

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



0000094269

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

March 4, 2009

To: Docket Control **ORIGINAL**

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

Please docket the attached 23 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 - 5 2009



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

2009 MAR -5 A 8:31

**RECEIVED**

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 77180**

**Date:** 3/3/2009

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

**Complaint By:** **First:** Marilyn **Last:** Stone

**Account Name:** Marilyn Stone

**Home:** (000) 000-0000

**Street:** n/a

**Work:**

**City:** n/a

**CBR:**

**State:** AZ **Zip:** n/a

**is:**

**Utility Company:** Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

**Division:** Water

**Contact Name:** [REDACTED]

**Contact Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Nature of Complaint:**

3/3

From: Marilyn Stone [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2009 1:46 PM  
To: Utilities Div - Mailbox  
Subject: Far West Sewer

Arizona Corporation Commission

Public Comment Form

Earl Stone

2/7/2009

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP  
[REDACTED]

YOUR PHONE NUMBER  
[REDACTED]

DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON:

DOCKET NUMBER

WS-03478A-080454

WS-03478A-080454

**ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**  
**UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

---

CASE OR UTILITY NAME

YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET

FAR WEST WATER AND SEWER

PRO            CON X            OTHER

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

kmstone@shaw.ca

It is offensive enough that we are required to pay for sewer during the six months that we are not using it, but the suggested increase is robbery and a clear case of an unchecked monopoly! If capitol is required, do as other corporations do: sell shares, (common or preferred), issue bonds, or borrow the money from banks as all other companies do.

\*End of Complaint\*

**Utilities' Response:**

**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

DOCKETED

\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed: 3/3/2009**

**Opinion No. 2009 - 77180**

---

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 77203

Date: 3/4/2009

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

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Janet

Underwood

Account Name: Janet Underwood

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: n/a

Work: (000) 000-0000

City: Yuma

CBR: [REDACTED]

State: AZ Zip: 00000

is: Cellular

Utility Company: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc.

Division: Water

Contact Name: n/a

Contact Phone: n/a

Nature of Complaint:

Consumer lives in the Foothills area and she and her husband are extremely upset of the proposed 200% rate increase being requested. Her husband is retired and on disability and her Father in Law is 89 years old and also retired and they cannot afford to pay more. A majority of the people in this area are retired and this request is insane. They have lived in this area for 19 years and this demand is ridiculous. The Foothills area is experiencing growth and it has quadrupled in size. She states that H&S is the developer in this area and is also the owner of the utility company. The company is requesting more money to provide service to existing consumer yet they keep building and adding more connections to the lines.

She does not want to pay for any emergency or permanent rate increases.

\*End of Complaint\*

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

I informed consumer that her opinion would be filed in the rate case dockets and distributed. Closed

Filed in docket numbers WS-03478A-08-0454 and WS-03478A-08-0608.

\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 3/4/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 77203

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 77206

Date: 3/4/2009

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

Complaint By: First: Darlene Last: Griffin

Account Name: Darlene Griffin

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 #WS-03478A-08-0454)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 4:35 PM  
To: Utilities Div - Mailbox  
Subject: Docket #WS-03478A-08-08-0454

The three tier rate increase proposed by Far West Water & Sewer is unbelievable. When I spoke to the other area sewer companies they were appalled that Far West was asking for such an increase. The average sewer rate here with other companies is between 28-40 dollars. Under their plan we would eventually be paying over \$70 per month. Seniors on fixed incomes as well as families with growing children cannot afford that type of impact on their income.

Years ago Far West began charging year round sewer to the "snowbirds" because they stated that it wasn't fair to the yearly residents not too. Yet those who purchase homes or lots vs those staying in RV parks already paid 4 times as much. They say that is because they only do one bill to the RV lot--sorry that just doesn't hold water. One bill can be for \$1 or \$100 and two people flush the toilet in an RV lot just as much as they do a home. Anyway you look at it they are trying to take advantage of the residents who live in the foothills in Yuma, be they year-round residents or "snowbirds".

I hope you realize what is happening here and stop it before it's too late and people begin to leave this wonderful town.

