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December 15, 2009

To Chairman Kristin Mayes,

As a resident of Sun City and a customer of Arizona American Water I received a notice of the hearing and proposed rate increase for both water and waste water. The proposed increase for Sun City was listed as 27.7% for water and 40.8% for waste water.

As President of the Sun City Taxpayers Association I have been privileged to appear before the ACC on numerous occasions. My concern at this time centers on the bundling of our water and waste water utility with Anthem Water District, Anthem/Agua Fria Wastewater, and Sun City West Wastewater District. There are many more differences among this bundle than there are likenesses.

According to the news article published in the Daily News Sun following the decision concerning the Sun City West increase of 66%, Commissioner Paul Newman asked, prior to the vote, if Sun City West customers could be dealt with separately from the other five districts.

In attempting to determine why this could not have happened, I contacted Bill Haferman and Larry Woods of the Sun City West group. They indicated that the reason given was that Sun City West was being considered with the other five as a bloc group. Bill stated that his interpretation, derived from Commission responses, was that Sun City West probably would have gotten relief by being considered alone.

Unfortunately for Sun City, we are now part of a bloc of five. Our water requires much less treatment and we do not have a local waste water facility as in Sun City West. It appears that our rate adjusted will largely be determined by the other districts.

In the past water rate increases we have been considered as a solo district. Is there a reason we are now incorporated as a bloc?

If the statements reported in the Daily News Sun were correct, it appears that somehow we are involved in the same type of situation and the results may be approximately the same, due to rules and restrictions.

Sun City Community Organizations are meeting to determine how best to control the utility increases. Our residents have just received the APS increase and now get to look forward to a large increase in water rates. This is a difficult time for all, but the utilities seem to live in a different economic world.

Please respond with the reasons for the bloc or bundling and how this is of benefit to the consumer, the company and the Commission.

Sincerely,
Marv Worthen, President Sun City Taxpayers Association

- CC: Commissioner Bob Stump
- Commissioner Sandra D. Kennedy
- Commissioner Gary Pierce
- Commissioner Paul Newman
- Jan Ek, RCSC General Manager
- Jim Wellman, RCSC Assistant General Manager

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