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**ORIGINAL Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Complaint Form**

Investigator: Jenny Gomez Phone: <<< REDACTED >>> Opinion Date: 7/7/2016
Opinion Number: 2016 - 132815 Priority: Respond within 5 business days
Opinion Codes: Rate Case Items - Opposed Closed Date: 7/7/2016 2:24 PM

First Name: Jose Last Name: Soto Account Name: Jose Soto
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Company: Liberty Water-Entrada Del Oro Sewer Company Division: sewer

Nature Of Opinion

Docket Number: SW-04316A-16-0085 Docket Position: Against

Liberty Utilities (formerly Black Mountain Sewer which is now its subsidiary) has a longstanding history of taking advantage of the rate hike increase proposal process through the Arizona Corporation Commission (i.e. ACC) against the very customers it claims to always want to help. Instead of helping its customers, Liberty Utilities helps itself to its customers' money. Things have gotten so bad that in late 2012 The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to intervene in a proposed water and sewage rate increase that would affect the 6,700 residents of Rio Rico. If Liberty Utilities' rate increases are approved that means Entrada Del Oro residents will be paying the highest rates in the state. The fact that the ACC allows its own "adjustments" of rate increases means that any company or corporation can effectively propose rate increases and walk away with any or all of the rate increases they proposed so it does not really allow for residents to effectively oppose or prevent such rate hikes without municipalities intervening on residents' behalves. The point is that the ACC simply serves as a "rubberstamp" for all companies and corporations to get their way regardless of what residents want. In the past the ACC was in hot water over its "rubberstamp" processes and if necessary residents should take their concerns and ask for assistance from state legislators to prevent any more railroading of rate increases through the ACC. Therefore, I vehemently OPPOSE Liberty Utilities "combined" Restructuring (i.e. Docket #SW-04316A-16-0085) and Rate Increase (i.e. Docket # SW-04316A-16-0078) which are consolidated as Docket # SW-04316A-16-0085 for the following reasons: 1. Simply providing "evidence of indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000" does not meet the financial burdens of providing sufficient proof for any company or corporation to restructure itself. So, the germane issues is that this seems like a grasp for the equity partners to not only restructure their entity but to also limit their liabilities with the sole intent of increasing their operating profits at the expense of its customers. Residents deserve to have the proof of the necessity for restructuring instead of Liberty Utilities simply saying it must do so for whatever reasons it deems fit. 2. Liberty Utilities has been in the hot seat for its past market manipulations. Specifically, I refer to The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors issue in Rio Rico and the Carefree Sewer Plant. The habits of Liberty Utilities seems predatory at best as it not only wanted to force unsubstantiated rate increases on Rio Rico residents but it also attempted to extort more than \$1.44 Million from Carefree residents simply by not wanting to close down its sewer. Closing the Carefree Sewer was the right thing to do and yet Liberty Utilities (at that time known as Black Mountain Sewer) wanted to keep it open until 2021 despite all of the risks and inconveniences to the very customers and residents it claims to serve. The point is that now Liberty Utilities is trying to foist rate increases on Entrada Del Oro residents in the same manner it attempted to do with Rio Rico residents. Constituents and taxpayers are tired of being abused at the hands of government and corporations. It is time for constituents and residents to take matters into their own hands by learning as much as they can about the entities in power to prevent them from taking advantage of anyone.

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**Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Complaint Form**

Date:	Analyst:	Submitted By:	Type:
7/7/2016	Jenny Gomez	Telephone	Investigation

Noted and filed for the record in Docket Control.
