

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**FILED**  
05/06/25  
04:59 PM  
A2407003

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ALBERTO ROSAS, presiding

In the Matter of the Application of ) STATUS  
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY ) CONFERENCE  
(U60W), a California corporation, )  
for an order (1) authorizing it to )  
increase rates for water service by )  
\$140,558,101 or 17.1% in test year )  
2026, (2) authorizing it to increase ) Application  
rates on January 1, 2027 by ) 24-07-003  
\$74,162,564 or 7.7%, (3) authorizing )  
it to increase rates on January 1, )  
2028 by \$83,574,190 or 8.1% in )  
accordance with the Rate Case Plan, )  
and (4) adopting other related )  
rulings and relief necessary to )  
implement the Commissions ratemaking )  
policies. )

REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT  
Virtual Proceeding  
April 29, 2025  
Pages 58 - 87  
Volume 3

Reported by: Karly Powers, CSR No. 13991  
Eoanna Kostapapas, CSR No. 13242

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VIRTUAL PROCEEDING

APRIL 29, 2025 - 1:34 P.M.

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ROSAS: In that case, we are on the record. Good afternoon, everyone. We are on the record in Application 24-07-003. This is a status conference. It is April 29, 2005. I'm sorry. 2025. The time is approximately 1:34 p.m. I am Administrative Law Judge Alberto Rosas, and the commissioner assigned to this proceeding is Commissioner Matthew Baker.

We will begin in -- with appearances in a moment and then we will proceed in the outline of the agenda that was put forth in the Commission's ruling which scheduled today's status conference. That is the same seven items that the parties addressed in their joint status conference statement.

And the first item on that list concerned speakers list. So with that said, we will begin with appearances.

We can begin with Cal Water.

MS. DOLQUEIST: Good afternoon, your Honor. This is Lori Dolqueist, L-o-r-i, last name D-o-l-q-u-e-i-s-t, appearing for California Water Service.

1 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

2 And for Cal Advocates.

3 MS. FISHER: Good afternoon. This is Emily  
4 Fisher, F-i-s-h-e-r, appearing for Cal Advocates. Thank  
5 you.

6 ALJ ROSAS: And thank you, Counselor.

7 For City of Bakersfield.

8 MR. COLLOM: Good afternoon, your Honor.  
9 Matthew Collom appearing on behalf of the City of  
10 Bakersfield. My last name is Collom; that is  
11 C-o-l-l-o-m, "M" as in Mike. Thank you, your Honor.

12 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

13 For City of Carson.

14 MS. CARSON: Good afternoon, your Honor. This  
15 is Christine Carson for City of Carson.

16 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

17 For California Water Association.

18 MS. MCKENNA: Good afternoon, your Honor. This  
19 is Lilly McKenna for CWA.

20 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

21 And for National Association of Water  
22 Companies.

23 MS. BANOLA: Good afternoon, your Honor. This  
24 is Sarah Banola appearing for National Association of  
25 Water Companies. My name is spelt S-a-r-a-h, last name

1 B, as in boy, -a-n, as in Nancy, -o-l-a.

2 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

3 Now we are going to move on to the next item on  
4 the agenda, which was a status update. I think the  
5 parties joint status conference statement was  
6 self-explanatory. I don't have any questions. I am  
7 aware that the parties did file their joint status  
8 conference statement on April 23rd. The day before that  
9 they filed their joint motion for evidentiary hearing,  
10 and there was also a procedural email that was served to  
11 everyone on the service list on Friday, April 25th.

12 But other than the items that I just discussed,  
13 those three, other -- other than the information in the  
14 status update section of the joint status conference  
15 statement, is there anything else regarding a status  
16 update that the parties would like to bring up before we  
17 move on?

