

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re:

DOCKET NO. 20260031-WS

Petition to establish rate base value of
acquired system using alternative procedure,
by Sunshine Water Services Company.

PROCEEDINGS: PREHEARING CONFERENCE

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: COMMISSIONER ANA ORTEGA

DATE: Friday, July 24, 2026

TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.
Concluded: 9:37 a.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 J. JEFFREY WAHLEN, VIRGINIA PONDER and MATTHEW
3 J. JONES, ESQUIRES, Ausley McMullen Law Firm, 123 S.
4 Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301; appearing on
5 behalf of Sunshine Water Services Company (SWSC).

6 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL; AUSTIN
7 WATROUS, ESQUIRE, OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The
8 Florida Legislature, 111 West Madison Street, Room 812,
9 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400, appearing on behalf of
10 the Citizens of the State of Florida (OPC).

11 SUZANNE BROWNLESS and MAJOR THOMPSON,
12 ESQUIRES, FPSC General Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard
13 Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850,
14 appearing on behalf of the Florida Public Service
15 Commission (Staff).

16 ADRIA HARPER, GENERAL COUNSEL; MARY ANNE
17 HELTON, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, Florida Public Service
18 Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee,
19 Florida 32399-0850, Advisor to the Florida Public
20 Service Commission.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Good morning, everyone.
3 Thank you for joining me on this Friday, July 24th.
4 It's 9:30, and I will now call this Prehearing to
5 order.

6 Staff, will you please read the notice?

7 MS. BROWNLESS: By notice published on July
8 9th, 2026, this time and place has been set for a
9 Prehearing Conference in Docket No. 20260031-WS,
10 petition to establish rate base value of acquired
11 system using alternative procedure by Sunshine
12 Water Services Company. Commissioner Ortega will
13 describe the purpose of this prehearing more fully.

14 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thank you so much.

15 And just keeping with Chairman Passidomo Smith
16 priority of adding some transparency for
17 proceedings I wanted to briefly explain the purpose
18 of today's meeting for any customers that may be
19 watching us today.

20 So today, we are here to discuss any changes
21 of the issues or positions, if necessary, to
22 establish the timing for opening statements and for
23 witness summaries, to establish an order of
24 witnesses and identify exhibits, and to consider
25 any other facts or information that may assist the

1 Commission in reaching a fair decision.

2 So let's go ahead and move on to appearances,
3 starting with Sunshine.

4 MR. JONES: Good morning, Commissioner. I am
5 Matt Jones with the Ausley McMullen law firm,
6 appearing on behalf of Sunshine Water Services
7 Company. I would also like to enter an appearance
8 for my colleagues, Jeff Wahlen and Virginia Ponder.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: OPC.

11 MR. WATROUS: Good morning, Commissioner.
12 This is Austin Watrous on behalf of the Florida
13 Office of Public Counsel. And I would also like to
14 enter an appearance for Walt Trierweiler, the
15 Public Counsel.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Great.

18 And Commission staff.

19 MS. BROWNLESS: I am Suzanne Brownless
20 representing Commission staff, and with me is Major
21 Thompson.

22 MS. HELTON: And Mary Anne Helton is here as
23 your Advisor, along with your General Counsel,
24 Adria Harper.

25 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Wonderful.

1 So, staff, are there any preliminary matters
2 that we need to address before key go into the
3 substance?

4 MS. BROWNLESS: No, ma'am. The staff does not
5 have any preliminary matters it would like to
6 discuss.

7 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Parties, do you have any
8 preliminary matters that you have? Great.

9 So let's shift into going through the draft
10 Prehearing so that we can get some of the
11 information that we need for today.

12 So my understanding is that there is no issues
13 with Section I, which is the case background,
14 Section II, conduct of proceeding, or Section III,
15 jurisdiction.

16 Also, Section IV, the procedure for handling
17 confidential information, is outlined in the order
18 that you all have access to. So with that, I was
19 wondering if you could just acknowledge that there
20 is no questions or concerns before we proceed.

21 MR. JONES: Sunshine has no questions or
22 concerns. Thank you.

23 MR. WATROUS: The OPC also has no questions or
24 concerns.

25 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Wonderful. So seeing

1 none, let's move on to Section V, which outlines
2 the prefiled testimony and discuss the witness
3 summaries.

