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APPLICATION OF CSWR-TEXAS UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY LLC AND WATER WORKS I AND II FOR SALE, TRANSFER, OR MERGER OF FACILITIES AND CERTIFICATE RIGHTS IN LLANO COUNTY

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF TEXAS

COMMISSION STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS AND NOTICE AND PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On February 22, 2022, CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company, LLC (CSWR-Texas) and Cody and Anita Lewis dba Cassie Water Company, Deer Springs Water Company, and Water Works I and II filed an application for approval of the sale, transfer, or merger of facilities and certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) rights in Burnet and Llano Counties. On March 29, 2022, Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) requested that Docket No. 53259 be severed into three separate dockets, one for each system. On April 4, 2022, the administrative law judge (ALJ) filed Order No. 1, severing the proceedings and restyled this docket to include only CSWR-Texas and Water Works I and II. The requested area for this docket includes 84 customer connections and approximately 137 acres of transferred area from CCN No. 11674 to CCN No. 13290. Applicants filed supplemental information on April 5, 6, 19, and 28, 2022.

On April 19, 2022, the ALJ filed Order No. 2, directing Staff to file a recommendation regarding the administrative completeness of the application and proposed notice and to propose a procedural schedule by May 6, 2022. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS

Staff has reviewed the application and supplemental information and, as detailed in the attached memoranda from Patricia Garcia of the Infrastructure Division and from Kathryn Eiland and Fred Bednarski of the Rate Regulation Division, recommends that the application is administratively complete. Staff's recommendation on administrative completeness is not a comment on the merits of the application.

II. NOTICE

At this time, Staff recommends that the Applicants proceed with providing public notice to all current customers, neighboring utilities, political subdivisions, and other persons listed in Ms. Garcia's memorandum using the notice form. Along with each individual notice, Staff recommends that the Applicants provide an accurate map delineating the requested service area.

Once notice has been provided, Staff recommends that the Applicants file proof of notice as described in Ms. Garcia's memorandum, including an affidavit specifying the name and address of every person and entity to whom notice was provided, the date that the notice was provided, and a copy of the map provided with the notice. Finally, Staff recommends that the Applicants use the attached notice and affidavit to meet these requirements.

III. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Staff recommends that the application be found administratively complete. Therefore, Staff proposes the following procedural schedule:

| Event | Date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Deadline for the Applicants to file with the Commission signed affidavits that the notice was given along with a copy of the notice and map sent to the affected parties | June 6, 2022 |
| Deadline for Staff to file a recommendation on sufficiency of notice | June 20, 2022 |
| Deadline to intervene | 30 days after notice is issued |

IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, Staff recommends that the application be found administratively complete, that the Applicants be directed to provide notice as described in the attached memorandum from Ms. Garcia, and that the proposed procedural schedule be adopted. Staff respectfully requests the entry of an order consistent with these recommendations.

Dated: May 6, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION

Keith Rogas Division Director

Robert Dakota Parish Managing Attorney

<u>/s/ Ian Groetsch</u> Ian Groetsch State Bar No. 24078599 Forrest Smith State Bar No. 24093643 1701 N. Congress Avenue P.O. Box 13326 Austin, Texas 78711-3326 (512) 936-7265 (512) 936-7268 (facsimile) Ian.Groetsch@puc.texas.gov

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, notice of the filing of this document was provided to all parties of record via electronic mail on May 6, 2022, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

<u>/s/ Ian Groetsch</u> Ian Groetsch

Memorandum

| TO: | Forrest Smith, Attorney Legal Division |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FROM: | Patricia Garcia, Senior Engineering Specialist Infrastructure Division |
| DATE: | May 6, 2022 |
| RE: | Docket No. 53430 – Application of CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company, LLC and Water Works I & II for Sale, Transfer, or Merger of Facilities and Certificate Rights in Llano County |

On February 22, 2022, CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company, LLC (CSWR-Texas) and Water Works I & II (Water Works) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application for sale, transfer, or merger (STM) of facilities and certificate rights in Llano County, Texas, under Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.301 and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.239.

