

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Public Advisor's Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Ref: Proceeding # A, 17-07-010

Dear Commission,

I am a resident of the City of Calipatria and a rate payer in the Calipatria/Niland Service Area. I am writing to inform the Commission of my objection to the Region III rate case application # A, 17-07-010 submitted by Golden State Water Company. The request for a rate increase is unfair and improper for the following reasons:

1. Golden State Water Company's existing rates have already inflicted a financial hardship on my family and many of my neighbors. The proposed increase will make the hardship worse. Our community has suffered with a depressed economy for many years. The proposed rate increase will further damage our economy.
2. The information provided in the notice of public hearing for A, 17-07-010, Golden State Water fails to address the following the following unanswered questions:
  - a. Did research reveal if there was a Niland Reservoir Decommissioning and removal program or schedule back when the PUC authorized the rate increase to Region III in the early to mid-2000's when GSWC was approved for the regionalized rate structure?
  - b. Was a technical report submitted by an outside Engineering Firm to determine if the Holabird Plant improvements and the Blair Booster Pump Facility Improvements to optimize the efficiency and reliability is needed due to lack of maintenance?
3. Water conservation measures imposed by the State of California have resulted in higher water rates.
  - a. Water sales and revenues have decreased because water rate payers are using less water, which is clearly a factor the rate of return for GSWC investors. CSA Water users will continue to use less and less water due to mandated water conservation requirements and the resulting increased rates, which will in turn lead to further requests for rate increases due to shrinking revenue for GSWC. The requested rate increase should be denied to give the system a chance to achieve equilibrium. It is not fair to place the costs of water conservation solely on the rate payers. GSWC should bear their fair share of the burden.
  - b. The tiered rate schedule mandated by water conservation does not do justice and is unfair to areas such as the City of Calipatria with extreme heat during the summer months. A high evaporation rate that is consistent with 115' degree weather for a period of three months adds to these hardships.
  - c. As rate payers use continue to use less water, more trees and plants will continue to dry and die in residential neighborhoods and our municipal parks. Additionally, water conservation will cause

lack of moisture and shrinkage of higher density soils in Calipatria, will lead to the continual structural damage to building structures and home foundations.

4. I request that the Commission require GSWC to provide an economic impact analysis in relation to economic cost factors within the Imperial County Region, and not just in relation with statewide economic factors.

5. Just as the State of California has been required to be more responsible in the managing its budget, so should Golden State Water Company. Families across this State have been burdened with increased taxes and fees for government services and while service levels have been cut across the board. GSWC must learn to operate more efficiently with less, just like California families have had to do.

In conclusion, I do not believe that the reasons stated by GSWC for their proposed rate increase are sufficient to justify imposing additional financial hardship on the rate payers in this region. I respectfully submit that the Commission should deny the request for a rate increase.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Bill Account # \_\_\_\_\_