Sincerely,

Darlene Griffin

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

---

[REDACTED]  
Yuma, AZ 85367

[REDACTED]  
\*End of Complaint\*

### Utilities' Response:

### Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

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. FILE CLOSED.

\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 3/4/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 77206

---

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 - 77197

Date: 3/4/2009

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

Complaint By: First: Serena Last: Legnaioli

Account Name: Serena Legnaioli

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

Consumer against such a high rate increase, on restricted income. She feels "snowbirds" should pay more since they usually have more people in a living space than permanent residents.

\*End of Complaint\*

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Opinion Docketed

\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 3/4/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 77197

# 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>Arthur Damm</i>	DATE <i>3-2-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13575 E. 53rd Dr. Yuma az. 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-1969</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Request for Permanent Rate Increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	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:

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](mailto: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>Violet M Mennenga</i>	DATE <i>2-28-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14125 E 51st Place, Yuma Az 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>(928) 342-3384</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-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>NONE</i>	

## Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

The rate raise for one year I feel is too much. the raise for a 3 year period seems to me is completely out of line with what other companies are charging their customers in the surrounding areas for sewer. the rate for residential service \$74.32 per month after 3 years is ridiculous. ALSO most of the customers in the Far West Company are retirees and here only 3-6 months and have to pay sewer rates for 12 months a year. This high rate that they want would surely keep a number of retirees going elsewhere for their winter stay. This would mean more property for sale and more vacant property and less taxes for the county

*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](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form**

**Continuation Page 2**

Docket # WS-03478A-08-0454

and state, there has been and is still a lot of areas being developed by the Development Group and I am wondering if Far West is trying to pay for this new sewer development in these new areas with the rates we are paying for our home services, which surely would not be right in my opinion.

I think their books need a good going over by your commissioners on this matter

sincerely

Violet M. Mennenga  
Violet M Mennenga  
14125 E 51<sup>st</sup> Place  
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 <i>Elaine Jay</i>	DATE <i>2/18/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13544 E. 53 Rd, Lw. Yuma Ar</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>---</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 type="radio"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS	

Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

1. Far West lack of comprehensive management plan for growth in foothills - why should residents in foothills pay the price by way of unreasonable rate increase!
2. This rate increase will affect all residents negatively. People will leave area - lost revenue. Businesses will experience decreased customer spending - lost revenue. Home owners - will experience decreased value in their homes. Decreased sales of homes - decreased revenue for Yuma.
3. Yuma is experiencing a growth pattern yet, the economic down trend will hit. This demand

*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](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

*For an unreasonable rate increase will have Foothill far reaching effects on the community of Yuma we will reconsider our winter residency in Yuma if this rate increase is passed, as we as seniors*

# 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

Yoland & Harry Guyton  
10445 Gwen De Fortuna  
Yuma AZ 85367  
(928) 342-5006

YOUR NAME <b>HARRY &amp; YOLAND GUYTON</b>	DATE <b>2/24/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>10445 GWEN DE FORTUNA</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>(928) 342-5006</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Proposed Rate increase for Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water and Sewer, Yuma Arizona</b>	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 <b>HGUYTON@ROADRUNNER.COM</b>	

**WE DO NOT WANT TO PAY THEIR DEBTS OR LAW SUITS.**  
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](mailto: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, 2009 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>Thomas G. Arnold</i>	DATE <i>2-27-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11110 E. 26th Street Yuma, AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>(928) 342-7302</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Request for Permanent Rate Increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>Tom1chiefs@hotmail.com</i>	

### 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](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)

MR. GARY L GROVES  
13227 E 53RD ST  
YUMA AZ 85367-8426

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,



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,

*Richard D. Nelson*

13285 E 53 RD ST,  
YUMA, AZ 85367

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,

*Susan J. Nelson*  
13288 E 53RD 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

**Thomas Pritchard**  
13718 E 50th St.  
Yuma, AZ 85367-8503

YOUR NAME <b>THOMAS D. PRITCHARD</b>	DATE <b>3-1-09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>330-620-0551</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Sewer Rate Increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-C8-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water + Sewer Inc</b>	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 DONT THINK THE RESIDENTS SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR FAR WEST WATER CO. EXPANSION FOR THERE DEVELOPEMENTS THEY SHOOLD ADD A SURCHARGE ON NEW DEVELOPEMENT AND NOT MAKE FIXED INCOME RESIDENTS PAY FOR THER DEVELOPEMENTS

