

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DIVISION OF WATER AND AUDITS**

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Utility Name: Searles Domestic Water Company
District: N/A
CPUC Utility #: WTC-368
Advice Letter #: 71-W
Tier: 1 2 3 Compliance
Authorization: Compliance with Director Shia's June 16, 2021 Instructions
Description: Extension of Emergency Customer Protections

Date Mailed to Service List: June 21, 2021
Protest Deadline (20th Day): July 11, 2021
Review Deadline (30th Day): July 21, 2021
Requested Effective Date: June 21, 2021
Rate Impact: \$0.00
0.00%

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

Utility Contact: Frank Brommenschenkel
Phone: 805-525-4200
Email: Frank.brommen@verizon.net

Utility Contact: Audrey Schuyler
Phone: 760-372-5326
Email: schuylea@svminerals.com

DWA Contact: Tariff Unit
Phone: (415) 703-1133
Email: Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

DWA USE ONLY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

APPROVED

WITHDRAWN

REJECTED

Signature: _____

Comments: _____

Date: _____

SEARLES DOMESTIC WATER COMPANY

P.O. Box 577, Trona CA 93592, 760-372-5326, schuylea@svminerals.com

June 21, 2021

Advice Letter No. 71-W

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Searles Domestic Water Company (Searles) hereby transmits for filing this digital copy of Advice Letter 71-W:

REQUEST

Searles transmits this Tier 1 advice letter filing in compliance with California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Director Terence Shia's June 16, 2021, Letter to Class C, D Water and Sewer utilities directing all Class C and D water and sewer utilities to extend the Emergency Customer Protections to September 30, 2021 and keep the Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA - Drought) open until September 30, 2021.

BACKGROUND

On March 26, 2020, the previous Executive Director issued a letter to all Class C, D Water and Sewer utilities stating that the Commission expects the utilities to extend customer protections to customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This Emergency Customer Protections apply to customers for up to one year from April 16, 2020.

Other Actions by Searles

Searles has activated its CEMA – COVID-19 in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Searles customer service representatives shall work with customers who contact Searles and advise that, due to COVID-19, they are having difficulty paying their bills.

Searles

EMERGENCY CUSTOMER PROTECTIONS

Searles' Emergency Customer Protections provide protections for customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Searles shall:

1. Suspend disconnections of water service for delinquent accounts.

SEARLES DOMESTIC WATER COMPANY

P.O. Box 577, Trona CA 93592, 760-372-5326, schuylea@svminerals.com

2. Work cooperatively with affected customers to resolve unpaid bills and minimize disconnections for non-payment.
3. Waive reconnection or facilities fees for affected customers and suspend deposits for affected customers who must reconnect to the system.
4. Provide reasonable payment options to affected customers.

To learn more about Utility's Emergency Customer Protections, please contact Customer Service at 760-372-5326.

TIER DESIGNATION AND REQUESTED EFFECTIVE DATE

This is a Tier 1 Advice Letter pursuant to General Order 96-B and Water Industry Rule 7.3.1(3) (Compliance with mandatory statute, decision, or resolution).¹ This Advice Letter shall be effective June 18, 2021.

NOTICE

As this Advice Letter is for compliance with Director Shia's June 16, 2021 letter, no additional notice to customers is required.

This Advice Letter filing will not cause the withdrawal of service, nor conflict with other schedules or rules.

RESPONSE OR PROTEST²

Anyone may respond to or protest this AL. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the Commission in evaluating the AL. A protest objects to the AL in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based. These grounds are:

1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the AL;
2. The relief requested in the AL would violate statute or Commission order, or is not authorized by statute or Commission order on which the utility relies;
3. The analysis, calculations, or data in the AL contain material error or omissions;
4. The relief requested in the AL is pending before the Commission in a formal proceeding;
or
5. The relief requested in the AL requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the AL process; or

¹ GO. 96-B, Water Industry Rule 7.3.1

² GO. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.1

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6. The relief requested in the AL is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory, provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the Commission.

A protest may not rely on policy objections to an AL where the relief requested in the AL follows rules or directions established by statute or Commission order applicable to the utility.

A protest shall provide citations or proofs where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. DWA must receive a response or protest via email (**or** postal mail) within 20 days of the date the AL is filed. The addresses for submitting a response or protest are:

Email Address:

Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

Mailing Address:

California Public Utilities Commission
Water Division, 3rd Floor
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

On the same day the response or protest is submitted to DWA, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy of the protest to Audrey Schuyley at: Searles Domestic Water Company

Email Address:

schuylea@svminerals.com

Mailing Address:

Searles Domestic Water Company
P.O. Box 577
Trona, CA 93592

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform DWA, within the 20-day protest period, so that a late filed protest can be entertained. The informing document should include an estimate of the date the proposed protest might be voted on.

REPLIES

The utility shall reply to each protest and may reply to any response. Any reply must be received by DWA within five business days after the end of the protest period, and shall be served on the same day on each person who filed the protest or response to the AL.³

³ GO. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.3

SEARLES DOMESTIC WATER COMPANY

P.O. Box 577, Trona CA 93592, 760-372-5326, schuylea@svminerals.com

SERVICE LIST

- Recipient 1 Indian Wells Valley Water District
Attn: Ty Staheli
P.O. Box 1329
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
iwvwd@iwvwd.com
- Recipient 2 Paul Cook
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 5th Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110
supervisorcook@SBCounty.gov
- Recipient 3 Corporal Brian Woytovich
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office
Trona Substation
bwoytovich@sbcasd.org

I hereby certify that the above service list has been served a copy of AL 71-W on June 21, 2021.

Executed in Santa Paula, California on the June 21, 2021.

Searles Domestic Water Company

By: /s/Frank Brommenschenkel
Audrey Schuyler
Manager

Enclosures