

COMMISSIONERS
KRISTIN K. MAYES - Chairman
GARY PIERCE
PAUL NEWMAN
SANDRA D. KENNEDY
BOB STUMP



0000093672

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

February 11, 2009

ORIGINAL

To: Docket Control

RE: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. - Customer Comments
Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

Please docket the attached 55 customer comments in response to the above filed rate case.

Customer comments can be reviewed in E-docket under the above docket number.

Filed by: Utilities Division – Consumer Services

RECEIVED
2009 FEB 11 P 3:40
AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED
FEB 11 2009

DOCKETED BY 

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

("Company") proposed rate application. Your comments will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission, and made a part of the record in this application. The Commissioners will consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the Company's application.

Customer concerns addressed in letters, telephone calls and e-mails will assist staff in the investigation and review of the rate application. Staff's analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, you may call me at 1-800-535-0148 or via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Reg Lopez
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II
Utilities Division-Tucson Office

I e-mailed Trish Metter @ ACC Phoenix Office to please have this docketed towards docket no. WS-03478A-08-0454 under Far West Water & Sewer. File closed.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/9/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75500

WS-03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 75557

Date: 2/9/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By:

Don & Lillian

Sanders

Account Name:

Don & Lillian Sanders

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street:

Email address [REDACTED]

Work:

City:

Yuma

CBR: [REDACTED]

State:

AZ Zip: 85364

is: E-Mail

Utility Company:

Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division:

Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Received the following email:

From: LILLIAN SANDERS [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 7:21 AM
To: Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Far West Water and Sewer rate increase

I can not believe you would approve a 200% rate increase for Far West Water and Sewer! The Foothills in Yuma Az has a population made up of mostly retired elderly people! I hope you get a lot more of these objections! Thank You for taking the time to read this one! Don and Lillian Sanders home owners Foothills Yuma Az.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

na
End of Response

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Replied with the following email:

RE: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Dear Don and Lillian Sanders,

Your email dated February 6, 2009 regarding the Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. rate application sent to the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") office will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center to

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

be made part of the record. The Commission will take your comments into consideration before a decision is rendered in the Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. rate case.

The concerns raised in letters received from customers will assist the Commission in the investigation and review of the rate application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers. Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Commission staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me toll free at (800) 535-0148 or directly at 520-628-6556.

Thank you,

Richard Martinez
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II
Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Division
[REDACTED]

FILE CLOSED.

I emailed this OPINION to Trish Meeter @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.- Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/9/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75557

WS. 03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Trish Meeter

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 75599

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Nelson Last: Colglazier

Account Name: NelsonColglazier

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85367

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

2/9 DOCKET NO. WS 03478A-08-0454

2/6/09

Nelson Colglazier
[REDACTED]
Yuma, AZ 85367-6655

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Name of Utility: Far West Water and Sewer Co.

My wife and I feel that the rate increase requested by above named company is extremely excessive, especially due to the economic conditions in the financial markets we are all facing today. We realize a company has to make a modest profit to remain in business and serve the public interest, but their request is extremely exorbitant.

We feel this request should be firmly denied.

Thank you,

Nelson & Glenda Colglazier
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

2/10

Called customer and acknowledged receipt of correspondence. Advised the comments would be made a part of the case and a copy to the Commissioners before a decision is rendered.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75599

WS. 03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Trish Meeter

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 75597

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: **First:** Mr & Mrs Allen **Last:** Feris

Account Name: Mr. & Mrs. Allen Feris

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Sun City West

CBR:

State: AZ **Zip:** 85375

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

2/9 DOCKET NO. WS 03478A-08-0454

2/6/09

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Feris

[REDACTED]
Yuma, AZ 85367

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Name of Utility: APS

Since we have lived on our lot the Sewer has doubled and now they want to triple it. I don't see how we will be able to afford that. Yuma use to be the place to come and spend the winter and now it is getting beyond our budget.

You can not shut off your sewer while you are gone so that is too much money to pay while you are gone during the summer.

The raise in the sewer is so we can help pay for more sewer here in the foothills. As they are still developing without selling anything.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

2/10

Called customer and acknowledged receipt of correspondence. Advised the comments would be made a part of the case and a copy to the Commissioners before a decision is rendered.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75597

WS-03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75382

Date: 2/5/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: James R. & Carol J. Last: Phipps

Account Name: James R. & Carol J. Phipps

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: [REDACTED]

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

(Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454)

Received the following correspondence:

RE: Far West Water & Sewer Proposed Rate Increase

As a property owner in the Foot Hills of Yuma, Arizona, we feel a 200 percent increase in sewer rates is absolutely ridiculous.

We presently only occupy our property for 5 months of the year and we are required to pay for sewer rates for the whole year. We do have the opportunity to disconnect our water and sewer for a \$25.00 re-connection fee, but we are still required to pay sewer rates for the whole year. We would like an explanation as to what the money they are collecting is used for. We would think they must have been mishandling some of these funds, since nothing is going into the sewer for 7 months. We know there are many others in the same situation as us and they are taking unfair advantage of the retirees.

Since a great percentage of this area is homes on fixed incomes, it will definitely make a hardship on many, especially at a time when the economy is so distressed.

We would appreciate it if you would take into consideration that this type of increase would cause much undue financial stress.

Thank you for you(r) consideration in this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

James R. Phipps

Carol J. Phipps

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Yuma, AZ & [REDACTED]
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

na
End of Response

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

I called customer and left a voice mail message on their phone that the Arizona Corporation Commission is in receipt of their correspondence. I stated that their Opinion would be entered into our database for the record and that their Opinion would be docketed so that the Commissioners would have an opportunity to read their concerns prior to rendering their decision. FILE CLOSED.

I emailed this OPINION to Guadalupe Ortiz @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.- Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/5/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75382

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

I called customer and left a voice mail message stating that the ACC is in receipt of his correspondence. His Opinion against the proposed rate increase by Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. would be entered into our database for the record. His Opinion would also be docketed so that the Commissioners would have an opportunity to read his concerns prior to rendering their decision. FILE CLOSED.

I emailed this OPINION to Guadalupe Ortiz @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/4/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75305

WS-03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Carmen Madrid

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 75535

Date: 2/9/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Mary Ann Last: Garrigus

Account Name: Mary Ann Garrigus

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street: [REDACTED]

Work: (000) 000-0000

City: Yuma

CBR: [REDACTED]

State: AZ Zip: 85365

is: E-Mail

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: n/a

Contact Phone: n/a

Nature of Complaint:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2009 9:47 AM
To: Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Far West Water & Sewer Co. - Proposed rate increase

This is not reasonable. Most residence are paying for 12 months of service, while using service for only 4 months. What are they doing with that money?
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

February 9, 2009

Dear [REDACTED]

My name is Carmen Madrid and I am a Public Utilities Consumer Analyst with the Arizona Corporation Commission. This is to acknowledge receipt of your opinion regarding the Far West Water and Sewer Company.

This is going to be filed in the permanent docket and copies will be provided to Commissioners and staff members assigned to this matter.

