

ORIGINAL



Antonio Gill
From: goglad
Sent: Thurs
To: Pierce
Subject: WATE

Arizona American Water
W-01303A-10-0448
In Opposition

Antonio Gill
From: Robin Culley (robinculley)
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2011
To: Pierce-Web; Stamp-Web
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-

Gentlemen,

I feel that the water rate increase that Arizona Water Company wants to implement is totally out of line. There is now way that large of an increase is justified. I can see a slight increase for usage. I definitely do not see a reason to charge more for having 1" pipes. The water is metered and it does not have any just reason to increase due to a size of a pipe. Please support the homeowners in this unjust increase. Also be reminded that when you gentlemen are up for re-election that I will do everything to assist anyone running against you if you feel that this increase is justified. I do not live in Corte Bella or Sun City Grand but fall under the same water authority. This increase affects a lot more people than the people in those 2 retirement communities.

Thank You,
David DeMarco

I didn't originate the following comments, but I agree with all of them.

I do not agree with the deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria; it should be retained as one district.

- If deconsolidation is approved, the average wastewater bill for Corte Bella residents will increase by \$40.37 a month - an annual increase of \$484.44 per household. The ACC needs to understand that Corte Bella residents cannot handle such a drastic increase in their monthly utility bills. You should describe how an increase in wastewater rates will impact you and/or your family financially.

- In addition to this case, Corte Bella residents are also facing a proposed 82.9% increase in water rates as part of Docket No. W-01303A-10-0448. This will increase the average water bill by \$25.13 a month.

- The ACC approved the current makeup of the Anthem / Agua Fria Wastewater District nearly ten (10) years ago. Yet, at the request of the Anthem residents, the ACC is now considering a proposal to deconsolidate the District. Deconsolidation will result in a 139.7% increase in wastewater rates for the new Agua Fria Wastewater District and a mere 15.5% increase in wastewater rates for the new Anthem Wastewater District. The ACC should not approved deconsolidation under these circumstances.

Thank you,
David and Robin Culley

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

OCT 31 2011

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

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2011 OCT 31 P 4: 28
AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Antonio Gill

From: John Haley (John.Haley@peoriaaz.gov)
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 2:23 PM
To: Pierce-Web
Cc: Stamp-Web
Subject: Docket #'s SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-0343

I am against the deconsolidation of the Anthem and Agua Fria water districts.

In the current times, the rate increases are not reasonable. Most of the people in our neighborhood are retirees and do not need this kind of extra expense.

When we moved to Corte Bella over 2 years ago, our neighbors told us, you'll love everything except the water bill. We have friends in surrounding areas whose bills are considerably less than ours (for similar households)

It's also very frustrating that we are billed for wastewater in the summer when it's well known that most of the extra water usage is for irrigation.

Thank you for your time,

John Haley
Sun City West-Corte Bella
85375

Antonio Gill

From: Earl (ejucas@ccaz.net)
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 4:32 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Stamp-Web; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Burns-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

Members of the Arizona Corporation Commission:

My wife and I respectfully request that the Commission not approve the Arizona American Water Company proposed deconsolidation of the Anthem/ Agua Fria Wastewater District.

We are Corte Bella residents who live on a fixed income while seeing the cost of necessities continue to rise around us. Almost every month we are faced with another increase in our cost of living. Our water/ wastewater bills alone have approximately doubled since we moved here in 2003. Yet, our home has only two occupants, desert landscaping, no swimming pool or other excessive water usage. The increases proposed by the deconsolidation would be devastating to us - especially since it would not only increase our home rates but would necessitate higher HOA fees. It would also affect the value of our home and make it even more difficult to sell in this depressed housing market if we find that we can no longer afford to stay in our beautiful Corte Bella Community.

Unfortunately, we have learned that Arizona American Water has also proposed an 82.9% increase in Corte Bella water rates as part of Docket No. W-01303A-10-0448. This proposal is outrageous and should also be denied.