4 Staff.

5 MS. BROWNLESS: Staff suggests the witness
6 summaries of their testimony be no longer than
7 three minutes.

8 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: That sounds reasonable.
9 Parties, okay with three minutes?

10 MR. JONES: Yes.

11 MR. WATROUS: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Wonderful, so seeing
13 that agreement for three minutes, let's talk about
14 the order of witnesses.

15 Are there any witnesses that can be stipulated
16 at this point, Sunshine?

17 MR. JONES: No.

18 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Not yet?

19 MR. WATROUS: Not at this point in time.

20 MS. BROWNLESS: No, ma'am.

21 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Okay. Well, I am sure
22 through this process, you guys are going to be
23 coming together and that may change in the future.

24 Moving on to basic positions. Do either party
25 have any changes to their basic positions?

1 MR. JONES: No, ma'am.

2 MR. WATROUS: No.

3 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Well, you guys are
4 making this too easy for me, so thank you.

5 Let's go ahead and move on to the issues and
6 positions as they appear in the draft Prehearing
7 Order.

8 Do either party have any changes to these
9 positions?

10 MR. JONES: No, Commissioner.

11 MR. WATROUS: No.

12 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: All right. Moving on.
13 Are there any related matters to the issues or
14 positions that we need to discuss?

15 Seeing none, so let's go ahead and turn back
16 to staff about the exhibit list.

17 MS. BROWNLESS: Yes, ma'am.

18 Staff notes that it has prepared a
19 Comprehensive Exhibit List which includes all
20 prefiled exhibits and also includes those exhibits
21 staff wishes to include in the record. Staff will
22 circulate the draft list and check with the parties
23 prior to the hearing to determine if there are any
24 objections to the comprehensive exhibit list or any
25 of staff's exhibits being entered into the record.

1 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Thank you.

2 And are there any proposed stipulations at
3 this time, staff?

4 MS. BROWNLESS: Staff is not aware of any
5 proposed stipulations at this time. However, if
6 any stipulations have been negotiated, staff would
7 encourages the parties to bring them forward.

8 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Seeing none.

9 Let's talk about Section XI, pending motions
10 and Section XII, pending confidentiality motions.
11 I am not aware of any pending motions at this time.
12 Parties, do we have any pending motions?

13 MR. JONES: No, ma'am.

14 MR. WATROUS: No.

15 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Great. Okay. Well,
16 then moving on, let's turn it back to staff for the
17 post-hearing procedures.

18 MS. BROWNLESS: Yes, ma'am.

19 If issues are stipulated and the parties agree
20 to waive briefs, the Commission may make a bench
21 decision for those portions of the proceeding.

22 If there are any issues to be briefed, staff
23 recommends post-hearing briefs be no longer than 40
24 pages, including attachments.

25 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: 40 pages work for you

1 guys?

2 MR. JONES: Yes, ma'am.

3 MR. WATROUS: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Fantastic.

5 Staff, when will those be due?

6 MS. BROWNLESS: They will be -- briefs will be
7 due August 28th, 2026.

8 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Sounds good so far.

9 Great.

10 Staff, let's turn to any other rulings that I
11 need to make today.

12 MS. BROWNLESS: Staff recommends that the
13 Prehearing Officer make a ruling that opening
14 statements, if any, should not exceed five minutes
15 per party unless any party chooses to waive its
16 opening statement.

17 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Five minutes seems
18 reasonable. Are there any requests for additional
19 or less time? No, great. Five minutes it is.

20 So let's -- we are at the point where we have
21 gone through all the procedural issues about how
22 the hearing will take place, and I will turn to
23 staff and ask if there is any other matters that we
24 need to address at this Prehearing Conference? No?
25 Seeing none? Seeing none?

1 Well, thank you guys for joining me on Friday,
2 and we are adjourned. Have a great weekend.

3 MS. BROWNLESS: Thank you.

4 MR. JONES: Thank you.

5 (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
and that this transcript constitutes a true
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
financially interested in the action.

DATED this 10th day of August, 2026.



DEBRA R. KRICK
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH575054
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028