Can I have your name and address to include in the complaint form? You can e-mail it to me at [REDACTED] or you can call me at [REDACTED].

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

Sincerely,

Carmen Madrid
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst
Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Division
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
**

Mary Ann Garrigus


Yuma, AZ 85365
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75535

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

Investigator: Reg Lopez**Phone:** [REDACTED]**Fax:** [REDACTED]**Priority:** Respond Within Five Days**Opinion No.** 2009 75590**Date:** 2/10/2009**Complaint Description:** 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable**Complaint By:** **First:** Salvador D. **Last:** Piazza**Account Name:** Salvador D. Piazza**Home:** [REDACTED]**Street:** [REDACTED]**Work:****City:** Yuma**CBR:****State:** AZ **Zip:** 85367**is:****Utility Company:** Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.**Division:** Water**Contact Name:** Roxanne Fiddes**Contact Phone:** (928) 342-1238**Nature of Complaint:**

Received the following ACC Public Comment Form dated 2-1-09:

We are against the 200% increase in sewer rates. We feels any rate increase would be too much considering we are winter residents for 6 months and when we leave they still charge us a monthly fee, with water turned off. As there is no water going into sewer, that would mean, NO processing, so where does that money go?? We feels for people with a modest income that come here to enjoy your state and sunshine, This is quite expensive. In our case this will be more than our taxes. To go one step further, how about our property values? Who is going to buy property with this albatross tied to it?? We have already taken a hit on our property values with the financial slow down. I hope the commission will look into Far West Water & Sewer management. We have only been property owners for 3 years, but have certainly heard unfavorable stories about Far West.

Thank you for taking our comments,
Sal & Suzie Piazza
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

I called the customer & left voice mail. I provided my name and toll free tel# and acknowledged his ACC Complaint Form dated 2-1-09, I expressed thanks for taking the time to express his opinion and that his comments would be noted as a permanent record in this rate application. I advised his comments would be considered before a decision is reached in this matter.

I e-mailed Carmen Madrid @ ACC Phoenix Office to please have this docketed towards docket no. WS-03478A-08-0454 under Far West Water & Sewer. File closed.

End of Comments

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75590

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

I called customer to acknowledge the fact that we received her correspondence regarding her Opinion against the proposed rate increase by Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.. I told customer that her Opinion would be entered in our database for the record and that the Opinion would be docketed so that the Commissioners would have an opportunity to read her concerns. FILE CLOSED.

I emailed this OPINION to Carmen Madrid @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.- Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75575

WS 03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75582

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Robert C. Last: Denney

Account Name: Robert C. Denney

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85365

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

ROBERT C. DENNEY

[REDACTED]
YUMAV AZ. 85365

[REDACTED]
February 6, 2009

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
CONSUMER SERVICES SECTION
1200 WEST WASHINGTON
PHOENIX, AZ. 85007

Dear Mr. Chairman

Reference Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

I have received notification that Far West Water & Sewer Company is requesting that rates be increased to allow them a 2148 percent increase in annual revenue. This would mean that the amount I now pay of \$2175 monthly would increase to \$7422 in three years. This amount of increase is excessive and unaffordable to many. I understand that prices always go up each year but this rate increase is excessive. Many in this area are retired and on a fixed income and this increase if allowed to stand, would cause an extreme hardship.

Additionally, some of my neighbors are snowbirds and are only here less than six months each year. This would mean that they would be paying \$7432 a month, almost \$90000 a year for sewer service, even when they are here less than six months.

I respectfully request that you not grant this unreasonable rate increase. -

Sincerely,

Robert C. Denney

End of Complaint

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75582

WS 03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75587

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: W. Harvey Last: Simpson

Account Name: W. Harvey Simpson

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85364

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

February 5, 2009
Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
RE: DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454

I own a permanent home located at 53 lane in the "Foothills" service area of Far West Water and Sewer Company and have been a customer for over a decade.

The proposed rate increase of Far West is indicative of their mismanagement of expense and capital monies. The companies approach to capital planning is to do nothing until customers complain or the commission receives complaints about the company. The company cannot even provide a safe working environment for its employees. The way the company is managed and forecasts for capital improvements, including growth, is a joke. It is no wonder now that the "ox is in the ditch", so to speak, they want to do all improvements at onceto stave off high maintenance expense and public opinion.

I would. ask that the commission grant no relief to Far West until realistic capital improvements are justified to the commission and realistic timetables are established for implemcnttiou and objectives met. Then and only then would the commission grant relief based on "after the fact" actual capital expenditures and a forecasted reasonable rate of return. Additionally, I would ask that the commission be aware that approximately 92% of Far West's customers are retired and live on fixed incomes.

Far West Corporation rate application in its present form is so unrealistic that it is not worth you as a commissioner or your staffs time for consideration period. But under corporation commission laws, I guess you must. It is for this absurd rate request that we have your abilities to halt this application. Thank you.

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

W. Harvey
[REDACTED]

Yuma, AZ 85364
[REDACTED]

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.

End of Comments
[REDACTED]

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75587

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WS 03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75588

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: William F. Last: Cline

Account Name: William F & Sara L. Cline

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85367

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

William F. & Sara L. Cline

[REDACTED]
Yuma, 85367

[REDACTED]
February 6, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Service Section
1200 Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454

Members

We are winter visitors and pay Far West Water for the Water & Sewer the entire year even though we are only here for five months a year. If we have the water cut off we still have to pay the \$20.00 per month.

We feel that any enlargement in the system caused by new connections should be born by the new connectors. We feel that 300% increase (\$60.00) or total of \$80.00 per month or \$720.00 per year is out of line with the cost of treating sewer water.

This would put a financial burden on the many elderly and may cause them to lose their homes and will discourage winter visitors from coming to Yuma.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75588

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75591

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Dave Last: Harvey

Account Name: Dave & Claudia Harvey

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85367

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Service Section
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Az. 85007
Reference: Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

During these times of recession it is unbelievable that Far West would propose such a rate increase. There should be NQ bail out at taxpayers expense of such a proposed rate increase.
If Far West cannot operate without such a rédiculous increase, get them out of business and replace them with a more effient company.
This letter conveys a NQ vote for the proposed rate increase by Far West Water and Sewer Company.
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75591

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75589

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Robert J Last: Ledet

Account Name: Robert J. Ledet

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85365

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED] (602) 949-1238

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

06 Feb 2009
Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Ref: Far West Water & Sewer Rate Increase

We are writing to strongly protest the sewer rate increase currently being requested by Far West Water & Sewer Company in Yuma, Arizona. This is outrageous! How can you even begin to seriously entertain allowing an almost 215% increase. The area that will be impacted by this request increase is home to a large number of senior citizens on fixed income (whose annual COLA increases over 15 years would not even come close to the 2 14.5% increase they are requesting), military and other working families who are already financially pressed. If Far West Water & Sewer cannot keep up with expanding services without increasing rates to long existing customers then they need to stop expanding or find another source of funding. Perhaps they need to take a hard look at what they pay their CEOs and owners then go on a diet just like the rest of us.

