

W-01303A-09-0343
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Commissioners Wing
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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Re: Docket # SW-01303A-09-0343

CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

I attended the meeting held in Sun City on Tuesday, November 25. I did not speak but I heard many good comments from those who did. I would like to add my thoughts and hope you will consider them when making your decision to approve or disapprove the Settlement Agreement – EPCOR and the later Consolidation proposed.

I heard several people from communities such as Corta Bella complain about their rates being so high. As a Sun City resident, I would like to quote one of the speakers on Tuesday... "Tough Shitsky!" I cannot understand why their decision to purchase a house in an expensive community that they cdn now not afford is my problem or responsibility. In 2000 my husband and I moved from San Francisco to Anthem, AZ. After four years of living there we recognized that the water bills were going to continue to rise due to the way the infrastructure had been built and we would not be able to afford it during our retirement. We sold the house and moved to a community we could afford – Sun City. Now the people who chose to live in Anthem and Corta Bella think we should subsidize their water bills???! Why?

Many speakers commented on the fact that Sun City is a senior community, which brings up several points:

1. Many our residents are on fixed incomes and need low expenses to literally survive. That's why we chose Sun City. Having to choose between paying a water bill and getting medicine we need shouldn't be a decision we have to make. Listen to Debbie Lesko! She knows her constituency. Think how your decision will affect these folks.
2. Being a retirement community means that our households are smaller – only 1.7 people per home. We don't flush nearly as many toilets as the families in Anthem! Also, almost 40% of our residents are winter visitors. They don't flush a single toilet for six months out of the year!
3. Raising our water rates affects more than just our own individual monthly water bill. It also affects the rates our Recreation Centers pay for water and therefore our mandatory Recreation Center membership goes up as well. If rates go up, we get a double whammy!
4. It is true that Sun City is over 50 years old and that our systems are aging. But that also means we have been paying water companies for that long to not just provide water but also to maintain the system. Has that not happened? If not, why?

And lastly, EPCOR made the decision to purchase these various water companies. I assume that the company was aware of the costs involved to operate each one at the time of the purchase. I also would assume that the Arizona Corporation Commission approved the rates at that time. So (a) why should EPCOR be now allowed to lump all the companies they purchased together to make up for losses they should have foreseen at the time of purchase or to placate other communities who complain about high rates? And (b) why would the ACC allow that to happen? By the way, I heard one speaker quote the amount of revenue earned by EPCOR last year...doesn't sound like they have incurred many losses to me. How can they justify a need to raise rates with profits like those?

As you may imagine by now, I am adamantly opposed to the Consolidation by EPCOR as well as the Settlement Agreement you have before you. Please do not punish those of us in Sun City who made sound financial decisions by making us pay for those in other communities who did not. And do not reward EPCOR for their mistakes either. Do not raise our rates!

Sincerely,

Helen Tomich
9626 W. Oakstone Drive
Sun City, AZ 85351

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