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From: Bob Schilling <bobschilling.rbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2025 1:44 PM
To: WUTC; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel
Subject: Cascadia Water Rate Change

[EXTERNAL]

Bob & Dot Schilling
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Port Angeles, WA 98362

REF: Cascadia Water / Peninsula System
Docket Number: UW-240151

Simply put, we can't support a 97% increase. Since the Monterra Water District sold out to Cascadia, we have seen several rate changes both up then down which has caused us to question their business practices. Not only the rate changes have gone up and down, since we received a new water meter to our home, our usage rates bi-monthly are completely unexplainable. For example, during our peak watering period of June-July, we were charged for 996 cubic-ft. Up from 725 cubic-ft the prior billing period. During the months of June and July, we would be watering our garden, fruit trees, flower beds and washing our vehicles. We don't water our lawn. Our last billing for December - January, we have been charged for 1,304 cubic-ft and we are NOT watering gardens, fruit trees, flowers or washing our vehicles. How can this be? We are two 70 year old retired folks who do our dishes, shower and flush a toilet...

Then Cascadia tells us in their letter that they have, "...made substantial system-wide investments and completed several key infrastructure projects enhancing service". Here is where transparency comes in. We have no knowledge of any improvements to the Peninsula System that has enhanced our service. so the question is...are we paying for some other system improvements? We have a problem with this business practice.

Next, with all the new homes being built in the area, how many are in the Peninsula System that will be adding to Cascadia's bottom line once constructed and occupied? These numbers should be projected into their revenue stream which could reduce base rates and usage block rates.

In closing, we are on a fixed income. We paid off our home several years ago to build up savings for our future yet... between all the taxes and service rates going up, we are paying out just as much as our house payment was per month. Between the schools, EMS, Hospital District, Library District, etc., etc., and now our water system wanting a 97% increase... am I going to have to go back to work soon just to live in this state much longer. The home we paid off is needing a roof and a paint job. We have major appliances that we have needed to replace. Just painting our home, bids are coming in nearly \$16K! What's a roof going to cost? And now we may have to pay 97% more for our water and "enhanced services"??

Please help the many other people in our situation who live in this Peninsula System who haven't heard of this increase for whatever reason and or won't or can't speak up against such a drastic, unstable and unexplained increase.

Best Regards,

Bob & Dot Schilling