The Water Industry

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October 2, 2014
Water Utilities

• Water
  – The only utility you ingest

• Division of Water and Audits
  – Health and Safety is an integral part of our Cost-of-Service ratemaking

• Topics
  – Ratemaking
  – Hartwell Decision
  – Water Quality Standards
  – General Order No. 103-A
  – Water Action Plan
Ratemaking

• Smaller utilities (< 10,000 service connections)
  – DWA processes all general rate increase requests

• Thorough System Evaluation
  – Service quality – outages, pressure, complaints
  – Leaks
  – Water treatment
  – Water quality standards
    • Division of Drinking Water - SWRCB

• Larger utilities
  – Water Quality Expert assigned in GRC proceeding
  – Report / Testimony
Hartwell Decision

• 2002 California Supreme Court Decision
  – Hartwell Corporation et al v. the Superior Court of Ventura County

• Findings
  – PU Code 1759 precludes superior court intervention in CPUC official duties.
  – Legislature vested the CPUC with …powers to ensure the health, safety, and availability of the public’s drinking water.
  – CPUC has the authority to enforce water quality standards.
  – CPUC continues to exercise its jurisdiction to regulate drinking water quality.
Water Quality Standards

• Drinking Water Quality Standards
  – Division of Drinking Water, SWRCB (formerly with DPH)

• Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
  – Primary
    • Federal EPA / Division of Drinking Water
    • 82 contaminants v. 92 contaminants
  – Secondary
    • Title 22 California Code

• Contaminants of interest
  – Arsenic
  – Nitrates
  – Hexavalent Chromium
  – Perchlorate
GO 103-A

• Standards for the design, construction, location, maintenance and operation of water and wastewater utilities;
  – Water Quality and Supply
  – Service and Repair standards
  – Fire Protection Standards
  – Pressure Standards
  – Customer Service and Reporting
    • Telephone
    • Billing
    • Meter reading
Water Action (Safety) Plan

• First adopted in 2005, updated in 2010
• Principles
  – Safe, high quality water
  – Highly reliable water supplies
  – Efficient use of water
  – Reasonable rates and viable utilities
• Objectives
  – Maintain highest standards of water quality
  – Promote Water infrastructure investment
  – Strengthen water conservation programs
  – Streamline decision making
  – Rates that balance investment, conservation, and affordability
  – Assist low-income ratepayers