We are strongly and absolutely opposed to deconsolidation of the current Wastewater District and to the excessive and outrageous water and wastewater increases Arizona American Water is proposing. We ask that the Commission deny both proposals.
Thank you for your attention.

Earl and Jeana Lucas

Antonio Gill

From: andyhsl@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Pierce-Web; Stump-Web@azcc.gov; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Burns-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

Dear Sirs, I do not agree with the deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria; it should be retained as one district. Contrary to popular belief, all of us living at Corte Bella are not considered affluent. Please look at the history of: foreclosures, short sales and vacancies. An increase of this size in our water bill would be a huge burden on me and many families in Corte Bella.

Respectfully, Andrew Hall

From: Gerald J Quartana
Sent: 10/22/11
To: Pierce-Web, Stump-Web, Kennedy-Web, Newman-Web, Burns-Web, Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

Ladies and Gentlemen. I have been a resident of Corte Bella for over 7 years and do not agree with proposed consolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria. It should remain as one district. My wife and I live alone in our house and have no swimming pool or other water features. Are only water use is for typical living needs such as bathing, cooking, drinking and watering our plants and shrubs with our drip system, which is required so as not to have them die with the hot weather in Arizona. Our water bill used to be in the \$60 per month range and is now generally over \$100 per month. We are retired living on a small fixed income and would find it extremely difficult to meet the excessive increases which are being proposed. Such increases would lower the value of not only our home, but all homes in the community and make Corte Bella and "Ghost Town" in a few years. No one would want to purchase these homes when they find out how much sewer and water rates are. It would also cause an increase in our HOA dues since the cost of maintaining "common areas" would rise substantially. The sewer and water rates you're proposing would be much higher than any rates we've had to pay in the past, including other homes in Arizona and Wisconsin. Also, we have just learned that there is another proposal facing us for a proposed 82% increase in our water rates reference docket #W-01303A-10-0448. Again, I feel this to be excessive and unreasonable. We as customers should not be penalized for the untimely construction, poor planning and irresponsible management decisions by the Arizona American Water Company. We are against any unreasonable monthly increase in our water bills and absolutely against the deconsolidation. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gerald J. Quartana

Antonio Gill

From: Linda Haley (lhaley1@ccoc.net)
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 1:36 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Stump-Web@azcc.gov; Kennedy-Web
Cc: Newman-Web; Burns-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Numbers SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

I'm sending this email to inform you all that I do not agree with the deconsolidation of the Anthem and Agua Fria water districts.

My husband and I moved here to Corte Bella 2 years ago. We have been appalled by how much our water bill is every month. We live on a fixed income and will now have to limit our activities so we can pay our water bill if this proposal goes through. This is ridiculous and outrageous.

Thank you for your time,

Linda Haley
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Antonio Gill

From: Burnie Clark (bcclark2000@msn.com)
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 8:03 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Newman-Web; Burns-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox; Kennedy-Web
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

We are writing to state our strong opposition to the proposed deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria. It has been the Commission's stated intent for many years to consolidate water districts. The ACC approved the current makeup of the Anthem/Agua Fria Wastewater District almost ten years ago. To change direction at this late date would be inconsistent and destructive public policy. Water is a commodity that is provided by a single source in our communities and we are at the mercy of those companies and policy makers who control it. Continued consolidation of our water district remains good policy and provides a broad based and fairer method of apportioning costs.

Should deconsolidation be approved, our Corte Bella retirement community would be hit with an average wastewater increase of \$40.37 per month, or \$484.44 per year for each household. As retirees we must live on fixed incomes. In these very hard economic times an increase of just under \$500 per year would have a drastic impact on our already tightly stretched budgets. In our particular case we have had to make choices to eliminate essential services such as home telephone, cable and daily newspapers because of rising utility costs. The amount of money available for food each month is under increasing pressure, and we have had to reduce our driving because of the increased cost of gasoline. For the first time since 2008 we are told there will be an increase in Social Security payments, but much of this will be taken by mandated increases in Medicare and health/drug insurance costs. We live in fear that the Commission will approve substantial proposed increases from our utility providers, who do not appear to understand that our State and Country are experiencing severe economic times.