18 MS. DOLQUEIST: Nothing else for California  
19 Water Service, your Honor.

20 MS. FISHER: Nor for Cal Advocates, your Honor.  
21 Thank you.

22 MR. COLLOM: Nothing from the City of  
23 Bakersfield, your Honor.

24 MS. CARSON: Nothing from the City of Carson,  
25 your Honor.

1 MS. MCKENNA: Nothing from CWA. Thank you.

2 MS. BANOLA: (Line muted.)

3 ALJ ROSAS: And I take it from the silence  
4 there is nothing from National Association of Water  
5 Companies either; correct?

6 MS. BANOLA: Oh, yes. Sorry, your Honor. I  
7 was on mute when I was speaking. Nothing from NAWC.  
8 Thank you.

9 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

10 Moving on to the third item, motions. Again,  
11 the parties joint status conference statement was  
12 self-explanatory. The Commission does not have any  
13 questions. But if -- if anyone has anything else to  
14 discuss on the subject of motions, please let me know.

15 (No response.)

16 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Hearing none.

17 In that case, we will proceed with the next  
18 item, which is number four, discovery. Again, the  
19 parties joint status conference statement I found to be  
20 quite self-explanatory. The Commission does not have  
21 any questions.

22 Is there anything that any one of the parties  
23 would like to address concerning discovery before we  
24 continue?

25 (No response.)

1 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Hearing none.

2 In that case, let us continue. Item five,  
3 concerned schedule, and item six, concerned evidentiary  
4 hearing readiness. If it is fine with the parties, I  
5 think I will just discuss both together since they are  
6 related. The first thing I want to mention is the  
7 procedural email that was received on behalf of Cal  
8 Water on Friday, April 25th.

9 Ms. Dolqueist, can you just provide a brief  
10 summary of that since we don't have that email in the  
11 record yet?

12 MS. DOLQUEIST: Yes, your Honor.

13 We submitted an email on behalf of California  
14 Water Service Company on Friday. We noted there that  
15 Cal Water and the Public Advocates Office had reached an  
16 agreement to mutually waive cross-examination of  
17 witnesses and move on directly to briefing of disputed  
18 issues. And it's our understanding none of the other  
19 parties have any objection to this as well. If the  
20 request to wave hearings is granted, then Cal Water and  
21 Public Advocates also request to modify the procedural  
22 schedule with respect to briefing. The date for the  
23 opening brief would be May 30th as opposed to the  
24 June 13th, which is currently what's in the scoping  
25 memo. And the reply brief would be June 20th, which is

1     shortly before the current date for the reply brief,  
2     which is June 23rd.

3             The third thing is that the waiver of  
4     evidentiary hearings, the parties wanted to clarify that  
5     they would still have the opportunity to request oral  
6     argument in this proceeding. The scoping memo says such  
7     requests are due on June 10th.

8             ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Thank you, Counselor, for  
9     that summary.

10            In terms of scheduling, the first day of  
11     evidentiary hearings, which was essentially a  
12     housekeeping day scheduled for Friday, May 9th starting  
13     at 9:00 a.m., we are going to keep that on schedule.  
14     That hearing will still take place.

15            And here are -- here are my thoughts regarding  
16     the vacating of the evidentiary hearings or rather the  
17     waving of rights to cross-examine witnesses. Although  
18     the parties are waiving rights to cross-examination, the  
19     Commission is reviewing the prepared testimony and wants  
20     to reserve the right to ask questions of these witnesses  
21     in order to perhaps seek clarification or inquire about  
22     statements made in their prepared testimony. I will say  
23     that with the anticipation that it was likely this  
24     evidentiary hearing was going to move forward, I have  
25     not personally reviewed any of the prepared testimony.

1 I don't know, if when I do, whether I may have  
2 questions, so I don't want to -- I don't want the  
3 Commission to give up that opportunity to ask clarifying  
4 questions and make inquiries of these witnesses.

5 With that said, however, if -- if the parties  
6 are waiving their rights to cross-examination and if the  
7 Commission decides to move forward for the sole purposes  
8 of, you know, asking a few inquiries and follow-ups of  
9 some of the witnesses, if any, I can imagine that the  
10 current evidentiary hearing schedule may be shortened  
11 tremendously.