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](mailto: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>Shirley McDaniel</i>	DATE <i>3-27-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13163 E 45th Ln Yuma Az. 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>707-330-6011</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 &amp; 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>Mac-Add-Shirley@SBCGLOBAL.NET</i>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*Far West's request is unreasonable, we, as winter residences, must pay 7 months of sewer we are not using. This much of a rate increase will most likely force us to sell our property and relocate to a area we can afford.*

*Far West does deserve a raise, but only at the rate of inflation.*

*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

- Mac & Shirley McDaniel  
- 13163 E. 45th Lane  
Yuma, AZ 85367

You may e-mail it as an attachment to:

[mailmaster@azcc.gov](mailto: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.

Gene & Pat Anthony  
13193 E. 45th Ln.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

## Step 2

<b>YOUR NAME</b> Eugene Anthony III	<b>DATE</b> Feb. 28, 2009
<b>ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP</b> 13193 E. 45th Ln Yuma, AZ. 85367	<b>YOUR PHONE NUMBER</b> 928-305-6800
<b>DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON</b> Increase in annual revenues for sewer service	<b>DOCKET NUMBER</b> WS-03478A-08-0454
<b>CASE OR UTILITY NAME</b> Far West Water & Sewer Company	<b>YOUR POSITION ON THE DOCKET</b> PRO <input type="radio"/> CON <input checked="" type="radio"/> OTHER <input type="radio"/>
<b>YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS</b> anthonyiii@aol.com	

## Step 3

**ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:**

I think that a 214.8% increase on the sewer rate is outrageous. We pay over \$20.00 a month now for 2 years. Which we use the sewer only 5 to 6 months. In my home town we pay \$30.00 a month for sewer. Not \$75.00 as proposed by Farwest Water & Sewer

*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](mailto: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,

*Neil S. Rosenbaum*  
*Emily M. Rosenbaum*  
*13152 E. 53rd St.*  
*Yuma, Az. 85367*

*P.S. We are one of thousands of property owners that are required to pay for a service that is used seven to eight months while permanent folks on fixed*

**Jim and Ella Aprill**  
**13875 E 54<sup>th</sup> St**  
**Yuma AZ 85367**

February 28, 2009

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

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

Far West Water and Sewer is a privately owned company that has not been wise in the process of building the sewer treatment facilities as property was developed. They had plenty of opportunity to do the job properly as all utility lines; power, water, sewer, and cable went in as part of the development in each division.

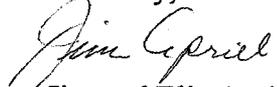
The residential increase that Far West Water and Sewer is proposing is by far an unfair increase to the residents it serves. A large number of the owners of the property that will be affected by this increase are individuals who use their property 3-5 months out of the year. Far West charges are for 12 month's, there no payment decrease when you are not occupying your property.

With the money they have already spent we do not see any improvement in the area we live. The treatment plant is approximately 2 blocks from my property and the smell from the plant is just as strong as ever. If they had done the job correctly in the first place and not cut corners to save money, additional funds would not be needed to improve the now existing plants. Poor planning and poor financial appropriation seems to be the problem continuously with this company.

I would suggest that a county system takeover is appropriate at this time. I am aware of the building level in this county and feel that more control of the water and sewer program needs to be done. I suggest a look at the Pima County wastewater program and how it is handled and the amount of building that has taken place there. The sewer rates are appropriate and offer the opportunity for customers who do not live in the area 12 months out of the year a reduction in fees. Water and sewer fees are based off a three-winter month time usage as to what your sewer and water fee is based on.

It is time for intervention by the County of Yuma to be involved and possibly take over the sewer and water for the residents that are served by Far West Water and Sewer.

