

ORIGINAL

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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

January 10, 2013

2013 JAN 14 P 12:30

To: Docket Control

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

RE: Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. - Petition  
Docket No. WS-03478A-12-0307

Please docket the attached 16 customer comments OPPOSING the above filed rate case.

Customer comments can be reviewed in E-docket under the above docket number.

Filed by: Utilities Division – Consumer Services

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

JAN 14 2013

DOCKETED BY *LM*



# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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people with the majority living in the Foothills. This population will be especially affected by this increase because, since 2003, they pay for 6 months of sewer fees despite being unable to flush their toilets because they have returned to their primary residences.

E. Of the "full time" Foothills residents there is a large percentage of Retirees living on a fixed income. Many more are the working class. If the proposed increase passes it would only succeed in further devastating the local economy. There are many folks who live paycheck to paycheck as it is. A fee increase as proposed could potentially force many people to sell or foreclose. With the housing market as it is today, this will only add to the declining economy.

### IN CONCLUSION:

\* We don't feel that the current customers should incur the costs necessary to cover a new wastewater plant needed to serve future growth. At most this cost should be absorbed by impact fees on the new lots being developed. We believe they have not suggested this because it would reduce the parent company's building profits, in part due to the recession limiting the builder's inability to charge more than the market will bear.

\* We further feel that this increase is also being requested as a direct result of negligence on the part of Far West Water & Sewer. It appears as if they're poor planning failed to prevent numerous ADEQ violations. We the customers of Far West Water and Sewer do not feel that this is a cost that should be transferred to current customers.

\* We feel that Far West Water and Sewer Co. should have maintained the current facilities as repeated violations have been submitted since 1990 from ADEQ as well as the September 9, 2008, 49 page complaint in Maricopa County Superior Court in which 50 counts were filed against these companies, and again in 2010 when additional fines were filed for wastewater violations and negligence. In 2006 the plant finally came into compliance with ADEQ receiving permission to allow more hookups. Maintaining is what the company should have focused on, but instead they only increased their lagoon by 300%.

THEREFORE, we feel that this enormous increase is not justified. We the current owners feel that the extra charges requested are to aid H & S Developers and Far West Water and Sewer in paying settlements incurred due to lawsuits and penalties owed to ADEQ for lack of safety and loss of life. We also feel it is possible that Far West is trying to offset the costs incurred by H & S Development Co.'s newer developments. Their lack of sales and poor investments are not our responsibility. Far West Water and Sewer and H & S Developers for years should have been investing their revenues in maintaining the system they have in place. If that had been the case, they would not be requesting this large increase.

Other cities in Arizona\* have been investigated and it has been found that they have seen rate increases of 5 - 9.5%. A small percentage is acceptable and necessary, but 188% IS NOT. We the customers cannot afford this increase. We hope you will consider our concerns and VOTE NAY on this application Thank you.

Dated this 27th day of December, 2012

\*Average Sewer Rates around Arizona"

Tuscon: \$40.89/month- however if you are gone for 1 month or more only monthly service fee of \$11.86 is charged.

Phoenix: \$34.25/ month

- 1 - Bernice Marshall
- 2 - Jo Ann Lambert
- 3 - Sonja Brekkas
- 4 - Art Brekkas
- 5 - Leo Budnick
- 6 - Elaine Budnick

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

## UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

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- 7 - Betty Burgemeister
- 8 - R. Burgemeister
- 9 - Ross Dyer
- 10 - Frank Smith
- 11 - William Haley
- 12 - Wayne Conlon
- 13 - Peggy Haley
- 14 - Ron Colin
- 15 - Emile Lambert
- 16 - Reg Marshall
- \*End of Complaint\*

### Utilities' Response:

### Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Comments entered for the record and filed in Docket Control.  
\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 1/10/2013

Opinion No. 2013 - 107772

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