

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: December 5, 2017

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE December 15, 2017

DATE: November 20, 2017

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Joan Grindeland

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Bryan Conway, and Bruce Hellebuyck

SUBJECT: SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT, INC.:
(Docket No. ADV 657/Advice No. 17-1) Revises Tariffs, to align with recent changes to Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 860-036.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should approve South Coast Water District Inc.'s (South Coast or Company) Advice No. 17-1, to become effective with service rendered on and after December 15, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve South Coast's Advice No. 17-1, which updates its tariff to be consistent with recently adopted changes in the Commission's Division 36 rules applicable to water utilities.

Applicable Law

ORS 757.205 requires each public utility to file with the Commission schedules showing all rates, tolls, charges, rules, and regulations that pertain to service performed by the public utility. Tariff revisions or corrections may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-036-2000 and OAR 860-036-2010. Filings that make any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days prior to the effective date of changes; however, the Commission has the discretion to approve tariff filings on less than statutory notice.

Analysis

On January 1, 2017, existing Division 36 administrative rules were repealed and new rules were adopted in Order No. 17-017 in Docket AR 595. This rulemaking was initiated with the goal of improving the organization and clarity of the rules.

Due to the newly adopted administrative rules, Staff requested that rate-regulated water utilities file updated tariff sheets that reflect the changes in the Commission's administrative rules. In response, South Coast filed Advice No. 17-1 on November 15, 2017, with the Commission to align its tariff with the changes adopted in Order No. 17-017. Staff notes that although the Company filed all new tariff sheets with a rate-effective date of December 15, 2017, there is no requested change to the rates, tolls, or charges approved by the Commission in South Coast's most recent general rate case. The Company's requested rate-effective date of December 15, 2017, is 30 days' notice for schedule changes.

Staff has reviewed South Coast's Advice No. 17-1 to ensure that all rates, tolls, and charges remain unchanged and to determine whether the requested changes are consistent with the new Division 36 administrative rules.

Conclusion

Based on its review of South Coast's Advice No. 17-1, Staff concludes that the tariff sheets do not request a change to currently approved rates, tolls, and charges and are consistent with the new Division 36 administrative rules.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve South Coast's Advice No. 17-1 to update its tariff, effective with service rendered on and after December 15, 2017.