

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

Antonio Gill

SW-20445A-09-0077  
W-02451A-09-0078  
W-01732A-09-0079  
W-20446a-09-0080  
W-02450a-09-0081  
W-01212A-09-0082  
In Opposition



From: Tom [ ]  
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2010 8:05 AM  
To: Pierce-Web  
Subject: Global Water Rate Cases

**ORIGINAL**

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

**AUG 25 2010**

DOCKETED BY

RE: Rate Cases for Global Water  
W-02451A-09-0078  
W-20446A-09-0080  
W-01732A-09-0079  
W-02450A-09-0081  
W-01212A-09-0082  
SW-20445A-09-0077

Commissioner Pierce

A rate increase is not justified for Global Water. No increase in necessary or required for this company to remain profitable.

1. Global Water is a profitable company without any rate increase. At a time when many companies are losing money or going under, Global Water is requesting an increase only to increase the return to their shareholders. There is no improvement in water quality or service suggested. The average US company is made less than 4% return in 2009 about the same as Global Water.

2. Global Water made a decision to overbuild capacity. They made a mistake. They now want their customers to foot the bill by basing an increase on the value of those unneeded assets. They made the decision to expand it is their problem. They overbuild in error.

3. Global Water has 'cooked' their books to exclude contributions to plant and equipment made by developers. They now want to make a profit on others investment. I don't see how an increase request can be considered from a company that based it's request on false information.

There is NO justification for a rate increase at this time.

Thank You in advance for taking the my view into account.

Tom Head  
Maricopa, AZ

RECEIVED  
2010 AUG 25 A 10:05  
AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** Lisa Lewis [lisalewis31@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 21, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** docket numbers: (09-0079 or 09-0080)

Dear Mr. Pierce,  
I am writing to you as citizen of the City of Maricopa to express my outrage over the possibility of a rate increase to be approved for Global Water. I implore you to vote against this increase.

How much more do you think Maricopa home owners can reasonably stand? Our taxes are higher than surrounding cities. Our electricity costs more, our homeowners association dues are often higher. Many of us shoulder the financial cost of having had cable lines run in the city years ago. And frankly our water cost is not exactly dirt cheap. As every home owner in Maricopa knows. We pay more for everything in comparison to surrounding areas such as Ahwatukee, Chandler and Casa Grande to name a few. And we have far, far less.

While I can appreciate that a lower tax base overall warrants everyone paying more, this proposed increase by Global water is outrageous! It amounts to over a 500% increase for our homeowners associations just to water the grass! Instead of attracting more people to our city we are effectively driving them away. No wonder people have no trouble walking away from their homes here. Even if they could afford their mortgage, their taxes and utilities tip the scales.

As an elected official, particularly an official up for re-election, I hope that you will think about the people living here who will be bearing this burden. We did not receive a pay increase in our home. We cut back. Global Water can do the same.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lewis

Maricopa, AZ 85139

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** Martin Corbin [martincorbin@q.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 21, 2010 1:24 PM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Global Water Increase

Mr. Pierce,

I am writing to you highly concerned about the drastic increase that Global Water has filed for for the city of Maricopa. Asking for an increase in our base water/sewer cost of 48% is incredible! We already are paying quite a high amount for just the hook up fee and taxes, let alone the per gallon rate that is charged. In these economic times, money is tight -- as I'm sure you are aware -- another increase in a necessity will be hard to handle for many if not most families and households that live in the Global Water district. Maricopa has already been plagued with terrible declines in housing prices and increases in taxes. Now this is just one more issue that we all have to worry about.

Obviously water and sewer are not something that we can go without living within city limits, but we ask of you to please thoroughly considered their request and the people of Maricopa before you approve it.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Martin and Julie Corbin

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** Michael Hawk [thisisatest22@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 21, 2010 9:33 PM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Case number 09-0079 and 09-00800 - Global Water

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed water rate increases by Global Water in the City of Maricopa, of which I am a 4 year resident.

According to local media, the average home owner will see an increase in their monthly water bill of nearly 25%, going from \$76 to \$102. On top of that, charges for effluent water are proposed to go up over 500%, to a seemingly arbitrary rate of \$2.00 per 1000 gallons, which could lead to significant HOA increases.

These steep increases are going to be damaging to a community that is already suffering from the housing crisis and a number of other issues. I can understand the need for Global Water to increase rates given their financial obligations. However, the extent of their rate increase seems disproportionate. Further, the salary of the CEO, Trevor Hill, seems out of line given the supposed financial state of the company. This is only compounded when Mr. Hills history of omitting a failed Canadian sewage plant when requesting his company expansion in 2004.

As a commissioner that is up for re-election, my hope is that you and the ACC will take all of the facts into consideration when addressing the rate hike this week.

