

July 21, 2004

Carole J. Washburn, Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: *Nancy Bates, et al, v. Marbello Water Company,*
Docket No. UW-040792

Dear Ms. Washburn:

On July 13, 2004, ALJ Theodora Mace issued a notice of opportunity to respond to the complainants' voluntary motion to dismiss their complaint without prejudice.

Staff has no objection to the complainants' voluntary dismissal of their complaint. Staff is currently reviewing financial data to determine the appropriateness of Marbello's current rates (in Docket No. UW 040366) as well as the appropriateness of the increased rates that Marbello proposed on July 9 (Docket No. UW 041181). If Staff concludes that it would be appropriate for Marbello to charge rates different than those now in effect or different than those that the company has proposed, it will advocate to the Commission to require the company to put those other rates in effect.

Very truly yours,

JONATHAN C. THOMPSON
Assistant Attorney General

JCT:kl
cc: Parties