You keep allowing APS to increase their rates until it is all we can do to keep up and now all the other utilities want an even bigger piece of the pie. Enough Already... Stop this Madness!!!!
Concerned home owners,

Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Ledet

[REDACTED]
Yuma, AZ 85365

End of Complaint

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75589

[Redacted]

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton**Phone:** [REDACTED]**Fax:** [REDACTED]**Priority:** Respond Within Five Days**Opinion****No.** 2009 - 75593**Date:** 2/10/2009**Complaint Description:**

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:**Last:****Complaint By:**

Arthur L.

Meyer

Account Name:

Arthur L & Jane Meyer

Home: [REDACTED]**Street:**

[REDACTED]

Work:**City:**

Yuma

CBR:**State:**

AZ

Zip: 85365**is:****Utility Company:**

Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division:

Water

Contact Name:

[REDACTED]

Contact Phone:

[REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

February 14, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Services Section

1200 W. Washington Street

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Far West Water & Sewer Rate Increase

I am writing to strongly protest the sewer rate increase currently being requested by Far West Water & Sewer Company in Yuma, Arizona. This is outrageous. How can you even begin to seriously entertain allowing an almost 215% increase. The area that will be impacted by this request increase is home to a large number of senior citizens on a fixed income (whose annual COLA increases over 15 years would not even come close to the 214.5% increase they are requesting), military and other working families who are already financially pressed. If Far West Water & Sewer cannot keep up with expanding services without increasing rates to long existing customers then they need to stop expanding or find another source of funding. Perhaps they need to take a hard look at what they pay their CEOs and owners then go on a diet just like the rest of us.

You keep allowing APS to increase their rates until it is all we can do to keep up and now all the other utilities want an even bigger piece of the pie. Enough already. Stop this madness.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.

End of Comments

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75593

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: (6 [REDACTED])

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75584

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: **First:** William **Last:** Vandiver

Account Name: William & Lorine Vandiver

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ **Zip:** 85367

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Az 85007
Re; bocket #WS-03478A-08-0454
Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to protest the exorbitant rate increase that Far West Water and Sewer Company, 13157 E. St., Yuma, Az 85367, is proposing.

It is such a huge increase that by the third year we will be paying almost as much for sewer services as for property taxes. Retirees on fixed incomes are a major part of the clientele in the foothills and are only using the services four to five months, which makes this increase even more unfair as we pay for the service even when we are not here.

They say they need the increase to meet the new standards for clean water output. They should have spent money on this instead of the development of new projects. Also they tell us the increase does not reflect any of their legal costs of the 2001 accident, which claimed lives, and the 2008 air quality violations. This is hard to believe.

We strongly oppose this increase of more than 200 percent over the next three years and hope you will give this careful consideration as you make your decision.

Thank you,

William c! Lorine Vandiver
[REDACTED]
Yuma. Az 85367

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75584

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75583

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

sewer system has been updated and expanded to accommodate more homes and businesses then and only then is it appropriate to develop more lots. There is a class action law suit against Far West by the people who bought their lots years ago and now want to hook up to the sewer system and are being denied the hook up because it burdens the sewer system, while the sisters continually develop lots and hook them up to the sewer system because it benefits them. Why don't the sisters stop the developing of new lots and allow the longtime land owners hookups? This is just another example of poor management of Farwest Sewer funds.

We strongly OPPOSE any' rate hike for sewer.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called customer to acknowledge receipt of opinion and explain docket process.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75581

WS 03478A-08-0454

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Brad Morton

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 - 75586

Date: 2/10/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Norman Last: Grooters

Account Name: Norman & Audrey Grooters

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85367

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Docket No. WS 03478A-08-0454

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Service Section
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Az. 85007
Reference: Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

During these times of recession it is unbelievable that Far West would propose such a rate increase. There should be NO bail out at taxpayers expense of such a proposed rate increase. If Far West cannot operate without such a ridiculous increase, get them out of business and replace them with a more effient company. This letter conveys a NO vote for the proposed rate increase by Far West Water and Sewer Company.
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Called consumer to acknowledge receipt of his opinion and explain the docket process.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/10/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 75586

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Joy & Roxie Russell	DATE 2/9/09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 11322 So Ave 12E Sp225, Yuma, AZ 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 928-342-8345
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0457
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS RoxNJoy@MSN.COM	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We are retired and stay in this area seven months. We would like to see a seasonal charge during the months away from home. Our fixed income would be stretched thin under the proposed plan. Thank you for any consideration given for our situation.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

or

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:
mailmaster@azcc.gov

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Arthur E & Bertha A Wydler	DATE 2/9/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 14131 E 50th DR Yuma, AZ 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 342-0838
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Rate Application of Far West Water & Sewer	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS aewydler@yahoo.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We find it hard to believe that any utility would consider almost tripling their rates in only 3 years. Most of the families in the Far West Water & Sewer service area are retired and on fixed incomes. Many retirees chose to live in this area because of health reasons. The lower cost of heating in winter has enticed many families to move here. This area has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. Those families that can afford to migrate when the weather gets hot already pay for services they do not use- they are charged all year. Wouldn't it be better to charge for facilities prior to new construction? Those of us who have lived in the service area for years never anticipated an increase that would put us below the poverty level.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>AUDREY RAK</i>	DATE <i>2/10/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 S. AVE 12E - #19 YUMA, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-276-9231</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0457</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

I wish to strongly urge your Commission to consider the financial burden that will occur if this rate hike were to take affect.

The majority of residents are Se. citizens and most of us only live here in the winter, but, pay this bill year-round.

After some checking, it appears to me that there is much collusion among the principals at Far West. It also appears that they, and they alone have the most to gain with this outrageous proposed rate hike.

Your consideration on my behalf will be greatly appreciated

AJ Rak

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>ALBIN LENARD</i>	DATE <i>2-10-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>YUMA, AZ, 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-9542</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0457</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

I CAN'T BELIEVE FAR WEST WOULD PROPOSE A RATE INCREASE OF ANY KIND DURING THIS RECESSION.

IF THEY CAN'T OPERATE WITHOUT THIS INCREASE, REPLACE THEM WITH A MORE EFFICIENT COMPANY.

I VOTE NO FOR THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Feb. 5. 2009

Dear Commissioners:

Please do not let the
Far West Water + Sewer Co.
raise our rates on the
sewer !!!

