

May 6, 2024

ADVICE 143-W
(U 338-W)

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER DIVISION

SUBJECT: Adjustment of Existing Income Limitations for California
Alternate Rates for Energy

In compliance with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Energy Division's notice dated April 15, 2024 (Notice), and pursuant to Resolution E-3524, and Decision (D.) 12-08-044, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) hereby submits the following revised tariff sheets which are listed on Attachment A and are attached hereto.

PURPOSE

This advice letter revises Schedule W-1-R-CARE, *Santa Catalina Island California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Domestic Water Service*, to reflect that the household annual income limitations applicable to the CARE program for 2024-2025 will increase in compliance with the Notice, which requests utilities to submit revised tariffs reflecting the revised income guidelines effective June 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Commission authorized the Low Income Ratepayer Assistance (LIRA) program by D.89-07-062, which became effective September 1989. SCE's electric Schedule D-LI, Low Income Rate – Domestic Service, became effective pursuant to D.89-09-044 on November 1, 1989. The program name was changed from LIRA to California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) effective January 1, 1995, in accordance with Senate Bill 491. Accordingly, SCE's electric rate schedule was renamed to Schedule D-CARE.

In compliance with Resolution W-4665, SCE established Schedule W-1-CARE, which provides Santa Catalina Island (Catalina) low-income domestic water customers with a CARE discount.¹ Catalina customers who qualify for the CARE program for electric and/or gas service are enrolled automatically in the CARE program for water service. A

¹ Advice 63-W established Schedule W-1-CARE. Advice 94-W renamed the schedule as W-1-R-CARE in compliance with D.14-10-048.

CARE application would be required for participation and recertification in the CARE program unless the customer has completed an approved CARE application for electric and/or gas service and is currently receiving the electric CARE discount or service under gas Schedule G-1-CARE. In accordance with Decision 23-12-007, low-income water customers on Catalina receive a 32.5 percent discount from water service rates under Schedule W-1-CARE.²

Household income limitations are used to determine whether a person or household qualifies for discounts provided under CARE schedules. In addition, pursuant to D.12-08-044's Categorical Eligibility and Enrollment Program, in lieu of providing income documentation, CARE customers who have been income-verified by a qualifying eligible low-income program may submit proof of enrollment in an approved categorical eligibility program and qualify for CARE.

The Commission, in Resolution E-3524, directed the Energy Division to communicate new eligibility income levels to the utilities on May 1 of each year.³ The Commission further required the Energy Division to direct the utilities to file revised tariffs, effective June 1 of each year, reflecting the new income levels. D.12-08-044 moved the annual income letter release from May 1 to April 1 each year, to allow continued ease of access for enrolling into the CARE program. In addition, D.12-08-044, Ordering Paragraph (OP) 88(b)(ii) directs the Energy Division to include an approved updated list of categorical programs along with this updated annual income letter.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 annual income update, the Federal Poverty Guideline values and corresponding household size were used to determine and update the annual CARE income limits. The Energy Division's Notice updates the 2024-2025 income limits in compliance with PUC Section 739.1(a).

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES

This advice letter updates Schedule W-1-R-CARE by incorporating the new income levels and effective date of June 1, 2024, provided by the Energy Division. Additionally, as stated within the corresponding advice letter submitted to the Energy Division, the CARE program application and recertification letters have undergone a design update to enhance the ease of applying, verifying, and recertifying for the CARE program.

Further, these CARE application revisions ensure consistency among related forms and clarity regarding program terms and conditions.⁴ Reference to the Arrearage

² See Advice 140-W dated February 5, 2024.

³ For 2024, the Letter was provided April 15, 2024, and utilities are requested to submit revised tariffs by May 7, 2024.

⁴ Although this advice letter is a compliance advice letter, SCE is including additional changes and modifications stemming from general enhancements or other Commission decisions to the CARE application since SCE only prints the CARE application periodically and in large quantities.

Management Plan (AMP) program has been included⁵ and offers a debt forgiveness payment plan alternative to eligible electric participants.⁶ Reference has been made as well to the California Lifeline program to bring awareness to customers about a state program providing discounted home or cellular phone services to eligible participants. A QR code has also been included for ease and convenience. Customers will be able to scan the QR code and apply for CARE.

No cost information is required for this advice letter.

This advice letter will not increase any rate or charge, cause the withdrawal of service, or conflict with any other schedule or rule.

TIER DESIGNATION

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

EFFECTIVE DATE

In accordance with the Energy Division's Notice and Resolution E-3524, SCE requests that this advice letter become effective on June 1, 2024.