12 Maybe we would just hold two days during that  
13 first week, which is the week of May 12th, and maybe, at  
14 most, two days during the week of May 19th. And I'm  
15 just throwing those dates out there because I don't know  
16 whether we are going to request the attendance of any  
17 witnesses. We might not, but I just want to throw that  
18 out there that in the event that we do decide to invite  
19 some of the witnesses to answer some clarifying  
20 questions, I don't foresee that we would need the full  
21 eight days during those two weeks. That's my point. I  
22 think we -- we can consolidate that quite a bit. And  
23 maybe once we do select those dates, maybe they won't be  
24 full days; maybe they can be half days. Ideally, if we  
25 do consolidate, it would be my hope that perhaps we



1 would be looking at both Wednesdays and Thursdays of  
2 both of those weeks. But we will get to that in a  
3 moment.

4 I understand that I'm keeping the parties in  
5 limbo, but I will commit to letting everyone know on  
6 Friday, May 9th during that hearing. I will inform the  
7 parties whether the Commission would like to hold  
8 evidentiary hearings for purposes of asking questions of  
9 the witnesses. But for the time being, I am going to  
10 ask if we can keep those on calendar as maybe a  
11 truncated schedule.

12 And in a moment I will ask to hear from the  
13 parties, but let me just finish some of these points. I  
14 also wanted to mention that if the only reason for  
15 moving forward with some of these hearings is for the  
16 Commission, through myself as administrative law judge,  
17 to ask some brief clarifying questions or follow-up  
18 questions of the witnesses, then perhaps we can hold  
19 these hearings virtually. But if we do determine to  
20 hold the evidentiary hearings virtually, there would be  
21 no opportunity for the party representatives to ask  
22 follow-up questions of the witnesses, essentially no  
23 cross-examination, no redirect, et cetera. It would  
24 just be a few moments of, you know, follow-ups. Again,  
25 we might not have -- need any, but I just want to give

1 ourselves that opportunity in case we decide after our  
2 review of the prepared testimony we will make that  
3 determination of whether or not we want to invite some  
4 or more of the witnesses. And because we might be  
5 shortening the schedule from what we currently have, and  
6 because I don't know if we do want to invite certain  
7 witnesses to answer a few questions, at a certain point  
8 probably -- definitely before the May 9th hearing, it  
9 would be important to hear from the parties about the  
10 availability of witnesses.

11 And I will probably ask -- strike that. Not  
12 probably. I will definitely ask the parties for a  
13 status conference statement that will be due to keep  
14 things simple. Let's have it be due two days prior to  
15 the May 9th hearing, so at least 48 hours before, so  
16 that could be filed and served before 9:00 a.m. on  
17 Wednesday, May 7th. And we will discuss the items that  
18 would be included in that status conference statement.  
19 One of them would be the availability of the witnesses.  
20 If there is any dates that they are not available, that  
21 would be very helpful. And likewise, if for that  
22 eight-day period that we already have on calendar, if  
23 there are any days that counsel would not be available,  
24 that would also be very helpful to know as part of that  
25 status conference statement that we have -- if the

1 Commission decides to move forward with virtual hearings  
2 for purposes of a limited scope of asking a few  
3 follow-up questions, we would like to know which dates  
4 we have to work with and which we do not.

5 And pardon the long -- the long-winded  
6 statement. But at this point, I would like to hear from  
7 the parties about the -- those points.

8 We will begin with Cal water.

9 MS. DOLQUEIST: Thank you, your Honor.

10 First, I will turn to the last thing you  
11 discussed, which is the status conference statement due  
12 two days before the May 9th sort of housekeeping day of  
13 hearings. You mentioned 9:00 a.m., which is when  
14 filings are first able to be done at the Commission. So  
15 if you wanted it the morning of just -- say 10:00 a.m.  
16 or by close of business the day before, on May 6th, just  
17 for clarity on that one.

