

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



0000094221

RECEIVED

Interim Executive Director

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

2009 MAR -2 P 3: 56

March 2, 2009

ORIGINAL

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

To: Docket Control

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

Please docket the attached 15 customer comments OPPOSING the above filed rate case.

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

Filed by: Utilities Division – Consumer Services

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

MAR - 2 2009



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Deb Reagan

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 77096

Date: 3/2/2009

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

Complaint By: **First:** Ruth Ann **Last:** Sidebottom

Account Name: Ruth Ann Sidebottom

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work:

City: Yuma

CBR:

State: AZ **Zip:** 85365

is:

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: Roxanne Fiddes

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

**** WS-03478A-08-0454 ****

Customer sent the following -

I am writing these comments in objection to the rate increases proposed by Far West Water & Sewer Company. After reviewing the company's request, I understand their need to pay and attract stockholders, have a good enough credit rating to obtain loans for improvements, and have the income to make improvements. However, I do not believe in the current economy that the rate increase is reasonable nor affordable for the majority of customers that are elderly and on fixed incomes. The proposed residential rates are even much higher than the current rates in our large cities here in Arizona.

I do not believe that Far West's mismanagement, fines, violations and total disregard for following Arizona laws should be paid for on the backs of their customers. I am sure there are a large number of their residential customers (like myself) that are seasonal. I am here 4-5 months of the year and pay a connection fee equal to the months I am not here. So in essence I pay for a full year of using the utility however only use it for a small portion of the year. I know it would be difficult for a utility to operate, grow and make improvements with huge swings in their income however I already pay a huge connection fee of \$174.00. If the requested rate increase is approved, that would increase my connection fee to \$594.40. This connection fee increase is unconscionable even in a good economy. On a limited/fixed income the amount is staggering.

I believe Far West should be required first to clean up their act, pay their fines, have no more violations for a period of time before any rate increases be approved. If approved prior to these things happening then the Arizona Corporation Commission is rewarding Far West for bad behavior and I do not believe that is the message the ACC wants to send to Far West. The owners of Far West should not be able to profit from mismanagement of this utility, we should ensure they manage it properly first.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Customer comments entered and filed with the docket.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 3/2/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 77096

Feb - 27, 2009

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

Re:
Docket # WS-03478A-08-0454

We are totally
opposed to this
unrealistic sewer
increase!

Ronald A. Alderson
Bernice Alderson

Ron + Bernice Alderson
13876 E. 54th St.
Yuma, Az. 85367

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|--|---|
| YOUR NAME BARBARA A. SCHON <i>Barbara A. Schon</i> | DATE 2-24-09 |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 14764 E. 49TH ST, YUMA, AZ. 85367 | YOUR PHONE NUMBER 928-345-2726 |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer | DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454 |
| CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona | YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/> |
| YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS NONE | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

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;
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:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

In Conclusion

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

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

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|--|---|
| YOUR NAME <i>Jerry E. Duarte</i> | DATE <i>2/18/09</i> |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>12655 Dorothy Dr. Yuma, AZ.</i> | YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>925-628-1492</i> |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Increase in annual revenues for sewer service</i> | DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i> |
| CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water & Sewer Company</i> | YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/> |
| YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>JEDuarte1@MSN.com</i> | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

It is unfair to allow any increase in sewage fee's too existing property owners for the benefit of bad judgement and mismanagement on the part of the board of directors.

Most of us in this area are on fixed incomes and only use our property in the winter months. Six months of the year ~~no~~ sewer service is being used, but we still pay all year long. *Jerry E. Duarte*

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;

or

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

Lorraine and Kurt Ueeck
Summer address:
HC 60 Box 3560
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
Winter address:
11279 S. Glenwood Ave.
PMB 252
Yuma, AZ 85367

February 26, 2009

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

I am contacting you regarding the practice of the Far West Water and Sewer Co. in Yuma, Arizona.

We, as well as hundreds of others here in Foothills are winter residents. We disconnect our water and sewer for the summer months and re-connect in the fall.

