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Attorneys for Community Water Company

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of Community Water Company, LLC)))
) DOCKET NO. 16-098-01
))))

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

STACY WILSON

COMMUNITY WATER COMPANY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

	1 I.	INT	RODU	JCTION
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- 2 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS AND POSITION
- 3 WITH COMMUNITY WATER COMPANY.
- 4 A. My name is Stacy Wilson. My address is 1264 South Hoytsville Road, Coalville,
- 5 Utah. I am employed by ASC, Utah as an Office Coordinator.
- 6 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
- 7 EXPERIENCE
- 8 A. I am a graduate of North Summit High School in Coalville, Utah. I am a graduate
- 9 of Sherman Kendall Academy of Beauty Arts and Sciences in Salt Lake City. I
- 10 have taken several courses in Microsoft Excel. I have worked for ASC Utah for
- approximately three years.
- 12 II. <u>IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESS</u>
- 13 Q. FOR WHICH PARY WILL YOU BE OFFERING TESTIMONY IN THIS
- 14 **CASE?**
- 15 A. I will be offering testimony on behalf of Community Water Company
- 16 ("Company").
- 17 Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE THE UTAH PUBLIC SERVICE
- 18 COMMISSION ("COMMISSION") ON PRIOR OCCASIONS?
- 19 A. Yes. I testified in person as a fact witness in this matter at a hearing held on
- September 13, 2016 on the Company's Application for Interim Rate Increase.
- 21 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESENT
- DOCKET MATTER.

23 A. My participation in this docket has included: providing information about current 24 Company billing practices; examining future Company billing practices and 25 methodology to equitably implement the Division of Public Utility's ("Division") 26 recommended rate structure; communicating with Company customers, 27 Intervenors, and the Division about this rate case; communicating with 28 representatives from our billing software company, Continental Utility Services 29 Incorporated, regarding adapting Company billing software to implement the 30 Company's proposed billing methodology; working with Company staff, such as 31 Mike Folkman, Operations Manager, to coordinate billing practices with system 32 operations; working with Mr. Folkman to identify and prioritize Company system 33 deficiencies; assisting with creating budgets for Company system repairs; 34 requesting and coordinating bids from vendors for specific system repairs; general 35 administrative assistance to the Company; and assisting Counsel for the Company 36 in preparing for both the Interim Rate Application hearing and this general rate 37 matter. I also assisted in a similar but more limited capacity in the previously 38 withdrawn Company rates cases, Docket No. 14-098-01 and Docket No. 15-098-39 01. 40 III. **PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY** 41

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

42 A. The purpose of my testimony is to explain to the Commission the Company's 43 recommended billing methodology for equitably applying the Division's 44 recommended rate structure.

45	Q.	HOW HAS THE COMPANY COME TO ITS RECOMMENDED BILLING
46		METHODOLOGY?
47	A.	Over the last several weeks, the Company has had extensive, constructive
48		conversations with a number of Company customers, most of the Intervenors in
49		this case, and the Division of Public Utilities, regarding billing under the
50		Division's recommended rate structure. Additionally, the Interim Rate
51		Application process was instructive for forming the Company's proposed billing
52		methodology.
53	Q.	ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC GOALS THE COMPANY WANTS TO
54		ACHIEVE WITH ITS PROPOSED BILLING METHDOLOGY?
55	A.	The proposed billing methodology is intended to meet multiple goals. First, the
56		proposal is intended to fulfill the purposes of this rate case to establish and apply
57		a rate sufficient to maintain Company operations, upgrade infrastructure, and
58		establish a reserve account. Second, the proposal is intended to better explain to
59		the Commission the relationship between the Company's physical water delivery
60		system, the configuration of the Company's customer base, and customer water
61		usage as applied to the recommended rate structure and intent of the matter.
62		Third, the proposal is intended to find an equitable solution that addresses the
63		specific concerns raised by many of the intervening HOAs. Forth, as a billing
64		methodology, the proposal does not address the basis for the Division's
65		recommended rates and can still be applied if any of the Division's metrics are
66		altered (i.e. base rate recommendations. Tier pricing. Usage amounts, etc.)