In addition to this case, residents of our community also are facing a proposed 82.9% water rate increase proposed in Docket Number W-01303A-10-0448. If approved, this would add an average \$25.13 per month to each Corte Bella resident's bill. Our AAW bill for November just arrived and even though our conservation efforts resulted in just three thousand gallons of water usage, we owe \$101.02. If the Commission were to approve both the wastewater deconsolidation and the 82.9% water rate increase, this would mean our projected bill for similar usage would more than double our bill to over \$200 per month. That is a staggering increase and a phenomenal cost for just 3,000 gallons of water. Frankly, we don't see how we would be able to pay the additional \$100 per month. With the other utility increases we face, as well as the other costs that continue to rise, in all likelihood we would be forced to sell our home in a very difficult real estate market.

We sincerely hope that the Commission is sensitive to the economic plight of property owners who are in the throes of these economic forces. We need relief and protection from these companies that are insensitive and non-responsive to the realities of our situation. For these reasons we plead that the proposed deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria be denied. And we implore you to reject any proposed increase in water rates as proposed by Arizona American Water.

Sincerely,

Diane and Burnie Clark
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Antonio Gill

From: jmcrcray@cox.net
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 1:54 PM
To: Pierce-Web
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-09-0343 & W-01303A-09-0343

If deconsolidation is approved, the average wastewater bill for Corte Bella residents will increase by \$49.37 a month - an annual increase of \$484.44 per household. My wife and I are retired and on a fixed income. We simply cannot afford this kind of an increase, particularly with food, gas and other essential needs on the rise. I'm certain such an increase will also have a negative impact on our homevalues for years to come. please do not approve deconsolidation.

Paul McCray
Lynne McCray

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Antonio Gill

From: SS SARMA (ssarma@hotmail.com)
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 8:48 PM
To: Pierce-Web; slump-web@cozcox.gov; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Burris-Web; UMilles Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

I do not agree with the deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria; it should be retained as one district.

- If deconsolidation is approved, the average wastewater bill for Corte Bella residents will increase by \$40.37 a month - an annual increase of \$484.44 per household. The ACC needs to understand that Corte Bella residents cannot handle such a drastic increase in their monthly utility bills. This will be a big financial burden as we live on our meagre retirement benefits.

- In addition to this case, Corte Bella residents are also facing a proposed 82.9% increase in water rates as part of Docket No. W-01303A-10-0448. This will increase the average water bill by \$25.13 a month.

- The ACC approved the current makeup of the Anthem / Agua Fria Wastewater District nearly ten (10) years ago. Yet, at the request of the Anthem residents, the ACC is now considering a proposal to deconsolidate the District. Deconsolidation will result in a 139.7% increase in wastewater rates for the new Agua Fria Wastewater District and a mere 15.5% increase in wastewater rates for the new Anthem Wastewater District. The ACC should not approved deconsolidation under these circumstances. The current water charges are already too high and any increase will drastically affect our living.

For consideration. Sthanu S.Sarma [REDACTED] 85375 (P [REDACTED])

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Antonio Gill

From: Terri Holcombe [terri.holcombe@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Slump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Burris-Web; UMilles Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

Dear Commissioners,
I am very concerned about the excessive increases in water and wastewater rates for our community. I do not agree with the deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria; it should be retained as one district. If deconsolidation is approved, the average wastewater bill for Corte Bella residents will increase by \$49.37 a month - an annual increase of \$484.44 per household. The ACC needs to understand that Corte Bella residents cannot handle such a drastic increase in their monthly utility bills. It is a huge financial burden to add to a community and individual family of active senior citizens. With everything that is happening in the economy presently, this is one more hardship for all of us.

In addition to this case, Corte Bella residents are also facing a proposed 82.9% increase in water rates as part of Docket No. W-01303A-10-0448. This will increase the average water bill by \$25.13 a month.

