

Schedules Sponsored

- Schedule II-B-3 Accumulated Depreciation - Total Company
- Schedule II-B-3 (W) Accumulated Depreciation - Water Operations
- Schedule II-B-3 (S) Accumulated Depreciation - Wastewater Operations
- Schedule II-B-3 (SH) Accumulated Depreciation - Shared Plant
- Schedule II-B-3(5) Accumulated Depreciation - Surplus/Deficiency Between Book and Theoretical
- Schedule II-B-3(6) Accumulated Depreciation - Description of Methods and Procedures
- Schedule II-E-1 Depreciation Expense - Total Company
- Schedule II-E-1 (W) Depreciation Expense - Water Operations
- Schedule II-E-1(S) Depreciation Expense - Wastewater Operations
- Schedule II-E-1(SH) Depreciation Expense - Shared Plant
- Schedule II-E-1.1 Depreciation Methods
- Schedule II-E-1.2 Changes in Depreciation Methods
- Schedule II-E-1.4(W) Depreciation Studies WATER
- Schedule II-E-1.4(S) Depreciation Studies WASTEWATER
- Schedule II-B-3(7) Accumulated Depreciation - Affidavit

PUC DOCKET NO. 45570

APPLICATION OF MONARCH	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
UTILITIES I, L.P. TO CHANGE RATES	§	
FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE	§	OF TEXAS

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

CARMELITHA BORDELON-TAYLOR

ON BEHALF OF

MONARCH UTILITIES I, L.P.

FEBRUARY 29, 2016

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
CARMELITHA BORDELON-TAYLOR**

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ATTACHMENTS:

CBT-1 List of Schedules and Workpapers

PUC DOCKET NO. 45570

APPLICATION OF MONARCH § PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
UTILITIES I, L.P. TO CHANGE RATES §
FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE § OF TEXAS

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
CARMELITHA BORDELON-TAYLOR

I. INTRODUCTION

1

2 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

3 A. My name is Carmelitha Bordelon-Taylor. My business address is 12535 Reed Road,
4 Sugar Land, Texas.

5 Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

6 A. I am employed by SouthWest Water Company ("SouthWest") as the Texas Utilities
7 Accounting Manager.

8 Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR PRESENT EMPLOYMENT.

9 A. My present responsibilities consist of management of all accounting and reporting
10 functions for Texas Utilities.

11 Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
12 BACKGROUND.

13 A. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Northwestern State
14 University. I have taken additional accounting courses and attended industry
15 seminars, including several related to regulatory accounting and ratemaking.

16 I have been employed at SouthWest since January 2010, and was promoted to
17 Manager of Texas Utility Accounting in January 2014. Before working at
18 SouthWest, I held various accounting positions at a national homebuilder.

1 Q. WHAT SCHEDULES IN THE RATE FILING PACKAGE ARE YOU
2 SPONSORING?

3 A. I am sponsoring the schedules and associated workpapers shown on Attachment
4 CBT-1.

5 **III. CHALLENGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE NEW RATE FILING PACKAGE**

6 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY
7 MONARCH BEING THE FIRST CLASS A WATER AND WASTEWATER
8 UTILITY TO FILE A RATE CHANGE APPLICATION UNDER THE
9 COMMISSION'S NEW RATE FILING PACKAGE.

10 A. Monarch is highly supportive of the new Rate Filing Package. Nevertheless, the
11 timing of the rules' promulgation and the unprecedented level of information
12 requested for water and wastewater utilities has required a monumental effort by
13 Monarch staff. The new rules were not finalized and adopted until September 11,
14 2015, more than two months after the end of Monarch's test year. Much of the
15 preparation and development of the rate case template that served as an invaluable
16 guide throughout preparation of this filing, occurred at a time when we had only a
17 preliminary idea as to what the ultimate Rate Filing Package would look like. Early
18 preparation largely involved guesses, hoping our efforts would not be wasted.

19 We regard this rate filing very much as a test-run for the new Rate Filing
20 Package. Hopefully, during the course of this proceeding, refinements can be made
21 going forward as to the reasonable level of detail really needed to fulfill the RFP's
22 underlying intent. In the meantime, we have tried to err conservatively, construing

1 the rules literally, and when in doubt, providing an immense amount of supporting
2 workpapers.

3 **IV. TEST YEAR SELECTED**

4 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE TEST YEAR SELECTED FOR THIS FILING.**

5 A. Commission rules at 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 24.3(71) (TAC) define “Test Year” as
6 the “most recent 12-month period, beginning on the first day of a calendar or fiscal
7 year quarter, for which operating data for a retail public utility are available.” The
8 test year we used in this filing is the year ending June 30, 2015. On April 9, 2015,
9 Monarch attended a review meeting with Commission Staff to provide an update on
10 preparations for this filing. At that meeting, Monarch made Staff aware of its
11 selection of a test year ending June 30, 2015. We believe that after allowance for
12 known and measurable changes, the selected test year is representative of costs during
13 the period that new rates will be in effect.

14 **V. KNOWN AND MEASURABLE ADJUSTMENTS**

15 **Q. PLEASE DEFINE KNOWN AND MEASURABLE CHANGES.**

16 A. “Known and measurable changes” are defined by Commission rules at 16 TAC
17 § 24.3(33) as changes that are “[v]erifiable on the record as to amount and certainty
18 of effectuation reasonably certain to occur within 12 months of the end of the test
19 year.” Commission rules at 16 TAC § 24.31(b) allow known and measurable
20 changes to allowable expenses. Commission rules at 16 TAC § 24.31(c)(5) allow for
21 known and measurable additions to rate base. In the Rate Filing Package, General
22 Instruction 3 requires that “. . . the information reported shall be based on the test

1 year unless otherwise directed by these instructions.” General Instruction 6 allows
2 “adjustments for known and measurable changes”

3 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE KNOWN AND MEASURABLE CHANGES IN**
4 **THIS FILING.**

5 A. Known and measurable changes in this filing are listed in Schedule II-D-1.2, and can
6 be summarized as follows:

- 7 1. Disposition of Blue Mound (See Direct Testimony of Robert Kelly).
- 8 2. Disposition of Midway (See Direct Testimony of Robert Kelly).
- 9 3. Weather Normalization Adjustment (See Direct Testimony of John
10 Hutts).
- 11 4. Additional payroll due to merit increases. Normal mid-year salary
12 increases adjusted to reflect full year.
- 13 5. Increase headcount by five employees to account for frictional
14 vacancies.
- 15 6. Increase in audit fees based on latest increase in fees from the
16 accounting firm PwC.
- 17 7. Decrease in lease expense due to Conroe office lease ending in August
18 2015.
- 19 8. Increase in shared services costs due to salary increases, also change
20 the allocation methodology to align with the approach previously
21 established in another jurisdiction.
- 22 9. Impute interest on intercompany receivable.