Specifically, CSWR-Texas, water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 13290, seeks approval to acquire facilities and to transfer all of the water service area from Water Works under water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 11674. The total requested area includes 84 customer connections and approximately 137 acres of transferred area from Water Works (CCN No. 11674) to CSWR-Texas (CCN No. 13290).

The application proposes the subtraction of approximately 137 acres from CCN No. 11674 and the addition of approximately 137 acres to CCN No. 13290.

The application indicates that the total acreage being requested is approximately 138 acres. Based on the mapping review by Hank Journeay, Infrastructure Division, it was determined maps submitted with Item 3 on April 5, 2022, are sufficient and indicate the requested area is approximately 137 acres.

Based on my technical and managerial review of the information filed, I recommend that the application be deemed administratively complete. I further recommend that the Applicants be ordered to do the following:

1) Provide notice of the application by first-class mail to the following:

- a. Cities, districts, and neighboring retail public utilities providing the same utility service whose corporate boundaries or certificated service area are located within two miles from the outer boundary of the requested area:
 - 3G WSC (CCN No. 11565)
 - Buena Vista Water System (CCN No. 11656)
 - Corix Utilities Texas Inc (CCN No. 13227)
 - Lower Colorado River Authority
 - *River Oaks Water System (CCN No. 11172)*
- b. The county judge of each county that is wholly or partially included in the requested area:
 - Llano County Judge
- c. Any affected customers, and other affected parties in the requested area.

Addresses can be obtained from the Water Utility Database at <u>http://www.puc.texas.gov/watersearch</u>. District information and addresses can be obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) web site located at <u>https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/iwud/index.cfm</u>.

- 2) Provide notice using the attached notice form(s).
- 3) Provide a copy of the map(s) deemed sufficient during administrative review delineating the requested area with each individual notice to neighboring utilities, other affected parties, and customers.
- 4) File in the docket copy of notice and the map(s) deemed sufficient during administrative review along with the signed affidavit specifying every person and entity to whom notice was provided, and the date that the notice was provided.

Staff may determine that additional information is needed to make a final recommendation in this docket. If additional information is needed, Staff may send requests for information (RFI) to CSWR-Texas and Water Works. CSWR-Texas and Water Works will have 20 days from the receipt of the RFI to respond.

Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

| TO: | Forrest Smith, Attorney Legal Division |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FROM: | Fred Bednarski III, Financial Analyst Kathryn Eiland, Financial Analyst Rate Regulation Division |
| DATE: | May 6, 2022 |
| RE: | Docket No. 53430 – Application of CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company LLC and Water Works I and II for Sale, Transfer, or Merger of Facilities and Certificate Rights in Llano County |

On February 22, 2022, CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company and Cody and Anita Lewis dba Cassie Water Company, Deer Springs Water Company, and Water Works I and II filed an application for the sale and transfer of facilities and certificate rights in Burnet and Llano counties under the provisions of Texas Water Code § 13.301 and 16 Texas Administrative Code § 24.239 in docket number 53259. On April 4, 2022, Deer Springs Water Company was severed to docket number 53429 and Water Works I and II was severed to docket number 53430.

We reviewed the answers provided to questions 4, 10, 11, 12, and 14 of the application. We did not identify any deficiencies in those answers for purposes of determining whether the application is administratively complete. Therefore, we recommend that the Commission deem the application administratively complete from a financial perspective.

