading off the witness attestation in front
27 of you?

28 THE WITNESS: I, Cooper Cameron, do

1 solemnly state under penalty of perjury that
2 this testimony I give in the case now pending
3 before this Commission shall be the truth,
4 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;

5 I, Cooper Cameron, attest I will
6 testify based on my own knowledge and memory,
7 free from external influences or pressures;

8 I, Cooper Cameron, attest I will
9 adhere to all formal requirements of
10 testifying under oath, including the
11 prohibition against being coached;

12 I, Cooper Cameron, attest I will
13 only refer to materials provided by the
14 parties, exhibits premarked and identified by
15 the parties and previously shared with the
16 opposing party;

17 I, Cooper Cameron, attest I will not
18 make any recording of the proceeding;

19 I attest I understand that any
20 recording of the a proceeding held by Webex,
21 including screenshots or other visual copying
22 of a hearing, is absolutely prohibited;

23 I, Cooper Cameron, attest that I
24 understand that violation of these
25 prohibitions may result in sanctions,
26 including removal from the evidentiary
27 hearing, restricted entry to future hearings,
28 denial of entry to future hearings, or any

1 other sanctions deemed necessary by the
2 Commission;

3 I, Cooper Cameron, attest I will not
4 engage in any private communications by
5 phone, text, or e-mail, any other mode of
6 communication, while under oath and being
7 examined;

8 If I, Cooper Cameron, experience any
9 attempts to tamper with my witness testimony,
10 I will report the occurrence to the presiding
11 officer immediately.

12 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

13 SCE, your witness is available.

14 MR. SUNG: Thank you, your Honor.

15 COOPER CAMERON, called as a witness
16 by Southern California Edison Company,
17 having been sworn, testified as
18 follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. SUNG:

20 Q Good morning, Mr. Cameron.

21 A Good morning.

22 Q Mr. Cameron, are you sponsoring
23 (inaudible) testimony in this proceeding?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Is it correct that you are
26 sponsoring Section 2.D.1, Section 2.E.4, and
27 Section 3 of SCE's Memorandum and Balancing
28 Accounts Testimony, labeled SCE-05,

1 previously sponsored by Susan DiBernardo as
2 identified in the table of contents?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is it your opinion that this
5 testimony is correct and represents your
6 views?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Are you also sponsoring sections 1
9 and 6 of SCE's Supplemental Testimony on
10 Ratemaking and Phase-In Proposal, labeled
11 SCE-08, as identified in the table of
12 contents?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Was this material prepared by you
15 or under your direction?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you have any corrections that
18 you would like to make to your testimony at
19 this time?

20 A No, I do not.

21 Q To the extent that your testimony
22 is factual, do you believe it to be true and
23 correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And to the extent your testimony
26 reflects an opinion or judgment, does it
27 reflect your best professional opinion or
28 judgment?

1 A Yes.

2 MR. SUNG: Your Honor, this witness is
3 available for cross-examination.

4 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

5 Off the record.

6 (Off the record.)

7 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

8 We will now have the cross of
9 Mr. Cooper Cameron by the Catalina Parties.

10 CROSS-EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. BISHTON:

12 Q Mr. Cameron, my name is Norris
13 Bishton. I represent the Catalina Parties.

14 Are you familiar with who the
15 Catalina Parties are in this proceeding?

16 A Yes, I am.

17 Q The -- your work was -- for Edison
18 is -- you're listed in different places as
19 slightly different titles.

20 One, are you the Advice Tariff
21 Manager?

22 A No, I am not.

23 Q Were you at some point in time the
24 Advice Tariff Manager?

25 A No, I was not.

26 Q You're listed, also, as Senior
27 Advisor in the Regulatory Affairs
28 Organization.

1 Is that your current title?

2 A Yes. I'm a Senior Advisor.

3 Q In the Regulatory Affairs --

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. The -- may I have --

6 Your Honor, may I be able to share?

7 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

8 (Off the record.)

9 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

10 BY MR. BISHTON:

11 Q Mr. Cameron, the -- SCE-08 is the
12 supplemental testimony where you provided the
13 introduction and you provided the conclusion
14 to material that was prepared to indicate the
15 effects of passing on -- not passing on 29
16 million, or more, in costs to electric
17 ratepayers, and then the effect if that did
18 not occur; is that correct?