NOTICE

Anyone wishing to protest this advice letter may do so only electronically. Protests must be received no later than 20 days after the date of this advice letter. Protests should be submitted to the CPUC Energy Division at:

E-mail: water_division@cpuc.ca.gov

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

Connor Flanigan
Managing Director, State Regulatory Operations
Southern California Edison Company
E-mail: AdviceTariffManager@sce.com

Adam Smith
Director, State Regulatory Relations
Southern California Edison Company
c/o Karyn Gansecki
E-mail: Karyn.Gansecki@sce.com

⁵ See Decision 20-06-003, Ordering Paragraphs 54 and 60.

⁶ See Decision 89-07-062.

There are no restrictions on who may file 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.

In accordance with General Rule 4 of GO 96-B, SCE is serving copies of this advice letter to the Water GO 96-B service list. Address change requests to the GO 96-B service list should be directed by electronic mail to AdviceTariffManager@sce.com or at (626) 302-4747. 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.

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 Robert Rojas at (626) 302-0274 or by electronic mail at Robert.1.Rojas@sce.com.

Southern California Edison Company

/s/ Connor Flanigan
Connor Flanigan

CF:rr/jb:bvs
Enclosures

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

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Utility Name: Southern CA Edison

Date Mailed to Service List: May 06, 2024

CPUC Utility #: WTC 338

Protest Deadline (20th Day): May 26, 2024

Advice Letter #: 143-W

Review Deadline (30th Day): Jun. 05, 2024

Tier 1 2 3 Compliance

Requested Effective Date: Jun. 01, 2024

Authorization

Rate Impact: \$

Description: Adjustment of Existing Income
Limitations for California Alternate Rates
for Energy

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: Brent Valencia Santos

Phone: (626) 302-2086

Phone 2: (626) 302-4747

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

Revised 1497-W

Revised 1498-W

Revised 1499-W

APPROVED

WITHDRAWN

REJECTED

Signature: _____

Comments: _____

Date: _____

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 1497-W	Schedules W-1-R-CARE	Revised 1436-W
Revised 1498-W	Table of Contents	Revised 1486-W
Revised 1499-W	Table of Contents	Revised 1474-W

Schedule W-1-R-CARE Sheet 2
SANTA CATALINA ISLAND CALIFORNIA ALTERNATE RATES FOR ENERGY (CARE)
RESIDENTIAL WATER SERVICE

(Continued)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Residential service is the provision of water for domestic use at a dwelling premises, including water used on the premises for sprinkling of lawns; gardens and shrubbery; washing vehicles; and other similar and customary purposes pertaining to single or multifamily dwellings.
2. CARE Household: A CARE Household is a household where the total gross income from all sources is less than shown on the table below based on the number of persons in the household. Total gross income shall include income from all sources, both taxable and nontaxable. Persons who are claimed as a dependent on another person's income tax return are not eligible. These income limits are effective as of June 1, 2024. (T)

<u>No. of Persons In Household</u>	<u>Total Gross Annual Income</u>	
1-2	\$40,880	(I)
3	\$51,640	
4	\$62,400	
5	\$73,160	
6	\$83,920	
7	\$94,680	
8	\$105,440	

For Households with more than eight persons, add \$10,760 annually for each additional person. (I)

3. Application and Eligibility Declaration: An application and eligibility declaration on a form authorized by the Commission is required for each request for service under this Schedule unless the Customer has completed an approved electric or gas service application for CARE. If a customer qualifies for CARE as an electric or gas service customer they are also eligible for Schedule W-1-R-CARE. Renewal of a customer's eligibility declaration will be required every two years and may be required on an annual basis. Customers are only eligible to receive service under this rate at one residential location at any one time and the rate applies only to a customer's permanent primary residence. This Schedule is not applicable where, in the opinion of SCE, either the accommodation or occupancy is transient.
4. Commencement of Rate: Eligible customer shall be billed on this Schedule commencing no later than one billing period after receipt and approval of the customer's application by SCE.
5. Verification: Information provided by the applicant is subject to verification by SCE. Refusal or failure of a customer to provide documentation of eligibility acceptable to SCE, upon request by SCE, shall result in removal from this Schedule.

(Continued)

(To be inserted by utility)
Advice 143-W
Decision 12-08-044

Issued by
Michael Backstrom
Vice President

(To be inserted by Cal. PUC)
Date Filed May 6, 2024
Effective _____
Resolution E-3524



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(To be inserted by utility)
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RATE SCHEDULES

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(Continued)

(To be inserted by utility)

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