

W-04254A-11-0296

ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISS



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UTILITY COMPLAINT RECEIVED

Investigator: Carmen Madrid

Phone: 2011 SEP 23 1 P 3: 42

Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

AZ CORP COMMISSION

DOCKET CONTROL

Opinion No. 2011 99364

Date: 9/22/2011

Complaint Description: 08E Rate Cases Items - In Favor  
N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Kayo

Parsons-Korn

Account Name: Friends of the Well

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street:

Work: (000) 000-0000

City: Rimrock

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 86335

is: E-Mail

Utility Company: Montezuma \*\* Rimrock Water Company, L.L.C.

Division: Water

Contact Name:

Contact Phone:

Nature of Complaint:

September 19, 2011

Ernest G. Johnson, Executive Director ACC  
1200 W. Washington Street, SEP 21 2011  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

SEP 23 2011

Re: Montezuma Rimrock Water Company Hearing --  
Docket No. W-04254A-11-0296

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Friends of the Well is a AZ non-profit group that works to protect Montezuma Well National Monument. We work on many projects with the Park Service in the Monument, but also advocate on issues concerning the protection of the aquifer that is the source of Montezuma Well.

We have been following the progress of the various hearings concerning MRWC's well. We understand that MRWC was pursuing a loan from WIFA to construct their arsenic removal plant, for which Well #4 would be necessary. The loan was dependent on MRWC supplying an EID. WIFA had Montezuma Rimrock's IED scrutinized by an independent hydrologist and the EPA and both agencies recommended a full EIS be completed to secure the loan. Since that time MRWC has tried to find a source of private money to complete the project. This necessitated a hearing before your commission to ask for an emergency rate increase.

Like the Park Service, we feel a full EIS would provide the data to determine if MRWC's well #4 would adversely affect Montezuma Well and could provide a plan for mitigation if necessary. The entire area is of concern considering the dropping water table in the Verde Formation that is the source for most area wells. We anticipate future demand will eventually drive the public water companies to drill existing wells deeper into the Paleozoic formations that are believed to supply the water for Montezuma Well. There is already a public water well owned by Arizona Water Company that is 1039' deep. This does access these lower formations. Others will

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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no doubt follow suit.

I would also like to point out the significance of Montezuma Well to various Native American tribes in the Southwest. The Park is affiliated with seven tribes including the Hopi and Yavapai Apache Nation. Both groups have significant ties to the Well as a spiritual place and have worked in conjunction with FOTW on a Traditional Use Garden at the Monument. The Yavapai Apache believe that Montezuma Well is their place of emergence into the world. Many Hopi Clans trace their ancestors to this place. Damage to the Well would be devastating to these people.

We urge you to require an EIS for the project prior to funding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kayo Parsons-Korn,  
President, Friends of the Well  
\*End of Complaint\*

### Utilities' Response:

### Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Opinion noted and filed in Docket No. W-04254A-11-0296. closed  
\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/22/2011

Opinion No. 2011 - 99364

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