ADVICE 78-W
(U 338-W)

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER DIVISION

SUBJECT: Suspension of Service Charges for Dedicated Water Service for Private Fire Protection Systems

PURPOSE

This informational advice letter provides notice of Southern California Edison Company’s (SCE) suspension of monthly service charges for dedicated water service for private fire protection systems effective June 9, 2010. The suspension is in anticipation of the settlement of pending litigation and the charges are subject to possible reinstatement if the conditions to the settlement are not satisfied. In addition, SCE intends to seek California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approval to reinstate fire protection charges in connection with a future water rate case filing or pursuant to another advice filing.

BACKGROUND

All water provided by SCE on Santa Catalina Island (Catalina) is fresh water. SCE provides water service for customers’ private fire protection systems (“dedicated fire protection service”) on Catalina through certain piping and other infrastructure in a manner that does not affect the integrity of Catalina’s drinking water system. SCE’s Rule 17.A.1.c provides that "[a]ll water sold by the Utility will be upon the basis of metered volume sales except that the Utility may at its option provide flat rate or estimated service for . . . Public and private fire protection." Rule 17 has contained the same or similar language since November 21, 1962. SCE’s Rule 21.A., effective November 9, 2008, provides that “[f]ire protection service will be furnished by SCE only at the rates and under the conditions set forth in an appropriate rate schedule for the service filed as a part of these tariff schedules, except as such service may be supplemented or amplified by more detailed contractual arrangements after
authorization therefore has first been obtained from the California Public Utilities Commission."

SCE charges customers a monthly service charge for dedicated fire protection service. Dedicated fire protection service connections may or may not have meters on the service connection. Any meters placed on dedicated fire protection service connections are not intended to be used to measure the quantity of water delivered and do not necessarily correspond in size to the pipeline size. The meters are used to detect water flow so that SCE can verify that water is used only for fire suppression purposes. The service charge SCE has historically applied for dedicated fire protection service on Catalina is the “Service Charge” identified in Schedule W-1 for the meter corresponding to the service connection size. For example, the Service Charge for a four-inch diameter pipeline used for fire protection service would be the Service Charge identified in Schedule W-1 for a four-inch meter.

**SUSPENSION**

SCE has been applying the Schedule W-1 Service Charge to dedicated fire protection service for over 32 years. However, recently customers have questioned whether Schedule W-1 rates should be applied to dedicated fire protection service, and a class action lawsuit is pending concerning the sufficiency of SCE’s tariffs to authorize such charges (*Martin Curtin, et al. v. Southern California Edison Company, et al.* Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC417712. As part of the anticipated settlement of this case, SCE is hereby informing the Commission that it is suspending imposition of monthly service charges for dedicated fire protection service until SCE obtains Commission approval of a tariff schedule that expressly sets forth rates for fire protection service. SCE proposes to submit such a rate schedule by advice letter or as part of a future rate case filing.

This advice filing 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, this advice letter is submitted with a Tier 1 designation.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This advice filing will become effective upon filing.

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 6.2 of GO 96-B, this filing is information-only and does not seek relief; therefore, it is not subject to protests.
Correspondence regarding this advice letter should be sent by letter and transmitted via facsimile or electronically to the attention of:

Akbar Jazayeri  
Vice President of Regulatory Operations  
Southern California Edison Company  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Rosemead, California 91770  
Facsimile: (626) 302-4829  
E-mail: AdviceTariffManager@sce.com

Bruce Foster  
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs  
c/o Karyn Gansecki  
Southern California Edison Company  
601 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 2040  
San Francisco, California 94102  
Facsimile: (415) 929-5540  
E-mail: Karyn.Gansecki@sce.com

In accordance with Section 6.1 of GO 96-B, information-only filings need not be served, except as otherwise required by statute or Commission order. However, SCE is serving copies of this advice filing to the interested parties shown on the attached 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) 302-2930. 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 filing and keeping the advice filing at SCE’s corporate headquarters. To view other SCE advice letters filed with the Commission, log on to SCE’s web site at http://www.sce.com/AboutSCE/Regulatory/adviceletters/.

For questions, please contact Lisa Vellanoweth at (626) 302-2021 or by electronic mail at Lisa.Vellanoweth@sce.com.

Southern California Edison Company

Akbar Jazayeri
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DIVISION OF WATER AND AUDITS
Advice Letter Cover Sheet

AL #
78-W
Date Mailed to Service List:
6/9/10
Requested Effective Date:
6/9/10
Requested Tier:
☒ Tier 1 ☐ Tier 2 ☐ Tier 3
Replacing AL#:
Authorization for Filing:
GO 96-B, General Rule 6.1
Compliance Filing?
☐ Yes ☒ No
Rate Impact $ %
Send Correspondence to:
Director
Division of Water and Audits
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
and if you have email capability, also email to:
water_division@cpuc.ca.gov
Your correspondence also must be served on
the Utility
(see attached advice letter for more information)
Company Name: Southern California Edison Company
Address: 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
City, State, Zip: Rosemead, CA 91770

Contact Name: Phone No. Fax No. Email Address:
Filer James Yee 626-302-2509 626-302-4829 advicetariffmanager@sce.com
Filer Susan Quon 626-302-2930 626-302-4829 susan.quon@sce.com

Description:
In this space or on the back of this form:
1. Explain justification for requested Tier: Information only filing and Water Industry Rule 7.3.1
2. Describe service affected and how it is affected: Suspends monthly service charges for dedicated water service for private fire protection systems
3. Describe differences from related Advice Letters (Similar service, replacement filing): N/A

(WTS Budget/Activity/Type)

(FOR CPUC USE ONLY)

Process as: ☑ Tier 1 ☐ Tier 2 ☐ Tier 3
20th Day 30th Day

Project Manager:

Analyst:

Due Date:
Completion Date:

Suspended on:
Extended on:
Resolution No.:
AL/Tariff Effective Date: