

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

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Utility Name: Meyers Water Company, Inc.

Date Mailed to Service List: Oct. 30, 2020

CPUC Utility #: WTD 106

Protest Deadline (20th Day): Nov. 20, 2020

Advice Letter #: 30-W

Review Deadline (30th Day): Nov. 30, 2020

Tier 1 2 3 Compliance

Requested Effective Date: Oct. 30, 2020

Authorization GO 96-B

Rate Impact: \$0
 0%

Description: Establish a monthly surcharge to amortize the Purchased Water Balancing Account of \$7,115.73 and Water Quality Balancing Account of \$3,343.50

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: Juell Fullner

Utility Contact 2:

Phone: (707) 254-9547

Phone 2:

Email: meyerswater@gmail.com

Email 2:

DWA Contact: Tariff Unit

Phone: (415) 703-1133

Email: Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

DWA USE ONLY

DATE

STAFF

COMMENTS

October 30, 2020

Advice Letter No. 30-W

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Meyers Water Company (MEYERS) hereby transmits for filing one original and one copy of this advice letter (AL) and the following tariff sheets which are enclosed:

<u>NEW SHEET #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CANCELLING SHEET #</u>
257-W	Schedule No. 1A, General Metered Service	253-W
258-W	Schedule No. 2R, Residential Flat Rate Service	254-W
259-W	Table of Contents	256-W

REQUEST

By AL #30-W, MEYERS requests authority to amortize the balances recorded in its Purchase Water Balancing Account (PWBA) and Water Quality Balancing Account (WQBA).

The PWBA has a total balance of \$7,115.73 as of October 15, 2020. This amount is equal to 7.56% of adopted gross annual revenues of the most recent general rate case, test year 2016, Resolution W-5093, April 21, 2016. The utility requests a surcharge of \$6.24 for each connection every month for 12 months to amortize the PWBA balance.

The WQBA has a total balance of \$3,343.50 as of October 15, 2020. This amount is equal to 3.54% of adopted gross annual revenues of the most recent general rate case,

test year 2016, Resolution W-5093, April 21, 2016. The utility requests a surcharge of \$2.93 for each connection every month for 12 months to amortize the WQBA balance.

BACKGROUND

MEYERS serves 95 active connections at Edgerly Island Subdivision in Napa County. MEYERS has relied on a single well as its only source of water for the past 70 years. This well recently began to show signs of imminent failure and it was determined at the end of 2019 that drilling a new well would be necessary. MEYERS started this project in August 2020. It drilled the new replacement well near the existing well in order to keep it on the same property. The new well tapped into an aquifer, or many aquifers, containing salty water. Unfortunately, one cannot predict the quality of the water from a new well, even when it is so close to an existing well. After the initial drilling, the salty water was forced upward by the airlift process used to develop the new well. This caused water from the salty well to rise rapidly through the casing and mix with upper water strata through the perforated casing sections. The disastrous result was a spike in salinity in the existing well's aquifer and possible contamination by unknown constituents.

On September 8, 2020 MEYERS issued a "Do Not Drink" order and was forced to take the existing well (and only source) offline. The driller is now trucking in up to 9,000 gallons of water per day and we are purchasing the other 10,000 gallons (five truckloads) from a potable water company at the cost of \$875 per day. We only have 20,000 gallons of storage capacity and therefore need to space out our water deliveries. We occasionally have periods of low water pressure while we are waiting for a water delivery. This, and the five days of unintentional and progressively saltier water, frustrated many customers and has caused some to stop paying their flat rate bill of \$167.99. Due to Covid-19 consumer protections, we cannot disconnect anyone's water for lack of payment.

Our regular monthly overhead expenses, including all payroll, rent, regular testing, chlorine, power, and loan payment is \$7,875.11; this does not include any of the extra testing or trucked in water expenses that are associated with our current water emergency. The theoretical income (if everyone were to pay their bill) is \$7,843.00 per month. The monthly cost to purchase five truckloads of water per day is \$26,250. Furthermore, if for some reason our driller stops delivering water to us, the monthly cost would go up to \$36,750 or more.

These are staggering numbers for a small, Class D water utility with \$94,126 in yearly revenue to absorb, particularly when we have no recourse to force customers to pay their bills.

Currently, our best plan for moving forward is to continue to truck in water while we strive to find either another well drilling site at an adjoining parcel, or possibly rehabilitate an existing spring on a nearby county-owned property. This project would require testing, new equipment, and well sealing. There is also the potential of bringing our old well back online. We pumped the old well to waste for over a week to clear out the salty water and plan to retest for specific contaminants soon. However, it can take 2-3 weeks to receive results. Bringing the old well back online may not be feasible if it is contaminated with something truly awful and all these options will be expensive. The solution that we will strive for in the long run is to have two sources, because this extraordinary situation has shown that we cannot rely on one source. This has become a massive, fluid project with many parts and parties working together.

Invoices for the bottled water delivery and water testing invoices are attached. The PWBA and WQBA tracking workpapers are also attached. The balance of the PWBA is \$ 7,115.73 as of October 15, 2020. The balance of the WQBA is \$ 3,343.50 as of October 15, 2020.

TIER DESIGNATION AND REQUESTED EFFECTIVE DATE

These tariffs are submitted pursuant to General Order (GO.) 96-B and this advice letter is designated as a Tier 1 filing.¹ This advice letter and the enclosed tariff sheets will become effective upon filing with the Water Division (WD).

NOTICE

In compliance with Section 4.3 of GO. 96-B, a copy of this advice letter has been served to all parties listed on the enclosed service list.²

This filing will not cause withdrawal of service nor conflict with any other schedule or rule.