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68	A.	Yes. This testimony is also responsive to the Division's Third Data Request to the
69		Company.
70	IV.	PROPOSED BILLING METHODOLOGY
71	Q.	AT THE INTERIM RATE INCREASE HEARING, THE COMPANY
72		PROPOSED A BILLING METHODOLGY TO APPLY TO THE INTERIM
73		RATE, IF APPROVED, HAS THE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL CHANGED?
74	A.	Yes. While the majority of the Company's proposal presented at the Interim Rate
75		hearing remains the same, in light of the evolving discussions between the Parties,
76		the Company has modified how it proposes to charge base rates. These
77		modifications will be noted.
78	Q.	PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THE COMPANY UNDERSTANDS THE MAIN
79		COMPONENTS OF THE DIVISION'S RECOMMENDED RATE
80		STRUCTURE.
81	A.	The Company generally understands the Division's rate structure to consist of two
82		components: 1) a monthly base rate charge that is intended to cover all of the
83		Company's fixed costs regardless of how much water is sold; and 2) Tiered usage
84		charges where rates are based on 12,000 gallon Tiers and charges assessed per
85		1000 gallons of use.
86		1) BASE RATES:
87	Q.	DISCUSSING BASE RATES FIRST, HOW DOES THE COMPANY
88		UNDERSTAND THE DIVISION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
89		TO WHOM OR HOW BASE RATES ARE TO BE CHARGED?

90 Α. The Company reads the Division's Petition as recommending that a base rate be 91 charged to each Company customer currently connected to the system. 92 WHAT IS YOUR SUPPORT FOR THAT? 0. 93 Α. The most direct source is the Division's Exhibit 2.3 "Allocation of Annual Expenses and Annual Rates" and 2.3a "Expense Allocation (Notes)" that 94 95 discusses the purpose of base rates and allocating expenses "to determine the 96 annual rates paid by each customer." In these Exhibits, the Division totals all of 97 the Company's fixed expenses and then divides that number by the number of 98 customers reported in the Company's 2015 Annual Report. 99 HOW IS THE TERM "CONNECTION" USED BY THE DIVISION? Q. 100 Α. On Exhibit 2.3, the Division divides the Company customers into "Connections 101 by Category" with 492 residential connections and 6 commercial connections for 102 a total of 498 connected customers. The Division's Petition states these groups are 103 "metered customers" and proposes to apply the same rate structure to both 104 residential and commercial customers. Petition Page 9. The Division's requested 105 Rate Schedule table includes "Base Rate for Connected Customers." There are 106 also three stand-by customers who are not currently connected to the Company's 107 system and are being charged a separate stand-by rate. ASIDE FROM THE REFERENCE TO "METERED" CUSTOMERS, DOES 108 Q. 109 THE DIVISION MENTION OR USE THE NUMBER OR TYPE OF 110 METER USED TO SUPPLY CUSTOMERS WATER TO DETERMINE 111 **BASE RATE CHARGES?**

112	Α.	From my reading of the Division's Petition, it does not appear the base rates were
113		calculated based on the number or kind of meter, but were calculated solely on
114		splitting the Company's fixed costs amongst its customers currently using the
115		Company system.
116	Q.	CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THE COMPANY ACCOUNTS FOR
117		RESIDENTS OF MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS LIKE THE RED PINE
118		CHALET CONDOMINIUM UNITS?
119	A.	The Company considers each residence in multi-family dwelling as a single
120		customer, as if they were a single family home. For example, the Red Pine
121		Chalets have 200 residences and each of those residences is considered 1
122		customer for a total of 200 customers.
123	Q.	CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THE COMPANY ACCOUNTS FOR
124		RESIDENTS OF TOWNHOMES?
125	A.	Each Townhome is considered one customer. For example, each of the 60 Red
126		Pine Townhomes is considered an independent customer.
127	Q.	WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING, HOW DOES THE COMPANY
128		PROPOSE TO CHARGE BASE RATES?
129	A.	The Company understands the term "connected customer" to mean each of the
130		Company's residential and commercial customers currently receiving water from
131		the Company's system. The Company proposes to charge each of these connected
132		customers a monthly base rate, currently recommended at \$33.20. The Company
133		has added two connected customers since its 2015 Annual Report cited by the

