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October 4, 2024

Jeff Killip
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Cascadia Water, LLC*
Docket No. UW-240151

Dear Mr. Killip,

This matter was suspended at the Utilities and Transportation Commission's June 27, 2024, Open Meeting. Prehearing conference was held on August 21, 2024, and Commission Staff requested that a mediator be selected from within the Commission and assigned to assist parties in potentially coming to a resolution short of fully litigating the matter. This request was consistent with the discussions that occurred at the Open Meeting.¹ Administrative Law Judge Callahan issued Order 02 on September 11, 2024, granting Staff's request for a mediator. The Order stated:

Staff's representative requested that the Commission grant a motion to assign a mediator to this proceeding. The Commission supports the informal settlement of matters before it. The presiding administrative law judge granted the motion at the Prehearing Conference. The Commission will select an individual as the mediator for this matter and will issue a notice assigning that individual as the mediator subsequently.²

Because no mediator has been assigned, Commission Staff files this letter to inquire about the status of that assignment.

¹ UTC Open Meeting, June 27, 2024 Recording, <https://wutc.app.box.com/v/OpenMeetings/file/1585158465476>, 2:46:12 – 2:46:43 (prefer to suspend and use the Commission process, including mediation and ALJ mediator); 4:31:33 – 4:42:36 (Commissioner deliberations); 4:34:19 – 4:34:32 (suspend, set a procedural schedule, then see if we can push for resolution among the parties); 4:40:53 – 4:41:13 (hoping to have an efficient procedural schedule, maybe with mediation).

² *Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. Cascadia Water, LLC.*, Docket UW-240151, Order 02, ¶ 18 (Sept. 11, 2024).

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The procedural schedule includes a settlement conference to be held on October 15.³ The settlement conference may need to be rescheduled if a mediator is not assigned in time to hold the meeting on October 15. Staff would prefer to keep the October 15 date as scheduled, but rescheduling may be required under the circumstances. If the settlement conference is rescheduled, the parties will notify the Commission as required under Order 02, Paragraph 20.

Sincerely,

s/ Lisa Gafken, WSBA No. 31549
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LWG/jlr

cc: Parties

³ Order 02, Appendix B.