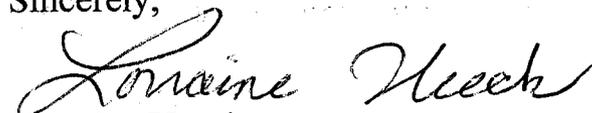
At the time we re-connect, we are back-charged for the sewer for all of the months since we disconnected. Though there was no waste going into their system for those months we are required to pay for all the months it was disconnected and not in use.

Is it legal for them to do this?????

I spoke with the Far West Water and Sewer office and they told me they COULD do this and that is was by direction and approval of your office. Is this true?

I would really appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,


Lorraine Ueeck

Jerry E. Alexander and Mary F. Alexander

2093 Baldwin Creek Road

Lander, WY 82520

307 332-9972 Cell 330-8044

February 27, 2009

Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454

Arizona Corporation Commission

Consumer Service Section

1200 West Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

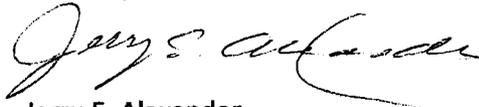
We just recently purchased a new home in Arroyo De Fortuna. After signing the documents we heard from other residents of the Foothills area about the proposed Far West application for rate increases. Had we known of this we probably would not have purchased in this area.

We do not oppose a rate increase, but strongly oppose such an extravagant increase. This large increase will devastate the majority of owners who are on a fixed income. Their income certainly has not nor will it increase enough to cover this large proposed increase.

We would also recommend that owners should not be assessed the full monthly charge if not in the area and not using the services - a great number of residence spend only a few months in the area.

We strongly request that this proposal be denied as currently proposed, and recommend a much smaller increase that could be supported by the residents of the area.

Sincerely,



Jerry E. Alexander



Mary F. Alexander

Property address: 13806 E. 45th Lane, Yuma, AZ 85367

Addendum to Comment submitted

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|---|--|
| YOUR NAME Bobby & Pauline Hickman/ Addendum to comment 2/19/09 | DATE 2/27/2009 |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13600 E 54th Street, Yuma, AZ 85367 | YOUR PHONE NUMBER (360) 798-1027 |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Far West Sewer & Water Co./ Request for rate increase | DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-0454 |
| CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water & Sewer | YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/> |
| YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WAAZSnowbird@aol.com | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Upon receiving new information (from Far West leaving a flier on my fence yesterday) I would like to add an addendum to my previous comment.

With the new information provided I would like to make the following points:

1. Far West states that they have 8,000 sewer customers. They state that they incurred cost for addition of equipment and treatment of odor prevention in 2006 that amounted to \$435,216. I am not certain of the life of that equipment so used the IRS rules for useful life when an asset is unknown of 7 years. If you divide those cost by 8,000 customers and 84 months, you arrive at a monthly cost of about 15 cents per month. There may be some small addition for interest if a loan was obtained to cover this cost at that time.

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;

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:

2. The flier states that there is a \$10,195 per month continuing expense incurred from US Flier. If you divide that by 8,000 customers it amounts to a monthly cost of about \$1.27 per customer.

3. Adding these two amounts together equals a monthly cost per customer of about \$1.42. So I think the figures that they are giving us as a reason for the huge increase they are applying for are very minute.

4. They state that year around sewer fees were granted from a tariff approved in 1994. In that case my question is why was that not charged until three years ago and then without any notification to customers? Perhaps a better way to bill would be like many utilities do as having a small basic fee and then bill sewer by consumption of water. When your using water, you will be using sewer in a direct relationship and would be more equitable to customers.

5. If new construction is due to new lots being developed in the area, a hook- up fee or impact fee should be charged to that new development and not charged to current customers.

I am attaching the flier I received yesterday. Thank for for your consideration of my comments.

