

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY & COMPLIANCE DIVISION RESOLUTION NO. W-3572  
 Water Utilities Branch May 22, 1991

R E S O L U T I O N

(RES. W-3572) DEL ORO WATER COMPANY (DOWC). REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO REVISE ITS MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION AND RATIONING PLAN.

BY ADVICE LETTER 51, FILED APRIL 18, 1991

SUMMARY

DOWC requests authority to revise Schedule 14.1 to eliminate the provision which established water "banking" in its Paradise Pines District (PPD). DOWC, unaware of the banking provision, adopted a standardized form for schedule 14.1 provided by the Commission staff. DOWC had not intended to provide such banking since it would exceed the summer water supply capacities of the company. Lime Saddle District and Stirling Bluffs Corporation, other entities operated by DOWC, have separate water supplies and are not under mandatory rationing. PPD serves about 4,200 residential customers in Magalia, just north of Paradise, Butte County.

BACKGROUND

Del Oro's Paradise Pines District relies on wells for its entire water supply. These wells normally can produce up to 50,000,000 gallons per month. Currently, due to the continuing drought, the wells are operating at lower levels and can only be expected to produce 38,000,000 gallons per month.

Del Oro indicates that its highest monthly consumption for 1990 was 47,000,000 gallons. In order to ensure the continued production of all sources despite the constraints of the current pumping yields, Del Oro implemented a Commission-Approved rationing plan (Resolution W-3549) which reduces residential consumption 25% and irrigation and industrial process water consumption 10%. By this plan, DOWC would pump a maximum of 38,000,000 gallons per month.

DOWC inadvertently filed its Advice Letter 49 with a provision for banking in Tariff Schedule 14.1. Banking is an arrangement whereby if a customer uses less than his or her total allotment for the prior months of rationing, he or she will not be penalized in a subsequent month until total use exceeded the total allotment during the rationing period. Thus a customer could "save" water to use later.

Resolution No. W-3572  
Del Oro Wtr/AL51/TFS:mem

DOWC has two concerns with respect to banking. First is that due to drought the water supply is constrained by current pumping capacities. If a large number of customers bank water to use in hot summer months, DOWC could exceed pumping capacity and have a supply shortage. Secondly, but of minor importance, DOWC does not have the computer capability to implement this provision.

#### DISCUSSION

To ensure it has pumping capacity to serve its expected demand, DOWC requests authority to amend its Schedule 14.1.

Schedule 14.1 would be changed to delete the provision relating to water banking. During the rationing period, customers would be allowed to consume up to their allotment in any given month without any penalties, but could not carry-forward unused allotments.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

As part of its original rationing request, DOWC notified customers by mail and by an advertisement in a locally distributed newspaper seven days in advance of a public meeting on February 19, 1991. No representation was made to the customers on that occasion or at any other time that banking would be included as a part of the rationing plan.

#### PROTESTS

There have been no customer requests for banking or protests relating to this issue.

#### FINDINGS

1. All of DOWC's Paradise Pines District water supply is obtained from local groundwater supplies.
2. Due to the continuing drought, DOWC's PPD well sources have constrained pumping capacities.
3. A provision allowing banking was unintentionally included in DOWC's filing of its Mandatory Water Rationing Plan.
4. Rationing levels as currently approved by the Commission were determined assuming no banking. Water use over projected levels in summer months would result in supply deficiencies.
5. DOWC does not have the capability to implement water banking.

Resolution No. W-3572  
Del Oro Wtr/AL51/TFS:mem

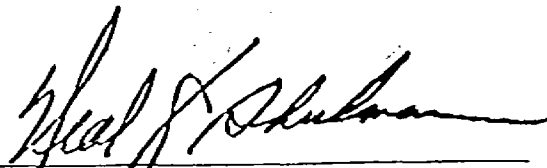
6. DOWC's Schedule 14.1, Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing, should be revised to delete provisions relating to water banking.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. Del Oro Water Company is authorized to amend Schedule 14.1, Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing, as proposed by Advice Letter No. 51. The effective date of the revised Schedule 14.1 shall be five days after the effective date of this resolution.

This resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on May 22, 1991. The following Commissioners approved it:



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NEAL J. SHULMAN  
Executive Director

PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
President  
G. MITCHELL WILK  
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
Commissioners

Commissioner John B. Ohanian,  
being necessarily absent, did  
not participate.

Schedule No. 14.1

MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION AND RATIONING

APPLICABILITY

This schedule applies to all water customers served under all tariff rate schedules authorized by the Commission. It is only effective in times of rationing, as required by Rule No. 14.1, and only for the period noted in the Special Conditions section below.

TERRITORY

This schedule is only applicable to the Paradise Pines District served by the utility.

ALLOCATION

Each customer shall be allocated 75% of the customer's 1990 usage during the comparable billing period, but not less than 600 cubic feet (6 Ccf) per month, except those commercial and industrial customers using process water shall be allocated 90% of the 1990 usage.

EXCESS WATER USE PENALTY

For water used in excess of the allocated amount during each billing period for all service rendered on and after the effective date of rationing;

up to 5 Ccf over allocation.....\$ 5.00 per Ccf  
more than 5 Ccf over allocation.....\$10.00 per Ccf

The excess water use penalty is in addition to the regular rate schedule cost per Ccf.

FLOW RESTRICTOR REMOVAL CHARGE

The charge for removal of a flow-restricting device shall be:

5/8" to 1".....\$25  
1-1/2" to 2".....\$50  
3" and larger.....actual cost

(End of Appendix A)

(To be inserted by utility)

Advice Letter No. 51

Decision No.

Issued by

*R. S. Fortino*

R. S. FORTINO  
President

(To be inserted by Cal. P.U.C.)

Date Filed

Effective

Resolution No.