

MAY 1, 2024

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
P.O. Box 47250
OLYMPIA, WA. 98504-7250

DOCKET UW 240151 HEARING DATE 5-23-2024 9:30 AM
CASCADIA WATER

DEAR COMMISSIONERS,

MY NAME IS RON NORMAN, PRIOR MANAGER OF OUR COMMUNITY'S CLASS B WELL KNOWN AS WESTVIEW WATER. I TOOK CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY WELL FOR 25 YEARS AND THE CONVERSION TO CASCADIA WATER IN NOVEMBER 2023.

OUR WELL HAS SERVED OUR WELL FOR MANY YEARS AND DELIVERED A QUALITY PRODUCT. THE ONLY MAJOR DOWNSIDE FOR US WAS WHEN THE POWER ON THE ISLAND FAILED AND OUR PUMP COULD NOT SUPPLY. THE ISLAND HAS NOT A GOOD REPUTATION FOR CONSISTED POWER (PSE). ON DECEMBER 27, 2022 OUR COMMUNITY AND STREET WAS FLOODED BY A SHORELINE BREAK AND SHUT DOWN THE WELL. I WAS ABLE TO REBUILD AND RESTORE THE POWER IN ABOUT A WEEK.

I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM THAT COULD DELIVER THE WATER IF IT WAS A GRAVITY SYSTEM EVEN DURING A POWER OUTAGE. THE SYSTEM THAT COULD HELP PRIOR WAS THAT SUPPLIED BY THE LOCAL LEHMAN WATER SYSTEM. THIS SYSTEM WAS SOLD TO CASCADIA ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO.

I STARTED RESEARCHING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE TO CASCADIA. I PRESENTED TO MY WESTVIEW NEIGHBORS. EVERYONE WAS WELCOME TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM WHEN WE ENCOUNTERED POWER FAILURE. NOT EVERYONE WANTED TO GIVE UP THE WELL.

THE ONLY OF CONVERTING WAS THE NEED TO GIVE UP OUR WATER RIGHTS SO THAT CASCADIA COULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY HEALTH AND THE STATE ECOLOGY DEPARTMENTS. WE MET WITH ALL PARTIES AND FOUND THE SUPPORT BECAUSE ALL DEPARTMENTS ARE DESIRING TO ELIMINATE INDIVIDUAL WELLS THROUGH OUT STATE AND ESPECIALLY ISLAND COUNTY.

AS WE PROCEED WE ASKED FOR DETAILS FROM CASCADIA WATER WHAT THE FINANCIAL IMPACT WAS EACH NEIGHBOR. KEEP IN MIND WE HAD BEEN

VERY EFFICIENT IN THE PAST WITH ONLY NEIGHBOR PAYING ABOUT \$ 180 A YEAR. THE CASCADIA MANAGER INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE ABOUT \$45 PER MONTH. WE HAVE ONE HOMEOWNER WHO IS INCAPABLE TO HANDLE THESE NEW EXPENSES. SHE HAD TROUBLE MAKING PAYMENT ON OUR ANNUAL WELL EXPENSE.

NEIGHBORS AGREED TO PROCEED UNDER THE RATE ABOVE (\$45) AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE WOULD RELINQUISH THE WATER RIGHTS. IT HAS BEEN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS SINCE WE CONVERTED TO CASCADIA. NOW WE SEE THE LETTER ARRIVES AND CASCADIA HAS PROPOSED A RATE INCREASE OF 107 % ...ONE HUNDRED & SEVEN PERCENT INCREASE. WE SAW THAT THERE WERE NEEDS FOR CHANGES IN THE FUTURE TO SUPPORT METERS AND REBUILD OLD LINES, BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS PROPOSAL.

CASCADIA IS EXPANDING AND GROWING IN MANY LOCATIONS...FAR AWAY FROM ISLAND COUNTY. THIS NOW INCLUDES SKAGIT, SNOHOMISH, GRANT, CLALLAM, KITSAP, & MASON COUNTIES.

AS NEIGHBORS OF THE OLD WESTVIEW WATER, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF CAN FIND AN EQUITABLE AND INCREMENTAL CHANGE TO FIND SOME RELIEF!!

LISTED BELOW ARE MY NEIGHBORS OF CEDAR STREET SEEKING HELP!

RON NORMAN
BECKY & BOB EILERT
BILLIE WINSHIP
GARY & BETTY KOHLWES
JIM & SHIELA MALLAHAN
JOSEPH & SARAH NORTZ
KEITH NEUMANN
KEN & HEATHER CARTWRIGHT
MARGARET OLSON
MARK & CYNTHIA STOKER
MARK RUSSO
SUSAN DUNLAP
THERESA PEEK
TOM & THALIA OPDYCKE