
September 29, 2021

**ADVICE 127-W
(U 338-W)**

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER DIVISION

SUBJECT: Expiration of Emergency Customer Protections in Southern California Edison Company's Catalina Water Utility

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) hereby submits to the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) the following changes to its tariffs. The revised tariff sheets are listed on Attachment A and are attached hereto.

PURPOSE

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21 and the Water Division's June 16, 2021 Letter to Water and Sewer Utilities (Water Division's Letter), SCE submits this advice letter to modify its tariffs to reflect the expiration of certain emergency customer protections for water customers on Catalina Island experiencing a financial crisis due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) implemented in Advice Letter (Advice) 118-W.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a Statewide emergency due to an outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by COVID-19. In response to the March 4, 2020 Statewide emergency, SCE implemented the following four emergency consumer protections. SCE:

- (1) Suspended disconnections for nonpayment,
- (2) Waived deposit requirements for reestablishment of credit,
- (3) Implemented flexible payment plan options, and
- (4) Froze all California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE)¹ eligibility reviews.

These four protections were to remain in place until further notice from the governor or legislature.

¹ On August 27, 2020, the Commission ordered water utilities to refer to their respective low income water assistance programs as Customer Assistance Programs (CAP).

On April 1, 2020 SCE submitted Advice 118-W, implementing its emergency disaster relief program to protect Catalina water customers experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Ordering Paragraph (OP) 9 of Decision (D.)19-07-015 and the Executive Director's March 17, 2020 letter to water companies. The four emergency customer protections listed above were to remain in effect until March 4, 2021, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. Additionally, SCE modified its tariffs to address the emergency customer protections provided in Advice 118-W.

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, ordering that certain provisions from prior Executive Orders relating to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in effect through September 30, 2021, upon which time they will expire. On June 16, 2021, Water Division issued a letter to Class A, B, C, and D water and sewer utilities, ordering them to submit a Tier 1 Advice Letter extending the emergency customer protections pursuant to Resolution M-4849 or the Executive Director's March 17, 2020 letter to water companies through September 30, 2021.

On September 24, 2021, the state legislature chaptered Senate Bill (SB) 155, which extended the prohibition on discontinuing water service for nonpayment of past-due bills. This COVID-19 emergency customer protection is extended to December 31, 2021. SB 155 did not extend the other three emergency customer protections relating to deposits for reestablishment of credit, payment plans, and CARE eligibility reviews, and thus, pursuant to Executive Order N-08-21, these three protections expire on September 30, 2021.

Emergency Customer Protections Expiring September 30, 2021

Through this advice letter, SCE modifies its tariffs to reflect the discontinuance of the three emergency customer protections relating to deposits for reestablishment of credit, payment plans, and CARE eligibility reviews since they expire on September 30, 2021 per Executive Order N-08-021. If these emergency customer protections are extended or reinstated, SCE will subsequently submit an advice letter to reflect the changes.

Pursuant to SB 155, the emergency customer protection regarding the suspension of disconnection for nonpayment remains in effect until December 31, 2021.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES

SCE's Water Rule 6, Establishment and Reestablishment of Credit, Section B, is modified as indicated in Attachment A.

No cost information is required for this advice letter.

This advice letter will not increase any rate or charge, withdraw service, or conflict with

any other schedule, or rule.

TIER DESIGNATION

Pursuant to General Order 96-B, Water Industry Rule 7.3.1(3), this advice letter is submitted with a Tier 1 designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This advice letter will become effective on October 1, 2021.

NOTICE

Anyone wishing to protest this advice letter may do so by letter via U.S. Mail, facsimile, or electronically, any of which must be received no later than 20 days after the date of this advice letter. Protests should be submitted to:

Director, Water Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
E-mail: water_division@cpuc.ca.gov
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

In addition, protests and all other correspondence regarding this advice letter should also be sent by letter and transmitted via facsimile or electronically to the attention of:

Shinjini C. Menon
Managing Director, State Regulatory Operations
Southern California Edison Company
8631 Rush Street
Rosemead, California 91770
Facsimile: (626) 302-3377
Telephone: (626) 302-9645
E-mail: AdviceTariffManager@sce.com

Tara S. Kaushik
Managing Director, Regulatory Relations
c/o Karyn Gansecki
Southern California Edison Company
601 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 2030
San Francisco, California 94102
Facsimile: (415) 929-5544
E-mail: Karyn.Gansecki@sce.com

There are no restrictions on who may submit a protest, but the protest shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which it is based and must be received by the deadline shown above.