Thank you,

Michael Hawk

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** Blanche Prokes [BProkes@rossmar.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 22, 2010 12:42 PM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Case #09-0079 and 09-080

Dear ACC Commissioner Pierce:

I am writing to you regarding the increase in water rates you will be considering next week on Wednesday **case numbers 09-0079 and 09-0080.**

I am the Community Manager for the Maricopa Meadows Homeowners Association in Maricopa, AZ. It will be a year next month that our Management Company has received a management contract from the Maricopa Meadows HOA Board of Directors and assigned this property to me. I have worked very closely with the HOA Board of Directors and the Association homeowners for the past 11 months. I know their stories, and their problems. It is heart wrenching for me to see what is happening to Maricopa Meadows and the other residential communities in Maricopa. The fall of the real estate market has hit them very hard; many homeowners have lost their homes and jobs. Some are even working 2-3 jobs just to survive. Many of them are retired people on fixed incomes, young struggling families with small children and returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan where they served our country honorably. They are hanging on by the tips of their fingers.

A large increase in water rates will not only increase their monthly water bills but also the HOA assessments. The end result will be more foreclosures. We have over one million dollars outstanding in HOA assessments at this time. Trust me if I tell you that to operate this HOA takes a very committed, hard working HOA Board of Directors and Community Manager that are both thinking "outside of the box" just to get things done. With the increase Global Water is asking for we will have no other choice but to shut down irrigation to all 8 of our retention areas that are playgrounds for children. This is the only major amenity of this Association. If we are forced to take this step, Maricopa Meadows children will have no grass to play on. Property values will slide even further south as the association will be forced to deal with brown grass all over the place. This will in no way help the HOA curb appeal and any potential sales.

While we all understand that corporations operate to make a profit, the timing is extremely poor and the amount of increase they asked for makes me think that perhaps the decision making executives in this company are not in touch with the reality of the market place. If Global Water thinks that the banks will be paying for water if more and more properties are foreclosed on, they should drive through the community now and see the brown front yards and 4 foot tall brown weeds in the landscaping of bank owned homes. This will get only worst with the unrealistic increase in water rates.

We elected you and are counting on you to make a reasonable and realistic decision so that we can all survive this down economy, but not just the homeowners and HOA's in Maricopa, but the water companies with its employees that live in these Associations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Blanche Prokes, CMCA**

Community Manager

**ROSSMAR & GRAHAM**, 1801 S Extension Road Ste.124, Mesa, AZ 85210

**Office:** 480-551-4300 **Fax:** 480-551-6000, **E-mail:** [bprokes@rossmar.com](mailto:bprokes@rossmar.com), **Website:** [www.rossmar.com](http://www.rossmar.com)

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** Cindy N [cindyandisrael@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 22, 2010 2:05 PM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** global water

Commissioner Pierce,

Concerning docket numbers 09-0079 or 09-0080 about the increase in rates for Global Water, I want to beg you to consider how the raising of these fees will destroy this new city. There are already many homeowners purposely trying to foreclose or short sell their houses because the costs of living here are too high. The increases in water bills and HOA fees mean money taken away from the families that form this community. It is an extra burden on larger families who use more water (we have 9 in our family). It will affect the way our community looks as people try to cut costs in watering, and the people who form and take pride in Maricopa will wilt under this heavy burden. Let new developments fund their own water needs. Let developers absorb these costs. And let us use our own waste water to water our own gardens! With the attachment of a device on an individual's house, each family can take personal responsibility for their water use/abuse, and benefit individually. This would result is less water used overall, allowing the reduction in water usage that has been pledged.

As our representative, please SPEAK LOUDLY to REFUTE this proposed increase and defend the taxpayer and consumer who is without any other voice from the monopoly of the water company. Remember who you are elected to serve.

Thank you,  
David and Cindy Nelson

**Antonio Gill**

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**From:** DLC [crawf@orbitelcom.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 22, 2010 11:27 PM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Fwd: Global Water Rate Increase in Maricopa

Greetings,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed water and sewer rate increase in Maricopa.

The case numbers are: SW-20445A-09-0077

W-20446A-09-0080

W-02451A-09-0078

W-02450A-09-0081

W-01732A-09-0079

W-01212A-09-0082

The rate increases being discussed are simply too much.

My understanding is the rate increases are to provide a higher rate of return on your investors' money.

I do not make an 8% return on any of my investments. Times are difficult economically.

I am very concerned your rate increase - in addition to being excessive - may well turn Maricopa into a 'ghost town'.

That will certainly not result in increased profits for Global Water.

I am urging you in the strongest possible manner to raise the water and sewer rates minimally - if at all.

Thank you in your attention to this matter.

Dale L. Crawford

Maricopa, AZ 85138

**Antonio Gill**

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**From:** nbdb1992@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 12:15 AM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** water rates maricopa

please stop actions which will have a drastic impact on our province community in maricopa.dave and nancy bicknell

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** HOWARD HARPER [h.harper@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 8:10 AM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Cc:** h.harper@msn.com  
**Subject:** Global Water rate increase

Dear Commissioner Pierce:

I am aware that there is a hearing tomorrow for the proposed rate increase for Global Water. The residents of Maricopa have been hard hit by a depressed economy, houses that are worth about one half of what is owed on them, foundations that are crumbling because of improper concrete used by the builders and increased taxes. Many, many people have already had to walk away from their homes and leave this city as they just can't afford to live here.