18 The second issue regarding availability of  
19 witnesses for Cal Water, some of our witnesses, if we  
20 are appearing for hearings, would be traveling from out  
21 of state. So availability may differ if it's a virtual  
22 hearing as opposed to an in-person hearing as far as the  
23 timing, and we could address that on any information you  
24 give. Or if there is confirmation beforehand that it  
25 may be just virtual, then, you know, we could -- we

1 could -- you know, we would have a more sure list, I  
2 guess, based on that as well.

3 The last thing would be that if we do have even  
4 a few days of hearings, we may want to reconsider the  
5 briefing schedule that we proposed in our email. The  
6 one thing I would note is that we did include in our  
7 proposed schedule a bit of a longer time for the reply  
8 briefs, and that was based on our experience in the last  
9 rate case. Were there a lot of issues to address? I  
10 think the ten-day period that the rate case plan  
11 normally has just wasn't sufficient, so we would still  
12 propose like a three-week between opening and reply.

13 And that's it for now, your Honor. ]

14 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

15 And let's proceed in the speaking order, in  
16 case anyone has any comments.

17 Cal Advocates?

18 MS. FISHER: Thank you, your Honor.

19 We appreciate the -- the possibility of holding  
20 virtual hearings if -- if those are necessary, for brief  
21 questions. The uncertainty about travel does pose some  
22 difficulties for some of our witnesses who are -- who  
23 would need to travel from Los Angeles. It's -- as you  
24 know, I'm sure, it's difficult for state workers to make  
25 last-minute travel arrangements. So, the sooner we

1 could be informed about that or about the availability  
2 of virtual hearings, the better, if that would be.

3 There was something else that I wanted to  
4 discuss, and it's escaping my mind. But, we agree with  
5 Cal Water that if brief -- if a few days of hearings are  
6 necessary, that it may be appropriate to revisit the  
7 briefing schedule. And if I remember the other thing,  
8 I -- I'll pipe in later.

9 Thank you.

10 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

11 City of Bakersfield.

12 MR. COLLOM: Yes. Thank you, your Honor.

13 I just kind of want to echo what my colleagues  
14 are saying here, as well. We appreciate the -- the City  
15 appreciates the possibility that virtual hearings may be  
16 held. And we acknowledge that -- that that may -- that  
17 that will likely result in a -- in an inability to  
18 question and engage in cross-examination of those  
19 witnesses. I think from -- from my client's particular  
20 point of view, we are comfortable with that. We are  
21 comfortable with waiving that.

22 Of course, we will comply with whatever the  
23 Court decides here. But, yes, as far as -- again, as  
24 far as the possibility of virtual hearings, we -- we are  
25 in favor of that. Thank you, your Honor.

1 MS. CARSON: Hello, your Honor. We are  
2 amenable to virtual hearings. It's preferable. And we  
3 are comfortable with waiving cross-examination and  
4 redirect and direct examination.

5 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

6 CWA?

7 MS. MCKENNA: Thank you, your Honor.

8 CWA's witness is also out of state. So we have  
9 the same concerns regarding notice about the virtual or  
10 in-person hearings. And then, CWA is comfortable with  
11 the -- with waiving cross, as indicated in our -- in the  
12 prehearing conference statement submitted by parties.

13 CWA has waived cross.

14 That's all, your Honor.

15 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

16 And National Association of Water Companies.

17 MS. BANOLA: Good afternoon, your Honor.

18 NAWC's witness is also out of state. So,  
19 subject to check, I believe they would also support  
20 virtual hearings in the event that you would like to  
21 question NAWC's witness.

22 And I know you mentioned you would let the  
23 parties know by the May 9th status conference. But, we  
24 would ask that if there's any -- if you know in advance,  
25 if you could let the parties know sooner if the

1 Commission intends to cross-examination or ask  
2 clarifying questions of any of the witnesses -- if you  
3 have any information sooner than May 9th, just because  
4 of the travel arrangements. But, I don't think we have  
5 any other concerns at this time.