1 **VI. RATE BASE SUMMARY**

2 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE MONARCH'S PROPOSED RATE BASE.**

3 A. Monarch's rate base is summarized on Schedule II-B in the Rate Filing Package.
4 There are several notable items on this schedule. Net plant in service represents the
5 total amount of plant currently in service. The number is indicative of the substantial
6 plant investment that Monarch has made, \$71 million, since acquiring the system in
7 2004. As discussed in the Direct Testimony of Robert Kelly, the balance in
8 accumulated depreciation represents a surplus of about \$6 million that Monarch is
9 proposing in this filing to refund over five years. As discussed in the Direct
10 Testimony of James Warren, accumulated deferred income taxes is zero because
11 Monarch is a limited partnership for state law purposes. Because Monarch is not a
12 legal entity that is subject to income tax, Monarch has never calculated (and has never
13 needed to calculate) income tax expense, either current or deferred, for purposes of its
14 stand-alone income statement, and has not reflected accumulated deferred income
15 taxes ("ADIT") on its stand-alone balance sheet. However, you will see that
16 Monarch has made a \$1.7 million known and measurable adjustment to impute
17 deferred income taxes at the Monarch level.

18 **VII. FUNCTIONALIZATION FACTORS**

19 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FUNCTIONALIZATION FACTORS USED IN**
20 **THIS PROCEEDING.**

21 A. Rate Filing Package General Instruction 9 provides as an alternative to allocation, the
22 use of functionalization where costs vary by function. Schedule II-F-a,c,d provides
23 support for the functionalization that Monarch has used in this filing.

1 Schedule II-F-b.f provides a description of, and rationale for, the factors. Monarch
2 has determined that meter equivalents as of December 31, 2014, which are based on
3 representative delivery capacity of the meters as of that date and which are the most
4 equitable and administratively efficient form of distributing shared costs in this filing.
5 This functionalization is used wherever costs are shared between water and
6 wastewater.

7 **VIII. ADJUSTMENTS TO TEST YEAR BALANCES**

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE ADJUSTMENTS TO TEST YEAR BALANCES**
9 **REQUIRED BY GENERAL INSTRUCTION 8.**

10 A. Schedules II-A-2 and II-A-3 show adjustments to test year balances to remove and
11 recast items not included in Monarch's cost of service either by statute or commission
12 rule, or that required recasting to more properly reflect regulatory accounting. In
13 addition, adjustments were made to reinstate costs that had been removed from test
14 year balances due to requirements of generally accepted accounting principles, but
15 which are includable in cost of service. The following are examples of removed,
16 recasted, and reinstated costs:

- 17 • Examples of Removed Costs—Rate case expenses relating to prior Monarch
18 rate cases, asset retirement obligations, parent company allocations of
19 depreciation expense to Monarch, portions of trade association dues relating
20 to lobbying expenses, and fines and penalties all have been removed from test
21 year costs.
- 22 • Examples of Recasted Costs—Leases accounted for in the test year as
23 capitalized leases have been recasted as conventional operating leases. This

1 avoids the need to address lease-related capital structure issues involving lease
2 obligations, and also rate base issues involving lease assets. Asset retirement
3 losses recorded in the test year and in prior years have been recasted pursuant
4 to retirement accounting required by the Commission's prescribed Uniform
5 Systems of Accounts for water and wastewater utilities. Deferred federal
6 income taxes never before reflected in test year balances are properly reflected
7 in this filing.

- 8 • Examples of Reinstated Costs—As discussed at greater length in the Direct
9 Testimony of Robert Kelly, capitalized costs of an affiliate previously
10 removed from test year balances because of a determination by SouthWest's
11 auditor have been reinstated to properly reflect costs of Monarch capital
12 projects.

13 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

14 **A. Yes, it does.**

Schedules Sponsored
Schedule II-A-2 Statement of Income
Schedule II-A-2.1 Statement of Income
Schedule II-A-2.1(W) Statement of Income - Water
Schedule II-A-2.1(S) Statement of Income - Sewer
Schedule II-A-2.2 Statement of Income - Test Year Adjusted
Schedule II-A-2.2(W) Statement of Income - Test Year Adjusted - Water
Schedule II-A-2.2(S) Statement of Income - Test Year Adjusted - Sewer
Schedule II-A-2.3 Test Year Affiliate Income
Schedule II-A-3 Balance Sheet
Schedule II-A-3.1 Comparative Balance Sheet
Schedule II-A-3.2 Other Physical Property
Schedule II-A-3.3 Special Cash Accounts
Schedule II-A-3.4 Receivables
Schedule II-A-3.5 Uncollectible Accounts
Schedule II-A-3.6 Prepayments
Schedule II-A-3.7 Significant Assets
Schedule II-A-3.8 Deferred Asset Accounts
Schedule II-A-3.10 Deferred Credits
Schedule II-A-3.11 Funding of Reserves
Schedule II-A-3.12 Unappropriated Retained Earnings
Schedule II-B Rate Base Summary
Schedule II-B (W) Rate Base Summary - Water
Schedule II-B (S) Rate Base Summary - Wastewater
Schedule II-B-1.1.b Original Budgeted Cost (Confidential)
Schedule II-B-1.1.d Reason for Change in Budgeted Cost (Confidential)
Schedule II-B-2 Construction Work in Progress - Total Company
Schedule II-B-2.1 Cancelled Construction Projects
Schedule II-B-4 Plant Held for Future Use
Schedule II-B-5 Accumulated Provision Balances
Schedule II-B-6 Materials and Supplies - 13-Month Average
Schedule II-B-6.a Materials and Supplies - Inventory Valuation Method
Schedule II-B-6.b Materials and Supplies - Model Used to calculate needed material and supply level
Schedule II-B-7.a-g Working Capital
Schedule II-B-7.h(W) Cash Working Capital - Water

Schedule II-B-7.h(S) Cash Working Capital - Wastewater
Schedule II-B-7.i Working Capital - Removal of Amortized Expenses
Schedule II-B-7.j Working Capital - Funds Availability Arrangement
Schedule II-B-8 Prepayments
Schedule II-B-9 Storm Damage and Extraordinary Property Loss
Schedule II-B-10 Other Rate Base Items
Schedule II-B-11 Regulatory Assets
Schedule II-D-1 Summary of Adjusted Test Year O&M Expenses
Schedule II-D-1.1 Historical and Per Book Test Year O&M Expense
Schedule II-D-1.2(W) Adjustments to Test Year - Water
Schedule II-D-1.2(S) Adjustments to Test Year - Wastewater
Schedule II-D-1.2(SH) Adjustments to Test Year - Shared Costs
Schedule II-D-2 Bad Debt Expense
Schedule II-D-3.1 Advertising
Schedule II-D-3.2 Contribution and Donation Expense
Schedule II-D-3.3 Industry Organization Membership Dues
Schedule II-D-3.4 Business/Economic Membership Dues
Schedule II-D-3.5 Professional Membership Dues
Schedule II-D-3.6 Social Organizations
Schedule II-D-4 Summary of Outside Services Employed
Schedule II-D-5 Summary of Research and Development Expenditures
Schedule II-D-6 Rents and Leases
Schedule II-D-7(W) Purchased Water
Schedule II-D-7(S) Purchased Wastewater
Schedule II-D-8 Storm Damage
Schedule II-D-9 Payroll, Capitalized vs. Expensed
Schedule II-D-9.1.a Payroll Detail - Actual Payroll Expense
Schedule II-D-9.1.b Actual Payroll Expense by Month
Schedule II-D-9.1.c Payroll Detail - General Payroll Increases
Schedule II-D-9.1.d Payroll Detail - Merit Increases and Management Salary Increases (Confidential)
Schedule II-D-9.1.e Payroll Detail - Total Annual Payroll Increases (Confidential)
Schedule II-D-9.1.f Payroll Detail - Test Year vs. Requested Reconciliation (Confidential)
Schedule II-D-9.1.g Payroll Detail - Employee Benefits and Incentive Compensation (Confidential)
Schedule II-D-9.2.a Pension and OPEB Benefits - Unfunded Costs
Schedule II-D-9.2.b Pension and OPEB Benefits - Actuarial Studies