Please consider not allowing any rate increase at this time. The results will be more people walking away from their homes and leaving here, including myself and my family. The City of Maricopa could become just another dusty Arizona ghost town within the next few months as people can't afford to pay outrageous water rates such as this. Even Global Water won't see any benefit because there will be few people left to pay their water bill.

Thank You

Howard L. Harper MS PhD

**Antonio Gill**

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**From:** TeStrake, Sally [Sally.Testrake@ticus.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 8:50 AM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed Global Water Rate Increase

**Arizona Corporate Commissioner Pierce,**

**Reference to proposals:**

**SW-20445A-09-0077**

**W-20446A-09-0080**

**W-02451A-09-0078**

**W-02450A-09-0081**

**W-01732A-09-0079**

**W-01212A-09-0082**

**I am unable to attend the Arizona Corporate Commission meetings in Phoenix this week.**

**I am writing a second time to express my opposition to Global Water's proposed rate increase. This increase is not necessary for capital improvements and the reason they are asking for this increase is so that their investors can earn an 8% return on their investment in Global Water. I do not know about you, but I lost a considerable percentage of my investments during the current downturn in the economy. Currently I can earn around .5 % return on my investments. Why should these investors earn 8%?**

**I own a home in the Province subdivision. The water used by the HOA to feed our Province lakes and water the green belts will go up 500%. This means our HOA dues will go up at the maximum state allowed 20% for years. Many of the residents in Province are on fixed incomes and such an increase will have dire consequences.**

**Please consider the effect that the proposed increase will have on other residents in Maricopa. The community has a high foreclosure rate and many businesses have closed in the past two years. This increase would strain an already struggling area.**

**Thank you for your consideration. Please do not approve these proposed rate increases by Global Water.**

Sally TeStrake  
[sally@ticus.com](mailto:sally@ticus.com)  
Executive Assistant

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** DON MINER [KEDZIE6624@MSN.COM]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 11:04 AM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Global Water Increase

----- Original Message -----

**From:** DON MINER  
**To:** Mayes-web@azcc.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 11:03 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed Global Water Increase

I am a resident in the Province community in Maricopa. It has come to my attention that Global Water is trying to raise their prices to extortionate rates. I think that this is intolerable not only for our community but also for Maricopa as a whole. This area was supposed to be the NEW community in the Valley, but with all the cutbacks over the past couple of years everything has come to a halt. If these rates go up as suggested what is going to become of Maricopa? There are many retirees in the area as well as young families in their first homes, how on earth are they all going to be able to pay these rates? It is disgusting that Global is trying to dissolve Maricopa from under our feet. It will become a GHOST TOWN, with people leaving and then many many empty homes, it will become slum area. There was supposed to be a Holiday Inn being built which would bring in jobs and people to the area, what will happen to the building of that facility if the water rates increase as they want to do? Here we go again, we are promised all these new facilities to make Maricopa a neat community to live in, and then all the developers back out of their deals.

I beg of you at the AZCC to intervene and stop Global Water from increasing their rates as they say they are going to. We are all relying on the AZCC to do their job and make this a fair happening!!!!

Jan Miner

## Antonio Gill

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**From:** Jack Jackson [jjsphotos44@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 11:16 AM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Global Water rate request

Greetings,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed water and sewer rate increase in Maricopa.

The case numbers are: SW-20445A-09-0077

W-20446A-09-0080

W-02451A-09-0078

W-02450A-09-0081

W-01732A-09-0079

W-01212A-09-0082

The rate increases being discussed are simply too much.

I am concerned that the proposed rate increase will bring undue hardship to many who are already struggling in this difficult economy. Some will be forced to do without water service, others will be forced to move to areas with lower rates.

I am very concerned that the proposed rate increase - in addition to being excessive - may well turn Maricopa into a 'ghost town'.

That will certainly not result in increased profits for Global Water.

My understanding is the rate increases are to provide a higher rate of return on your investors' money. As an elected board, I am urging you to carefully consider the total impact of the proposed rate increase on the constituents whom you represent as well as the utility. I am certainly not opposed to the investors making a reasonable return on their money but I feel that the proposal which I understand is aimed at producing an 8% return to the investors is totally out of place during the present economy.

I am urging you in the strongest possible manner to raise the water and sewer rates minimally - if at all.

Thank you in your attention to this matter.

Jack and Margaret Jackson

Maricopa, AZ 85138

**Antonio Gill**

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**From:** Larry Berkowitz [lsbarizona@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 12:33 PM  
**To:** Pierce-Web  
**Subject:** Docket Numbers (09-0079 or 09-0080)

Dear Commissioner Pierce,

I am writing this in response to the pending increase to Maricopa's water increase by Global Water.

Has Global Waters cost gone up by 506%? If not why should the proposed increase to the homeowner by that percentage. If we are expected to tighten our belt and share the burden, what steps is Global water taking to reduce its costs and improve its service to the community?

This has been a stressful and trying time for homeowners to meet their mortgage, face the shocking depreciation of their property, rising HOA charges and look forward to hefty tax increases from local, state and federal governments.

The community is beginning to recover from an alarming number of foreclosures and empty homes. Adding the proposed increase is wrong, unwise and unfair.

Larry Berkowitz