

ORIGINAL

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Urban

July 15, 2013

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

RECEIVED

Re: Hi-Country Estates Phase I Water Co. Rate Case

Gentlemen: *Docket No. 13-2195-02*

I wish to file an objection to the rates being proposed by the Hi-Country Estates Water Company. The rates proposed are discriminatory to residents who conserve water in favor of those who use excessive amounts of water. In the second driest state in the nation, this is a practice that should not be encouraged.

I own a home in Hi-Country Estates Phase I and also the empty lot adjacent to it. I use an average of less than 5,000 gallons per month and have never – in 24 years – exceeded the 10,000 minimum water usage. I currently pay \$42.19 for water and a \$12.41 standby fee for the adjacent lot, for a total of \$54.60 per month. Under the proposed new rates I will be paying \$69.00 for water plus a \$20.09 Reserve Fund charge, and a \$27.60 Standby fee plus a \$20.09 Reserve Fund charge, for a total of 158.98per month. That is an increase of \$82.18 or 150.5 %.

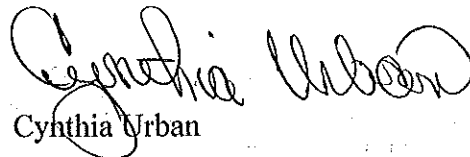
On the other hand, a user of 50,000 gallons per month will see his water bill go from \$158.89 to, under the new rates, \$162.79 – an increase of \$3.90 or 2.5 %. This customer will pay \$3.26 per 1,000 gallons. I will pay \$ 27.36 per 1,000 gallons. (See attached calculations.)

I submit that this is not fair. Users who conserve water should not be forced to support those who use much more. And that is even more important in a community who is asked to conserve water during the summer when the well pump cannot keep up with demand. I propose that the new Overage Rates be increased from old rates - not decreased, and that the new Base Rate be adjusted downward proportionately and that the minimum in the Base Rate be reduced or eliminated and a rate per gallon from that lower number be added.

Sincerely,



Thomas Urban



Cynthia Urban

cc: Noel Williams, President Hi-Country Estates Homeowners Assoc.
Utah Division of Public Utilities

Hi-Country Estates Phase I Water Company
Proposed Rates

Old Rates		New Rates	
Me	Base Rate	\$42.19	Base Rate \$69.00
5,000 Gal User	StandBy Fee	\$12.41	Reserve Fund \$20.09
			StandBy Fee \$27.60
			Reserve Fund \$20.09
	Total	\$54.60	Total \$136.78
		New \$136.78	
		Old \$54.60	
		Increase \$82.18	
		150.5%	
60,000 gallon annual usage at a cost of		\$1,641.36	Cost per 1,000 gallon \$27.36

Old Rates		New Rates	
50,000 Gal User	Base Rate	\$42.19	Base Rate \$69.00
	10-20k Gal @ \$2.30/k	\$23.00	10-20k Gal @ \$1.45/k \$14.50
	20-30k Gal @ \$2.67/k	\$26.70	20-30k Gal @ \$1.69/k \$16.90
	30-40k Gal @ \$3.10/k	\$31.00	30-40k Gal @ \$1.96/k \$19.60
	40k + Gal @ \$3.60/k	\$36.00	40k + Gal @ \$2.27/k \$22.70
			Reserve Fund \$20.09
	Total	\$158.89	Total \$162.79
		New \$162.79	
		Old \$158.89	
		Increase \$3.90	
		2.5%	
600,000 gallon annual usage at a cost of		\$1,953.48	Cost per 1,000 gallon \$3.26