

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: March 22, 2022**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE February 1, 2023

DATE: March 7, 2022

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Stephanie Yamada

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, Marc Hellman, and Bruce Hellebuyck **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: STORLIE WATER COMPANY:
(Docket No. ADV 1376/Advice No. 22-2)
Adjusts annual Central Oregon Irrigation District fees.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve Storlie Water Company's (Storlie or Company) request to adjust its annual Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) fees.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve Storlie's proposal to adjust its annual COID fees to reflect 2022 billing amounts.

Applicable Law

ORS 757.205 and OAR 860-036-2000 require rate-regulated water utilities to file with the Commission schedules showing all rates, tolls, and charges pertaining to services performed by the public utility. Pursuant to ORS 757.220 and OAR 860-036-2010, water utilities must file tariff changes with the Commission at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the change.

Analysis

Storlie is a small rate- and service-regulated water utility located in Bend, Oregon. Storlie purchases irrigation water on behalf of its customers from COID, and this water is available from April through October annually.

The irrigation fees listed in Schedule No. 3 of Storlie's tariff are assessed annually and consist of a Base Fee, an operations and maintenance (O&M) Fee, and a Habitat Fee. With the exception of the Habitat Fee, which was increased previously in Docket No. ADV 1091, Storlie's current irrigation rates were approved by the Commission in Order No. 15-409, issued December 18, 2015, in Docket No. UW 163. In that docket, Storlie's Schedule 3 irrigation fees were calculated to reflect the actual amounts billed to Storlie by COID. At that time, COID charged Storlie a base fee of \$1,850 annually, which was divided evenly among 16 then-present irrigation customers, resulting in a base fee of \$115.63 per customer.¹ COID also assessed an annual O&M Fee of \$23 per acre, resulting in end-user charges of \$23, \$46, or \$92 per customer depending on the individual customer's acreage.²

As shown in Attachment A, the base fee charged to Storlie by COID increased to \$1,750 per quarter (\$3,500 annually) in 2022. Divided among Storlie's irrigation customer count of 17, the resulting base charge is \$205.88 per customer. COID also increased its O&M Fee to \$30 per acre. The current and revised irrigation fees are summarized in the table below.

Rate	Current Rate	2022 Rate (ADV 1376)	Difference (ADV 1377)
Base Fee	\$115.63	\$205.88	\$90.25
O&M - 1 acre or less	\$23.00	\$30.00	\$7.00
O&M - Between 1 and 2 acres	\$46.00	\$60.00	\$14.00
O&M - 2 or more acres	\$92.00	\$120.00	28.00

Storlie collected COID fees from its customers in 2022 at its current tariffed rates, as shown above. In a separate filing (ADV 1377), Storlie revised its Schedule 3 rates to reflect the difference between the current tariffed rates and COID's increased 2022 rates. That change enables Storlie to perform a second billing in 2022 to collect from customers the full amount owed to COID. The present filing establishes Storlie's tariffed rates at the full 2022 COID amounts in anticipation of the 2023 billing, with a proposed effective date of February 1, 2023.

¹ See Docket No. UW 163, Staff/100, Yamada/16 at 11-13.

² See Docket No. UW 163, Staff/100, Yamada/16 at 14-15.

COID has announced anticipated annual rate increases through 2026, but only the 2022 increase has been finalized at this time. Storlie has indicated that, if COID finalizes further increases prior to the 2023 annual billing, the Company will submit an additional filing to reflect the new increase in its tariff.

Storlie's proposed change was filed more than 30 days prior to the effective date, as required by applicable statutes and administrative rules. Staff has reviewed Storlie's filing and documentation of COID's fee increases, and finds that the proposed change is reasonable.

Conclusion

The filing complies with applicable statutes and administrative rules, and should be allowed to go into effect.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Storlie's request to establish COID irrigation fees at current 2022 amounts for service rendered on and after February 1, 2023.



How are irrigation bills calculated?

Assessments are in two basic parts and are set each January by the COID Board of Directors. The assessment is not based on a quantity of water delivered, but on the costs to operate and maintain the delivery system and the District.

Bills are based on the following:

- **Base Charges** covers the cost of record-keeping, scheduling, insurance, office facilities, general administration, and overhead.
- **Operations and Maintenance** covers repairs and cleaning of the delivery system and the distribution of water
- **Service Charge** covers increased costs to deliver to small acreages
- **Habitat Conservation Plan Fee** covers the cost-share of the Habitat Conservation Plan, as well as conservation and implementation measures to improve fish and wildlife habitat in the Deschutes Basin.



**CENTRAL OREGON
IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

RATES

SUBSIDIARY FEE SCHEDULE	2022	2023**	2024**	2025**	2026**
Base Rate <i>Per Quarter April - July \$1750 * July - Oct. \$3500 *</i>	\$1750 *	\$1890	\$2042	\$2205	\$2381
Operations and Maintenance*	\$30	\$34.80	\$40.37	\$46.83	\$54.32
Habitat Conservation Fee	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75

* Billed per acre. Anything under one acre is assessed at one acre. Operations and Maintenance covers repairs and cleaning of the delivery system and the distribution of water.

** Proposed fee.

Customer Service: 541-548-6047

www.coid.org/rates



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