19 A Yes. I sponsored the introduction
20 and conclusion of SCE-08.

21 Q But you're familiar with the
22 material between your introduction and the
23 conclusion?

24 A I am generally familiar with it.
25 However, that is not testimony which I
26 personally sponsored.

27 Q I'm showing you page 18 of SCE-08
28 that's on the screen. And this is the

1 Catalina Adjusted Cost Recovery Proposal,
2 assuming that passed -- everything is passed
3 on through the electric ratepayers as
4 initially requested by Edison; is that
5 correct?

6 MR. SUNG: Objection, your Honor. This
7 is going beyond the scope of Mr. Cameron's
8 testimony. Mr. Behlihomji, who is scheduled
9 to appear on Wednesday, who is SCE's rate
10 design expert, would be ready to answer these
11 types of the questions. But this is just
12 clearly beyond Mr. Cameron's testimony.

13 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, is there a need
14 to question Mr. Cameron on this?

15 MR. BISHTON: I am not asking him for
16 detail. This is -- I'm going to establish
17 that this is the Plan A that was testified to
18 by Dr. Brady, and where the information came
19 from for Plan B as testified by Mr. Brady.

20 In the conclusion of Mr. Cameron's
21 testimony, he says that -- that this is the
22 -- the rates are unsustainable. And I want
23 to question him on what basis they are
24 unsustainable. That is his testimony in the
25 conclusion. I'm just laying a foundation to
26 what I'm going to be referring, where the
27 information came from.

28 He offers a conclusion. And I can

1 read it to you:

2 As shown in the alternative cost
3 recovery proposal, attempting to
4 recover the full cost of water
5 service solely from Catalina water
6 customers is not sustainable.

7 ALJ TOY: I believe you can get an
8 answer -- you can get an answer to that
9 question by asking Mr. Cameron himself. And,
10 if necessary, you can go into the details.

11 MR. BISHTON: I don't fully understand
12 what your ruling is. But I -- I'm asking him
13 to identify where in this testimony these
14 rates came from.

15 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. Was that a
16 question for me?

17 (Crosstalk.)

18 MR. BISHTON: No. I'm asking for
19 instruction from the Judge.

20 ALJ TOY: Does SCE have a response to
21 this?

22 MR. SUNG: Your Honor, I would suggest
23 maybe directing Mr. Cameron to the actual
24 portion of that testimony that he sponsored.
25 And then he can speak to that, rather than
26 other parts of the testimony that are
27 sponsored by Mr. Behlihomji.

28 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, at this time

1 I would like to request when Mr. Behlihomji
2 testifies, that we -- I be allowed to
3 cross-examine him also, since Mr. Cameron is
4 not -- they are objecting to Mr. Cameron
5 testifying to this material.

6 ALJ TOY: Mr. Behlihomji is not up for
7 cross-examination today, but certainly when
8 he's --

9 MR. BISHTON: Well, when he is. I'm
10 not asking for today, obviously.

11 ALJ TOY: Okay. That's perfectly fine.
12 But I believe -- you may ask Mr. Cameron
13 about anything that he's sponsoring today.
14 And start from there please, Mr. Bishton.

15 BY MR. BISHTON:

16 Q Mr. Cameron, I'm showing what is
17 Exhibit CP-19, which was taken from the
18 testimony of Dr. Brady, where he put together
19 a Plan A and Plan B showing what the effect
20 of rates would be that are reflected in
21 SCE-08, both with and without the 29 million
22 or more passed on to the electric ratepayers.

23 Have you seen this testimony of Dr.
24 Brady and this particular exhibit before?

25 A I have seen it, yes.

26 Q And do you have any reason to
27 believe that it does not correctly reflect
28 the material that's contained in SCE-08, as

1 it would apply to a residence using
2 2,000 gallons a month?

3 MR. SUNG: Objection, your Honor. This
4 is calling for a level of expertise that Mr.
5 Cameron did not testify to, nor possesses to
6 testify about.