62,000
71430
42
14

1.27
8000 / 62,000
37,000
6,000
5,000

1.27
8000 / 10,195.00
8000
21950
16000
59500

FAR WEST WATER & SEWER, INC.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT
FAR WEST WATER & SEWER, INC.'S
APPLICATION FOR INCREASES IN ITS CHARGES
FOR SEWER UTILITY SERVICES**

1
1.27
- .15
1.42

The following information is being provided to customers and other interested persons concerning the application for rate increases for sewer utility service that has been filed by Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. hopes that this information will assist you in understanding what its application involves and how you may be affected.

1. What services does Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. provide?

Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. currently has about 16,000 water customers. It also ~~has about 8,000 sewer customers.~~ The rest of Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.'s water customers have septic tanks and do not receive sewer service. Those customers are not affected by Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.'s pending application for rate increases—only rates for sewer utility service are at issue.

2. How are Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.'s rates and charges for utility service determined?

Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. is not a municipality. Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. is regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. The Corporation Commission is responsible for setting rates and charges for services provided by private utility providers, such as Arizona Public Service Company and Southwest Gas. Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. must obtain permission to increase its rates and show that it is entitled to receive rate increases in accordance with Arizona law. Municipal utility providers, such as the City of Yuma, are not regulated by the Corporation Commission and set their own rates.

3. Why was the rate increase application filed?

Far West Sewer's application was filed for two reasons. First, Far West Sewer has been engaged in a major construction program to upgrade and improve its sewer treatment facilities. These improvements, while ordered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, are needed to ensure safe and reliable sewer service. In addition, in Far West Sewer's last rate case, the Corporation Commission ordered the utility to file a rate case for its sewer division in 2008 (ACC Decision No. 69335 (February 20, 2007)).

4. How would the rate increase being requested by Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. affect my monthly bill?

First, only your monthly bill for sewer service will be affected. Water rates will not change. If you receive only water service, your monthly bill from Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. will not change.

Assuming that Far West Sewer's application is granted in full, the rates for sewer service would increase in three steps, as follows:

| Customer Class | Current Rate for Service | Phase One Rate (year 1) | Phase Two Rate (year 2) | Phase Three Rate (year 3) |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Residential | \$21.75 | \$54.38 | \$64.16 | \$74.32 |
| Commercial | \$43.50 | \$108.75 | \$128.33 | \$148.64 |
| RV Park | \$5.44 | \$13.60 | \$16.05 | \$18.59 |

5. What about Far West Sewer's request for interim rate relief— is that in addition to these increases?

No. Far West Sewer has also filed an application for approval to implement interim rates pending the outcome of its rate case, because it could take more than another 12 months to conclude that case. On an interim basis, the Company has requested that residential customer's new interim rate be \$45.59 per month, and commercial customer's rate would be \$91.18 per month. The rate at Recreational Vehicle Parks per space would be \$11.40. If approved, the interim rates would be a preliminary phase, taking the rates a step closer to the rates requested by Far West Sewer in the rate case. But the interim revenue request would provide the Sewer Division of Far West Sewer with a 0% operating margin.

To put all this in perspective, if the interim rates are approved, the average daily cost for sewer service will be \$1.52 for residential customers, \$3.04 for commercial customers, and \$0.38 for RV Park customers. If the permanent rate application is approved as requested, the average daily cost for sewer service in the first Phase will have an average daily cost equal to \$1.81 for residential customers, \$3.63 for commercial customers, and \$0.45 for RV Park customers. In Phase Two, the average daily cost for sewer service will be \$2.14 for residential customers, \$4.28 for commercial customers, and \$0.54 for RV Park customers. In Phase Three, the average daily cost for sewer service will be \$2.48 for residential customers, \$4.95 for commercial customers, and \$0.62 for RV Park customers.

While Far West Sewer believes the increases it has requested are needed to cover the costs of its construction program, the ultimate decision regarding Far West

Sewer's rates for sewer service is made by the Arizona Corporation Commission. The Commission will analyze the utility's request, conduct a hearing and make a final decision on the interim application sometime in the spring of this year and on the rate case sometime in late 2009.

6. Why does Far West Sewer collect a monthly charge for sewer service during the entire year, even during months when I am not using my residence?