Thank you,

Kenneth Barklow
Irene Barklow
11674 S. Glenwood Ave
Yuma. AZ 85367

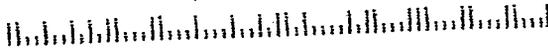
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Arizona Co.
Consumer Services section
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

U.S. 40
Canada 75



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Step 2

YOUR NAME JEAN M FITZGERALD	DATE FEB-9-2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP #12-11322 SO AVE 12E YUMA AZ	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 928 503-0318
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

I am definitely opposed to this increase because if the co had collected from the get go on the new owners who moved in there would be more money in the coffers. If this is the way the rest of the County has been handled you wonder they have a problem. I'm sorry, our home went up about 20% maybe. If this family get together with all these companies I'm sorry I can't make it with their investments. Get it from the developers.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>R. E. FRANKOVICH</i>	DATE <i>Feb 9/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 S. 12E AVE #142, YUMA AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-317-1167</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We are elderly and on a fixed income. We decided to buy at this park because it was within our means. With this tremendous increase in sewer rates it will be a hardship on all of us. This % of increase is ludicrous!! Unneeded for.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Step 2

YOUR NAME JACQUE BLAIR	DATE 2-9-09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13801-5244 L.C. YUMA, AZ 85369	YOUR PHONE NUMBER
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN, LIVED HERE FOR OVER 10 YEARS. I'M WIDOWED NOW AND AM EXISTING ON \$700⁰⁰ PER MONTH. I ABSOLUTELY "CAN NOT" PAY THIS KIND OF ~~INTEREST~~ INCREASE.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission
Public Comment Form
Continuation Page

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

AND NEITHER CAN MOST OF MY
FRIEND AND NEIGHBORS.

I WOULD BE FORCED TO SELL
MY HOME AND THEN WHERE WOULD
I GO.?! I HAVE NO CHILDREN
TO HELP. I HAVE SEVERE HEART
DISEASE AND LUNG ALSO (COPD.)

I CANNOT IMAGINE A HUGE
CO. SUCH AS YOURS, CAN HAVE
THE AUDACITY TO MAKE SUCH
A BURDEN ON THE ARIZONA CITIZENS

Jacque Blaine

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Barbara & Thomas Triplett</i>	DATE <i>2-9-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>10285 S. Spring Ave</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>(928) 345-1878</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>WS03478-A-08-0454</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS03478A-08-0454</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>Greenone33@AOL.com</i>	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Most seniors are on fixed incomes and as a result of the recession have already experienced a loss in income. If the sewer rate is increased as proposed, it will tip the scale and make it impossible for many of us to spend the winter months here. As a result many business owners in Yuma will suffer. Therefore, this proposal not only verges on criminal greed, but in view of the recession is economically inadvisable for the city of Yuma.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Marice (Bece) Carter</i>	DATE <i>2/19/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 Ave 12E #11 Yuma</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>623-455-6563</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>sewer rate increase</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0457</i>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.</i>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Please do not let this go thru - especially at 200%. I am on a very fixed income and will not be able to pay for the increase. This is outrageous to even consider doing this to seniors. I am a permanent residence to Yuma.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME WARREN HALE	DATE 2/10/2007
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 113 22 S AVE 125 #168 YUMA 85667	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 208-371-9711 CELL
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WHALE71460@AOL.COM	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

1) RATE INCREASE IS EXCESSIVE I HAVE BEEN RETIRED SINCE 1991 AND MY RETIREMENT HAS NOT INCREASED 200% W 184AS LET ALONG 3.

2) THIS TYPE OF INCREASE WILL BE HARD ON ALL RETIREE'S AND LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.

3) I USE FAR WEST WATER/SEWER APPROX 5-7 MONTHS WYR YET PAY FOR 12 AS IT IS

4) THIS INCREASE SHOULD BE PLACED ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND ~~THOSE~~ THOSE THAT REQUIRE NEW OR ADDITIONAL WORK.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Phoenix, Arizona 85007;

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Vincent Sindt	DATE 2/10/09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 11322 S. Ave 12 E #126 Yuma Az 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 928 317 0287
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0457
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS Usindt@bresnan.net	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

An increase of over 200% is out of line in Today's economy.
 Many of the people affected are seniors on fixed incomes.
 The increase is for the advantage of developers not the current residents.
 We are here for 5 months a year and this increase for 12 months is unfair.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;*

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Step 2

YOUR NAME James and Maxine Spangler	DATE 2/8/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 9660 E. 36th Place, Yuma, Arizona 8365	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 345-2972
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Far West Sewer Rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer Company	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS bigjim97496@yahoo.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Far West Water and Sewer Company is requesting an increase of annual revenues for sewer services of \$4,595,748. We spend 3 to 5 months in Yuma as winter visitors and have owned property since 2002 in the City of Yuma. When we bought the property, we were able to turn the sewer service off during the summer months. Then Far West began charging for the full year. This was over a 100% rate increase. As we are in the city limits of Yuma, we were wondering if there is an agreement between Far West and the City of Yuma?

We have some questions on this proposal. Far West proposed a monthly rate of \$74.32 after 3 years. Due to the conditions of the economy, isn't this an excessive increase in rates? How much is the annual operating cost of Far West? What has caused a 214% increase in annual revenues? How much has the cost of living gone up in the Yuma

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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**Arizona Corporation Commission
Public Comment Form
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

area in the last 10 years? Is Far West trying to raise funds for a project? Is there a time limit for this excessive rate or will it just continue to go up?

There is an indication that each trailer park will have their rates raised. Will the trailer park have to pay for each connection, even though there is nobody at that site or during the summer when the park is empty? If Far West requires the park to pay each site for the full year the park will be faced with a financial burden. If they are not charged during the summer then all winter visitors that own property and are not here would be discriminated against.

The amount Far West is requesting to raise rates would create a hardship on property owners in the area. Some of the property owners may try to sell their property which could reduce property values. With the reduced property values, the City and County would have reduced revenues from property taxes.

As we are not able to attend the Commission's hearing on July 29, 2009, it is hoped that the above comments will be considered.

Our summer address is: James and Maxine Spangler, P.O. Box 2631, Winston, Or.
97496

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Bill Parman	DATE 2/9/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13293 E. 54th Dr.	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 305-9583
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Far West Water & Sewer Rate Increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer Co.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS Desertrat@rvtechstop.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

This proposal is for a 241% rate increase. (No comment on profit, greed, etc.) I happen to be a retiree from private industry. This means the same number of dollars each year, with no COLA increases. It also means less and less buying power each year with the same number of dollars. Then my previous employer pulled a psuedo bankruptcy and left me with 1/3 of the retirement I had earned over my 30 years. With a fixed income plus Social Security I am being eaten alive by factors I have little control over. I am writing the commission to help with some control over these staggering cost increases. My greatest fear for years was not to have enough to eat in my last few years. Now it has become not being able to go to the bathroom and flush the toilet.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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or*

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:
mailmaster@azcc.gov*

**Arizona Corporation Commission
Public Comment Form
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

These are some of my thoughts on Far West Water & Sewer.

Far West has a monopoly and are using it fully to their advantage. Payments must be made by cash or check. They will not accept credit cards. (Since they are a monopoly, they don't have to give much service). It would be far less costly, for all concerned, to pay the bill by telephone with a credit card rather than having 20,000 plus customers drive to their office, or use the post office.

This last fall I had turned on the telephone before my arrival in Yuma, but forgot the water. As I pulled onto the lot I saw a Far West employee on the street. I asked him if he could turn on the water. He said call the office. I called and was informed they do not take anything less than a 24 hour notice for service turn ons. The employee was not exactly standing on top of the water meter enclosure, but he was within 50 feet. This is service? Then the next day, Far West sent a truck and employee to the lot to turn on the water. (Perhaps that was to help with the nationwide fuel shortage.)

