

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 28, 2024

Kiki Carlson
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Suburban Water Systems
1325 N. Grand Ave., Ste. 100
Covina, CA 91724-4044

Dear Ms. Carlson,

The Water Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has approved Suburban Water Systems' Advice Letter No. 401, filed on April 30, 2024, regarding lease-out of Central Basin water production rights, incompliance with D.21-10-024.

Enclosed is a copy of the advice letter with an effective date of April 30, 2024 for the utility's files.

Please contact Alison Pafford at APF@cpuc.ca.gov, if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Enclosures



1325 N. Grand Ave. Ste. 100, Covina, CA 91724-4044
Phone: 626.543.2500, Fax: 626.331.4848
www.swwc.com

VIA EMAIL

U-339-W

ADVICE LETTER NO. 401-W

April 30, 2024

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Suburban Water Systems (Suburban) submits this Tier 1 Advice Letter to inform the Commission that Suburban proposes to lease out 500.00 acre-feet of Central Basin water production rights to Orchard Dale Water District through June 30, 2024.

This information is provided to the Commission in compliance with Decision (D.) 21-10-024, Decision Approving and Adopting Settlement Agreement, Resolving Remainder of Disputed Issues and Authorizing Suburban Water Systems' General Rate Increases For 2021, 2022, and 2023 which adopted the settlement agreement.

Ordering Paragraph No. 2 of D.21-10-024 states:

The joint motion (filed on April 14, 2021) for adoption of the Settlement Agreement is granted, and the Settlement Agreement attached to this decision as Appendix A is approved and adopted.

Appendix A, Revised Settlement Agreement Between Suburban Water Systems and the Public Advocates Office, section J (Water Rights Leases), first bullet point states:

Suburban will file a Tier 1 Advice Letter with the Commission before leasing its water rights out to other entities.

A copy of the Water Right License and Agreement (Central Basin), and the signed agreement between Orchard Dale Water District and Suburban Water Systems have been included as Attachment B.

Tier Designation and Effective Date

This is a Tier 1 filing – the advice letter is a compliance advice letter. Suburban requests that the advice letter is effective on April 30, 2024.

In compliance with Water Industry Rule 4.3 of General Order 96-B, a copy of this advice letter has been mailed or electronically transmitted to all interested and affected parties as detailed in Attachment A.

Response or Protest

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 may be based upon the following:

- (1) The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the advice letter; or
- (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; or

- (3) The analysis, calculations, or data in the advice letter contain material error or omissions; or
- (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 re-litigating a prior order of the Commission).

A protest may not rely on policy objections to an Advice Letter (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
Division of Water and Audits, 3rd Floor
505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

On the same date any protest or response is submitted to the Water Division, the respondent or protestant must serve a copy of the protest or response to: Suburban Water Systems, Kiki Carlson, Regulatory Affairs Manager, 1325 N. Grand Ave., Suite 100, Covina, CA 91724-4044, and email kcarlson@swwc.com

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform the Water Division, 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 the Division of Water and Audits 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. If you have not received a reply to your protest within ten business days, contact Suburban Water Systems at (626) 543-2500.

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

Sincerely,

/s/Kiki Carlson

Kiki Carlson
Regulatory Affairs Manager

Enclosures

SUBURBAN WATER SYSTEMS
Distribution List

Attachment A

Page 1 of 3

Director Of Public Works
City of Whittier
13230 E. Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

City Clerk
City of West Covina
1444 W. Garvey Ave. South
West Covina, CA 91790

City Attorney
City of Whittier
13230 E. Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

City Clerk
City of La Mirada
P.O. Box 828
La Mirada, CA 90638

Michael Gualtieri
La Habra Heights County Water District
P.O. Box 628
La Habra, CA 90633-0628

City Attorney
City of Baldwin Park
14406 E. Pacific Ave.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

City Clerk
City of Industry
P.O. Box 3366
Industry, CA 91744

County Clerk
Orange County
10 Civic Center Plaza, 3rd. Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701

City Clerk
City of Covina
125 East College Blvd.
Covina, CA 91723

City Attorney
City of Covina
125 East College Blvd.
Covina, CA 91723

Director of Public Works
City of Buena Park
6650 Beach Blvd.
Buena Park, CA 90621

City of Santa Fe Springs
Department of Public Works
11710 E. Telegraph Road
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Bill Robinson
Upper San Gabriel Valley M.W.D.
1146 East Louisa Avenue
West Covina, CA 91790-1346

City Attorney
City of La Habra
P.O. Box 337
La Habra, CA 90633

City Attorney
City of West Covina
1444 West Garvey Ave. South
West Covina, CA 91790

City Clerk
City of Baldwin Park
14406 E. Pacific Ave.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

