

IMPACT STATEMENT # 1

As a child I survived a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines, as an adult I am fighting serious health issues including a fused back and chronic heart problems, so I have seen and lived through many difficulties in my 86 years. Living in retirement on a small teacher's pension and social security, after paying almost one third of my modest \$3400.00 monthly income on my long-term care policy and related health care and medical expenses, there is little left.

While working hard to be able to remain in the home I love and live independently for as long as I can, near friends and neighbors who have helped me along the way, I now face the possibility that I may have to consider other options – just because of the unexplained and unexpected water increases that may be imposed on us.

I have so enjoyed my small home with the views of the golf course and have, over the years, taken great pride in the beauty of my simple landscaping that blends into the green rolling hills of the course. On those harder days while having to use a walker to navigate around my home challenges me, I am reminded of the beauty of life by my pleasant surroundings that have given me needed encouragement.

The rate proposal was rather impossible to understand. It was not like other utility increases that quote the increase as a simple percentage increase. So, I was relieved to find out that a neighbor had developed a spread sheet that would use my current water usage and show me the effects of the pending increases. After seeing the effects, shown below, my concern turned quickly into fear – How would I ever be able to afford this? How can this be right?

Annual charges from the 6 most recent bimonthly invoices (5-21-20 to 3-31-21) show that I have used and paid for current water costs of \$366.75. The usages are during spring/summer watering needs and also colder, fall/winter months when usage is much less. I have budgeted and sacrificed to afford the \$30.56 per month for water.

The first phase will increase my costs by 91% to \$701.21. Second phase 112% or \$779.33 and the third and final "forever", until the next rate increase, is 145% or \$899.07. This will certainly challenge my remaining monthly funds. It will be extremely difficult but somehow I will have to find a way to afford this. I do not want to have to move at this final stage of my life. I have made cuts every where I can think of. I eat red meat now only occasionally. I do not own a computer, so I do not have internet costs. I can look to see how I might afford a smaller increase, but the overall proposals will a problem. My funds can stretch only so far.

I would urge the Commissioner's to fully understand the effects that their decision will have on me and others in my community that are in the same or similar conditions. We are a retirement community and have been for some time. My story and situation is not unique to me - it represents many, many others who now have this fear – do I buy food, medicine or now do we have to add water to the equation?

For myself and others like me, please use caution when making your ruling. **Please do not approve these unbearable water rates. We are dependent on you to protect us and make water available to us at fair, reasonable and affordable rates.** Please know the actual effects of the rates you are approving before you quickly make a decision.

Thank you,

Charlotte L. Frazier
Water Consumer Advocates- Dungeness Estates user #37