Schedule II-D-9.2.c Pension and OPEB Benefits - Costs, Expense and Funding by NARUC Accounts
Schedule II-D-9.2.d Pension and OPEB Benefits - Costs, Expense and Funding by NARUC Accounts 45-Day Update
Schedule II-D-9.2.e Pension and OPEB Benefits - Actual and Adjusted SFAS No. 106 Funds
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Schedule II-D-9.2.g Pension and OPEB Benefits - SFAS No. 106 Changes
Schedule II-D-9.2.h Pension and OPEB Benefits - Accruals
Schedule II-D-9.2.i Pension and OPEB Benefits - Understatement of Accounting Standards
Schedule II-D-9.3.a Other Payroll Information - Deferred Income and Consultant Fees
Schedule II-D-9.3.b Other Payroll Information - Number of Employees
Schedule II-D-9.3.c Other Payroll Information - Vacation Pay
Schedule II-D-9.3.d Other Payroll Information - Incentive Compensation and Bonus Plans (Confidential)
Schedule II-D-9.3.e Other Payroll Information - Insurance Premiums
Schedule II-D-9.3.f Other Payroll Information - Positions Eliminated
Schedule II-E-2 Taxes Other Than Federal Income Taxes
Schedule II-E-2.1 Ad Valorem Taxes - Per Books
Schedule II-E-4 Other Expenses
Schedule II-E-4.1 Deferred Expenses from Prior Dockets
Schedule II-E-4.2 Below the Line Expenses
Schedule II-E-4.3 Nonrecurring or Extraordinary Expenses
Schedule II-E-4.5 Extraordinary Property Losses
Schedule II-E-4.6 Expenses Previously Denied by the Commission
Schedule II-E-5 Other Revenues Items (Credit)
Schedule II-F.a,c,d Functionalization Factors
Schedule II-F.b,f Functionalization Factors - Description and Rationale of Factors
Schedule II-F.e Enumeration of cost items subject to allocation factor
Schedule II-G-1.h Customer Penalties and Miscellaneous Water and/or Sewer Revenues
Schedule II-G-1.5 Accrued Revenues
Schedule II-G-1.6(W) Miscellaneous Revenues - Water
Schedule II-G-1.6(S) Miscellaneous Revenues - Wastewater
Schedule II-G-5 Miscellaneous Fees
Schedule V-1 Audit Reports (Confidential)
Schedule V-2 Budget Variance Reports
Schedule V-3 Operating and Capital Budgets

PUC DOCKET NO. 45570

APPLICATION OF MONARCH	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
UTILITIES I, L.P. TO CHANGE RATES	§	
FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE	§	OF TEXAS

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

TIMOTHY J. WILLIFORD

ON BEHALF OF

MONARCH UTILITIES I, L.P.

FEBRUARY 29, 2016

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
TIMOTHY J. WILLIFORD**

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UTILITIES I, L.P. TO CHANGE RATES §
FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE § OF TEXAS

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
TIMOTHY J. WILLIFORD

I. INTRODUCTION

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Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Timothy J. Williford. My business address is SouthWest Water Company, 1620 Grand Avenue Pkwy #140, Pflugerville, TX 78660.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT POSITION?

A. I am the Environmental Health & Safety Manager for the Texas Utilities business segment of SouthWest Water Company ("SouthWest" or "Company").

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS POSITION?

A. I am responsible for ensuring that all Texas Utilities facilities, including Monarch Utilities I, L.P. ("Monarch"), are in compliance with environmental regulations and permits. This includes ensuring that Monarch complies with all state and federal laws and regulations regarding drinking water and wastewater treatment and disposal. I also manage the safety program for SouthWest. Additionally, I provide input on necessary capital improvements of water and wastewater facilities to maintain compliance. I am responsible for ensuring Monarch responds in a timely and appropriate manner to notices of violation and other deficiency notices from the TCEQ. My job also includes filing routine environmental and special compliance reports with the appropriate state and federal authorities.

1 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
2 BACKGROUND.

3 A. I received a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science degree from Lamar University in
4 1999. I have "A" Water and "A" Wastewater Operator licenses. I received a
5 Certified Safety and Health Official certificate from the Texas Engineering Extension
6 Services and Texas A&M University in 2012.

7 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

8 A. I joined ECO Resources, which was a subsidiary of SouthWest, in July 2005. As the
9 compliance coordinator, I ensured drinking water and wastewater reports were
10 submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") accurately
11 and in a timely manner. I also assisted in drinking water and wastewater inspections.
12 I stepped into my current role, Environmental Health & Safety Manager, in 2012. I
13 am responsible for ensuring all Texas Utilities facilities, among others, comply with
14 state and federal regulations. My duties include tracking wastewater permits and
15 drinking water compliance, preparing and filing compliance reports with state and
16 federal regulatory agencies, documenting and handling notices of violation, and
17 reporting to management. In addition, I manage the safety program for the Texas
18 Utilities. I ensure the Company and employees comply with Occupational Safety and
19 Health Administration ("OSHA") regulations. I am responsible for preparing OSHA
20 reports and reporting to SouthWest management. Prior to joining ECO Resources, I
21 worked for the TCEQ-Wastewater Permitting Section as a Pretreatment Coordinator
22 from 2003-2005. I conducted reviews and audits of 15 Publicly Owned Treatment

1 Works' pretreatment programs in the state. I also reviewed and provided regulatory
2 language for municipal permit application renewals.

3 In addition to my regulatory background, I have over seven years' laboratory
4 experience. I worked for the Sabine River Authority, Environmental Services
5 Division, from 1996-2001, beginning as a laboratory analyst and promoted to team
6 leader for the wet chemistry section. I worked as laboratory manager for ECO
7 Resources from 2001-2003. While working in the laboratory, I performed analysis of
8 drinking water and wastewater. I assisted in the development of laboratory
9 procedures and quality control manuals. As team leader and manager, I ensured
10 analyses were conducted and reported timely and accurately, while complying with
11 federal and state standard methods.

12 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED IN REGULATORY**
13 **PROCEEDINGS?**

14 A. No.

15 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

16 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

17 A. I will provide testimony regarding Monarch's compliance with state and federal
18 regulations regarding drinking water and wastewater treatment.

19 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE IN THIS CASE.**

20 A. I worked with members of Monarch's staff, management, and outside consultants in
21 preparing the notice of the rate increase filed with the Commission. Relying on my
22 professional background in compliance and safety, I assisted the Monarch rate team
23 in preparing the rate package filed with the Commission.

1 Q. UNDER WHOSE DIRECTION AND CONTROL HAVE YOU PERFORMED
2 THESE DUTIES?

3 A. Charles W. Profilet, Jr. P.E., President, Monarch Utilities I, L.P. I have also worked
4 in cooperation and conjunction with other members of the Monarch rate team.