The Prinden Corporation
P.O. Box 712
Park Ridge, NJ 07656-0712

Orchard Dale County Water District
13819 East Telegraph Road
Whittier, CA 90604

SUBURBAN WATER SYSTEMS
Distribution List

City Attorney
City of La Mirada
P.O. Box 828
La Mirada, CA 90638

County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Hwy, Room 2001
Norwalk, CA 90650

County Counsel
Orange County
10 Civic Center Plaza, 3rd. Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701

City Clerk
City of La Puente
15900 East Main St.
La Puente, CA 91744

City Clerk
City of Glendora
116 East Foothill Blvd.
Glendora, CA 91741

City Attorney
City of Glendora
116 East Foothill Blvd.
Glendora, CA 91741

City Clerk
City of Walnut
P.O. Box 682
Walnut, CA 91788-0682

City Attorney
City of Walnut
P.O. Box 682
Walnut, CA 91788-0682

Jandy Macias, General Manager
Valley County Water District
JMacias@vcwd.org

Ed Jackson
Liberty Utilities
AdviceLetterService@LibertyUtilities.com

Audrey F. Jackson
Golden State Water Company
AFJackson@gswater.com

City Attorney
City of Industry
mvadon@bwslaw.com

Rowland Water District
gsanchez@rwd.org

Valencia Heights Water Co.
dmichalko@vhwc.org

California Domestic Water Company
lnoriega@caldomestic.com

Walnut Valley Water District
cflaming@wvwd.com

City Clerk
City of La Habra
cc@lahabraca.gov

California Advocates Office Water Branch
California Public Utilities Commission
PublicAdvocatesWater@cpuc.ca.gov

City of Azusa
Assistant Director - Water Operations
Jmacias@AzusaCa.Gov

City Clerk
City of La Puente
mtorres@lapuente.org

SUBURBAN WATER SYSTEMS
Distribution List

Page 3 of 3

Brett DeBie
Golf Course Superintendent
South Hills Country Club
2655 S. Citrus Street
West Covina, CA 91791
bdebie@southhillscountryclub.org

Jeff Boand
O'Donnell Chevrolet - Buick
1312 Golden Vista Drive
West Covina, CA 91791
jboand007@aol.com

Ronald Moore
Golden State Water Company
Regulatory Affairs Department
630 E. Foothill Blvd.
San Dimas, CA 91709
RKMoore@gswater.com

The Public Advocates Office California
Public Utilities Commission
Richard.Raushmeier@cpuc.ca.gov
Hani.Moussa@cpuc.ca.gov

City of Compton Water Department
205 W. Willowbrook
Compton, CA 90220
ccornwell@comptoncity.org

Los Angeles County Supervisor District 2
for Willowbrook and unincorporated LA
500 West Temple Street, Room 866
Los Angeles, CA 90012
HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov

WATER RIGHT LICENSE AND AGREEMENT

(Central Basin)

For a valuable consideration, Suburban Water Systems (Licensor) hereby grants to Orchard Dale Water District (Licensee): a license to extract 500 acre-feet of Licensor's Allowed Pumping Allocation allocated to Licensor (or predecessors in interest) under and pursuant to Judgment dated October 11, 1965, and entered in Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 786,656 entitled "Central and West Basin Water Replenishment District vs. Charles E. Adams, et al." during the period commencing July 1, 20 23 and continuing to and including June 30, 20 24.

Said License is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Licensee shall exercise said right and extract the same on behalf of Licensor during the period above specified and put the same to beneficial use and Licensee shall not by the exercise hereunder of said right acquire any right to extract water independent of the rights of Licensor.
2. Licensee shall pay assessments levied on the pumping of said ground waters by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (District).
3. Licensee shall notify the District that said pumping was done pursuant to this license and provide the District with a copy of this signed document.
4. Licensee shall note, in any recording of water production for the period of agreement that said pumping was done pursuant to this license.
5. Licensee's Allowed Pumping Allocation shall not, without flex (shall, with flex)(shall not, without flex) be increased by the amount hereby leased when computing carryover or allowable overextraction as provided by Part III, Subpart A and B in said Judgment.


Suburban Water Systems warrants that it has 500 acre-feet of Allowed Pumping Allocation and that it has not pumped and will not pump or permit or license any other person to pump any part of said 500 acre-feet during the period of July 1, 20 23 through June 30, 20 24.

This lease may signed by the parties by facsimile, electronic or digital signature, and such signature shall be deemed valid and binding on the party signing this lease in that manner.