134		Division. Using these current numbers, in total, each month the Company will for
135		\$16,000 in base rates between 502 connected customers.
136	Q.	WILL THE COMPANY CHARGE BASE RATES BASED ON THE
137		NUMBER OR KIND OF METERS SUPPLYING WATER TO
138		CONNECTED CUSTOMERS?
139	A.	No. The number, kind or size of meter, or the type of water delivered (irrigation
140		or domestic) through a meter will not be taken into account when calculating
141		charges for base rates.
142	Q.	IS THIS A CHANGE IN THE BILLING METHODOLOGY PROPOSED
143		FOR THE INTERIM RATE?
144	A.	Yes. At the Interim Rate Increase hearing, it was proposed to charge base rates for
145		irrigation meters supplying water to the various HOAs. Dialogue at, and
146		following the hearing, has persuaded the Company to recommended base rates be
147		charged solely for connections as defined above. This change in methodology
148		should directly address some of the concerns raised in the Direct Testimony of
149		Intervenor, Terry Lange.
150		2) <u>USAGE CHARGES</u>
151	Q.	THE DIVISION'S RATE STRUCTURE HAS TWO COMPONENTS, BASE
152		RATE CHARGES AND USAGE CHARGES, CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW
153		THE COMPANY SEEKS TO APPLY THE DIVISION'S
154		RECOMMENDED USAGE CHARGES?
155	A.	In general, we are going to apply the recommended rate structure to each
156		connected customer. In other words, each connected customer who is paying a

157		base rate will be billed: \$.30 per 1000 gallons for Tier 1 use between 0 and 12,000
158		gallons; \$.60 per 1000 gallons for Tier 2 use between 12,001 and 24,000 gallons;
159		\$1.20 per 1000 gallons for Tier 3 use between 24,001 and 36,000 gallons; \$2.40
160		per 1000 gallons for Tier 4 use between 36,001 and 48,000 gallons; and \$4.80 per
161		1000 gallons for Tier 5 use beyond 48,000 gallons and over.
162	Q.	IS THAT USE INTENDED TO INCLUDE INDOOR DOMESTIC AND
163		OUTDOOR WATER USE?
164	A.	Yes. We intend to combine each connected customer's domestic and outdoor
165		water usage to determine their total water usage for the month. Using that
166		combined number, we will determine how many gallons should be charged the
167		Tier 1 Rate, how many should be charged the Tier 2 Rate, etc.
168	Q.	HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DETERMINE THE COMBINED
169		DOMESTIC AND OUTDOOR WATER USAGE?
170	A.	It will depend on how the connected customer is metered. Some customers live in
171		free standing homes with an independent meter that automatically meters both
172		domestic and outdoor usage, some live in townhomes or condos and share
173		irrigation and domestic meters, some live in townhomes with an independent
174		meter for domestic use, but have shared meters for irrigation.
175		The goal is to establish a billing methodology that treats all of these different units
176		similarly and as if they were a standalone home.
177	Q.	HOW WILL WATER USAGE BE DETERMINED A FOR A SINGLE
178		FAMILY HOME AND PLEASE GIVE AN EXAMPLE?

179	A.	Each single family home has an individual meter that combines domestic and
180		outdoor use as the total use for the home. The Company will calculate usage
181		charges based on the total water use applied to the Division's recommended
182		pricing Tiers. A base rate charge of \$33.20 will be added to the usage charge for a
183		final monthly bill. The bill will be sent directly to the homeowner to pay in full.
184		For example:
185		If Home A uses 4000 gallons outside and 3000 gallons inside, the meter will read
186		7000 gallons of total usage. The Company will charge Family A Tier 1 pricing of
187		\$.30 per 1000 gallons for 7000 gallons, or usage charge of \$2.10. Adding the base
188		rate and usage charge results in a bill of \$35.30.
189		If Home B uses 8000 gallons outside and 5000 gallons inside, the meter will read
190		13,000 gallons of total usage. The Company will charge Family B Tier 1 pricing
191		of \$.30 per 1000 gallons, for 12,000 gallons, or \$3.60, and Tier 2 pricing of \$.60
192		per 1000 gallons for 1000 gallons, or \$.60, for a total usage charge of \$4.20.
193		Adding the base rate and usage charge results in a bill of \$37.40.
194	Q.	HOW WILL WATER USAGE BE DETERMINED FOR UNITS SHARING
195		IRRIGATION AND DOMESTIC METERS?
196	A.	For complex units sharing irrigation and domestic meters, the usage on each
197		meter will be combined to determine the total water use for the complex. The
198		Company will calculate usage charges based on the total water use applied to the
199		Division's recommended pricing Tiers, multiplied by the number of units in the
200		complex. Multiplying the Tiers provides each unit the same amount of water as
201		single family home. A base rate charge of \$33.20 for each unit will be added to