6 Thank you.

7 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Thank you.

8 Before we have another round of discussion  
9 regarding some of these points, let's just wrap up and  
10 close the discussion regarding vir- -- whether the  
11 hearings -- if they do take place, whether those would  
12 be virtual. I've heard from several of the other  
13 parties saying that they agree with having virtual  
14 hearings, that they are fine with waiving  
15 cross-examination of witnesses, that if it's their own  
16 witness that they are sponsoring, that they are fine  
17 with waiving any rights to, you know, up for redirect --  
18 so, essentially, there will be no questions from the  
19 parties. It would just be from the administrative law  
20 judge. So, I've heard that from a few parties.

21 If there's anyone that has any objection to  
22 that, let me know. Otherwise, I think we could -- it  
23 seems like the overwhelming majority of the parties  
24 present today are in agreement with moving forward with  
25 a -- with virtual hearings, if we do decide to hold

1       them. But, I want to make sure that I'm not missing  
2       anyone who might have some concerns.

3               So, I know we have speaking order. But, at  
4       this point, if anyone has any concerns or objections  
5       regarding moving forward with hearings -- with the  
6       possibility of hearings, while at the same time not  
7       having a right to ask any questions following any -- my  
8       line of inquiry, please let me know now.

9               (No response.)

10              ALJ ROSAS: Hearing none, in that case, what  
11      the Commission is going to do -- because we already have  
12      a ruling that went out scheduling these hearings for  
13      in-person -- the bulk of them in-person, the Commission  
14      is going to send out a revised ruling indicating that  
15      all of these hearings will be virtual. And for those  
16      dates where a Webex link was not provided, that revised  
17      ruling will include a Webex link for those dates. So,  
18      all of those dates will now be virtual.

19              And, at the moment, that ruling is going to  
20      include the full -- you know, eight days, plus the  
21      May 9th housekeeping date. And the only reason we're  
22      doing that is in case there's an issue with witnesses  
23      not being available on a certain date. But, again, my  
24      goal is that if during our discussion on May 9th, if I  
25      inform everyone that yes, we do want to hold hearings,



1 by then I'll have the status conference statement of  
2 witness availability. And by May 9th, I'll also know  
3 which witnesses, if any, we decide to ask follow-up  
4 questions and inquiries of.

5 So, on May 9th, I'll have the total number of  
6 potential witnesses. And we'll be able to truncate that  
7 eight-day schedule down to as few days as possible,  
8 once -- once we have that. And I hope I'm explaining  
9 that well.

10 And so I don't forget Ms. Dolqueist's point,  
11 yes, that status conference statement will be due close  
12 of business on Tuesday, May 6th. So thank you,  
13 Ms. Dolqueist.

14 Any other comments or points of discussion  
15 regarding the fact that we are changing the in-person  
16 evidentiary hearing dates to virtual?

17 (No response.)

18 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Hearing none.

19 Now, just to briefly address the concerns  
20 regarding the possibility that if we do move forward  
21 with evidentiary hearings, that a revised briefing  
22 schedule is necessary. I completely agree, and we'll  
23 cross that bridge when we get to it. If at the May 9th  
24 status conference, if I communicate to the parties that  
25 the Commission has determined that we do not need to ask

1 any questions of the witnesses, then I presume that  
2 maybe we can go with the briefing schedule that the --  
3 that was outlined in the April 25th procedural email,  
4 which we're -- which was discussed on the record earlier  
5 today. Or if we decide that we do want to ask a few  
6 questions of witnesses, then we'll make that  
7 determination of what that revised hearing schedule --  
8 I'm sorry -- the revised briefing schedule will be. So,  
9 I'm in complete agreement with the parties regarding the  
10 need to perhaps revisit the briefing schedule, if  
11 necessary.

12 Before we move on regarding this item, any  
13 other comments or concerns regarding this point of the  
14 possibility of revising the briefing schedule?