Dated : 4/24/24

Licensor : Suburban Water Systems

Licensee : Orchard Dale Water District

Signed By : 

Signed By : 

Title : President

Title : General Manager

**AGREEMENT FOR LEASE OF ANNUAL
CENTRAL BASIN WATER PRODUCTION RIGHTS**

THIS AGREEMENT FOR LEASE OF ANNUAL WATER PRODUCTION RIGHTS ("Agreement") by and between Suburban Water Systems, Inc., a California corporation ("Lessor") and Orchard Dale Water District (Lessee). Lessor and Lessee are sometimes individually referred to herein as a "Party" and are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the "Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, both Lessor and Lessee are parties in that certain action that adjudicated groundwater rights in the Central and West Basin, pursuant to Judgment dated October 11, 1965, and entered in Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 786,656 entitled "*Central and West Basin Water Replenishment District vs. Charles E. Adams et al.*" during the period commencing July 1, 2023 and continuing to and including June 30, 2024 (the "Amended Judgment").

WHEREAS, Lessee desires to lease from Lessor, and Lessor desires to lease to Lessee, a minimum of 500 acre-feet per year of Lessor's Central Basin Allowed Pumping Allocation Production Rights in Fiscal Year 2023-24 (the "Lease Years"); and

NOW, THEREFORE, Lessor and Lessee agree to the terms and conditions set forth herein:

1. Water Rights Leased

A. Lessor hereby leases to Lessee, and Lessee hereby leases from Lessor, the right to extract 500 acre-feet per year of Lessor's Annual Production Right from the Central Basin in each of the Lease Years (Fiscal Year 2023-24), Lessee agrees to put all amounts of water extracted under this Agreement to reasonable and beneficial use.

B. For purposes of computing the Parties' respective carryover, assessments, and other rights and obligations under the Amended Judgment, Lessee's Annual Production Right under the Amended Judgment shall be increased, and Lessor's Annual Production Right under the Amended Judgment shall be decreased, by the quantity of Annual Production Right Leased per year for each of the Lease Years covered by this Agreement. Except for the rights expressly leased under this Agreement, Lessee shall not acquire any other current or future right, title or interest in any water rights held by Lessor under the Amended Judgment or otherwise held by Lessor now or in the future.

2. Term and Effective Date

A. The Term of this Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall remain and continue in effect until June 30, 2024, except as provided in Section 1.B above for purposes of computing the Parties' respective rights and obligations under the Amended Judgment.

B. The Effective Date of this Agreement shall be the date upon which an advice letter having been filed by Lessor with the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") notifying the CPUC of this lease is deemed approved. If the CPUC does not approve the advice letter, then this Agreement is void. If Lessor is unable to timely resolve any protests to the advice letter, Lessor may void this Agreement in Lessor's discretion.

3. Compliance with Rules and Regulations, and Other Procedures

- A. Lessee shall exercise said right and extract the same on behalf of Lessor during the period above specified and put the same to beneficial use and Lessee shall not by the exercise hereunder of said right acquire any right to extract water independent of the rights of the Lessor.
- B. Lessee shall notify the District and the Watermaster that said pumping was done pursuant to this Agreement and provide the Watermaster with a copy of this document.
- C. Lessee shall note, in any recording of water production for the period of Agreement that said pumping was done pursuant to this Agreement.
- D. Lessee's Allowed Pumping Allocation shall be increased by the amount hereby leased when computing carryover or allowable over extraction as provided by Part 111, Subpart A and B in said Amended Judgment.

4. Payment

A. Lessee shall pay to Lessor the sum of [REDACTED] (\$ [REDACTED]) for 500 acre-feet without flex, per year of Lessor's Annual Central Basin Production Right, for each of the Lease Years (Fiscal Year 2023-24), - at a rate of [REDACTED] (\$ [REDACTED]) per acre-foot (the "Payment"). The Payment by Lessee under this Agreement shall be paid within 30 days after the Central Basin Watermaster Administrative Body has approved and upon receipt of an invoice from Lessor.

5. Payment of Assessments

In addition to the payment set forth in Section 4 above, Lessee shall pay assessments levied on the pumping of said ground water by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

6. Water Quality

Lessor makes no warranties or representations, and assumes no liabilities, obligations or responsibilities of whatever nature to Lessee or any other person or entity with respect to the quality of any water extracted for any purpose by Lessee under this Agreement.

7. Indemnification

A. Lessee assumes the sole risk for the exercise of any and all rights conferred on it by this Agreement. Lessee agrees and does hereby indemnify, defend, save, and hold harmless Lessor, and its elected and appointed officials, officers, agents, employees, consultants and attorneys (collectively, "Indemnified Parties") as follows:

1. From and against any and all losses, damage, liability, actions, claims, costs, and expenses from damage, of any nature, including, but not limited to, bodily injury, occupational disease, death, person injury, property damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs (hereafter "Loss"), relating to or arising out of the exercise of any rights conferred hereunder on Lessee; provided, however, that Lessee's obligations under this Section 7 shall not apply to any Loss as defined herein arising out of or resulting in any manner from the negligent act or acts of any of the Indemnified Parties as defined herein; and

2. From and against any and all costs, expenses, or charges which may accrue to any persons furnishing or supplying work, services, materials, equipment or supplies to Lessee in connection with its performance of or rights under this Agreement.