202		the usage charge for a final monthly bill. The bill will be sent directly to the HOA
203		to pay in full. The HOA can allocate costs internally as they see appropriate.
204		For example, 200 Red Pine Chalet condo units share 10 meters: domestic meters
205		98 and 235 and irrigation meters 106-113. Multiplied by the number of units in
206		the complex. For the complex, the Tier 1 threshold is 2,400,000 gallons (12,000
207		gallons x 200) and the monthly base rate charges are \$6640 ($$33.20 \times 200$).
208		In Month A, the complex uses a total of 1,500,000 gallons on the 10 meters. The
209		Company will charge the HOA Tier 1 pricing of \$.30 per 1000 gallons for
210		1,500,000 gallons, or a usage charge of \$450. Adding the complex base rate and
211		usage charge results in a bill of \$7,090.
212		In Month B, the complex uses a total of 3,000,000 gallons on the 10 meters. The
213		Company will charge the HOA Tier 1 pricing of \$.30 per 1000 gallons of water
214		for 2,400,000 gallons, or \$720, and Tier 2 pricing of \$.60 per 1000 gallons for
215		600,000 gallons, or \$360, for a total usage charge of \$1080. Adding the complex
216		base rate and usage charge results in a bill of \$7,720.
217		This same billing methodology will be applied to units under the Hidden Creek
218		and Canyon View HOA, as those entities similarly share domestic and irrigation
219		meters.
220	Q:	HOW WILL WATER USAGE BE DETERMINED FOR TOWNHOMES
221		WITH AN INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC METER AND SHARED
222		IRRIGATION METERS?

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¹ Note: Currently the Red Pine HOA receives a bill for all 18 water meters associated with the Red Pine complex. For ease of billing, the Company is internally designating meters 98 and 235 as providing domestic water to the Red Pine Chalet condos, meters 106-113 as providing irrigation water to the Red Pine Chalets, and meters 114-118 as providing irrigation water to the townhomes.

Α.	For units, primarity townnomes, with an independent domestic meter, but sharing
	communal irrigation meters, the total usage per townhome will be calculated by
	combining that unit's pro rata share of the communal irrigation use and
	independent domestic use. The Company will calculate usage charges based on
	the total water use applied to the Division's recommended pricing Tiers. A base
	rate of \$33.20 will be added to the usage charge for a final monthly bill. The bill
	will be sent directly to the townhome owner to pay in full.
	For example, there are 60 independently metered Red Pine townhomes sharing
	irrigation meters 114-118. If the cumulative irrigation on the 5 irrigation meters is
	360,000 gallons, each townhome's pro rata share of the irrigation water is 6000
	gallons.
	Townhome A uses 4000 gallons of domestic use. When combined with townhome
	A's pro rata irritation usage of 6000 gallons, the total water usage for townhome
	A is 10,000 gallons. The Company will charge townhome A Tier 1 pricing of \$.30
	per 1000 gallons of water for 10,000 gallons, or a usage charge of \$3.00. Adding
	the base rate charge to the usage charge results in a total bill of \$36.20.
	townhome B was absent for the month and has no domestic use. With no
	domestic use, the total monthly water usage is solely that townhome's pro rata
	irritation usage of 6000 gallons. The Company will charge townhome B Tier 1
	pricing of \$.30 per 1000 gallons of water for 6000 gallons, or a usage charge of
	\$1.80. Adding the base rate charge to the usage charge results in a total of \$35.00.
	townhome C uses 8000 gallons of domestic use. When combined with townhome
	C's pro rata irritation usage of 6000 gallons, the total water usage for townhome