7 ALJ TOY: I'm going to uphold that
8 objection.

9 I guess, Mr. Bishton, where are you
10 going with this? Why do you --

11 MR. BISHTON: I want to be able to ask
12 this witness what is not sustainable as he
13 testifies in his conclusion. And I -- just
14 having this as a reference, is this what he
15 means by what is not sustainable. I want to
16 use it for that purpose.

17 ALJ TOY: Why don't you ask him that
18 directly first and then go from there.

19 BY MR. BISHTON:

20 Q I'm going to go to page 23 of
21 SCE-08.

22 Mr. Cameron, is this your testimony
23 here not conclusion of SCE-08?

24 A Yes, it is.

25 Q And you testified as follows:

26 As shown inspect alternative cost
27 recovery proposal, attempting to
28 recover the full cost of water

1 service solely from Catalina water
2 customers is not sustainable for
3 water customers or the utility.

4 Is that your testimony?

5 A Yes. That's what my testimony
6 reads.

7 Q And what are you referring to when
8 you refer to "Alternative cost recovery
9 proposal"?

10 A The alternate cost recovery
11 proposal discussed in that conclusion was a
12 proposal that did not contemplate recovering
13 water utility costs in electric rates. It
14 was an alternate, which we were directed to
15 provide testimony on following the -- a
16 ruling in early 2021.]

17 Q And it is that proposal that you
18 are referencing here as not sustainable to
19 Catalina Water customers?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You were born and raised on
22 Catalina Island; is that correct?

23 MR. SUNG: Objection, your Honor;
24 relevance?

25 ALJ TOY: What is this going to,
26 Mr. Bishton?

27 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, I want to
28 show the extent of his experience of what

1 conditions in Catalina Island are that would
2 allow him to determine what is sustainable.

3 MR. SUNG: May I be heard, your Honor?

4 ALJ TOY: Sure.

5 MR. SUNG: Mr. Cameron's background and
6 upbringing, that is not relevant to whether
7 or not this cost recovery proposal is
8 sustainable. That is kind of extraneous and
9 going to -- I mean, this line of questioning
10 can be really dangerous, your Honor. I mean,
11 it's going to personal information that has
12 nothing to do with this proceeding.

13 The evidence that SCE has provided
14 to support its burden is laid out in the
15 testimony in the application; so there's no
16 need to go into Mr. Cameron's personal
17 history, which is highly improper.

18 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, do you have any
19 response to that?

20 MR. BISHTON: No further response than
21 what I said before: He has particular
22 expertise as to what is sustainable on the
23 island.

24 ALJ TOY: Please just ask Mr. Cameron
25 about his experience on the island.

26 BY MR. BISHTON:

27 Q Mr. Cameron, could you describe
28 your expertise as to -- your personal

1 expertise as to conditions on the island as
2 referenced to the use of the water by
3 residents, permanent residents, in the city
4 of Avalon?

5 MR. SUNG: Objection, your Honor.
6 Vague as what "personal" means. I think it's
7 just encroaching on the same territory we
8 just discussed.

9 ALJ TOY: Can you define what you meant
10 by "personal," Mr. Bishton?

11 MR. BISHTON: I meant his own
12 knowledge, what knowledge and expertise that
13 he has, if any, regarding the use of the
14 water by customers, residential customers, at
15 Avalon.

16 ALJ TOY: Mr. Cameron, could you please
17 answer that question.

18 THE WITNESS: So, personally, yes. I
19 was raised on Catalina, and my family has
20 lived on Catalina for many, many years.

21 Professionally, I started my career
22 with Southern California Edison on Catalina
23 in 2010 and worked exclusively on the island
24 until 2018 at which point I took a position
25 within SCE's Regulatory Affairs organization.
26 BY MR. BISHTON:

27 Q Directing your attention back to
28 CP-19 and it shows that under Plan B, the

1 service fee, the monthly service fee, would
2 be \$227.50. Is that what you refer to when
3 you say that it's not sustainable?

4 A I'm sorry. I did not prepare that
5 exhibit, so I can't speak to the specific
6 contents. That was not part of my testimony.

7 Q Well, it shows -- this particular
8 exhibit shows that someone using -- a
9 customer using 2,000 gallons a month would
10 have a bill of \$456.25.