In summation, I trust the Corporation Commission will look out for we, the users, of these monopolistic services(?). I don't have any problem with the other local utilities, Arizona Power or Qwest, just this water company. We can all remember in the not to distant past when Qwest was voted the worst customer service provider. They are now one of the best, perhaps with a bit of nudging from Corporation Commissions and other PUCs.

Sincerely,



Bill Parman
Yuma, AZ

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME EDWARD AND ARLENE MENDES	DATE 2/9/09
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 12597 E 47TH DR YUMA AZ 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER 928-345-6438
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water + Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We are retired, and on a extremely tight fixed income. We can understand the need for a rate increase for expanded plant capacity, but the amount requested would be very hard for us to budget at this time

Edward Mendes

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

*This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:
Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007;*

*You may e-mail it as an attachment to:
mailmaster@azcc.gov*

Feb. 8/09

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Sir / Madam:

Re: Far West Water & Sewer

Docket # WS-03478A-08-0454

Requested 200% increase in sewer fees

I wish to protest the absurd increase requested by Far West Water & Sewer for Yuma foothills residents.

The request highlights the error in granting a private company the sole rights to a public utility service. At a time when the Federal, State & Municipal governments realize that raising taxes is detrimental to the economy, this private company says to hell with our customers, if they don't want to pay our ridiculous fees we will simply cut off our service. As president Obama would say, this request is "shameful".

Ad Delaney
13878 E. 46th St.
Yuma, AZ 85367

Tel. (928) 345-6519

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Duane & Lois Book	DATE 2/8/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13400 S. Ave 14 1/2 E Yuma AZ 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 305-0666
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Far West's Sewer Service Rates	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS koobbd@aol.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We are concerned about the unfair and ridiculous increase Far West Water & Sewer has imposed on the residents here in Yuma CO. Foothills. An increase of this magnitude would have a crippling effect on our already staggering economy. Many residents would be forced to sell their homes or lots if this increase would go in to effect. We can only voice our opinion and our dissatisfaction in this matter. We request the Arizona Corporation Commission to take a long hard look at this unfair situation and come to a reasonable and fair conclusion. Thank you Duane and Lois Book

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Step 4

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**Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 W. Washington St.
 Phoenix, Arizona 85007;**
 or

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mailmaster@azcc.gov

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Martin G. Raebel	DATE 2/9/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 10389 E 39th Way	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 305-6499
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON:	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer Company	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS mraebel@hotmail.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Far West Water and Sewer Company is asking for a 214.8% in its annual revenues over its current revenues. The company is proposing a three year phase-in of the requested increase.

Far West can say what they want for justification of such an enormous rate increase, however they did lose a major lawsuit over the deaths of Far West Water and Sewer employees who were not adequately trained. The timing of such an enormous request after losing the lawsuit and receiving heavy fines by the state is suspect. I do not believe it is correct to make the consumer responsible for the suits and fines.

Secondly, with the economy in its present shape and the fact that Yuma County has the highest unemployment rate in the State of Arizona, this enormous request is

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**Arizona Corporation Commission
Public Comment Form
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

unbelievable. They may need to have a reasonable rate increase, but 214.8%?

Please! DO NOT approve the 214.8% rate increase requested by Far West Water and Sewer. The people in their service area can not stand such an enormous increase in their water and sewer bill.

Thank You.

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME T. J. & Kathleen Boren	DATE 2/7/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 10215 S. Spring Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85365	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 345-4495
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: WS-03478A-08-0454	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer Company	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS Bearzfolkz@aol.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Please do not approve any increase to the Far West Water & Sewer Company a/k/a Schechert Sisters under any circumstances! With the economy spiraling down hill as it is, this is an especially terrible time to even consider this request!

It would appear they are trying to collect money to pay the award against them for the deaths of employees a couple of years back and their desire to continue to develop sewer/water facilities for new developments via the current residents' money.

This is outrageous for the many residents who live in the Foothills area and are Victims of Far West Water & Sewer Company. I use the word "Victim" because we are subject to their financial desires.

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**Arizona Corporation Commission
Public Comment Form
Continuation Page**

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

There are two types of residents in the Foothills:

1. Winter residents like us - retirees on limited income and various health problems.
2. Full time families many of whom have children. The adults/parents often work two jobs. That assumes that they have not been laid off! We have friends who have just recently been laid off. They have children, house payments, food, utilities, etc. with no immediate job anticipated.

We hear also that RV park residents are finding their monthly rent is going to increase by \$200+ which one could assume is for the Far West people.

We recently read two letters to the Yuma Sun Editor expressing much more outrage. They are attached for your additional information.

It is our understanding that the City of Yuma is just a few blocks from here--including better service, better sewer, and better water. And quite frankly, we would rather be in the city!

We will be attending the March hearing as I assume most of us will. We can't be here in July, so please do not allow this under any circumstances. Thank you.

Appalled at big sewer rate hike

I, like many home and property owners in the Foothills area, received the public notice on the proposed 200 percent sewer rate increase from Far West Water and Sewer. I am appalled that in these economic down times that a company would brazenly try to produce such a proposal.

It falls right up there with corporate greed which is running rampant across the country today. For whatever reasons Far West Water and Sewer (i.e. H and S Development) got themselves into this predicament. I do not have all the facts so, I cannot elaborate on the matter.

Needless to say it is not the current home/property owners' fault so they should not be bailing out this company. I am also curious as to where the proposal compares with

other utilities throughout the nation. It seems to me that rate increases of this nature ranks right up there with New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago and San Francisco, just to name a few.

I would encourage all home/property owners (businesses alike) to write letters, attend meetings and voice their opinions. This matter should not be taken lightly. By the way, the Arizona Corporation Commission will listen to your comments. I have sent in my opinion to them.

DAVID HERMAN
Foothills

Outraged over sewer increase

You have to be as outraged as I am if you are a customer of Far West Water and Sewer Company and received the public notice that they want to raise our sewer fees by more than 300 percent over the next three years.

I am a winter visitor who came to Yuma because it is more reasonable, economically, to live

here than most other areas of the Southwest. About three years ago, Far West raised my sewer fees over 100 percent. I live here five months of the year and paid \$20 per month for the months I was living here. Far West decided, without a hearing, to charge me year-round, an increase of over 100 percent. Now they want to increase my fees about 150 percent each year for the next three years.

Far West tells us the reason for the increase is the Arizona state mandates requiring the water output at the treatment plants to be cleaner.

Consider this. Far West Water and Sewer is owned by the Schechert family who also own most of the Foothills and H&S Development. They just opened a new development which, when sold-out, will have 219 lots with two sewer hookups per lot. This is in a time of great economic distress in the housing market.

There is an inventory of housing for sale right now that is going to take 9-3 months to go through with more properties being added daily. Can you imagine what is going to happen to the housing market if this increase goes into effect?