15 (No response.)

16 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Hearing none.

17 So, by my count, that status conference  
18 statement that would be due by close of business on  
19 Tuesday, May 6th, so far on my list, I have two things  
20 that should be included -- or one, rather. No, two  
21 things: Availability of witnesses, if there are any  
22 dates that would not work for them regarding that time  
23 frame that we've already outlined for evidentiary  
24 hearings; and, likewise, if there are any dates that  
25 counsel might not be available during that eight-week --

1 I'm sorry -- eight-day time period for evidentiary  
2 hearings.

3 Anything from the parties before we move on to  
4 miscellaneous matters?

5 (No response.)

6 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Hearing none.

7 In that case, let's move on to what I've  
8 labeled as miscellaneous matters. And this is from the  
9 joint status conference statement. I see that Cal  
10 Advocates plans to request leave to serve corrections to  
11 its witness' direct testimony by Thursday, May 1st.

12 So let me inquire of Cal Advocates, what's the  
13 status regarding those corrections, if any?

14 MS. FISHER: Thank you, your Honor.

15 Cal Advocates is currently preparing the  
16 corrected testimony to be served by May 1st. And we  
17 still plan to do that. If we can make that request  
18 early to serve it here, that would -- we would prefer to  
19 do that. Please let us know if there are anything --  
20 there are any other steps that you need us to take or to  
21 make that request. Otherwise, we plan to go forward  
22 with serving the corrections.

23 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

24 I'll just turn it over to see if there are any  
25 objections from the parties regarding the request.

1           We can go in the speaking order or if anyone  
2 just has any objection, just speak up now.

3           MS. DOLQUEIST: This is Lori Dolqueist for  
4 Cal Water.

5           I don't have any objections to this plan.  
6 However, I would note that if something from these  
7 corrections requires -- you know, if there are  
8 substantial corrections -- or make substantive changes  
9 to Cal Advocates' testimony, it's possible that at that  
10 point Cal Water may seek an opportunity to respond. If  
11 they're just minor corrections, we likely would not.  
12 So, again, no objection to the serving of corrected  
13 testimony on May 1st, just wanted to note that point.

14           ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

15           Anyone else, any objections?

16           (No response.)

17           ALJ ROSAS: In that case, Cal Advocates request  
18 for leave to serve corrections to its witness' direct  
19 testimony by close of business Thursday, May 1st is  
20 granted.

21           And another thing that I'm going to add to the  
22 list of items to include in the status conference  
23 statement is in regards to Ms. Dolqueist's point that  
24 she just made. If there's any cause for concern from  
25 the corrected direct testimony, if there is any

1 follow-up from the parties, please make an indication in  
2 your status conference statement that you would be  
3 requesting additional information in response to the  
4 direct testimony that was served and filed. ]

5 The other item I wanted to address regarding  
6 miscellaneous matters concerns confidential exhibits.  
7 By my count in reviewing the joint exhibit list, it  
8 seemed that there are four confidential exhibits which  
9 were tendered by Cal Water. My request is if Cal Water  
10 can reserve those, preferably as soon as possible this  
11 week, and I'm looking at close of business tomorrow,  
12 April 30th. And the reason is I think those links are  
13 time sensitive, and I no longer have access. And some  
14 Commission staff who were trying to review the  
15 confidential materials, especially in light of the fact  
16 that there may not be witnesses going forward for  
17 subject to cross-examination, and we're trying to review  
18 all of the prepared testimony including, you know,  
19 exhibits and confidential exhibits.

20 So Ms. Dolqueist?

21 MS. DOLQUEIST: Yes, your Honor. We will  
22 reserve the confidential exhibits by close of business  
23 tomorrow.

24 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

25 I'm just looking at my notes here to make sure

1 we are not forgetting anything.

2 I'm going to add another item for the parties  
3 to include in the joint status conference statement,  
4 which is due by close of business on Tuesday, May 6th,  
5 and that is a speakers list. We can conclude the same  
6 information has been included previously including email  
7 and telephone number.