5 Q. ON WHAT DO YOU BASE YOUR OPINIONS IN YOUR TESTIMONY?

6 A. The opinions expressed in this testimony are based on my personal observations,
7 including those pertaining to the Monarch rate application that is the subject of this
8 proceeding, my interchanges with employees of Monarch and its parent corporation,
9 as well as with the various experts who provided assistance in connection with filing
10 the rate application. My opinions are also based on my familiarity with, and review
11 of, documentation supporting the rate application, including but not limited to
12 documentation relating to Monarch's rate base and the expenses incurred by
13 Monarch. With respect to rate base specifically, I have reviewed documentation and
14 conducted field inspections of the relevant facilities.

15 Q. WHAT SCHEDULES IN THE RATE FILING PACKAGE ARE YOU
16 SPONSORING?

17 A. I am sponsoring the following schedules and associated workpapers: Schedules
18 II-E-1.3(W), II-E-1.3(S), VI-1.a, VI-1.b., VI-1.c, and VI-1.d.

19 III. MONARCH COMPLIANCE IMPROVEMENT

20 Q. HAS MONARCH SEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF SERVICE?

21 A. Yes. When SouthWest acquired the Monarch assets and took over operations in
22 2004, almost every system had some type of existing deficiency and/or had been cited
23 by the TCEQ. Shortly after SouthWest acquired the assets, we performed an internal

1 audit of systems that identified several deficiencies and resulted in us notifying the
2 TCEQ. These deficiencies included failing to keep adequate records, production
3 capacity, storage capacity, security, failing to properly maintain or operate equipment
4 and facilities, exceeding drinking water maximum contaminant levels (“MCL”), and
5 failing to comply with wastewater effluent limits.

6 In an effort to eliminate the potential public health threat and to ensure the
7 appropriate steps were taken to achieve compliance, Monarch entered into 19 agreed
8 orders, five compliance agreements, and two voluntary comprehensive compliance
9 agreements with the TCEQ. The agreed orders set out the process for achieving
10 compliance in 30 specific systems. The five compliance agreements set out the
11 process for achieving compliance in five specific systems. The first voluntary
12 comprehensive compliance agreement addressed the process to achieve compliance in
13 30 specific systems. The second voluntary compliance agreement addressed
14 achieving compliance violations in 28 specific systems (both water and wastewater)
15 by setting out an orderly schedule for accomplishing various tasks over a three-year
16 period. Although a few deadlines had to be extended, Monarch worked diligently
17 with the TCEQ staff to meet all deadlines in the compliance agreements by 2012. In
18 the last 3 years, Monarch has not had any Category A deficiencies noted in any of the
19 water or wastewater systems we operate.

20 **Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF COMPLIANCE FOR MONARCH?**

21 A. Currently, there are two open Agreed Orders assigned to Monarch, both of which are
22 associated with naturally occurring contaminants. Monarch has conducted feasibility
23 studies in both cases and has plans in place to remedy the violations by Spring 2016.

1 Monarch had 32 water system inspections in 2014, in 18 of which no
2 violations were noted. All violations with the other 14 systems have been resolved.
3 Three wastewater inspections were performed in 2014. Violations were cited and
4 resolved within the compliance date on two of the three inspections. No violations
5 were cited on the third inspection.

6 There were 28 water system inspections in 2015, in 21 of which no violations
7 were reported. We anticipate resolving the outstanding violations by the compliance
8 dates on the seven systems with violations cited.

9 In response to the deficiencies referenced above, SouthWest has invested \$71
10 million into Monarch's water and wastewater systems between 2005 and 2012 to
11 ensure the service our customers receive is safe and reliable.

12 **IV. REGULATORY BURDENS IMPOSED BY STATE AND FEDERAL**
13 **REGULATIONS**

14 **Q. WHO REGULATES THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ASPECTS OF WATER**
15 **AND WASTEWATER SERVICE IN TEXAS?**

16 **A.** As a general proposition, two agencies regulate the safety of water and wastewater
17 service—the federal Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and the TCEQ. For
18 the most part, however, the EPA has delegated much of its regulatory authority to the
19 states, including Texas, under the terms of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean
20 Water Act. As a result of these delegations, the TCEQ serves as the primary
21 regulatory authority for the safety of water and wastewater service in Texas.

1 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATORY
2 STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER.

3 A. Congress adopted the federal drinking water standards in 1974 when it enacted Title
4 XIV of the Public Health Services Act, more commonly known as the Safe Drinking
5 Water Act ("SDWA"). The SDWA has twice been amended, once in 1986 and again
6 in 1996; under the SDWA, Congress authorized the EPA to promulgate federal
7 standards to protect the public health and promote safe drinking water. The SDWA
8 further authorized the EPA to delegate its authority thereunder to the individual states
9 if certain requirements were met.

10 Initially, the EPA promulgated several drinking water standards that
11 prescribed MCLs for drinking water. These standards regulate the level of
12 contaminants in the drinking water. There are essentially two levels of drinking water
13 standards, referred to as primary and secondary standards. The first level, primary
14 standards, is designed to protect consumers and eliminate public health risks.
15 Examples of this type of standard include MCLs for coliform and fecal bacteria, and
16 potentially cancer-causing constituents. The second level of drinking water standards
17 is directed toward taste and odor. Examples of this type of standard include MCLs
18 for iron, sulfate, and manganese.

19 Under the terms of the SDWA, states were free to either follow the MCL
20 standards set by the EPA or impose even higher standards for public drinking water.
21 Although the federal drinking water standards remain in place, the EPA has since
22 delegated much of its authority to the individual states, including Texas.

1 By comparison, Texas has always taken an aggressive approach to drinking
2 water regulation. Since the 1940's, Texas has imposed stringent standards for
3 drinking water similar to those enacted by Congress and the EPA under the SDWA.
4 Texas was also one of the first states to require chlorination of drinking water from
5 wells to prevent bacteria in the drinking water supply. The TCEQ is responsible for
6 enforcing both federal and state drinking water standards in Texas, and Monarch must
7 comply with all of these standards.

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE STATE AND FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR**
9 **WASTEWATER.**

10 A. Congress adopted wastewater treatment standards in 1977 when it enacted the federal
11 Water Pollution Control Act, more commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act
12 ("CWA"). The CWA established a permitting process that authorized the EPA to
13 issue permits for wastewater discharge. This permitting process is better known as
14 the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES"). Like the SDWA,
15 Section 402(b) of the CWA authorized the EPA to delegate its NPDES permitting
16 authority to the states if certain requirements are met. The EPA has delegated its
17 federal permitting authority to Texas.

18 In addition to these federal permitting standards, the State of Texas has
19 enacted its own permitting standards in Chapter 26 of the Water Code. In the past, a
20 utility wanting to provide wastewater treatment services had to secure separate
21 permits from the EPA and the TCEQ. Since the EPA delegated its permitting
22 authority, the TCEQ enforces both the state and federal permitting standards. So,
23 now a utility may apply to the TCEQ for a joint federal/state permit.