Some of your neighbors will not be able to afford the increased fees or will not be willing to pay the fees so they will put their property up for sale and flood the market with even more housing. If you think the value of your house is down now, wait until all these folks put their houses on the market.

The Schechert family and Far West Water and Sewer recently did a major upgrade on one of the sewer plants, increasing the capacity by 300 percent. Was that to satisfy

the county to get approval for the new development?

Far West Water and Sewer had to know the state of Arizona was going to require the new standards for clean water output from the sewer plants long before they decided to spend money on the development of new projects.

If you are upset by this, there is something you can do. Go to the public hearing on March 5 at Sunrise Elementary School, 9943-28th Street. Write a letter or e-mail the Arizona Corporation Commission under docket #WS-03478A-08-0454. Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, Ariz. 85007. Or e-mail a comment to the ACC via their Web site at www.azcc.gov/.

For further information, please refer to the public notice you received in the mail from Far West Water and Sewer.

DAVE BARTHOLOMEW
Yuma

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

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Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Estman Helen Miller</i>	DATE <i>10/02/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12528-E 47 DR. Yuma, Az. 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-0652</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: FARWEST WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME FARWEST WATER & SEWER	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Your decision to up the sewer rates is totally unreasonable and unfair. We stay here for 4 months of the year. We keep the water on only for the trees which has nothing to do with the sewer. At that outrageous increase you will never sell the rest of your lots if the increase goes through. We would like to see Yuma annex the foothills.

H Miller

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

Step 4

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Russell L. Pool	DATE 2/9/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 11322 S Ave 12E # 174, Yuma, AZ 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 276-4765
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Sewer rate increase	DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS mokye4@aol.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

It is believed that a rate increase of almost 300% is completely unreasonable! Far West provides service to an area used by many retired individuals. Most of these people are on a fixed income and are having difficulty making ends meet now with the state of the economy. Some of the residents are only part time and are required to pay sewer service for the entire year. It is amazing to me that while other businesses in the Yuma area are doing everything they can to help the consumer during this time of economic crisis, that Far West would even consider raising their rates, let alone raising them almost 300%. Just because Far West made some poor business decisions we, the public should not be expected to bail them out!

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Raymond O. Prukop	DATE 2/9/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 10225 South Spring Ave. Yuma, AZ. 85365	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 305-0279
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: WA-03478A-08-0454.	DOCKET NUMBER WA-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Sewer	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS randpsales@q.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We feel the 200 percent increase is way out of line. On a fixed income it would be a hardship for us as we are among many people that visit in the winter months who are also on fixed or limited incomes.

Is there a law that states that there has to be a charge continuously charged each month when sewer is not in use? We feel that there should be set lower fee charged while the sewer is not in use.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below.

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Step 2

YOUR NAME Gene & Sue Baskins	DATE 2/10/2009
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13735 E 51st Ln Yuma, AZ 85367	YOUR PHONE NUMBER (541) ³⁰⁸ 490-6329
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: #WS-03478A-08-0454	DOCKET NUMBER #WS-03478A-08-0454
CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Sewer	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS suebaskins@yahoo.com	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

About 3 yrs ago Far West Water & Sewer Co. increased our rates for sewer by 100%. We are here 3 mos out of the year and it was very reasonable since we could turn off the sewer for the months we aren't here. Now again they want to raise the rates more than 200 percent over 3 years. We are outraged with this unheard of raise in rates. With the economy in such a depressed state this makes no sense. However the raise 3 years ago was a huge increase as there is a large number of people here that don't live year around and this had to make a huge increase in funds for Far West Sewer. We are not in favor of the increase.

If you need additional space for your comments, please use the continuation page below

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Phoenix, Arizona 85007;
or

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:
mailmaster@azcc.gov

February 14, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Far West Water & Sewer Rate Increase

I am writing to strongly protest the sewer rate increase currently being requested by Far West Water & Sewer Company in Yuma, Arizona. This is outrageous. How can you even begin to seriously entertain allowing an almost 215% increase. The area that will be impacted by this request increase is home to a large number of senior citizens on a fixed income (whose annual COLA increases over 15 years would not even come close to the 214.5% increase they are requesting), military and other working families who are already financially pressed. If Far West Water & Sewer cannot keep up with expanding services without increasing rates to long existing customers then they need to stop expanding or find another source of funding. Perhaps they need to take a hard look at what they pay their CEOs and owners then go on a diet just like the rest of us.

You keep allowing APS to increase their rates until it is all we can do to keep up and now all the other utilities want an even bigger piece of the pie. Enough already. Stop this madness.

Hannah Henshaw
10677 E. 34th Place
Yuma, AZ 85365

Barry Henshaw
(same address)

February 14, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Far West Water & Sewer Rate Increase

I am writing to strongly protest the sewer rate increase currently being requested by Far West Water & Sewer Company in Yuma, Arizona. This is outrageous. How can you even begin to seriously entertain allowing an almost 215% increase. The area that will be impacted by this request increase is home to a large number of senior citizens on a fixed income (whose annual COLA increases over 15 years would not even come close to the 214.5% increase they are requesting), military and other working families who are already financially pressed. If Far West Water & Sewer cannot keep up with expanding services without increasing rates to long existing customers then they need to stop expanding or find another source of funding. Perhaps they need to take a hard look at what they pay their CEOs and owners then go on a diet just like the rest of us.

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William J. Gallagher
Tera A. Gallagher
10760 35 PL.
YUMA AZ 85365

February 14, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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You keep allowing APS to increase their rates until it is all we can do to keep up and now all the other utilities want an even bigger piece of the pie. Enough already. Stop this madness.

Lynne Voelker
10225 E 34th St
Yuma 85365

tues Feb 10 - 09
Sandy
702 521-0299

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Service Section
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Az. 85007

Reference: Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

During these times of recession it is unbelievable that Far West would propose such a rate increase.

There should be NO bail out at taxpayers expense of such a proposed rate increase.

If Far West cannot operate without such a ridiculous increase, get them out of business and replace them with a more efficient company.

This letter conveys a NO vote for the proposed rate increase by Far West Water and Sewer Company.

Also, Far West requires you to pay Water & Sewer bills even if you are gone 6 months of year!

Sandra Woods

11322 S. Ave 12E #15

Yuma AZ 85367

702 521-0299

February 10, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 West Washington
Phoenix AZ 85007

Re: Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

We are customers of Far West Water & Sewer Company in receipt of the proposal requesting astronomical rate increases over the next three year period. These proposed rates are outrageous at best. The notice did not expound why they needed these huge increases.

Like so many of our neighbors we are retired winter visitors on a fixed income. I work during the winter months to make ends meet now. This increase would put us in a very strained financial bind, especially during the current recession which doesn't look to end soon. My retirement doesn't increase at 150% per year.

I read in the Yuma Daily Sun newspaper that Far West was aware of problems in the early 1990's and that's why this increase is being requested. Why didn't they request gradual increases over time rather than "hitting" their customers with such a big hammer now?