SCE is serving copies of this advice letter to the service list for interested parties shown on the attached GO 96-B service list in accordance with Water Industry Rule 4.1 of GO 96-B. Address change requests to the GO 96-B service list should be directed by electronic mail to AdviceTariffManager@sce.com or at (626) 302-3719. For changes to all other service lists, please contact the Commission's Process Office at (415) 703-2021 or by electronic mail at Process_Office@cpuc.ca.gov.

Further, in accordance with Public Utilities Code Section 491, notice to the public is hereby given by submitting and keeping the advice letter at SCE's corporate headquarters. To view other SCE advice letters submitted with the Commission, log on to SCE's web site at <https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/regulatory/advice-letters>.

For questions, please contact Cooper Cameron at (626) 302-3406 or by electronic mail at Cooper.Cameron@sce.com.

Southern California Edison Company

/s/ Shinjini C. Menon
Shinjini C. Menon

SCM:cc:cm
Enclosures

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

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Utility Name: Southern CA Edison

Date Mailed to Service List: September 29, 2021

CPUC Utility #: WTC 338

Protest Deadline (20th Day): October 19, 2021

Advice Letter #: 127-W

Review Deadline (30th Day): October 29, 2021

Tier 1 2 3 Compliance

Requested Effective Date: October 1, 2021

Authorization

Rate Impact: \$

Description: Expiration of Emergency Customer Protections in Southern California Edison Company's Catalina Water Utility

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: Darrah Morgan

Utility Contact 2: Jeanette Melgar

Phone: (626) 302-2086

Phone 2: (626) 302-4039

Email: advicetariffmanager@sce.com

Email 2: advicetariffmanager@sce.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: _____

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

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Rule 6

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APPROVED

WITHDRAWN

REJECTED

Signature: _____

Comments: _____

Date: _____

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Revised 1307-W	Table of Contents	Revised 1182-W

Rule 6

Sheet 1

ESTABLISHMENT AND REESTABLISHMENT OF CREDIT

A. **Establishment of Credit.** Each applicant, before receiving service, will be required to satisfactorily establish his credit, which will be deemed established:

1. If applicant is the owner of the premises to be served or of other real estate within the territory served by SCE; or
2. If applicant makes a cash deposit to secure payment of bills for the service as prescribed in Rule 7, the applicant may enroll in Direct Pay in lieu of a cash deposit. Per D.10-07-048, Direct Pay will be offered to Residential Service customers in lieu of paying a cash deposit beginning October 1, 2010, and will be effective until December 31, 2013, or until the Commission authorizes SCE to discontinue the practice, per D.12-03-054; or
3. If applicant furnishes a guarantor, satisfactory to SCE, to secure payment of bills for the service requested; or
4. If applicant has been a customer of SCE and during the last twelve consecutive months of that prior service has had not more than two past due bills as prescribed in Rule 11-A.

B. **Reestablishment of Credit.**

1. An applicant who previously has been a customer of SCE and whose water service has been discontinued by SCE during the last twelve months of that prior service because of nonpayment of bills, may be required to reestablish credit by depositing the amount prescribed in Rule 7 for that purpose, and by paying water bills regularly due; except an applicant for domestic service will not be denied service for failure to pay such bills for other classes of service. (D)
2. Customers receiving Non-CARE Residential Service and who are requesting reestablishment of credit after having their service disconnected because of nonpayment of bills or Summary Bill(s) regularly due, may enroll in Direct Pay in lieu of a cash deposit as prescribed in Rule 7. Per D.10-07-048, Direct Pay will be offered to Non-CARE Residential Service customers in lieu of a cash deposit beginning October 1, 2010, and will be effective until December 31, 2013, or until the Commission authorizes SCE to discontinue the practice, per D.12-03-054.
3. A customer who fails to pay bills before they become past due as prescribed in Rule 11-A, and who further fails to pay such bills within 5 days after presentation of a discontinuance of nondomestic service notice for nonpayment of bills, may be required to pay said bills and reestablish his credit by depositing the amount prescribed in Rule 7. This rule will apply regardless of whether or not service has been discontinued for such nonpayment.

(Continued)

(To be inserted by utility)

Advice 127-W
Decision 19-07-015

Issued by
Michael Backstrom
Vice President

(To be inserted by Cal. PUC)

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Southern California Edison
Rosemead, California

Revised Cal. PUC Sheet No. 1306-W
Cancelling Revised Cal. PUC Sheet No. 1281-W

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