The ACC approved the current makeup of the Anthem / Agua Fria Wastewater District nearly ten (10) years ago. Yet, at the request of the Anthem residents, the ACC is now considering a proposal to deconsolidate the District. Deconsolidation will result in a 139.7% increase in wastewater rates for the new Agua Fria Wastewater District and a mere 15.5% increase in wastewater rates for the new Anthem Wastewater District. The ACC should not approved deconsolidation under these circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.
Sincerely,
Terri Holcombe

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Antonio Gill

From: John Welsh [jwelsh@pfbpost.com]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 10:23 AM
To: Bob Slump; Burris-Web; Pierce-Web; Newman-Web; Kennedy-Web
Subject: docket # SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-1303A-09-0343

I do not agree with the deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria, it should be retained as one district

The idea that you could possibly have any rational thought about changing this to absolutely hammer the households outside of Anthem is preposterous.
We moved to Corte Bella because the cost of living was far less than other sections of the greater Phoenix area. Never in our wildest dreams did we have any thought of the water commissioners changing things so much that our bills would go up more than 80 percent IN ONE YEAR!

This is completely unjustifiable and without precedent in many other states. Our water bill now averages more than our electric bill did in Illinois where we moved from. The idea that you could even consider changing the deal and adding these kinds of increases damages all of our property values and will result in lower taxes due to fewer people being able to afford the OPERATING costs of their homes.

I find it disgusting that Pulte homes made so many under the table deals with various agencies to build Corte Bella and now after the developer is gone and has taken their money the costs of living here continue to escalate. I am sure Pulte made some deal with the water company to have them do infrastructure in exchange for Pulte putting oversized (MORE EXPENSIVE) pipes into many of the homes in Corte Bella. Now the commissioners are considering acknowledging that underhanded business practice by INCREASING the rates Corte Bella pays and giving the benefit to Anthem residents? HOW IN THE WORLD IS THAT FAIR?

You cannot possibly be serious about this completely unjust and unfair proposal. This is absolutely unfair and something that will damage all of our investments in our properties.

We have suffered a loss of passive income due to mismanagement by both private and public sectors. Now there is a proposal to further damage existing and new residents with this grossly unfair proposal.

I urge you to do the RIGHT thing and vote ng to the deconsolidation of the district.

John Welsh
[REDACTED]
Sun City West AZ 85375

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Antonio Gill

From: Sue Roth [samsue2400@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 10:45 AM
To: Pierce-Web; Stump-Web
Cc: Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Burns-Web

Dear Commissioners, please consider carefully the proposed water and waste hikes for the community of Corte Bella in Sun City West. In this economic climate any rate increases seem to present difficulty for homeowners, those of us who are staying in our homes and not just walking away from our obligations, expect rate hikes to be reasonable. These proposals being suggested will be especially difficult for seniors on fixed incomes. I hope you will review these proposals and be well informed in making your decisions.

Thank you,

Sue Roth, current resident of Corte Bella

[REDACTED]
Sun City West, Az.85375

Antonio Gill

From: HOvergaard@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 11:47 AM
To: Pierce-Web; Newman-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Burns-Web; UHRIES Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

Good morning,

We have been a resident at Corte Bella since 2006. the proposed increase resulting from the deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria will be very detrimental to many of the residents and will also have a negative impact on the real estate sales. I am a real estate broker and work almost exclusively in Corte Bella. The biggest concern I hear from prospective buyers is the threat of excessive increased cost of water and wastewater treatment services. As a result both sales activity and values are impacted. This deconsolidation will dramatically impact the lives of the resident both economically and personally.

Therefore, We do not agree with the deconsolidation of Anthem and Agua Fria; it should be retained as one district.
Thank you,

Carol and Jerry Overgaard

[REDACTED]
Sun city West, Arizona 85375

Antonio Gill

From: William Fondow [wfondow@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 3:06 PM
To: Pierce-Web
Subject: Water Rates

Dear Commissioner Pierce

As an Anthem resident I am very concerned that all customers of Arizona American Water Company are not being treated equal and fair.

