

W-01212A-12-0309
SW-20445A-12-0310
W-03720A-12-0311
W-02450A-12-0312
W-02451A-12-0313
W-20446A-12-0314
W-01732A-12-0315

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMM
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM



Investigator: Scott Friedson

FILED FEB 25 P 3: 26

Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

CORP COMMISSION
CHECK CONTROL

Opinion No. 2013 - 108723

Date: 2/22/2013

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Roy Last: LaCombe

Account Name: Roy LaCombe

Home:

Street:

Work:

City: Maricopa

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85138

is: Cellular

Utility Company: Global Water-Santa Cruz Water Company

Division: Water

Contact Name:

Contact Phone:

Nature of Complaint:

2/22/13

*****WATER/WASTEWATER*****W-01212A-12-0309, SW-20445A-12-0310,W-03720A-12-0311,
W-02450A-12-0312, W-02451A-12-0313, W-20446A-12-0314, W-01732A-12-
0315*****OPPOSED*****

February 18, 2013

My wife and I live in a retirement community in Maricopa. We are on a fixed income and have to account for every penny we spend. We understand that Global Water is asking for a rate increase and after researching this request, we feel that it is unreasonable and uncalled for. We are currently paying a base rate of over \$90/month for just the 2 of us. The proposed rate increase would drive this up to over \$114/month, whether we use any water or not. On top of that, our HOA fees would increase as Global Water is also asking for an unreasonable rate increase for reclaim water, used to irrigate the common areas. That means our household would see a 26% increase for personal use plus an increase of the HOA fees- a double hit from this rate increase request. For someone on a fixed income this is very hard to accept. We are doing everything we can to conserve water but it doesn't seem to help as our base line rates keep increasing.

When we talk to friends and family about living in or moving to Maricopa, one of the first things they inquire about is the cost of utilities. We have to be honest and tell them that the water rates are 3 to 4 times higher than they are in the Phoenix metro area. They will not move here and that seriously jeopardizes the growth and sustainability of Maricopa. Some of our neighbors have indicated that if this rate increase goes through, they will have to seriously access their ability to continue to live in Maricopa. This rate increase request will also jeopardize the business growth in Maricopa. When businesses ask about the utilities and find out the cost, they feel it would be better for them not to open here. This again affects the growth of Maricopa.

Back in 2008 when Global Water requested a rate increase, the economy in Maricopa was at its lowest. Since then the number of new home building permits has increased, inventory of existing home is very low, and the

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foreclosure rate has dramatically decreased. This all points to a larger customer base for Global Water and to an already increased revenue. We question why they are asking for a rate increase now. It just doesn't make sense as more home are occupied versus empty and more customers are paying for services.

We understand the need to maintain revenue streams and be successful. But when a firm is the only one for resources, they have no right to continually request increases, knowing their customers have no alternative but to pay. This is considered a monopoly and I thought there was an Anti-Trust law against monopolies to protect the citizens. We respectfully request that you do not grant Global Water any rate increase as an increase could lead to creating another ghost town in Arizona.

Roy & Patricia LaCombe
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

Comments entered for the record and filed in docket number W-01212A-12-0309, SW-20445A-12-0310,W-03720A-12-0311, W-02450A-12-0312, W-02451A-12-0313, W-20446A-12-0314, W-01732A-12-0315. FILE CLOSED.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 2/22/2013

Opinion No. 2013 - 108723