Far West Sewer recognizes that its customer base is seasonal, with significantly more customers actually using its system and facilities during the cooler months of the year. However, Far West Sewer has designed and constructed treatment plants and other facilities that are sufficient to treat peak daily wastewater flows with a reasonable margin of safety. The utility must plan for and have the capacity available to safely handle daily wastewater flows during the winter months, when use is at its highest level.

Although a rate reduction or cessation of fees during the summer months may be a benefit to those customers that are "winter visitors", such an action would adversely affect the remainder of customers whose rates would have to be increased to cover the short fall in revenues. Far West Sewer's rates would still need to produce the same amount of revenue to provide service and pay for the facility. The sewer service fee for the entire year, even during months when winter visitors are not here, has been a part of Far West Sewer's approved tariff since 1994.

7. Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. has been involved in lawsuits concerning an accident that occurred several years ago. Are any of these lawsuits causing its rates for sewer service to increase?

Costs and expenses related to these lawsuits are being borne by the utility. They are not included in Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.'s operating expenses and will not be recovered in its rates and charges for sewer service. As stated above, the primary reason for the increase in sewer rates is to ensure that Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.'s revenue is sufficient to meet the obligations related to its construction program and related expenses.

8. What about odor control?

Far West Sewer, instituted a formal odor control program, managed by ~~US Filter (Siemens), in May 2006~~. Under this program, carbon scrubbers were installed at strategic locations for wet well odor control throughout Far West Sewer's service area. In addition, bioxide is injected to eliminate odors upon discharge at set locations. Since instituting this program, Far West Sewer has paid US Filter

~~\$434,216 for the equipment and chemicals to control odors, and the program continues at a monthly cost of \$10,195 per month.~~ US Filter inspects the equipment every two weeks, and reports its findings to Far West Sewer and its engineers. US Filter also investigates any odor problems, followed by continuous vapor phase monitoring, analysis and recommendations.

In addition to the US Filter program, Far West Sewer maintains a program of maintenance under which its crews water jet and chlorinate the sewer lines throughout the utility's service area. This program continues throughout the year.

9. How do I provide comments or concerns that I might have about the Company's rate increase applications?

You may provide comments concerning the application to the Corporation Commission by calling 1-800-222-7000 or visiting the website at <http://azcc.gov/divisions/utilities/consumerservices.asp>. You may also provide comments concerning the application directly to the Company by e-mail to info@farwestwaterandsewer.com or by calling (928) 342-1238. Unfortunately, the utility is unable to respond personally to comments about the application.

10. I understand that a public meeting will be held to allow customers to comment on Far West Sewer's rate increase applications. What are the details concerning this meeting?

The Corporation Commission has made arrangements for a public comment meeting on March 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Elementary School cafeteria, 9943 28th Street, Yuma, Arizona. Customers and other interested persons will have an opportunity to provide comments on the application at that time.

11. Where can I review the Company's rate increase applications?

A copy of the application is available or at the Company's office, 13157 E. 44th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85367 or at the Commission's Docket Control, 1200 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ; on the Commission's website www.azcc.gov (using the e-docket function);

12. What should I do if I want to intervene and become a party to the proceedings before the Corporation Commission?

Information on how to intervene and the appropriate forms can be found on the Corporation Commission's website: <http://www.azcc.gov/divisions/utilities/forms/interven.pdf>. The deadline for intervention is March 31, 2009.

8000
8000
8000
8000
8000
8000
8000
8000

February 19, 2009

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

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454
Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which **obviously ignored** the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

Harold Beckitt
13172 53ST E.

FOOTHILLS, YUMA 85367

Thank you
very much.

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|--|---|
| YOUR NAME <i>James H. Wilson</i> | DATE <i>2/28/09</i> |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>10569 E 39th St Phoenix, AZ 85365</i> | YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>604-739-0308</i> |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Request for Permanent Rate Increase | 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 | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Far West Water & Sewer Co. (FWWS) customers protest the proposed rate hike. According to the joint news release from ADEQ and the Arizona Attorney General's Office, dated September 10, 2008, FWWS has had long standing violations. The neglect of their responsibility to construct and maintain their sewer system resulted in their present crisis. FWWS apparently cut corners to save money and the owners profited in the continued growth as they developed other business interests. This, combined with inadequate planning to maintain compliance with ADEQ regulations resulted in their self made crisis. Now that ADEQ has required them to bring all treatment sites up to standards, FWWS wants customers to pay for the mismanagement. Please deny the FWWS request for a rate hike. Any alleged financial hardship appears to be associated with poor management and greed and therefore, is not the responsibility of the customers.