Many of My neighbors have just payed about \$500.00 each to change the size of their water meter from 1" to 3/4" and as such their water bill has dropped by about \$40.00 a month. As a rate payer I can not understand why I should have to pay more for the same water usage. Many of us in Anthem country Club question the leagality of being charged more for the same water usage. There has been discussion about a class action suite against Arizona American Water Company and The Corporation Commission to resolve this possible discrimination.

We would like your comments before we proceed further with action.

William J. Fondow

[REDACTED]
Anthem, AZ 85086
[REDACTED]

Antonio Gill

From: Walt Keams [walt@wkeams.com]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 5:04 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Burns-Web
Cc: Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Nos. W-01303A-11-0101, W-010303A-10-0448, SW-01303A-09-0343, W-01303A-09-0343

My Dear Commissioners,

Now that the ALJ's ROO and Exceptions have been registered in the first of these dockets—and despite the on-going controversies in the related dockets 10-0448 and 09-0343—perhaps it is time for the commission to step back and re-considers its hands-off approach to infrastructure planning and on holding private utilities accountable. The current approach of after-the-fact cost recovery does not seem to be in the best interest of Arizona consumers.

- Witness the White Tank Treatment Plant issue, where the Commission in allowed its inclusion in the previous case accepting the promise that future hookups would easily pay for the infrastructure. They have not and now AAWC is asking for relief in the form of an 82% increase in 10-0448, justifiably raising of the ire of affected customers
- And witness the case of Corte Bella, Verrado and Russell Ranch where the evolving Agua Fria CCN did not align the communities with the nearest source of treated water or closest water treatment facility. The result is the catastrophic increase proposed in 09-0343, and its associated outrage in these communities.

You have a decision to make in 11-0101, regarding the sale of AAWC to EPCOR USA: Accept the ROO or ask the tough questions never answered before deciding. Continue the business-as-usual approach or decide now to improve AAWC's service record.

- Would EPCOR still want AAWC at premium of at least \$18M if the Commission disapproved recovery of the White Tank plant costs through usage fees and instead, insisted it stay with the original plan of paying the cost through hookup fees. No one appears to have asked that question. No one seems to want to hold AAWC accountable for either its planning or its promises. Maybe you should.
- Would EPCOR still want AAWC if the Commission conditioned the sale on EPCOR developing and submitting for approval an infrastructure master plan for all AAWC water and wastewater districts and on actually following it once approved. Neither Staff nor RUCO saw fit to raise this issue. No one seems to want to hold anyone accountable for infrastructure planning. Maybe you should.
- Would EPCOR still want AAWC if the Commission conditioned the sale on EPCOR making the needed personnel changes to avoid repeating the infrastructure gaffs above. Neither Staff nor RUCO saw fit to raise this issue. Neither seems to want to hold AAWC accountable. Maybe you should.
- Would EPCOR still want AAWC if the Commission conditioned the sale on EPCOR making the needed personnel changes to avoid repeating the customer service gaffs AAWC is noted for. Staff and RUCO seems more concerned that AAWC personnel remain in place than improving AAWC's abysmal customer service. A service that, among other things, cannot even provide adequate notice to customers. Of course it can be explained; it always can. This *laissez faire* approach does hold anyone accountable. Maybe you should.

It is time that the Commission stepped up its responsibility for oversight of AAWC's planning, and to hold it and its successor accountable to promises made earlier.

I await your decision.

Antonio Gill

From: robertf@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2011 2:48 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Burns-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Nos. SW-01303A-09-0343 and W-01303A-09-0343

The ACC approved the current mkeup of the Anthem / Agua Fria Wastewater District nearly ten years ago. Yet, at the request of Anthem residents, the ACC is now considering a proposal to deconsolidate the District. Deconsolidation will result in a 139.7% increase in wastewater rates for the new Agua Fria Wastewater District and a mere 15.5% increase in wastewater rates for the new Anthem Wastewater District. The ACC should not approve deconsolidation under these circumstances.