

Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

From: Peter Renner <psrenner@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 10:08 AM
To: comments@utc.wa.gov; PETE J Renner; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel
Subject: Comment on UW-240151 Cascade Water filing to increase rates

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Folks,

Please consider my comments to Cascade's proposal to increase their water rates to my Community, Monterra Estates, Port Angeles, WA.

1. Cascade argues that they have prudently managed its operating costs. I have seen nothing that shows how Cascade has managed their operating costs or even what Cascades operating costs actually are. The only work that I have seen Cascade do is to install meters to the services that Cascade has in Monterra. That was only one year ago if that so they have no history of what individual service needs are or how metering will affect those needs.

2. Cascade argues they made system wide investments and completed several key infrastructure projects. What were these improvements and projects completed? What are capital expenses planned for Monterra in the coming years? We have no information as to what is budgeted for the next few years nor any information of what the current issues are for operating this system that need to be addressed? Do we take the need and planned projects on faith alone?

3. Cascade Water has purchased eight other water systems in Washington State in the last roughly six years. Has their oversight of these new systems and their ability to manage these new systems kept pace with this fast expansion. It appears that their business plan is to obtain as many of these size systems as fast as possible, raise the rates on these as much as possible and as fast as possible so they can continue to expand as fast as possible.

As water becomes more scarce around the western states and water becomes a more precious commodity, it must be remembered that water is a basic, the most basic, commodity for human life. It is a commodity that a monopoly supplies to most every city, community and area in the state and that those communities must use. Monterra is held to use Cascade with no alternatives. Cascade seems set on capturing as much of this market as possible.

No Washington community should be held to rate increases without proof that the rates are truly needed. Much more transparency is needed. Monterra, an over 55 community, should not have to pay the price, nearly a 100% increase in rates, for Cascade's expansion plans and vaguely expressed needed improvements and projects.

Thank you,

Peter Renner

Owner/resident /Monterra

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