Sincerely,

  
Jim and Ella Aprill



# 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.*

Deloris and Jesse Stiltner  
10156 S. Ave. 10 1/2 E  
Yuma, AZ 85365

Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>JESSE STILTNER</b>	DATE <b>3/2/09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-305-8862</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Request for Permanent Rate Increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	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](mailto: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.

Barbara Olivo  
11322 S Avenue 12 E Lot 215  
Yuma, AZ 85367-6651

## Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Barbara J. Olivo</i>	DATE <i>3/1/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>11322 S Ave 12E #215 Yuma AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-580-0323</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:

*I am against the proposed rate increase for Far West Water + Sewer, Yuma, Az. To begin with, my husband + I are full-time residents of Yuma, Az. We are both retired on a fixed income and I, at 69, am working full-time so we can afford to live, pay our bills + have a little fun. We can't afford extravagancies. I feel it is ludicrous for Far West to be asking for such a huge increase. He should not have to pay for the settlement of a lawsuit for several million dollars.*

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](mailto: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.*

**Ms. Sandra Erickson**  
13545 E 53rd Dr.  
Yuma, AZ 85367-8596

### Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>Sandra Erickson</i>	DATE <i>03-02-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13545 E 53<sup>rd</sup> Dr. Yuma Az 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>(928) 342-1373</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Request for Permanent Rate Increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	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:

**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](mailto: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>Reierson Mildred</i>	DATE <i>3/2/09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>13655 E 45th Lane Yuma AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>928-345-2197</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <i>Far West Sewer</i>	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-08-0454</i> <del><i>WS-03487-08-0454</i></del>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <i>Far West Water and Sewer</i>	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 don't understand why we have to pay for the increase in our sewer when it should have been done right years ago. It isn't the customer's fault that far west water & sewer had to pay huge fines and lawyers fees for there problems. when is it going to end the raise the want for sewer will put the customer in a position that they can't afford to keep there property, and sure would not be able to sell it as there are not to many people could afford to pay the price they want*

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

### Step 4

**REIERSON  
13655 E 45TH LN  
YUMA AZ 85367-6313**

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](mailto: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.*

THE HINKLES  
DAVID & DIANE  
11322 S AVE 12E #128  
YUMA, ARIZONA 85367

Step 2

YOUR NAME <b>DAVID + DIANE HINKLE</b>	DATE <b>3-1-09</b>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <b>11322 S AVE 12E #128 YUMA 85367</b>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <b>928-342-1889</b>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON: <b>Request for Permanent Rate Increase</b>	DOCKET NUMBER <b>WS-03478A-08-0454</b>
CASE OR UTILITY NAME <b>Far West Water &amp; Sewer</b>	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](mailto: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.**

Mr. Evert J. Mennenga  
14125 E. 51st Pl.  
Yuma, AZ 85367

### Step 2

YOUR NAME <i>EVERT J MENNENGA</i>	DATE <i>2-28-09</i>
ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP <i>14125 E 51st PLACE YUMA AZ 85367</i>	YOUR PHONE NUMBER <i>(928) 342-3384</i>
DOCKET YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON:	DOCKET NUMBER <i>WS-03478A-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>NONE</i>	

### Step 3

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

*The rate raise for one year I feel is too much. the raise for a 3 year period seems to me is completely out of line with what other companies are charging their customers in the surrounding areas for sewer. the rate for residential service \$74.32 per month after 3 years is ridiculous. ALSO most of the customers in the Far West Company are retirees and here only 3-6 months and have to pay sewer rates for 12 months a year. This high rate that they want would surely keep a number of retirees going elsewhere for their winter stay. This would mean more property for sale and more vacant property and less taxes for the county*

*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](mailto:mailmaster@azcc.gov)**

**Arizona Corporation Commission  
Public Comment Form**

**Continuation Page 2**

Docket # WS-03478A-08-0454

and state. there has been and is still a lot of areas being developed by The Development Group and I am wondering if Far West is trying to pay for this new sewer development in these new areas with the rates we are paying for our home services, which surely would not be right in my opinion.

I think their books need a good going over by your commissioners on this matter  
sincerely

14125 E. 51st place  
Yuma, AZ. 85367

Evert J. Mennenga