8 Another thing to add to the joint status  
9 conference statement, if it applies -- but if for  
10 whatever reason we need -- the parties need to revise or  
11 finalize their joint exhibit list, if that can be  
12 included as an attachment to that joint status  
13 conference statement that way, if necessary, we can  
14 discuss that at the May 9th hearing.

15 On my notes for discussion purposes, I had the  
16 briefing schedule. We've already discussed those  
17 points, and we are going to reserve a more thorough  
18 discussion for the May 9th hearing. And at that point  
19 we can -- once we know which steps are going to -- the  
20 Commission will take, and we can discuss some more  
21 concrete specific dates for that revised briefing  
22 schedule.

23 Regarding one of the points that was raised in  
24 Cal Water's procedural email on April 25th regarding the  
25 waiver -- that the waiver of evidentiary hearings does

1 not waive the ability of any party to request oral  
2 argument in this proceeding, which is currently due by  
3 June 10th, 2025. I know that is more advisory in  
4 nature. That is not a motion to request, but I  
5 completely understand and agree with that point. Point  
6 taken.

7 Also, I just briefly want to add that in the  
8 near future there may be a ruling or revision issued to  
9 reflect the change to the schedule. So there is a  
10 possibility that the parties may receive a ruling or  
11 amendment reflecting certain changes.

12 I believe that concludes the items on my notes,  
13 things that I wanted to discuss with the parties. Let's  
14 take it back in the order -- speaking order just to make  
15 sure there's nothing that's left on the table or to  
16 avoid anything falling through the cracks.

17 Let's begin with Cal Water.

18 MS. DOLQUEIST: Thank you, your Honor.

19 The only other thing I wanted to raise, which I  
20 believe was also raised in that procedural email, was  
21 the Commission's rules allow the parties to submit a  
22 motion for testimony to be received into evidence  
23 without cross-examination. And that's what we would  
24 expect to do in this proceeding. And we would either do  
25 it shortly after the May 9th status conference, if there

1 are no questions from your Honor or others at the  
2 Commission, or after whatever that last day of the  
3 evidentiary hearing would be.

4 ALJ ROSAS: Sounds great, Counselor. Thank  
5 you.

6 MS. FISHER: Emily Fisher with Cal Advocates.

7 Your Honor, we agree with what Ms. Dolqueist  
8 just mentioned as far as the -- the motion to receive  
9 testimony into evidence. And I did want to just make  
10 sure that as far as Cal Advocates confidential exhibits,  
11 there was no need for us to reserve those and that they  
12 are still accessible by your Honor.

13 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you, Counselor.

14 I have not made a thorough search of all of the  
15 exhibits or documents that were labeled confidential, so  
16 I do not know. But in an abundance of caution, it would  
17 be great if they can be reserved. And I'll -- I only  
18 counted four on the list. But if I missed any, please  
19 let me know. But whatever was provided previously that  
20 was marked as confidential, if that could be reserved,  
21 that would be great.

22 And this wasn't just a point that I found for  
23 some of the documents, but some of the staff members,  
24 part of the -- my team were also -- made same points  
25 that they were not able to access some of the



1 confidential documents. And as I'm speaking, I'm  
2 looking at the joint exhibit list that was an attachment  
3 to the joint status conference statement. And unless  
4 I'm mistaken, I'm only seeing four documents that were  
5 included there labeled with -- in red as confidential.  
6 But if I'm missing anything -- and if not -- and if I'm  
7 not mistaken, those are all Cal Water Service's  
8 exhibits. So if I'm missing anything from other parties  
9 that are -- that were tendered as confidential, if you  
10 could reserve those, that would be great.

