**Docket 17-12022**

**General Rate Case Consumer Session at Spring Creek High School**

**April 5, 2018**

Attendees: Commissioner Pongracz, GBWC: Wendy Barnett, Fred Schmidt & terry Redmon, BCP, Staff, PUCN Consumer Complaint Division, SCA and Spring Creek residents

The Company began with a brief presentation about their decoupling request (Deferred Water Service Adjustment.

There was a question regarding if GBWC will sell water rights to Las Vegas. Ms. Barnett said they will never sell their water rights.

Gary Konakis: The company gets a 70% return on their investment. SCA should own the water system. The company can’t be trusted. Why are we going to pay an extra $15 per month?

Mike Kessler: Discussed the $15/month charge which is about $80,000 per month or $1 million per year. Wondered about fire protection and boosters in tract 200.

GBWC attorney said the company is not proposing an increase in this case. Further discussion tried to clarify there are two separate cases and the consumer session is the topic. A separate case for the IRP is requesting additional dollars.

Jim Jeffries: Gave a brief history of the water company. SCA originally owned the water rights and the developer intended to turnover the rights to the residents but the transfer never occurred. The SCA was formed in 1983 with the water rights sold to a private company.

Stephanie Licht: Requested a timeline showing ownership, rates, and capital project investments. She provided a one page summary of more details for her request.

GBWC attorney stated that many of the SIR projects in the IRP filing likely will not be completed within the 3 year action plan timeline.

Linda Garrett: The area is becoming a dust bowl because of the reduction in landscaping due to the costs of watering.

Pat Plaster: Asked who reviews the Company’s projects. She also asked about the insurance letters residents receive from a 3rd party and how they got customer information with out their approval.

Staff Counsel explained he has engineers, economists and accounts who review the projects. He also explained that if SIR is not granted then rates would be adjusted in the next GRC. SIR was implemented to help reduce regulatory lag from the time a project begins to the time the company begins recovery of the project costs from its customers.

Ms. Barnett stated she cancelled the insurance program due to feedback from customers. She said they only provided addresses and not names. Ms. Plaster wondered why the letter came with her mother’s name on the envelope.

Jessie Bahr read prepared remarks summarizing the company’s requests in this case and shared concerns about property values declining, fire hazards and brown lawns. The SCA will fight for the little guy.

Warren Peterson: Wondered how the determined the rate decrease. He also mentioned the 300% increase the company has had over previous years and said an 8% reduction is nothing in comparison. He said the company should reduce rates because the projects have already been paid for. He asked what the rate decrease is for his household.

Staff Counsel responded that his area determines the costs to run the utility, allow a reasonable profit, review the last years and then divide/allocate the costs to customers on a per gallon basis.

GBWC attorney said the average customer would receive a $6/month reduction and they he would meet with Mr. Peterson afterwards to give him specific information about his situation.

Bernard Adenbrok (sp?): Wondered if the company would guarantee no future rate increases. He asked why Spring Creek should pay their legal costs for the meter reading issue.

GBWC attorney said he is well aware the legal costs will be challenged and all parties are asking discovery questions about it. Litigation is continuing in judicial system. Ms. Barnett said they only question about the amount paid for the water going through the meter.

Greg McVey: New to Spring Creek and is concerned about decoupling which he believes is an end run to get more dollars from Spring Creek.

Josh Park: Encouraged more people to attend the sessions. The decrease is insulting due to the previous large increases. He wondered why other GBWC divisions have lower rates than Spring Creek. He read the company’s mission statement and hopes the company will become better partners. We don’t need to own a water company. We need to be able to afford to water our lawns.

Dave Loreman, Esq.: Law says you only recover your fees if you win. They lost and should not be able to recover

Commissioner Pongracz closed by thanking all who attended and those that provided input. She summarized the next steps and applicable dates.