246		C is 14,000 gallons. The Company will charge townnome C Tier I pricing of \$.30
247		per 1000 gallons of water for 12,000 gallons, or \$3.60, and Tier 2 pricing of \$60
248		per 1000 gallons for 2000 gallons, or \$1.20, for a total usage charge of \$4.80.
249		Adding the base rate charge to the usage charge results in a total bill of \$38.00.
250		This same billing methodology will be applied to townhomes under B&D Plat
251		HOA as that entity has similar townhomes with independently metered domestic
252		use, but share irrigation meters
253	Q.	DOES THE PROPOSED BILLING METHOD ADDRESS THE
254		CONCERNS OF THE INTERVENORS REGARDING PROPER
255		ALLOCATION OF IRRIGATION WATER?
256	A.	Yes. Intervenor Terry Lange in his Direct Testimony stated "a grave inequity will
257		occur if the water usage for the common landscaping system of the Red Pine
258		campus is not included in the proposed 12,000 gallon per month per connected
259		customer allotment at Tier 1 pricing." The company has addressed this concern
260		as demonstrated in each of the above scenarios and examples. The Company's
261		proposed billing methodology has been designed to ensure every connected
262		customer, regardless of what kind of "unit" they are, is charged a base rate of
263		\$33.20 and usage charge derived from applying their total combined domestic and
264		irrigation use to the Division's recommended pricing Tiers.
265	Q.	DOES THE PROPOSED BILLING METHOD DIFFER FROM THE
266		RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERVENORS AND WHY?
267	A.	Yes. The proposed billing method differs from Intervenor Terry Lange's
268		recommendations regarding allocating shared irrigation at the Red Pine

Townhomes. The Company proposes to divide the number of irrigation gallons
by 60 and add that number to each townhome's independent domestic use to
arrive at the total water use for each townhome. Townhome water usage charges
are calculated by applying total usage to the Division's rate structure. Water use
charges are added to the base rate charge and a bill sent to each townhome owner.
Under the proposed Method, the HOA would no longer receive bills for irrigation
at the townhomes.
Mr. Lange proposes to calculate the total <i>cost</i> of water from the irrigation meters,
bill the HOA, and split that cost among the 60 townhomes. The Company is unsure
how Mr. Lange proposes to calculate the cost for irrigation water absent a reference
to each townhome's domestic use. It appears Mr. Lange understands the
recommended rate structure to provide an allotment of 12,000 gallons to each of
the 60 Townhomes for a total group allocation of 720,000 gallons at Tier 1 pricing.
Using the example above, if the townhomes used 360,000 gallons of irrigation each
townhome would be billed by the HOA \$1.80 ((360,000/1000) x\$.30)/60).
For the Company to then calculate an equitable domestic water charges at each
townhome, it would need to review or the monthly HOA irrigation usage (ex
360,000), divide by 60 (6000), subtract that number from 12,000 to determine how
many gallons each townhome had remaining at Tier 1 pricing (6000), apply Tier 1
pricing for just that difference (\$.30 per thousand up to 6000 gallon), and if
domestics use exceeds the difference start applying Tier 2 pricing and the regular
schedule. The result is every month the Company would have to account for a new
Tier 1 "usage" amount distinct to the townhomes and different than the 12 000

directly applied to every other connection. While both Mr. Lange's and the
Company's proposed methods result in the charges and payments, the Company's
billing system is designed to record water usage and apply preset rates. It is not
designed to perform tasks with algebraic variables as Mr. Lange suggests.
Absent these gymnastics, if Mr. Lange is proposing to bill domestic use strictly
against the traditional rate structure independent of irrigation use, it is contrary to
his statements cited above would create inequities as each townhome would
essentially get a double allocation of Tier 1 pricing independently applied to their
domestic and irrigation use.
The Company's proposed method of simply adding a pro rata share of irrigation
use to each townhome's domestic use is vastly simpler than Mr. Lange's proposal
and can currently be accommodated by the Company software. The Company
understands Mr. Lang's concerns regarding separating irrigation billing from
irrigation control, but it feels this inconvenience is merited in the broader context
of simplifying Company operations and equity.

CONCLUSION

Q. DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. Yes it does. Thank you.

DATED this 21st day of September, 2016

Stacy Wilson

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing DIRECT TESTIMONY OF STACY WILSON was emailed on the 21st day of September, 2016 to the following:

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