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;*
or

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

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|--|---|
| YOUR NAME <i>Doris A Purdy</i> | DATE <i>2-26-09</i> |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13232 E 45th Lane</i> | YOUR PHONE NUMBER |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Increase in annual revenues for sewer service | 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 <i>13232 E 45th Lane yunna</i> | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Why were permits issued to build when the sewer system cannot handle it and why weren't the issue of unsanitary conditions caught before they became so drastic. Maybe if they had been addressed as they occurred they wouldn't have been so costly.

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;**

or

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

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|--|---|
| YOUR NAME <i>Peterson Stanley + Donna</i> | DATE <i>2/23/09</i> |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>3848 NW Way Redmond, OR 97154</i> | YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>541-548-8333</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 type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>SLDM Peterson@gmail.com</i> | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

We have our winter (2 mos) place at 13585 E. 53rd Dr. Yuma Az 85367 - Can not believe you feel you need to raise our rates that much. We are senior citizens on a fixed rate + can not afford such a raise. With all the ^{the} next places you should be able to balance your budget well enough so that our rates do not have to raise. Never heard of such a rate increase anywhere and do highly oppose ^{Step 4} it. Please reconsider!

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

This form may be completed electronically, printed and mailed to:
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

February 19, 2009

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

Re:

Docket for Comment: Proposed Rate Increase for Far West Water & Sewer
Case or Utility Name: Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma, Arizona
Docket #WS-03478A-08-0454
Position on the Docket: Con

I am amazed and appalled at the Far West Water and Sewer Company's proposed increase in sewer fees.

It is quite apparent that the proposed increase has been requested in order to pay off debt incurred to finance the improvements needed to bring the current system into compliance with the ADEQ requirements and to allow for future development of the system. The cost of these improvements should not be the responsibility of the present consumer; it should be the responsibility of the company which **obviously ignored** the requirements in the first place.

It should also be noted that by increasing the capacity of the system, the family which also owns much of the vacant land and the major development business in the Foothills area will stand to gain by being able to further develop their land without a major investment on their part.

It is not unreasonable to expect a company to make a profit, but it is unreasonable to allow a company to gouge its customers in order to do so. In assessing whether or not to allow this sewer rate increase, particularly one so outrageous, it should be remembered that the shortfall is the result of the business practices of Far West Water and Sewer, Inc., and not the current consumers.

Sincerely,

June Maxwell
13391 E 53rd St.
Yuma, AZ 85367
928-345-1351

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

HERIMAN A. OUMARK

| | |
|---|---|
| YOUR NAME <i>11883 S. SANDRA AVE.</i> | DATE |
| ADDRESS <i>YUMA, AZ 85367</i> | YOUR PHONE NUMBER |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer | DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454 |
| CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona | 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:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

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;**
 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:

B. Far West Water and Sewer Co and H&S Developers has been fined and is required to pay penalties, for numerous repeated alleged water and air quality violations dating back as far as 1989 and as recently as the 50 counts filed September 9, 2008 that could amount to a judgment of millions of dollars. H & S Developers is also named because it provided the services until forming Far West as a separate company in 1998 and transferring drinking water and wastewater facilities ownership to the new company.

C. In 2006 Farwest Water & Sewer finally came in to compliance with ADEQ. The company has now since expanded its lagoon by 300%. We speculate that this effort was only put forth to compensate for the recent Subdivision that H&HS Development Co. just started.

D. H & S Development Co. recently opened El Rancho Encantado a new subdivision of RV Homes which consists of 219 sites with two RV hookups including Electrical service, sewer dump & water on each site. This is phase one of the project with two more phases to come. We question whether or not this latest request for a rate increase is designed to help pay for the new Wastewater Plant needed to support this new development?