1 The wastewater treatment standards in Texas are different throughout the state
2 depending on the particular point of discharge. For example, a wastewater treatment
3 plant seeking to discharge into a lake or river used for public recreation and
4 swimming will encounter higher standards for wastewater treatment than a plant
5 seeking to discharge into a commercial body of water such as the Houston Ship
6 Channel. While the standards may differ, the overall goal is the same—maintain
7 public health and water quality in the receiving body of water. Monarch must comply
8 with all of these state and federal standards. The likelihood is that discharge
9 standards will continue to be strengthened over time, which will require continuing
10 capital improvements making it extremely important that a well-capitalized
11 organization like Monarch is there to make the needed improvements.

12 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE REGULATORY BURDEN IMPOSED UPON**
13 **INVESTOR OWNED UTILITIES IN MEETING STATE AND FEDERAL**
14 **REGULATIONS.**

15 A. The major burden upon any investor owned utility (“IOU”) is generating the large
16 amounts of capital needed to comply, in a timely manner, with all state and federal
17 regulations (health, safety, product or service quality, customer service, and the like).

18 IOUs are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to raising capital. Private
19 businesses generally have no access to low-cost state or federal funding programs.
20 To my knowledge, there is only one small funding program open to IOUs. The Texas
21 Water Development Board (“TWDB”) may lend money to IOUs for system capacity
22 improvements, but the TWDB may only make these loans from that portion of the
23 State Revolving Water Fund directly funded by the federal government.

1 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

2 A. Yes, it does.

PUC DOCKET NO. 45570

APPLICATION OF MONARCH	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
UTILITIES I, L.P. TO CHANGE RATES	§	
FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE	§	OF TEXAS

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

CRAIG D. GOTT, P.E.

ON BEHALF OF

MONARCH UTILITIES I, L.P.

FEBRUARY 29, 2016

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
CRAIG D. GOTT, P.E.**

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ATTACHMENTS:

CDG-1 Sponsored Schedules

1 provided testimony for capital spending for the General Rate Case (“GRC”) filed with
2 the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) in 2011 and 2014.

3 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

4 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

5 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the reasonableness and necessity of
6 Monarch’s post October 15, 2002 recorded gross plant additions through June 30,
7 2015 in the amount of \$74.47 million.

8 **Q. WHY DOES YOUR TESTIMONY INCLUDE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS**
9 **FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 16, 2002 TO JUNE 30, 2015?**

10 A. In its June 20, 2003 rate order letter in *Tecon Water Company, L.P.; Application Nos.*
11 *33531-R and 33532-R, TCEQ Docket Nos. 2001-1079-UCR and 2001-1080-UCR*, the
12 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) ordered that Tecon’s
13 original cost investment as of October 15, 2002 was \$65,990,197. This testimony
14 represents Monarch’s (successor to Tecon) subsequent recorded gross plant additions
15 through June 30, 2015 of \$74.47 million. This testimony has been prepared
16 subsequent to the closing of the June 2015 accounting period to include all known
17 and measurable capital improvements made to June 30, 2015. [Note: can we give a
18 specific date?]

19 **Q. WHAT SCHEDULES IN THE RATE FILING PACKAGE ARE YOU**
20 **SPONSORING?**

21 A. I am sponsoring the schedules and associated workpapers listed in Attachment
22 CDG-1.

1 investment of its limited capital resources to meet the needs of its customers and
2 requirements of its regulators.

3 Monarch prefers to send the projects estimated at greater than \$25,000 to three
4 vendors to participate in a competitive bidding process where the most responsible
5 low bid is chosen. This approach is not always feasible for the following reasons:

- 6 a. Monarch's water and wastewater systems are spread all over the state
7 of Texas. There are not always three qualified bidders that work in the
8 different parts of the state.
- 9 b. Of the limited vendors available, often the larger vendors are not
10 interested in the smaller projects that are typical of Monarch's
11 systems.
- 12 c. Monarch works with some trusted vendors with whom it has past
13 experience, and has developed confidence and trust in the work
14 product. The development of trust affords many cost and schedule
15 savings that are not available when working with un-tested vendors.
- 16 d. Many projects are small and are duplicated in a number of locations.
17 It is often more efficient to use one vendor to perform these tasks as it
18 simplifies scheduling, invoicing, and project coordination. Working
19 with a single vendor on a project that has many locations saves costs
20 because it reduces mobilization costs.
- 21 e. The bidding process demands a significant amount of engineering and
22 administrative resources. To minimize overhead costs and
23 contribution to customer rates, Monarch is purposely arranged as a

1 lean organization that has very few engineers and administrative staff.
2 The few engineers on staff spend most of their time investigating
3 project sites, developing solutions, coordinating vendors, and
4 inspecting construction. Further, the dispersed geography of
5 Monarch's service areas result in engineers spending many hours a
6 week driving.

7 **Q. HAS MONARCH SEEN A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF**
8 **SERVICE?**

9 A. Yes. When SouthWest acquired the Monarch assets and took over operations almost
10 every system had some type of existing deficiencies and had been cited by the TCEQ.
11 Shortly after SouthWest acquired the assets, we performed an internal audit of the
12 systems that identified several deficiencies and resulted in us notifying the TCEQ.
13 These deficiencies included inadequate records, inadequate production and storage
14 capacity, security issues, improperly maintaining or operating equipment and
15 facilities, exceeding drinking water MCLs, and not complying with wastewater
16 effluent limits.

17 In an effort to eliminate the potential public health threats and to ensure the
18 appropriate steps were taken to achieve compliance, Monarch entered into 19 agreed
19 orders, five compliance agreements, and two voluntary comprehensive compliance
20 agreements with the TCEQ. The agreed orders set out the process for achieving
21 compliance in 30 specific systems. The five compliance agreements set out the
22 process for achieving compliance in five specific systems. The first voluntary
23 comprehensive compliance agreement addressed the process to achieve compliance in

1 30 specific systems. The second voluntary comprehensive compliance agreement
2 addressed resolving compliance violations in 28 specific systems (both water and
3 wastewater) by setting out an orderly schedule for accomplishing various tasks over a
4 three year period. Monarch has worked diligently with the TCEQ staff to complete
5 all items required in the compliance agreements. Monarch has not had any Category
6 A deficiencies noted in any of its water or wastewater systems in the last three years.

7 In response to the deficiencies above, SouthWest has invested \$74.47 million
8 in Monarch's water and wastewater systems between 2002 and 2015 to ensure that
9 the service our customers receive is safe and reliable. These capital expenditures
10 included those discussed in the following sections of my testimony.

11 **A. Wastewater (\$12,335,753.35) by NARUC Account**

12 **Q. WHAT WERE THE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS MADE IN MONARCH'S**
13 **WASTEWATER SYSTEM?**

14 **A.** Monarch spent \$12,335,753.35 on capital improvements in the Wastewater system.
15 These costs are categorized below according to NARUC asset classification.

16 **1. 352 Franchises (\$14,998.76)**

17 In 2014, Monarch invested \$14,998.76 in its Lake Medina Shores
18 wastewater system on Professional Engineering services to prepare documents
19 required to renew the TCEQ wastewater operating permit.

20 **2. 353 Land and Land Rights (\$24,093)**

21 In 2012, Monarch invested \$24,093 in its Decker Hills wastewater
22 system to acquire an easement (Lakes at Mill Creek) to provide the required buffer
23 zone for the construction of a new treatment plant to comply with TCEQ supply
24 requirements.