According to Far West's calculations the annual increases look like this:

Currently - \$261.00 per year
1st Phase - \$355.00 per year
2nd Phase - \$770.00 per year
3rd Phase - \$892.00 per year

How can increases of this magnitude be justified and imposed on a city comprised of winter visitors and lower income citizens? This is unrealistic.

On our behalf, please do not let these huge increases pass the Board.

Thank you for your consideration,



David Kohanes
10246 S Avenue 10 1/2 E
Yuma AZ 85365
503-931-9800



Marlene A. Kohanes

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Ref: Rate Application of Far West Water & Sewer Company
13157 E. 44th Street
Yuma, AZ 85367
Docket No. WS-03478A-08=0454

Background:

The Schechert family (owners of Far West Water and Sewer) are also the owners of H & S Development, several golf courses, and the owners of a major portion of the undeveloped land located within the service area of the Far West Water & Sewer.

The H & S Development Company is and has been developing more land that will require the services of Far West Water & Sewer. This land development is ongoing and therefore compounding the problem of the capacity of the present facilities.

Approximately 3 years ago, without any advance notice, Far West Water & Sewer required that all land owners using their services be required to pay a minimum monthly fee equal to the standard monthly usage fee. This payment for non-usage doubled the yearly cost for those that spend less than 12 months a year in the Yuma area. These " Snowbirds " are not given the opportunity of having their Far West services discontinued with no monthly charges for the length of time that those services are not needed.

Notes that I think should be addressed prior to any increases:

1. Is it standard practice for home owners within a service area to be required to supplement the building of additional facilities for the use of new developments or are these new developments required to pay their own way through increased costs of land or impact fees imposed at the time of building?
2. Have moratoriums been placed and/or rescinded without proper allowance for the increased costs needed to upgrade the water and sewer systems?
3. Has Far West Water & Sewer been required to meet the latest existing standards for water and sewer output prior to approving new developments or other projects in their service area?

4. If a rate increase is approved will the homeowners be required to pay the rate fee increase for each of the 12 months of the year, even though they are not using these services all the time or will they be able to have their water and sewer shut off and turned back on with a minimum established fee?

Comments:

1. The company, Far West Water & Sewer, states in part " That the requested increase is do to improvements ordered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality." Did the company knowingly exceed the capacity of the old system. if so who's fault is it that the system is failing (the company's or the homeowner's) and who should pay for any needed improvements?

2. When are we going to draw the line in the sand for those company's (I.E. Citibank, AIG, Far West Water & Sewer, etc) that through their mismanagement, oversight or greed want existing taxpayer's/homeowner's to pay for their company's errors.

3. A modest, not an excessive rate increase may be required, but not one that exceeds the cost of living index for the Yuma region. Far West Water & Sewer is requesting a 218% increase over 3 years without a time limit for when their wish list will expire. Will this be an increase that will never be removed?

Best Wishes,

Mark E. Vukich Matthews
17338 E. 55th DR
YUMA, AZ 85367

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Ref: Rate Application of Far West Water & Sewer Company
13157 E. 44th Street
Yuma, AZ 85367
Docket No. WS-03478A-08=0454

Background:

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2. Have moratoriums been placed and/or rescinded without proper allowance for the increased costs needed to upgrade the water and sewer systems?
3. Has Far West Water & Sewer been required to meet the latest existing standards for water and sewer output prior to approving new developments or other projects in their service area?

4. If a rate increase is approved will the homeowners be required to pay the rate fee increase for each of the 12 months of the year, even though they are not using these services all the time or will they be able to have their water and sewer shut off and turned back on with a minimum established fee?

Comments:

1. The company, Far West Water & Sewer, states in part " That the requested increase is do to improvements ordered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality." Did the company knowingly exceed the capacity of the old system. if so who's fault is it that the system is failing (the company's or the homeowner's) and who should pay for any needed improvements?

2. When are we going to draw the line in the sand for those company's (I.E. Citibank, AIG, Far West Water & Sewer, etc) that through their mismanagement, oversight or greed want existing taxpayer's/homeowner's to pay for their company's errors.

3. A modest, not an excessive rate increase may be required, but not one that exceeds the cost of living index for the Yuma region. Far West Water & Sewer is requesting a 218% increase over 3 years without a time limit for when their wish list will expire. Will this be an increase that will never be removed?

Best Wishes,

Jim Peterson
13358 E. 55th DR.
Yuma, AZ 85367

JULIUS K & JO ANNE ASHLOCK

STE. C8 - 290
150 S. HWY # 160
PAHRUMP, NV. 89048

Winter temporary address
14550 East 54th Drive
Yuma, AZ. 85367

775-253-0030

Arizona Corporate Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

February 10, 2009

Subject: Fee increase request by:
Far West Water and Sewer Inc.

Honorable Commissioners:

I am a retired builder / developer, and was for a large part of my working career. I am also a property owner in the Foothills area of Yuma County, served by Foothills Water and Sewer Inc. I have dealt with lot development and lot improvements for many years in multiple states. I have, however, never been involved with a situation such as exists here in the Foothills. The water / sewer utility is owned and operated by the property developer.

When a developer undertakes a development project, that developer is responsible for all of the costs involved in the property improvements such as, but not limited to, infrastructure to each individual lot, streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, drainage, grading, lot elevations, and any other conditions required by the Planning Commission, and approved by the jurisdiction overseeing the community, such as Commissioners, Supervisors, City Counsel, etc. Any and all utility company development fees, and connection fees are borne by the development company, or in the case of connection fees, the owner of the property making the first connection to the utility. These fees are normally spelled out in the subdivision report, or by the sales agent for the property so there are no surprises to the buyer. The developer fees are normally used by the utility to pay for extension of the infrastructure pertaining to that particular utility. The connection fees are put into an endowment fund earmarked for future capital improvements to the utility's infrastructure demands as the community grows. It appears the excessive rate increase requested by this utility is to offset just such costs.

The common ownership of H & S Developers and Far West Water and Sewer Inc. raises a question about how the management of these entities find themselves in such a deficit. Gross and negligent mismanagement is the only answer. Case in point: Recently two employees lost their lives in an industrial accident that can only be attributed to incompetent or total lack of proper supervision of the activities and the duties of the employees. The subsequent law suit stands to cost the utility owners large sums of money. There are legal fees in excess of seven hundred thousand dollars to date. As the case is not resolved and closed, there, of course, will be more and more legal fees. These fees were, and no doubt will be, conveniently paid to the law

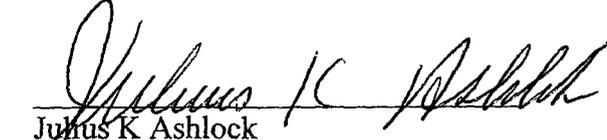
firm of the spouse of an owner. Did these fees, and any future settlement and legal fees, come from the funds that are designated for the capital improvements in question? Have the designated funds been misused for any other unauthorized expenditure? Has the property development entity paid into the utility entity, reasonable and adequate fees to ensure the solvent operation of the water and sewer utility? H & S Developers have undertaken vast development projects in the past 3 or 4 years. Also the economy has taken a severe turn for the worse, resulting in far fewer sales than expected of anyone in this type of business.