Notice to Current Customers, Neighboring Systems, and Cities CSWR-TEXAS UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (CCN) NO. 13290, NOTICE OF INTENT TO PURCHASE WATER FACILITIES AND TO TRANSFER WATER SERVICE AREA UNDER CCN NO. 11674 FROM WATER WORKS I & II IN LLANO COUNTY, TEXAS

| To: | | Date Notice Mailed: | , 20 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| (Name of Cu | stomer, Neighboring System, or City) | | |
| (Address) | | | |
| (City | State Zip) | | |
| CSWR-Texas Ut | ility Operating Company, LLC | 1650 Des Peres R | <u>.d, Suite 303</u> |
| (Purchaser's Name) | | (Address) | |
| St. Louis. MO | | 63131 | |

(City), (State)

(Zip Code)

has submitted an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to purchase all of the water facilities and to transfer water certificated service area under CCN No. <u>11674</u>, in Llano County, TX from:

| Water Works I & II | P.O. Box 61311 | San Angelo, TX | 76906 |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| (Seller's Name) | (Address) | (City), (State) | (Zip Code) |

<u>The requested area overlaps the district boundaries of the Lower Colorado River Authority</u>. If this district does not request a public hearing, the Commission shall determine that the district is consenting to CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company, LLC's request to provide retail water/sewer utility service in the requested area.

The sale is scheduled to take place if approved by the Commission (Texas Water Code § 13.301). The transaction and the transfer of the CCN includes the following subdivisions: <u>Floyd Acres and Island Lodges.</u>

Requested Area 1 (Water Works I) – Floyd Acres Subdivision

The requested area 1 includes <u>28</u> customer connections, is located approximately <u>12.7</u> mile(s) <u>east</u> of downtown <u>Llano</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by <u>Lake Buchanan</u>; on the east by <u>Lake Buchanan</u>; on the south by <u>State Highway 261</u>; and on the west by <u>State Highway 261</u>. The requested area 1 includes approximately <u>28</u> acres of transferred area from Water Works I & II (CCN No. 11674) to CSWR-Texas (CCN No. 13290).

Requested Area 2 (Water Works II) - Island Lodges Subdivision

The requested area 2 includes $\underline{56}$ customer connections, is located approximately $\underline{11.8}$ mile(s) west of downtown <u>Burnet</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by <u>Lake Buchanan</u>; on the east by <u>Lake Buchanan</u>; on the south by <u>State Highway 29</u>; and on the west by <u>Lake Buchanan</u>. The

requested area 2 includes approximately <u>109</u> acres of transferred area from Water Works I & II (CCN No. 11674) to CSWR-Texas (CCN No. 13290).

The total requested area includes 84 customer connections and approximately <u>137</u> acres of transferred area from Water Works I & II (CCN No. 11674) to CSWR-Texas (CCN No. 13290).

The application proposes the subtraction of approximately $\underline{137}$ acres from CCN No. 11674 and the addition of approximately $\underline{137}$ acres to CCN No. 13290.

See enclosed map showing the requested area.

This transaction will not have an effect on the current customer's rates and services.

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is (30 days from the mailing or publication of notice, whichever occurs later, unless otherwise provided by the presiding officer). You must send a letter requesting intervention to the commission which is received by that date. The letter must include the person's name, address, email address and fax number if applicable.

If a valid public hearing is requested, the Commission will forward the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing. If no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, SOAH will submit a recommendation to the Commission for final decision. An evidentiary hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-888-782-8477.

Utility Representative

Utility Name

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS



AFFIDAVIT OF NOTICE TO CURRENT CUSTOMERS, NEIGHBORING UTILITIES, AND AFFECTED PARTIES DOCKET NO. 53259

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF _____

notice to the following entities and customers:

has provided individual

DATE OF NOTICE

OATH

I, ______, being duly sworn, file this form as _______, owner, member of partnership, title of officer of corporation, or other authorized representative of applicant); that in such capacity, I am qualified and authorized to file and verify such form, am personally familiar with the notices given with this application, and have complied with all notice requirements in the application and application acceptance letter; and that all such statements made and matters set for therein are true and correct.

Applicant's Authorized Representative

If the applicant to this form is any person other than the sole owner, partner, officer of the applicant, or its attorney, a properly verified Power of Attorney must be enclosed.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20___, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Print or Type Name of Notary Public

Commission Expires_____

Notice Form Updated: March 31, 2022