1 3. 354 Structures and Improvements (\$3,589,705.46)

2 This category captures the cost of structures and improvements that are
3 used in connection with wastewater treatment plants. Major cost items in this
4 category are explained in greater detail, and minor cost items are grouped for more
5 efficient discussion.

6 Wastewater treatment facilities are exposed to extremely corrosive and
7 abrasive forces of the environment and the municipal wastewater stream that passes
8 through them on a continuous basis. Further, the waste stream produces corrosive
9 gases that also cause damage to the structural improvements that provide safe access
10 to employees to monitor and maintain the treatment plant. Monarch has used this
11 category to capture the cost of structural improvements related to the treatment
12 process at the wastewater plants including installing a static mixer; constructing a
13 wastewater treatment plant control building; rehabilitating clarifiers (weirs, drives),
14 blowers, and stainless steel bar screens; replacing process piping; and rehabilitating
15 baffle walls. At some plants the existing treatment facilities were replaced or
16 rehabilitated because they had reached the end of their useful life and were unable to
17 produce effluent that met discharged requirements.

18 This category also covers other structural improvements at the various
19 plant sites related to general site improvements, and employee access and safety.
20 These general site improvements included grading for proper storm water drainage,
21 culvert and catch basin work, fencing for security, and building an equipment storage
22 shed. To support the treatment process, Monarch installed concrete chemical
23 containment structures, a flow diversion structure, and an effluent basin. To maintain
24 safe access to plants, Monarch constructed concrete sidewalks, all weather access

1 driveways, and rehabilitated catwalks (grating and hand rails). Also included was
2 installation of an eye wash station for employees to perform first aid should their eyes
3 be exposed to chemical irritants.

4 The following is a more detailed description of the major investments
5 in this category:

6 • In 2005, Monarch invested \$693,986.56 (\$608,686.86 +
7 \$85,300.56) in its Cherokee Shores wastewater system to construct a replacement
8 wastewater treatment plant. The load on the existing plant exceeded the allowable
9 TCEQ permitted capacity, and the old plant was corroded and structurally unsound.
10 A failure of the structure would have resulted in discharges of untreated wastewater
11 to the environment or would have caused harm to an operator. A replacement plant
12 was constructed to meet capacity requirements and to provide a safe work place for
13 operators.

14 • In 2008, Monarch invested \$498,053.95 in its Lake Medina
15 Shores wastewater system to upgrade and expand an existing wastewater treatment
16 plant that was no longer in compliance with TCEQ regulations. This plant has a no
17 discharge requirement and the effluent is land applied. The existing holding ponds
18 had insufficient capacity and would overflow. The ponds were expanded and a liner
19 was installed to meet required standards.

20 • In 2009, Monarch invested in its Harbor Point wastewater
21 system \$335,245.45 to construct a replacement wastewater treatment plant, including
22 \$65,642.22 on mechanical equipment and \$63,741.98 on concrete tanks. The existing
23 plant had reached the end of its useful life. It was severely corroded, it was leaking,

1 and it posed a safety hazard for employees. Further, the plant had insufficient
2 capacity to comply with TCEQ plant loading requirements and did not effectively
3 treat effluent to currently required parameters. A replacement plant was constructed
4 to meet capacity requirements, to provide reliable service to customers, and to
5 provide a safe work place for operators. Monarch's costs included \$90,632.40 in
6 2006 for engineering consulting services to prepare plans for the construction of the
7 replacement facility.

8 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$319,433.03 in its Beachwood
9 Estates wastewater system to construct a replacement concrete tank, \$264,590.80 to
10 construct an effluent discharge line, and \$75,390.39 to construct site work piping,
11 flatwork, building structures, and fencing that were part of a project to replace the
12 existing wastewater treatment plant. The existing plant had reached the end of its
13 useful life. It was severely corroded, it was leaking, and it posed a safety hazard for
14 employees. Further, the plant had insufficient capacity to comply with TCEQ plant
15 loading requirements and did not effectively treat effluent to currently required
16 parameters. The discharge line was required to redirect the plant discharge from the
17 Cedar Creek Lake to the Trinity River, which eliminated the need to construct
18 equipment to filter this water further and maintain the sprinkler fields.

19 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$322,445.77 (\$212,996.65 +
20 \$109,449.12) in its Tower Terrace wastewater system to replace the treatment plant
21 structures because the existing plant had reached the end of its useful life and had
22 insufficient capacity to meet TCEQ capacity requirements. This project also included

1 the investment of \$76,856.35 to install a pre-fabricated building that serves the
2 treatment plant as both a control room and laboratory.

3 • In 2005, Monarch invested \$186,317.67 in its Decker Hills
4 wastewater system to rebuild the aeration basins that had fallen into disrepair and to
5 replace the mechanical equipment that had failed.

6 **4. 355 Power Generation Equipment (\$153,130.50)**

7 Monarch used this category to record the cost of purchasing small
8 power generator units for various wastewater systems.

9 **5. 360 Collection Sewers—Force (\$1,387,194.88)**

10 Unlike unpressurized Gravity sewer systems that are open to the
11 atmosphere and depend on gravity to move wastewater, Force main sewer systems
12 are pressurized and use pumps to move wastewater to a lift station or treatment plant.
13 Gravity systems depend on collection pipes that slope gradually towards lift stations
14 and treatment plants. This works well in urban and suburban areas with relatively flat
15 terrain. However, Gravity systems installed in undulating terrain require pipes to be
16 buried deeply to maintain a downward slope. Alternatively, Force systems are
17 beneficial in rural areas where the terrain is undulating and where long pipe reaches
18 cannot be installed at more shallow depths, saving on installation and maintenance
19 costs. Grinder pumps at each customer's service lateral boost wastewater from small
20 holding tanks into pressurized Force collection system.

21 Force sewers are used to lift sewage from a low elevation to higher
22 elevation. Monarch extends existing Force sewer systems by constructing new
23 pipelines to serve new customers in compliance with TCEQ requirements.

1 Force sewer pipelines are subject to deterioration due to exposure to
2 corrosive gases emanating from sewage and damage from tree roots and ground
3 movement. Major capital repairs were required to replace significant sections of
4 pipeline that is damaged. Monarch replaces major sections of pipeline if these
5 sections are observed to have reached the end of useful life. Force sewer pipelines
6 have air vacuum valves used to admit air into the pipeline so it does not collapse
7 structurally when negative pressure situations occur. These valves are mechanical
8 devices with moving parts; Monarch replaces these devices when they are found by
9 inspection to be not working.

10 System maps are prepared to capture the location of buried forced
11 sewer facilities including pipelines. Monarch prepares these maps to facilitate the
12 speedy location of facilities and to help operators understand system operation when
13 problems such as damage or blockage occur.

14 Lift stations collect sewage at the low points in the system, and lift
15 station pumps provide the pressure required to lift the sewage. Lift stations are of
16 utmost critical importance to safe and successful operation of a wastewater system. A
17 failing lift station will be overwhelmed with incoming flow resulting in overflow and
18 discharge of raw sewage to the environment. Lift stations consist of a vault, pumping
19 and electrical equipment, and personnel access equipment (ladders, vault covers,
20 ventilation equipment, etc.). The structural and mechanical components of lift
21 stations are exposed to harsh corrosive environments due to gases emitted from the
22 sewage. Further, pumps are required to transmit liquid waste that contain grit and
23 other solids that can damage rotating assemblies. Lift station rehabilitation includes

1 activities such as replacing pumps and valves, replacing controllers, replacing blower
2 fans, replacing air lift equipment. Lift station structure are also recoated to mitigate
3 the corrosive effects of sewer gases. Monarch invests capital in the rehabilitation of
4 lift stations to ensure reliable operation.

