



In Brief

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION OF
CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU

JULY 2024

PG&E RATE DECREASE EFFECTIVE JULY 1



On June 27, 2024, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted an advice letter to update its electric rates effective July 1, 2024, that would decrease total revenue requirement by \$1.7 billion, or 7.9 percent. This change is the result of several separate changes including the end of recovery of PG&E's 2022 Wildfire Mitigation and Catastrophic Events (WMCE) interim rate relief and the end of recovery of 2023 Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) Trigger Adjustment. The change is effective July 1, 2024, but will not be seen in rates until approved by the Commission. The change results in an 8.4% decrease in average bundled rates for agricultural customers.

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SETTEMENT AGREEMENT FILED IN 2024 PACIFICORP ECAC PROCEEDING

On June 28, 2024, CAFB along with PacifiCorp and the Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates) filed a joint settlement agreement resolving the remaining issues in the 2024 PacifiCorp Energy Cost Adjustment Clause (ECAC) proceeding. In the Application, PacifiCorp proposed an increase of \$30.3 million to be recovered in rates effective March 1, 2024. The resulting settlement, which was partially the

result of CAFB's testimony to use a newly updated protocol for allocating cost between the states PacifiCorp operates in, resulted in an overall rate increase of \$23.5 million – a \$6.8 million decrease from the utility's request. While this will still result in a 19.7% rate increase for irrigation customers, it is a 5.9% decrease from PacifiCorp's initial application.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SWRCB STATEWIDE WINERY ORDER



The State Water Resources Control Board is now in the implementation phase of the Statewide Winery Order. The Winery Order was adopted in 2021 and replaces Regional Water Board permits for wineries. The State Water Board is holding public webinars on enrollment, technical requirements, specific implementation considerations, and role of the local regional boards. Additional general information can be found [here](#) and information on the webinars can be found [here](#).

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER BOARD IRRIGATED LANDS REQUIREMENTS



The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board has released the Tentative Order, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations in the San Diego Region, for public comment. The Tentative Ag Order regulates discharges from irrigated agriculture. CFBF worked with the San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group to submit comments on July 15, 2024.

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COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON SWRCB 2ND AG EXPERT PANEL TO REVIEW STATEWIDE NITROGEN REQUIREMENTS

On June 28, 2024, CFBF, along with numerous agricultural organizations, submitted substantial comments on the State Water Board's notice to convene a Second Statewide Ag Expert Panel to review requirements, especially nitrogen-related requirements, for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Comments focused on the premature nature of convening the Expert Panel at this time, the lack of available statewide nitrogen-related data, the limiting and presumptive nature of the questions, and the need to recognize the diversity of agriculture throughout the state.

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COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON THE WATER BOARD'S DRAFT STAFF REPORT FOR THE KAWEAH SUBBASIN



The State Water Board's Draft Staff Report identifies "deficiencies" and Water Board staff recommendations for changes relating the Groundwater Sustainability Plan under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") for the Kaweah Subbasin (primarily in Tulare County), previously found by the Department of Water Resources to be "inadequate." The current Draft Staff Report also recommends a probationary designation unless plan deficiencies are addressed. Since the Water Board's release of its Draft Staff Report, however, the Kaweah Subbasin's three GSAs submitted a First Revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan that addresses most of the previously identified "deficiencies" in the plan, including certain key deficiencies relating to domestic wells and land subsidence. Board staff are reviewing the revised plan, and a Second Revised Draft in September will address remaining "deficiencies." A Final Staff Report will reflect the Board's review of the revised plan in December 2024, with a probationary hearing currently scheduled for January 2025. Additional information regarding the probationary process for the Kaweah Subbasin and the other potential probationary subbasins can be found on CFBF's website, under "Ag Advocacy" and "Water" [here](#).

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STRONG OPPOSITION DEFEATS AB 2797 THAT WOULD HAVE ENDED LANDLINES SUPPORT

Last week, AB 2797 was pulled from the Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications Committee hearing, effectively terminating consideration of the legislation for the remainder of the year. AB 2797 was the legislation sponsored by AT&T that would have set up a path for the company to eliminate its support for landlines or its Carrier of Last Resort obligations. Introduction of the legislation coincided with the rejection by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) of AT&T's application there to obtain the same result. CAFB had participated in the CPUC proceeding and also was on record opposing AB 2797. The next stop in this saga will be debate regarding the elements to be considered in the CPUC's Rulemaking 24-06-012 which will receive input by stakeholders regarding changes to the Carrier of Last Resort rules. The Rulemaking can be found [here](#).

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