

ORIGINAL

E-01345A-08-0172

Trisha A. Morgan



0000097642

**From:** Marv [marvtax31@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2009 11:28 AM  
**To:** Sandra Kennedy; Paul Newman; Bob Stump  
**Cc:** Doyle Dickson; Bev Morgan  
**Subject:** Sun City Taxpayers Association Info  
**Attachments:** Free from APS.doc

Dear Commissioners Sandra Kennedy, Paul Newman and Bob Stump.

I have included an article that has been sent to the Independent and the Daily News Sun for possible publication. The article is in keeping with the goals set forth over 40 years ago by the Sun City Taxpayers Association.

The Sun City Taxpayers Association has been presenting before the ACC for many years. We work to present the concerns of the retired senior citizens in Sun City and the surrounding area. Often our concern centers around the continued requests by the utility companies for increases in fees. We realize that, at times, these increases are necessary. Our position often is that they are, in fact, requests for excessive amounts or for undesired programs.

SCTA houses, at no expense to them, the Maricopa County Assessors Office, AARP Tax Aide and the SCTA/Community Action Network. During the year these organizations serve over 5,000 residents and continue to operate daily to help reduce costs and direct residents to organizations who may help them through difficult times. SCTA is wholly supported by memberships and donations. Our paid staff consists of two part time employees. We are blessed with many volunteers and dedicated board members.

Our other major contribution this year has been our campaign to limit the increase in taxes of the Sun City Fire District to 0%. Many things had to happen to make this possible, but SCTA was the only organization in the fire district to constantly insist that additional taxes were no longer acceptable.

The SCTA/Community Action Network and Banner Health Olive Branch have completed over 400 Benefit Check Ups this year. This is double last years output. Benefits Check Up operates through the Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services. This, unfortunately, seems to be a well kept secret for help to low income seniors and the disabled. It identifies possible help from over 70 Federal and State Programs.

SCTA and SCTA/CAN is active in keeping the other Sun City and area organizations informed of current governmental and private situations involving increased taxes or expenses, with a concern for seniors and other less fortunate members of the communities.

If you are out and about in our area we would be pleased to show you our new office and further explain our reason for existing. Our office is at 10195 W Coggins Dr, Sun City 85351. (One block south of Grand Ave)

Marv Worthen, President  
Sun City Taxpayers Association  
10195 W Coggins Dr  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
Phone 623-933-7530  
Cell phone 623-910-7790

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**  
JUN 11 2009

DOCKETED BY

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

2009 JUN 11 P 3:24

RECEIVED

## Free from APS

On two days in the middle of May, in articles published in the Arizona Republic, APS gave us a strong message of what we will see in the near future. They concerned an APS "Free" program for 200 units in Flagstaff and the cost of greenhouse gasses. The unfortunate history of utility rates is that they always end up being paid by the customers, and there are seldom decreases.

The article of May 11<sup>th</sup> concerned an APS answer to cheap electrical energy. That is, give away 200 FREE solar systems to residents of northeastern Flagstaff. If the residents were to buy them the cost would be from \$15,000 to \$20,000 each, for the total cost of \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000. Each solar unit would supply about one half of the electricity used by the average home. The recipients of the FREE solar systems would be guaranteed that their electrical rate would not be increased for 20 years. Actually, only the rate supplied through the solar unit is guaranteed, the other half of usage would increase as the general rates increase. The rest of us would, of course, get to pay the total increase and any increase not covered by the half rate homes.

This program is a portion of the \$14.7 million pilot program that APS plans to ask regulators, the Arizona Corporation Commission, to approve. This program is defined as a research program to examine how many solar units can function on the same power line or grid. APS will own and maintain the solar panels. This entire program is an effort to reach the Arizona Corporation Commission goal of 25% to 30% renewable energy from distributed generation, such as rooftop solar. APS will also provide about 50 solar water heaters and some small wind turbines in this same area in Flagstaff. CEO Don Brandt of APS indicates that they want to gauge customer acceptance of the FREE program. I'll bet we could guess the answer to that survey right now, even without months of statistics.

In the article on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May the 3 leading officers of APS, Tucson Electrical Power and the Salt River Project combined their many talents to explain the projected increased cost of electricity generated by current facilities that caused greenhouse gasses to enter the atmosphere. This generation is almost entirely from power producers using coal. The article included projections of Climate Change by the United Nations and other scientists among their information. The message contained in the article was, if we continue as we are, increases in energy usage will increase costs due to the fees paid to the government for permits of gas emission. These government permits would be purchased for each ton of greenhouse gas that escapes into the atmosphere. I can not help but wonder what a ton of greenhouse gas looks like. How many buckets and of what size would a ton fill. As we move toward renewable energy the cost of energy usage will radically increase. This is not good news for us, the electricity users.

The Sun City Taxpayers Association firmly believes that the Arizona Corporation Commission must act very prudently at this time. The state of our economy will not allow these increases to continue with no limits. In the past APS has requested aide from the ACC to help keep their income high enough to get better rates on their loans, now the citizens must ask the ACC to keep these rates within the reach of the user's ability to pay. History has told us that APS will not cease their requests for additional income. The stated goal by the three largest Arizona electrical producing companies, represented by CEO's Don Brandt, Paul J. Bonavia and Richard Silverman, was "to provide safe, reliable power to our customers at the lowest possible cost".

The Sun City Taxpayers Association hopes we are all able to work together to achieve that goal. It may be time for the ACC to re-examine their long range plans for renewable energy, with an open view of "at the lowest possible cost." We, the customers, can no longer afford to be the utilities "Cash Cow".