5 The following is a more detailed description of the major investments
6 in this category:

- 7 • In 2004, Monarch acquired the Carolynn Estates (Pinnacle
8 Club) wastewater system from TECON, which included the acquisition of sewer lines
9 for \$213,777.32.
- 10 • In 2006, Monarch invested \$167,883.24 in its Holiday Villages
11 of Fork wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.
- 12 • In 2007, Monarch invested \$156,754.91 in its Lake Medina
13 Shores wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.
- 14 • In 2006, Monarch invested \$146,806.90 in its Holiday Villages
15 of Livingston wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.
- 16 • In 2003, Monarch invested \$142,074.44 in its Lake Medina
17 Shores wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.
- 18 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$88,511.25 in its Holiday Villages
19 of Livingston wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.
- 20 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$65,374.33 in its Lake Medina
21 Shores wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.
- 22 • This category includes \$63,623.01 in CIAC/Advances for
23 Collection Sewers - Force made by TECON and recorded in 2004.

1 6. 361 Collection Sewers—Gravity (\$734,878.65)

2 Gravity collection sewer systems consists of pipes and manholes that
3 collect sewage from customers and transport by gravity to lift stations and treatment
4 plants.

5 Monarch extends existing Gravity sewer systems by constructing new
6 pipelines to serve new customers in compliance with TCEQ requirements. It has also
7 used this category to collect capital costs associated with the replacement of sewer
8 pipes that are damaged by tree roots or ground movement and with the rehabilitation
9 of manholes that were found to be deteriorated.

10 Also, smoke testing is a process where smoke is pumped into a sewer
11 so that it can be observed where it leaves the system. Specifically, the smoke leaves
12 through cracks in the lines and roof drains that are illegally connected to the
13 wastewater system. These drains collect storm water, which is referred to as inflow
14 and infiltration (I&I), that overwhelms the wastewater collection and treatment
15 systems. Operators work with drain owners to disconnect them from the wastewater
16 system. Monarch performs smoke testing when I&I is determined to be the source of
17 excessive flows at treatment plants and lift stations. Monarch has used this category
18 to the capture costs of performing smoke testing to identify and disconnect illegal
19 connections to the wastewater collection to reduce inflow and infiltration.

20 The following is a more detailed description of the major investments
21 in this category:

- 22 • This category includes \$134,092 in CIAC/Advances for
23 Collection Sewers - Gravity made by TECON and recorded in 2004.

1 • In 2005, Monarch invested \$124,392.27 in its Cherokee Shores
2 wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.

3 • In 2006, Monarch invested \$89,485 in its Decker Hills
4 wastewater system to construct sewer lines for a new development.

5 • This category includes \$81,000.53 in CIAC/Advances for
6 Collection Sewers - Gravity made by TECON and recorded in 2004.

7 • In 2006, Monarch invested \$73,064.50 in its Decker Hills
8 wastewater system to construct sewer service lines for a new development.

9 7. **362 Special Collecting Structures (\$151,032.02)**

10 Monarch used this category to record the cost of some small tanks for
11 its Pinnacle Club and Tower Terrace wastewater systems. The major investment in
12 this category was the \$90,934.29 invested in 2006 in Monarch's Cherokee Shores
13 wastewater plant to replace the filter media. The existing media had reached the end
14 of its useful life and was no longer effective at removing contaminants.

15 8. **363 Services to customers (\$4,626.22)**

16 This category includes the cost of service sewers from the collection
17 sewer to the customer property or curb line. Monarch use this category to capture the
18 cost of the replacement of a sewer service that had become inoperable.

19 9. **364 Flow Measuring Devices (\$61,302.29)**

20 Section 217.33 Flow Measurement of TCEQ's Subchapter B:
21 Treatment Facility Design Requirements mandates that treatment facilities must have
22 a means of accurate effluent flow measurement that allows for easy inspection,
23 calibration, and cleaning. Wastewater flows present a corrosive environment for
24 these devices, which can deteriorate over time resulting in a failure to accurately

1 measure effluent flows. Monarch has used this category to capture capital costs
2 associated with replacing flow measuring devices to comply with TCEQ
3 requirements.

4 **10. 367 Reuse Meters and Meter Installations (\$35,793.12)**

5 Monarch used this category to capture the costs of risers and lids for
6 its Holiday Villages of Fork, Pinnacle Club, and wastewater systems.

7 **11. 370 Receiving Wells (\$331,324.00)**

8 This account includes the capitalized cost of constructing,
9 rehabilitating, and replacing wet wells at lift stations and other junction points along
10 the wastewater collection system. Monarch has used this category to capture the cost
11 of raising and rehabilitating manholes that had been observed to be in disrepair. New
12 manholes are installed to connect additional developments to main trunk lines.
13 Manholes need to be raised to suit grade preceding road resurfacing projects.

14 The following is a more detailed description of the major investments
15 in this category:

16 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$135,140.70 in its Beachwood
17 Estates wastewater system to replace an existing sewer lift station. The existing
18 plant, which was constructed in 1972, had deteriorated, and the buried metal walls
19 were corroded and collapsing. Not only was this lift station unreliable, it was also a
20 safety hazard for operators.

21 • Monarch invested \$102,023.33 in its Tower Terrace
22 wastewater system to construct a lift station wet well, which is part of a larger project
23 to replace the existing wastewater treatment plant that is discussed in the Pumping
24 Equipment section below.

1 **12. 371 Pumping Equipment (\$1,744,110.64)**

2 This category includes capital costs for items related to wastewater lift
3 station pumps. Lift station pumps are the vital components of the wastewater system
4 that lift wastewater from wet wells into force mains. In a Gravity sewer system,
5 wastewater flows downhill from customer service lines into collection pipelines and
6 accumulates in wet wells located at low points. Lift stations boost this wastewater
7 into force mains that deliver it to the wastewater treatment plants. Lift station pumps
8 are mechanical devices, and they have moving parts that operate under harsh
9 conditions. They are required to pump municipal sewage containing solids and
10 hydrogen sulfide gases that are abrasive and corrosive to the pumps' moving parts.
11 Over time these harsh conditions cause the pumps to fail and need replacement.
12 Without adequate pumping, wastewater would overwhelm the lift station wet wells
13 and would be discharged to the environment resulting in regulatory violations. In
14 many cases, this pump replacement work was done on an emergency basis.

15 Pumping equipment starts and stops continuously throughout the day
16 as wastewater accumulates in the wet wells. The reliability of a wastewater system is
17 directly related to the condition of its lift station pumps. To ensure reliability,
18 Monarch replaces or rehabilitates lift station pumps when they fail or when pending
19 failure is evident when their output declines or their energy requirement increases.