E. Winter Residents currently flock to Yuma because of the weather, and because it is economically feasible to maintain a second home here. Winter residents increase Yuma's population each year by more than 80,000 people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because for 6-8 months out of the year they pay for their sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residence.

F. Of the Year round Foothills residents there is still a large majority of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

In Conclusion

- We don't feel that Current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new Wastewater Plant needed to compensate for future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed.
- We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent Company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.
- We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of the Water Company, Farwest Water & Sewer. It appears as if they were negligent in poor planning to prevent numerous ADEQ violations.

Continued on the Next Page.

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

CONTINUE YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

- We the customers of Farwest do not feel that is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.
- We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations were submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies for wastewater violations. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they recently increased their lagoon by 300 percent.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H&S Developers and Far West Water & Sewer in paying Settlements incurred due to a law suit and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety. We also feel it is possible that Farwest is trying to offset the costs incurred by the parent Companies new development on 48th Street. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Farwest and H&S Developers, for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case they would not be requesting this aid currently.

Other Cities in Arizona* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5-9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 200+% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application. Thank You!

Dated this 12th day of February, 2009

*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona:

Sierra Vista (Rate increase of 5% total initiated Jan. 1, 2009): \$14.68/month

Tucson: \$23.61/month Rate Increase of 9.5% initiated July 1, 2008

Phoenix: \$28.50/month Proposed Rate increase of 5%

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|--|---|
| YOUR NAME | DATE |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP | YOUR PHONE NUMBER |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Request for an Emergency Rate Increase | DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0608 |
| 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 | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Far West Water and Sewer Co. (FWWS) customers are protesting the application submitted by them, docket number WS-03478A-08-0608. According to a joint News Release from ADEQ and Arizona Attorney General's office, FWWS has had long standing violations. The neglect of their responsibility to maintain their sewer system resulted in their present crisis. The alleged "emergency" was a result of inadequate planning by FWWS to maintain compliance, not a "sudden change" as quoted by the company using Op Att'y Gen. 71-17 at 13. This does not constitute an emergency because it was not brought on suddenly, but rather was a result of the company's chronic lack of compliance. Now that ADEQ has required them to build adequate facilities, they want the customers to pay for their mismanagement. Please vote NO as this is not an emergency. Any financial hardship appears to be associated with poor management and therefore, is not the responsibility of their customers.

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;
 or

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

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|--|---|
| YOUR NAME <i>Marguerite Knight</i> MARGUERITE KNIGHT | DATE 2-21-09 |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13206 E 54TH ST YUMA AZ 85367 | YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 305-5005 |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer | DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454 |
| CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona | YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS JKNIGHT007@AOL.COM | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

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;
or

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

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form

Step 1

This form should be used for public comments pertaining to a specific pending case only. Please be sure to reference the appropriate docket number so your comments are filed in the docket promptly. Please use the Consumers Services Assistance Form for complaints, inquiries or general inquiries.

Step 2

| | |
|---|---|
| YOUR NAME JAMES F. KNIGHT | DATE 2-25-09 |
| ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP 13206 E. 54TH ST. YUMA AZ 85367 | YOUR PHONE NUMBER (928) 305-5005 |
| DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water & Sewer | DOCKET NUMBER WS-03478A-08-0454 |
| CASE OR UTILITY NAME Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona | YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/> |
| YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS JKNIGHT2007@AOL.COM | |

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, we the customers of Far West Water and Sewer Co., would like to ask the Arizona Corporation Commission to NOT APPROVE the application submitted by Far west water and Sewer Company. Docket No. WS-03478A-08-0454.

A. Far West provides water and sewer services to the Foothills area east of Yuma. There are approximately 8000 residential and commercial customers in this unincorporated area of Yuma County, who would receive a rate increase of over 200% over a period of three years. Once approved this new rate will be the permanent rate and will continue until Far West decides to raise the rates again.

Please see the Next 2 Pages

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;
 or

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