B. In the event that Lessee or Lessor are sued by a third party for damages caused or allegedly caused by negligent or other wrongful conduct by Lessee or any of Lessee's elected or appointed officials, officers, agents, employees, consultants or attorneys, or by an alleged dangerous condition of property created by Lessee, Lessee shall not be relieved of its indemnity obligation to Lessor by any settlement with any such third party unless that settlement includes a full release and dismissal of all claims by the third party against the Indemnified Parties.

8. Breach and Termination

In the event of any material breach of this Agreement by either Party, the Party alleging the breach shall notify the other Party in writing of said breach, and the Party alleged to be in breach shall have thirty (30) days from its receipt of such written notice in which to cure said breach. If the alleged breach is not cured within the timeframe specified by this Section 8, the Party alleging breach shall be entitled to any and all remedies which may be available to it at law or in equity, including but not limited to termination or specific performance of this Agreement.

9. Notices

Any notice which either Party may give to the other Party under this Agreement must be in writing and may be given either by (A) personal service; (B) delivery by a reputable document delivery service, such as, but not limited to, Federal Express, which provides a receipt showing date and time of delivery; or (C) mailing in the United States Mail, certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the Party as set forth below or at such other address as the Party may later designate by the notice procedure herein provided or (D) electronic mail.

To Lessee: Orchard Dale Water District
Attention: Edward Castaneda, General Manager
13819 Telegraph Rd
Whittier, CA 90604
Tel. 562-941-0114
Email: ECastaneda@odwd.org

To Lessor: Suburban Water Systems
Attention: Craig D. Gott, P.E., President
1325 N. Grand Avenue, Suite 100
Covina, CA 91724-4044
Tel. 626-543-2554
Email: Cgott@swwc.com
Email: Legal@swwc.com

With a copy to:

Southwest Water Company
c/o Suburban Water Systems
Attention: General Counsel
1325 N. Grand Avenue, Suite 100
Covina, CA 91724-4044
Tel. 626-542-2400

10. Assignment

Neither Party shall assign, let or sublet the whole or any part of its interest in this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party.

11. No Third Party Beneficiaries

This Agreement does not create, and shall not be construed to create, any rights enforceable by any person, partnership, corporation, joint venture, limited liability company, public entity, or other form of organization or association of any kind that is not a party to this Agreement.

12. Attorneys' Fees

In the event of any action between the Parties hereto seeking enforcement or interpretation of any of the provisions of this Agreement, the prevailing Party in such action shall be entitled to an award, in addition to any damages, for its reasonable costs and expenses, including without limitation, actual costs and attorneys' fees, consultants' fees and experts' fees, as ordered by the trier of fact.

13. Binding Effect and Governing Law

This Agreement is intended to be and shall be binding upon and enforceable against each of the Parties hereto. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to its conflict of law principles.

14. Waiver

Any waiver of the provisions of this Agreement by the Party entitled to the benefits thereof as to any instance must be in writing and shall in no event be deemed a waiver of the same provision with respect to any other instance or a waiver of any other provision of this Agreement.

15. Entire Agreement and Amendments

This Agreement, together with the Watermaster Forms to be filed in accordance with Section 3.B above, constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. All prior agreements with respect to the subject matter hereof, whether verbal or written, are hereby superseded in their entirety by this Agreement and the Watermaster Form and are of no further force or effect. Amendments to this Agreement or the Watermaster Form shall be effective only if in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the respective Parties.

16. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts by the Parties and shall become effective and binding upon the Parties at such time as all of the signatories hereto have executed the original or a counterpart of this Agreement. All counterparts so executed shall constitute one and the same Agreement, binding upon each of the Parties hereto, notwithstanding that each of the Parties are not signatory to the original or the same counterpart. Facsimile and electronic copies of signatures shall be binding for all purposes.

17. Authority

In signing below, each Party represents and warrants to the other Party that each is a duly organized or constituted entity, with all requisite power to carry out its obligations under this Agreement, and that the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement have been duly authorized by all necessary action(s) of the elected or other governing body of such Party, and that the person executing this Agreement on behalf of a Party is authorized to bind that Party to this Agreement for all purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.


ORCHARD DALE WATER DISTRICT

By:  _____

Name: Edward Castaneda

Title: General Manager

SUBURBAN WATER SYSTEMS

By:  _____

Name: Craig D. Gott, PE

Title: President