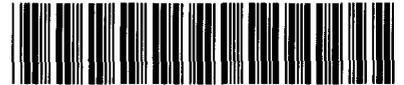




LAKESIDE FIRE DISTRICT

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July 23, 2014

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Bob Stump, Chairman
Gary Pierce, Commissioner
Brenda Burns, Commissioner
Bob Burns, Commissioner
Susan Bitter Smith

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

JUL 29 2014

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

ORIGINAL

DOCKETED BY 

RE: Docket No. W-01445A-12-0348 System Improvement Benefits (SIB) Surcharge
For Replacing Aging and Failing Water Infrastructure

Dear Commissioners:

Lakeside Fire District supports the Arizona Corporation Commission's effort to help water utilities replace aging and failing water infrastructure and the System Improvement Benefits (SIB) surcharge mechanism.

As a public safety agency in the Pinetop - Lakeside area, we are charged with protecting the public's safety, especially by providing fire protection. Beyond the need to make sure that water is safe to drink and service is reliable, when firefighters respond to a fire, they need to know they can rely on each and every fire hydrant have good water pressure and flow. Our jobs and people's lives depend on this.

The State has been in a protracted drought for more than ten years and continued lack of rain could increase the risk and severity of a fire. That is why it is critically important to ensure that utilities maintain adequate supplies of water and replace aging and undersized water infrastructure. Any reasonable solution to this challenge should be considered. The SIB mechanism seems to be a reasonable (and practical) solution that would help utilities replace aging and undersized infrastructure with small gradual rate increases. Arizona Water Company's first requested surcharge for its Cochise division, Bisbee and Sierra Vista customers is 82 cents per month. At less than three cents per day for a family, this seems to be a small price to pay to help protect public safety.

We support the Commission and urge you to approve the SIB surcharge.

Sincerely,



Bryan Savage
Fire Chief

Cc: Lee Hetrick - Arizona Water Company