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Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Docket No. W-02096A-07-0460

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the over 30% rate increase that your staff is recommending for the Verde Lee Water Company. I have been a customer of the Verde Lee Water Company for over thirty years now and overall I am quite pleased with the water system and water quality.

My opposition is based on a couple of things. First, I don't understand the need for such a huge increase. It has only been a few years since the last increase, which was also quite high. There hasn't been an increase in power costs during that time that I am aware of and the annual inflation rate has only been in the 2% range. So it appears to me that there isn't justification for an increase from that stand point.

Secondly, I haven't seen any change in service for the better. It still takes days and sometimes multiple phone calls and messages left on an answering machine before Mr. Ross responds to requests for service. This is not just my experience, but also that of neighbors that I have spoken with.

I work for a utility company so I understand the need for the occasional rate increase to cover increased O & M costs. I think the rate payers in our case would be less likely to be upset if the rate increases weren't so high each time and most importantly if we knew why the increase is necessary. We have received no explanation on what the justifications are and the only public meeting was scheduled out of town which made it impossible for some of us to attend. We need to have the meeting held locally. For the Commission to recommend an increase twice what the Company is asking for is wrong without some explanation to the rate payers. We don't want to pay luxury car prices for the good used family sedan we already have.

I would also like to know what, if anything, is being done to keep costs down.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Burns

Michael P. Burns
218 Cougar Drive
Clifton, AZ 85533

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