RESPONSE OR PROTEST³

Anyone may respond to or protest this advice letter. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the Commission in evaluating the advice letter. A protest objects to the advice letter 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 advice letter;
2. The relief requested in the advice letter 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 advice letter contain material error or omissions;

¹ GO. 96-B, Water Industry Rule 7.3.1

² GO. 96-B, Water Industry Rule 4.2

³ GO. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.1



1830 Milton Road, Napa CA 94559

4. The relief requested in the advice letter is pending before the Commission in a formal proceeding; or
5. The relief requested in the advice letter requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the advice letter process; or
6. The relief requested in the advice letter 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 shall provide citations or proofs where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. A response or protest must be made in writing or by electronic mail and must be received by WD within 20 days of the date this advice letter is filed. The addresses for submitting a response or protest are:

Mailing Address:

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

Email Address:

Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

On the same day the response or protest is submitted to WD, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy of the protest to MEYERS at:

Mailing Address:

MEYERS Water Company, Inc.
Attn: Juell Fullner
1830 Milton Road
Napa, CA 94559

Email Address:

meyerswater@gmail.com

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. Each reply must be received by WD within five business days after the end of the protest period and shall be served on the same day to the person who filed the protest or response.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the service list from Advice Letter #30-W has been served a copy of this AL on October 30, 2020.

Executed in Napa, California on October 30, 2020

MEYERS Water Company, Inc.

By: _____
Juell Fullner
Secretary

Enclosures

SCHEDULE NO. 1

(C)

GENERAL METERED SERVICE

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all metered water service.

TERRITORY

Edgerly Island Subdivision, located approximately 10 miles south of the city of Napa, in Napa County

RATES

Quantity Rate:

For all water, per 100 cu. ft. \$0.97

Service Charges:

Per Meter Per Month

For 5/8 x 3/4- inch meter	\$ 76.84
For 3/4-inch meter	\$ 115.26
For 1 –inch meter	\$ 192.10
For 1-1/2-inch meter	\$ 384.19
For 3 -inch meter	\$ 1,152.56
For 4 -inch meter	\$ 1,920.94
For 6 -inch meter	\$ 3,841.88

The service charge is a readiness-to-serve charge which is applicable to all metered service and to which is added the charge for water used computed at the Quantity Rates billed monthly.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. All bills are subject to the reimbursement fee set forth in Schedule No. UF.
2. A late charge will be imposed per Schedule No. LC.
3. A \$6.24 monthly surcharge shall be applied to each customer's water bill to amortize the Purchased Water Balancing Account for twelve (12) months or until \$7,115.73 have been collected. The surcharge shall be separately identified on each bill. (N)
4. A \$2.93 monthly surcharge shall be applied to each customer's water bill to amortize the Water Quality Balancing Account for twelve (12) months or until \$3,343.50 have been collected. The surcharge shall be separately identified on each bill. (N)

(To be inserted by utility)

Issued By

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

Advice Letter No. 30-W

Jay Gardner

Date Filed _____

Decision No. GO 96-B

President

Effective _____

Resolution No. _____

SCHEDULE NO. 2R
RESIDENTIAL FLAT RATE SERVICE

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all flat rate residential water service.

TERRITORY

Edgerly Island Subdivision, located approximately 10 miles south of the city of Napa, in Napa County

RATES

Per Service Connection
Per Month

For a single-family residential unit ,
including premises not exceeding 10,000
sq. ft. in area \$84.80

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. The above flat rate service applies to service connected not longer than one inch in diameter.
2. All bills are subject to the reimbursement fee set forth in Schedule No. UF.
3. A \$6.24 monthly surcharge shall be applied to each customer's water bill to amortize the Purchased Water Balancing Account for twelve (12) months or until \$7,115.73 have been collected. The surcharge shall be separately identified each bill.
4. A \$2.93 monthly surcharge shall be applied to each customer's water bill to amortize the Water Quality Balancing Account for twelve (12) months or until \$3,343.50 have been collected. The surcharge shall be separately identified on each bill.

(N)
|
(N)

(To be inserted by utility)

Issued By

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

Advice Letter No. 30-W

Jay Gardner

Date Filed _____

Decision No. GO 96-B

President

Effective _____

Resolution No. _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The following listed tariff sheets contain all effective rates and rules affecting the charges and services of the utility, together with other pertinent information.

<u>SUBJECT MATTER OF SHEET</u>	<u>P.U.C. SHEET NO.</u>
Title Page	21-W
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Schedule No. LC – Late Payment Charge	189-W
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Rules:	
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No. 8 – Notices	171-W, 172-W
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No. 19 – Service to Separate Premises & Multiple Units and Resale of Water	106-W, 107-W
No. 20 – Water Conservation	208-W
No. 21 – Fire Protection	209-W

(To be inserted by utility)

Issued By

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

Advice Letter No. 30-W

Jay Gardner

Date Filed _____

Decision No. GO 96-B

President

Effective _____

Resolution No. _____

**MEYERS WATER COMPANY, INC.
1830 MILTON ROAD
NAPA, CA 94559**

**Meyers Water Company, Inc.
Advice Letter No. 30
Service List
(AS PER SECTION 4.3 OF GENERAL ORDER No. 96-B)**

Via First Class United States Mail
Stacey Harrington
Napa County Department of Planning, Building, and Environmental Services
1195 Third Street, Room 210
Napa, CA 94559

Via First Class United States Mail
Charles Jeremias, President
Milton Road Water Company
1440 Milton Road
Napa, CA 94559