

**ORIGINAL**

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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July 12, 2014

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Utilities Division  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

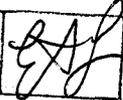
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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

JUL 15 2014

DOCKETED BY 

Dear Chairman BOB STUMP, Commissioners GARY PIERCE, BRENDA BURNS, BOB BURNS and SUSAN BITTER SMITH and Staff,

RE: Docket Nos. W-01303A-09-0343 and SW-01303A-09-0343

As you have an open hearing on the above Docket scheduled for July 22, 2014, We Russell Ranch residents are requesting a review of our extremely high Epcor water/wastewater rates as part of this hearing..

As many of you probably remember from the hearings in 2009-10, our developer built the treatment plant here in Russell Ranch before having to turn it over to Arizona American Water (now Epcor). The developer recouped his cost of this plant by adding prorated amounts to the selling price of each lot. Therefore as purchasers of lots in Russell Ranch, we paid for this plant and we understood we would be paying only for the future operation and maintaince of this plant.

Since the changing of the Agua Fria's rates at the above hearings (which many of us protested and asked for some relief) our water/wastewater rates have gone completely out of reason and many times more than rates in almost anywhere else in Arizona.

This is having a huge impact on the value of our properties and any potential buyers. Some of the bills from Epcor for water/wastewater were over \$800 for just last month. Our personal wastewater bill was nearly three times the very high water bill. Would you buy this property when realizing the cost of maintaining landscaping and pools? This does not take in the costs passed on to us through the HOA for the common areas. These costs have become such a hardship for many residents they have had to take out grass and bit by bit many plants are dying from lack of water since the wastewater bill is based on the volume of water that comes to the property.

At the 2010 hearing, you requested Epcor do a cost analysis of the operation of the Russell Ranch treatment plant. Please review these costs and let us have some relief. We paid for our treatment plant once, and we should not pay for it again nor should we be paying for treatment plants in other areas that we do not use. It is only common sense that users should be paying for the plant they use.

And our other concern is our water supply. Have you noticed the water level in Lake Mead (where our water comes from)? As of Friday, July 11, 2014, it was at 1081.77, the lowest level since it was filled in 1937! And no indication it is going to be rising in the near future. Who approved building the \$63.9 million water treatment plant that is supplying us with "crappy" water that we are being forced to pay unreasonable rates for when wells (we paid for) that was to supply us for 99 years when our property was developed? Maybe it's time we start getting some good water from these wells. We know some of this was done before many of you were on the Commission but it's time to start looking at alternatives.

Thanks for taking your time to review this matter thanks in advance for your help. If we can be of any assistance on this, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Stump - Regina Stump". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Harold and Regina Stump

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