The liberal federal government that is currently in power, and has been for some time, have set the economy of this country on a downward spiral that, in my opinion, is one from which we can never recover. They reward those who choose not to work with a standard of living that many working families cannot afford. They reward grossly mismanaged companies by giving them billions of tax dollars with no restrictions how these incompetent managers use the funds. A wise philosopher once said "One cannot raise one's self by pulling on the handle of the bucket in which he is standing".

Now an apparent grossly mismanaged utility company is requesting your approval of an overcharge to the users of that utility to bail them out of their self inflicted financial problems. You are the stopgap between utility companies and the general public. It is your commissioned duty to thoroughly investigate a request such as this. The general public is requesting of you to do that tough job to which you were appointed. In this case, a thorough and independent audit of the financial practices of these companies, for the past five years is warranted. If the companies are found to be in violation of competent business practices, you in good conscience cannot require the rate payers to bail them out. The other utilities, such as electric, gas, telephone, television cable are not requesting the rate payers to subsidize themselves and H & S Developers.

The attached article, published in the Yuma Sun newspaper, confirm the statements listed above. Also there is reference made in this article as to the inability of the company to complete required capital improvement projects if they are held responsible for the incompetent operation of Far West Water and Sewer Inc. Again, this is not the responsibility of the rate payers. If the owners of Far West Water and Sewer Inc. do not have the ability to competently manage and operate this utility in a manner competitive with similar utilities in the surrounding area, perhaps a county water and sewer district should be formed to take over this utility and competently operate it in the interest of the rate payers involved.

Thank you for your diligence in this matter.


Julius K. Ashlock

Retired

Cc: Letters to the editor of the Yuma Sun newspaper.

Attachment

Prosecutor wants \$4.4 million fine in Far West case

BY JAMES GILBERT, SUN STAFF WRITER

January 9, 2006 - 12:00AM

The penalty phase in the Far West manslaughter trial began Monday with a prosecutor asking the judge to fine the water and sewer company \$4.4 million for causing the deaths of two workers in an underground sewage tank nearly four years ago.

Mark Horlings, of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, said while the company could be fined as much as \$8.7 million under the law, he was only seeking the presumptive amount, or the midrange in the sentencing amount.

Far West defense attorney Andy Capestro, however, argued that because of double jeopardy, the maximum amount the company could be fined was only \$3.4 million.

Superior Court Judge Andrew Gould said he would look into the matter.

Capestro instead suggested the company only pay a \$50,000 fine for a specified number of years and be sentenced to provide various types of training classes to other local subcontractors as a term of community service.

He added, as the only company that provides water and sewer services to the Foothills, that a huge fine would seriously affect the company's ability to meet its contractual obligations with state regulators to maintain those services with its customers.

Far West was found guilty Oct. 14 of negligent homicide, aggravated assault, violating a safety standard causing the death of an employee and two counts of endangerment in the deaths of James Gamble, 26, and Gary Lanser, 62, who were overcome by toxic sewage gases while working on an underground sewer tank on Oct. 24, 2001, in Mesa Del Sol.

Gamble's mother, Carol Borieo, said she was angered by Capestro's remarks that the company shouldn't be fined, saying it made her feel the company wasn't accepting responsibility for its role in the incident.

"I think the company is acting like the deaths didn't happen, said Borieo, who traveled to Yuma from Nevada for the hearing. "They say they are doing things differently now, but they should have been doing it before. It shouldn't have taken the death of my only son and another person for them to do something."

According to Horlings, Far West has assets totaling more than \$34 million and made more than \$1 million in profit in 2004.

Paula Schechert-Capestro, Far West president and wife of defense attorney Capestro, was the first person to take the stand Monday, answering questions about a number of subjects, including the generosity of the company's founder, her father, the late Hank Schechert, and all the donations of land and buildings that he made to the community over the years.

"It's a reflection of our attitude towards the community and our employees that we aren't a company that just takes money out of the community," Schechert-Capestro said. "Our greatest gift is providing people a place to work and giving back to the community."

Schechert-Capestro also apologized to family members of the victims who were in the courtroom. "I just wanted to tell them I feel their loss and I'm so sorry," she said, holding back tears.

Under cross examination, Horlings asked her why the family's assets shouldn't be used to pay any fines that are imposed.

Schechert-Capestro said the company has nearly \$19 million in capital improvement projects in the coming years that it would have trouble paying for if the company were sentenced to pay a huge fine.

Far West Director of Operations James "Dusty" Thomas gave similar testimony saying the company was nearly a year behind in starting some of the projects.

He said the company needed to complete some of the projects within the next two years or it would be out of compliance with state regulators.

When asked by Horlings how paying a big fine would affect the company's capability to complete the projects, he said, "I wouldn't have the ability to do them."

Horlings, wanting to make sure the project list was wasn't prepared based on the company receiving a large fine, also asked Thomas when it was written. He answered about six to eight months ago, which would have been several months before the company's trial began.

Thomas also said having to pay more than \$700,000 in attorney fees over the past two years has also been a financial strain on the company.

The mitigation hearing is scheduled to continue through this week.

James Gilbert can be reached at jgilbert@yumasun.com or 539-6854.

February 14, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Far West Water & Sewer Rate Increase

I am writing to strongly protest the sewer rate increase currently being requested by Far West Water & Sewer Company in Yuma, Arizona. This is outrageous. How can you even begin to seriously entertain allowing an almost 215% increase. The area that will be impacted by this request increase is home to a large number of senior citizens on a fixed income (whose annual COLA increases over 15 years would not even come close to the 214.5% increase they are requesting), military and other working families who are already financially pressed. If Far West Water & Sewer cannot keep up with expanding services without increasing rates to long existing customers then they need to stop expanding or find another source of funding. Perhaps they need to take a hard look at what they pay their CEOs and owners then go on a diet just like the rest of us.

You keep allowing APS to increase their rates until it is all we can do to keep up and now all the other utilities want an even bigger piece of the pie. Enough already. Stop this madness.

Beverly M. Hunter
10681 E. 35th St.
YUMA, AZ. 85365

February 10, 2009

**Arizona Corporate Commission
Consumer Service Section
1200 West Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ. 85007**

Reference: Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

During these times of recession it is unbelievable that Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. would have the nerve to propose such a rate increase.

There should be NO bail out at tax payers expense of such a proposed rate increase.

If Far West cannot operate without such a ridiculous increase, get them out of Business and replace them with a more efficient company.

This letter conveys a NO vote for the proposed increase by Far West Water & Sewer Company.

**Mary Ann Lenard
11322 S. Ave. 12E, #143
Yuma, AZ. 85367**

928-345-9542

February 14, 2009

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Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Robert L. Finley (sk) 2-7-09
Shirley A. Finley
10706 E 34th Pl
Yuma Meadows Villas
Yuma, Az.
85365

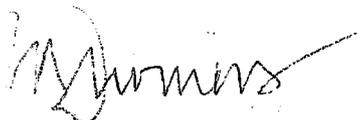
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2.10.09