

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in response and concern for the request of the Highland Water district to increase their prices on water. I am opposed to this idea because of the impact that it will have on myself and many of my fellow neighbors that are on fixed incomes. We live in a rural area. Adjacent to my property is many acres of grasses and natural vegetation. Because of this vegetation which is adjacent to my home and isn't managed by the owner of the property it is necessary for me to maintain a green buffer between it and my house.

I was told a few months ago that I am the 5th largest user of water in the district. This is due to the fact of the fear and the need to manage this buffer so that in case of a fire caused by irresponsible people and or nature that I have some way to keep the fire from engulfing my house. We are not privileged as others are to have a potable and non potable irrigation line to choose from. We have one source of water. We don't have inexpensive reclamation water or Pineview water to have as a source of irrigation to maintain this green buffer. As far as I know it is against the water rights for me to drill for water also. So, I am a captive audience with no/few options.

If the PSC chooses to increase our rates then we should get something in exchange for that. Perhaps there should be a life amount of water charged at a certain rate and then another rate for irrigation purposes charged at a lower rate. Perhaps the water that is being cleansed and sent down the river by the sewer district could be sold for irrigation water.

None-the-less I haven't heard of any improvements in the system in exchange for the higher rates. As far as I know the water isn't going to be any cleaner, there isn't going to be any more pressure behind it, and there isn't a discussion of a larger reservoir either. It is for these reasons that I ask that the PSC deny the rate increases requested..

Sincerely,

Douglas Washburn

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