11 MS. FISHER: Yes, your Honor. I will be happy  
12 to do that. Thank you.

13 ALJ ROSAS: Thank you.

14 Now, let's move on to City of Bakersfield.

15 MR. COLLOM: That's right. That's me, your  
16 Honor. Matt Collom, again, for the City of Bakersfield.

17 I don't think I have any questions or concerns.  
18 Thank you for your guidance today. We will be certain  
19 to give those three items: The availability of  
20 witnesses, any dates that we may not be able to appear  
21 during the -- the eight-day evidentiary hearings, as  
22 well as the speakers list as well. We will be sure to  
23 get that in on our joint statement. I think that's it  
24 from me. Thank you.

25 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Thank you, Counselor.

1 City of Carson.

2 MS. CARSON: Nothing further, your Honor.

3 ALJ ROSAS: California Water Association.

4 MS. MCKENNA: Thank you, your Honor. CWA has  
5 no further comments.

6 ALJ ROSAS: National Association of Water  
7 Companies.

8 MS. BANOLA: Thank you, your Honor. NAWC also  
9 has no further comments. Thank you.

10 ALJ ROSAS: And just to make sure we are not  
11 forgetting it -- anything, I know that Ms. Fisher, if  
12 I'm not mistaken, there was one point that you wanted to  
13 raise earlier but you lost your train of thought.

14 Did you already address it or is there anything  
15 else that you wanted to discuss?

16 MS. FISHER: Thank you, your Honor. If there  
17 was a train, it's gone. So I think everything has been  
18 covered.

19 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Thank you.

20 In that case, thank you all very much, again,  
21 for working together to prepare that joint motion of  
22 evidentiary hearing and the joint status conference  
23 statement.

24 And, again, I wish I had some more concrete  
25 information at this point, but I just don't know whether

1 we are going to move forward with wanting to ask some  
2 inquiries of some of the witnesses. I doubt that we  
3 would need to ask inquiries of all.

4 And, again, that scope would be very, very  
5 focused and just points of clarification or follow-ups.  
6 And I'm glad that everyone is in agreement that that can  
7 take place virtually. I'm hoping that the parties will  
8 receive an amended ruling from the Commission regarding  
9 those evidentiary hearing dates and for those dates that  
10 were scheduled as in-person. That amended ruling will  
11 reflect those dates, and those hearings will take place  
12 virtually. And, again, the same dates and time periods  
13 are going to apply. But in the event that the  
14 Commission makes the determination, which will be  
15 conveyed to the parties during the May 9th hearing, the  
16 determination of whether we are going to move forward  
17 with asking questions of witnesses.

18 I'm hoping that during the May 9th hearing I  
19 will also have a abridged evidentiary hearing schedule.  
20 It would definitely not be the full eight days. And I'm  
21 anticipating and hoping that maybe on some of the dates  
22 that we do meet, maybe it would just be half days as  
23 opposed to the full days. But we can discuss that after  
24 I have heard of witness availability and counsel  
25 availability and trying to cross-reference to see which

1 witnesses we may need to invite.

2 Again, thank you all very much for working  
3 diligently and efficiently to try to resolve this  
4 matter. And I appreciate the efforts of trying to, you  
5 know, waive cross-examination and move forward with a  
6 briefing schedule. I see that as a move to try to, you  
7 know, expedite and efficiently resolve this matter  
8 sooner rather than later, and I applaud the parties  
9 joint efforts.

10 Lastly, just -- we don't have to go into  
11 speaking order, but if there is anything else that  
12 anyone wants to raise now, you can let me know.

13 (No response.)

14 ALJ ROSAS: Okay. Hearing none.

15 In that case, thank you all very much. We will  
16 reconvene Friday, May 9th. I look forward to the  
17 parties joint status conference statement before then.  
18 Thank you all very much. This status conference is  
19 adjourned. We are off the record.

20 (At the hour of 2:17 p.m., this matter having  
21 been concluded, the Commission then  
22 adjourned.)]

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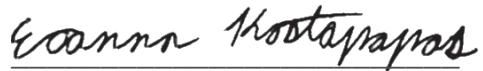
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OF THE  
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