

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Cascadia Water, Rate Increase Case Docket # UW-240151

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to comment on the recent proposed 94.1% water rate increase requested by Cascadia Water for the Monterra Water System located in Clallam County, Washington.

In 2021 Cascadia sought a similar increase in water rates for the Monterra Water System. The UTC declined the proposed increase, indicating that it was not reasonable for us to have to pay for capital improvements for other water systems owned by Cascadia, and instead approved a reduced rate increase reflecting costs that did benefit Monterra customers, such as paying for the installation of individual meters on our system and installing a backup generator.

Now, 3 years later, Cascadia is again seeking a very large rate increase to make improvements in various water systems it owns. My understanding is that rate costs should only be allocated amongst various systems if they cannot be determined directly, such as administrative costs. Based on the documentation Cascadia has provided, which is difficult to follow, it appears that *none* of the repairs, upgrades and improvements they cite as a basis for this increase will benefit the Monterra Water System customers.

A source of clean, safe water is essential for us to continue living in our homes and water is a necessity of life! We have no option to seek a different provider. Most of the customers of the Monterra water system are retirees living on a fixed income – this proposed very large increase is not something that most people here can afford, especially since there is not a reduced rate available for low-income customers.

Northwest Natural Holding Company, owner of Cascadia Water, is a publicly traded for-profit company. Last year David H Anderson, the CEO of the company received over \$3.1 million in compensation. While we do not expect to receive our water for free or at a loss, we don't believe we should have to use our limited funds to support increased profits for a public company or its employees' large salaries.

The purpose of the UTC is to regulate private water companies operating in Washington state to ensure that the services they provide consumers are safe, available, reliable **and fairly priced**. Please consider **denying** Cascadia's requested rate increase, or only approve a reduced rate increase that is reasonable, fairly priced, and reflects costs only specifically related to the Monterra Water System.

Respectfully,

Hedi E Voloshen

101 Ivy Lane–Port Angeles, WA 98362