11 Is that what you mean by "not
12 sustainable"?

13 A Well, as Ms. Barcinas testified to
14 yesterday, this is not our proposal. We put
15 forth a proposal which we believe balances
16 equitably recovering the cost of service
17 while maintaining affordable rates on
18 Catalina.

19 This was an alternate that was to
20 demonstrate the effects on water rates and
21 bills if all costs were to be recovered from
22 Catalina Water customers.

23 Q The customer that uses no water
24 would still under your proposal on Plan B pay
25 a service fee of \$227.50?

26 MR. SUNG: Objection, your Honor. I'm
27 not sure what he's asking Mr. Cooper (sic) to
28 testify to. The question is vague.

1 ALJ TOY: Could you please repeat the
2 question, Mr. Bishton.

3 BY MR. BISHTON:

4 Q The service fee, the so-called
5 "service fee," is paid regardless of whether
6 or not a customer uses any water; is that
7 correct?

8 A Yes. That is correct.

9 Q And currently someone using 2,000
10 gallons of water would pay a service fee of
11 \$43.21; is that correct?

12 A That is correct.

13 Q And the alternate proposal, Plan B,
14 would increase that to \$227.50 in year five;
15 is that correct?

16 A That is correct; however, I want to
17 reiterate that that is not the proposal that
18 SCE is putting forth in this application.

19 This was a demonstration of the
20 effects on rates if all costs were to be
21 recovered from Catalina Water customers.

22 Q So is -- the alternative cost
23 recovery, Plan B, that you're referencing is
24 not sustainable in your testimony?

25 A Yes.

26 MR. BISHTON: No further questions,
27 your Honor.

28 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

1 Mr. Sung, do you have any redirect?

2 MR. SUNG: Might I suggest a quick
3 break before we move on to redirect?

4 ALJ TOY: Sure. Off the record.

5 (Off the record.)

6 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

7 You can continue with your redirect
8 of Mr. Cameron.

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. SUNG:

11 Q Mr. Cameron, could you just explain
12 to us what you meant by the line reference by
13 Mr. Bishton in the overall context of SCE's
14 proposal as a whole.

15 A Yes. So SCE's proposal in this
16 application is to recover what we believe to
17 be the normal cost for ongoing operations,
18 maintenance, and investment in the Catalina
19 Water utility from Catalina Water customers,
20 and we're proposing to transfer one-time
21 exceptional cost for recovery in electric
22 rates.

23 The alternate proposal was
24 something which SCE was requested to present,
25 which was a proposal that did not contemplate
26 recovering water utility cost in electric
27 rates, which was the subject of SCE-08.

28 Q And the alternate proposal being

1 mentioned here that was something that the
2 Commission had ordered SCE to provide
3 supplemental testimony on; is that correct?

4 A Yes. That is correct.

5 MR. SUNG: No further questions, your
6 Honor.

7 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, do you have any
8 recross?

9 MR. BISHTON: Yes, I do, your Honor.

10 ALJ TOY: Please continue.

11 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. BISHTON:

13 Q Mr. Cameron, if I'm understanding
14 you correctly, if the Commission does not
15 allow the transfer of \$29 million to electric
16 ratepayers, the Plan B, the alternative
17 proposal, Edison is not seeking approval in
18 this GRC?

19 If that eventuality occurs, you're
20 not seeking the alternative cost recovery; is
21 that correct?

22 MR. SUNG: Objection, your Honor. That
23 goes beyond the scope of my redirect and
24 beyond the scope of Mr. Cameron's testimony.

25 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, do you have a
26 response.

27 MR. BISHTON: Your Honor, one of the
28 things -- is it something that they have

1 presented, but they are never going to seek
2 in this proceeding? That's what I understood
3 Mr. Cameron's testimony to be, that it was
4 something that they presented at the request
5 of the Commission, but they have no intention
6 of pursuing in this GRC. I'm trying to
7 confirm that.

8 MR. SUNG: May I be heard, your Honor?

9 ALJ TOY: Yes.

10 MR. SUNG: This exact question is a
11 policy question that was almost verbatim
12 asked to Ms. Barcinas yesterday, and she was
13 the proper witness to that, and Mr. Norris
14 Bishton had an opportunity and got the answer
15 to that question. Mr. Cameron is not the
16 proper witness to address this question.