20 Also, Monarch used this category to account for the replacement of
21 grinder pumps. If a sewer line is pressurized (force main) or if the sewer line is
22 located above the customer's wastewater service connection, then a pump is required
23 to lift wastewater from a sump and to pump it into the collection pipeline. This
24 municipal waste contains solids and hydrogen sulfide gases that are abrasive and

1 corrosive on the pump's moving parts. Over time these harsh conditions cause the
2 pump to fail and need replacement. Without the pump, wastewater would be
3 discharged to the environment or on the resident's property. Much of this work is
4 done on an emergency basis. Monarch spent \$1,119,034 on 1,120 pumps in the
5 period in question at an average of \$999.14 per pump.

6 The following is a more detailed description of the major investments
7 in this category:

8 • In 2005, Monarch invested \$84,875.16 in its Tanglewood
9 wastewater system to replace an existing sewer lift station. The existing Smith &
10 Loveless steel lift station was leaking sewer into the ground and had ineffective filter
11 technology that necessitated excessive maintenance including changing out the filters
12 5 or 6 times a week. Workers had to climb into the lift station to perform
13 maintenance exposing them to safety hazards from gas to potential collapse.

14 • In 2009, Monarch replaced a lift station in its Tower Terrace
15 water system as part of the project to replace the treatment plant. Specifically,
16 Monarch invested \$64,046.94 to replace lift station piping and \$59,022.36 to replace
17 electrical controls.

18 **13. 380 Treatment and Disposal Equipment (\$3,957,506.64)**

19 This account was used to capture capital cost of apparatus, equipment,
20 and other facilities used for the treatment of wastewater. Major cost items in this
21 category are explained in greater detail, and minor cost items are grouped for efficient
22 discussion.

23 Wastewater treatment is the application of physical and chemical
24 processes to remove undesirable constituents and produce a product of quality that

1 meets TCEQ requirements. This is of the highest level of importance for wastewater
2 utilities because undesirable water quality can cause damage to the environment.
3 Monarch has treatment equipment that treats wastewater from its collection systems.
4 Wastewater treatment facilities are exposed to extremely corrosive and abrasive
5 forces of the environment and the municipal wastewater stream that passes through
6 them on a continuous basis. Further, the waste stream produces corrosive gases that
7 also cause damage treatment vessels and equipment. Monarch has used this category
8 to capture the cost of replacement or rehabilitation of gate valves, mixers with rail
9 system, clarifiers, a backflow preventer, an influent catch box, an anoxic zone
10 nitrogen removal system, and chlorine injection pumps. These items were replaced or
11 rehabilitated because they had reached the end of their useful life.

12 Wastewater system operators rely on monitoring equipment to
13 measure water characteristics to determine treatment requirements and treatment
14 effectiveness and to confirm that effluent water quality leaving the plant complies
15 with TCEQ requirements. Monarch has used this category to replace pH monitors,
16 oxygen probes, and mixed liquor probes as they reach the end of the useful life.

17 Oxygen is required by bacteria that live in the activated sludge process
18 at the wastewater treatment plants. Air is continuously pumped by blowers into the
19 water by way of air diffuser manifold piping. These beneficial microorganisms
20 consume most of the remaining organic materials in the water, and this produces
21 heavier particles that will settle later in the treatment process. With insufficient
22 oxygen, the waste stream becomes anaerobic, the bacteria die, and the treatment
23 process fails to achieve desired pollutant removal. Monarch has also used this

1 category to capture the capital costs of replacing blowers, air manifold headers, and
2 blower motor starters that have reached the end of the useful life.

3 Finally, this category has also be used to capture the cost of
4 replacement dosing pumps that pump chemicals such as sodium hyper-chlorite to
5 disinfect wastewater leaving the treatment plant to meet discharge requirements to
6 reduce the impact of bacteria on the environment.

7 The following is a more detailed description of the major investments
8 in this category:

9 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$696,255.27 in its Beachwood
10 Estates wastewater system to install mechanical equipment in conjunction with the
11 treatment plant replacement project discussed in the "Structures and Improvements"
12 section.

13 • In 2013, Monarch invested \$611,552.34 in its Decker Hills
14 wastewater system to replace the existing wastewater treatment plant that had
15 insufficient capacity to meet TCEQ capacity requirements and that had severe
16 corrosion damage, which resulted in leakage. The replacement plant capacity of
17 230,000gal/day meets TCEQ requirements, and the new facility provides a greater
18 level of reliability to customers and safety to operators. This project also included the
19 investment of \$176,677.35 to install treatment processing equipment and \$63,397.77
20 for controls required to treat wastewater.

21 • In 2004, Monarch invested \$301,057 in its Cherokee Shores
22 wastewater system to construct static mixer improvements because the treatment

1 plant effluent was not meeting discharge nitrogen discharge requirements. The
2 treatment process was modified, and a different mixer system was installed.

3 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$207,263.04 in its Tower Terrace
4 wastewater system to construct electrical improvements associated with the project to
5 replace the sewer treatment plant described in the Treatment and Disposal Equipment
6 section below. The electrical improvements were required to power blowers and
7 pumps and to control and monitor the treatment process.

8 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$345,380.18 (\$200,027.13 +
9 \$145,353.05) in its Harbor Point wastewater system to construct submerged
10 membrane filter units as part of the larger project to replace the wastewater treatment
11 plant discussed in the "Structures and Improvements" section above.

12 • In 2004, Monarch acquired the Carolynn Estates (Pinnacle
13 Club) wastewater system from TECON that included the acquisition of sewer
14 treatment plant for \$155,984.86.

15 • In 2003, Monarch invested \$153,198.43 in its Lake Medina
16 Shores wastewater system for consulting engineering services, and earth moving
17 work to construct new spreading ponds to increase the plant's capacity to
18 accommodate new development. Further \$86,533.16 was invested for permits,
19 engineering, and construction of a spray irrigation field required to field apply
20 treatment plant effluent and comply with the no discharge permit.

21 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$85,395.94 in its Tower Terrace
22 wastewater system to replace existing yard piping at the wastewater treatment plant.

1 The existing pipes were failing, and there was a risk of discharging untreated water to
2 the environment.

3 • In 2009, Monarch invested \$66,675.71 in its Harbor Point
4 wastewater system for electrical improvements required to monitor and control
5 treatment equipment. The project was done in conjunction with a larger project to
6 replace existing steel tanks that had reached the end of their useful life.

7 • In 2009 Monarch invested \$64,359.70 in its Beachwood
8 Estates wastewater system to control electrical improvements required to monitor and
9 control treatment equipment. This project was done in conjunction with a larger
10 project to replace existing steel tanks that were leaking and collapsing and that had
11 reached the end of their useful life.

12 **14. 381 Plant Sewers (\$24,790.64)**

13 Oxygen is required by bacteria that live in the active sludge process at
14 the wastewater treatment plant. Air is continuously pumped by blowers into the
15 water. These beneficial microorganisms consume most of the remaining organic
16 materials that are polluting the water, and this produces heavier particles that will
17 settle later in the treatment process. With insufficient oxygen, the waste stream
18 becomes anaerobic, the bacteria die, and the treatment process fails to achieve desired
19 pollutant removal. Monarch has also used this category to capture the capital costs of
20 replacing blower and blower motors.

21 **15. 391 Transportation Equipment (\$45,001.55)**

22 This category includes costs for equipment used in construction of
23 repair work. Monarch has included in this category the cost for a backhoe, lawn
24 mowers, and various trailers for transporting equipment.