



May 22, 2026

President John Reynolds
Commissioner Darcie L. Houck
Commissioner Karen Douglas
Commissioner Matthew Baker
Commissioner Christine Harada

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Reynolds and Commissioners,

On behalf of the [National Hispanic Media Coalition \(NHMC\)](#), we write to express our strong opposition to [Suburban Water Systems General Rate Case application \(A.26-01-001\)](#) proposed rate increase request before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). We respectfully request that the Commission reject the proposal and deny the full 40.51% rate increase.

On January 2, 2026, Suburban Water Systems filed its [General Rate Case \(GRC\) application](#) to change customer rates by a significant amount, effective January 1, 2027. The request is to increase Suburban Water Systems revenue by \$41,680,219, or 40.51%, between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2029, to cover expected costs during this time.

Suburban Water Systems says it needs to raise rates because people are using less water, water and energy costs are rising, and old infrastructure needs to be replaced. However, according to the “[Suburban Water Systems General Rate Case application \(A.26-01-001\)](#)” filed with the California Public Utilities Commission, these increases would affect all customer types. Residential customers would see the biggest change, with bills rising by about 42.76% over three years. For a typical household using 12 CCF (1 CCF = 748 gallons) per month, that would mean paying about \$32.26 more each month once the increase is fully in place. Other groups, including businesses, industry, public agencies, and fire protection, would also see their bills go up by about 26% to more than 50%. Even after these changes, residential customers would still pay a large share of the total costs.

The number one concern for the general public nationwide is AFFORDABILITY. In California, many working families are already challenged by the high cost of living, and this proposed increase would place an unfair and unsustainable burden on residents. A recent AOL article,

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“[Cost of living expected to price Californians out of the state](#)” and [research from the California Policy Lab](#) show that rising living costs are increasingly forcing Californians to leave the state. People from different areas served by Suburban Water Systems submitted public comments to the California Public Utilities Commission regarding “[Application A.26-01-001](#)”, the proposed rate increase. They expressed worries about the possible harm this proposal might cause.

Many pointed out that seniors on fixed incomes, working families, and small business owners are already struggling with higher costs for housing, groceries, insurance, healthcare, and utilities. Some also asked why residential customers are facing big increases while large non-residential water users do not seem to have the same burden. These [comments](#) reflect the general sentiment and frustration that Californians are being punished for following conservation efforts promoted by state and local agencies for years.

With the cost of living reaching a high point nationwide, asking Californians to pay more for a service that should be a basic human right is unacceptable. Many families already have to decide between paying for rent, food, healthcare, or utilities. If water bills continue to increase, that choice will become even harder.

For these reasons, we at NHMC urge the California Public Utilities Commission to reject Suburban Water Systems' proposed “General Rate Case A.26-01-001” and deny the rate increase. By taking this action, you will help protect California residents from higher utility costs and ensure equitable access to essential water services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brenda Victoria Castillo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brenda Victoria Castillo
President & CEO
National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)