17 ALJ TOY: I agree. I'm going to
18 overrule the objection.

19 MR. BISHTON: No further questions,
20 your Honor.

21 ALJ TOY: Thank you.

22 Is there any redirect?

23 MR. SUNG: No, your Honor.

24 ALJ TOY: Off the record.

25 (Off the record.)

26 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

27 We will now have the
28 cross-examination of Mr. Cooper Cameron by

1 the Public Advocates Office.

2 CROSS-EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. SUNG:

4 Q Good morning, Mr. Cameron.

5 A Good morning.

6 Q Just to clarify, you are covering
7 testimony related to the Catalina Water Lost
8 Revenue Memorandum Account; is that correct?

9 A My testimony is limited to the
10 operation of the Lost Revenue Memo Account.

11 Q Okay. Thank you.

12 If this goes outside the scope of
13 your testimony, I'm sure someone will let me
14 know. I think it will stay within.

15 Could you please turn to page 9 of
16 Exhibit SCE-05.

17 A Okay. I'm there.

18 Q And starting at line 20, the
19 testimony states that amounts tracked in the
20 Lost Revenue Memorandum Account were
21 calculated based on the difference between
22 authorized revenues and recorded revenues; is
23 that correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And the Lost Revenue Memo Account
26 operated during the time that mandatory
27 conservation measures were in place from 2014
28 through 2019; is that correct?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q Please turn to page 10 of SCE-05.

3 A Okay.

4 Q There's a table marked Roman
5 Numeral II-II. Do you see that?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And this table lists the amounts
8 recorded in the Lost Revenue Memo Account;
9 correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Customer conservation efforts
12 during the drought period resulted in about a
13 40 percent reduction in sales compared to
14 SCE's forecasted sales; is that correct?

15 A Yes. Subject to check.

16 Q In the Lost Revenue Memo Account
17 did SCE account for any proportionate
18 reduction in expenses with the reduction in
19 sales?

20 A No. That is not part of SCE's
21 preliminary statement that governs the
22 disposition of the Lost Revenue Memo Account.

23 Q Isn't it reasonable, though, to
24 assume that a 40 percent reduction in sales
25 would have had some impact on expenses?

26 A It could; however, since that was
27 not a feature of the Lost Revenue Memo
28 Account, such an analysis was not performed.

1 Q Were the expense savings recorded
2 anywhere else?

3 A No. During the period of the
4 drought, fracking, expense savings related to
5 reduced sales was not part of SCE's
6 memorandum account which governed the Lost
7 Revenue Memo Account.

8 MS. FISHER: Thank you. No further
9 questions.

10 ALJ TOY: Does SCE have any redirect?

11 MR. SUNG: Just one, your Honor.

12 ALJ TOY: Continue.

13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. SUNG:

15 Q Mr. Cameron, could you just explain
16 to us why these expenses relating to the Lost
17 Revenue Account, again, were not recorded?

18 A The Lost Revenue Memo Account does
19 not include a provision in it. So the
20 Commission-authorized tariff, which governs
21 the Lost Revenue Memo Account, does not
22 require SCE to offset revenue over- or
23 under-collections by expense savings or
24 incremental cost associated with changes in
25 sales as a result of implementing its water
26 conservation and rationing plan.

27 Q So SCE was following
28 Commission-approved tariffs in its recording

1 of its Lost Revenue Account; is that correct?

2 A Yes. That is correct.

3 MR. SUNG: No further questions, your
4 Honor.

5 ALJ TOY: Any recross, Ms. Fisher?

6 MS. FISHER: No, your Honor.

7 ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Cameron.

8 You're dismissed for today.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.

10 ALJ TOY: Off the record for a second.

11 (Off the record.)

12 ALJ TOY: Back on the record.

13 We have heard the testimony for
14 today. We will proceed on Monday, February
15 28th, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The evidentiary
16 hearings for today are adjourned. Thank you,
17 everyone, for coming. Off the record.

18 (Whereupon, at the hour of 10:03
19 a.m., this matter having been continued
20 to 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 28,
2022, via Webex, the Commission then
adjourned.)

21 * * * * *]

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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