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# SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-3320.WS Docket No. 46439

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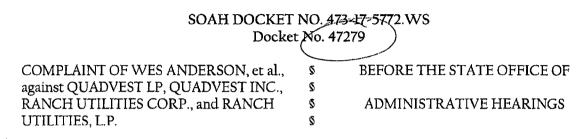
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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS



# COMPLAINANTS' INITIAL TESTIMONY

Attached as Exhibits "A" through "I", are affidavits which comprise Complainants' initial testimony. Should further testimony be necessary, Complainants reserve the right to supplement this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

HANSZEN LAPORTE, LLP

By: <u>/s/Daniel R. Dutko</u> Daniel R. Dutko SBN: 24054206 14201 Memorial Dr. Houston, Texas 77079 (713) 522-9444 phone (713) 524-2580 fax ddutko@hanszenlaporte.com Attorneys for Complainants

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was sent to all interested parties, by and through their counsel of record on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

Mr. Alexander Petak Public Utility Commission of Texas, Legal Division 1701 N. Congress Ave. P.O. Box 13326 Austin, Texas 78711-3326 Via Facsimile (512) 936-7268

Ms. Tammy W. Shea Cozen O'Connor 1221 McKinney, Suite 2900 Houston, Texas 77010 Attorney for Quadvest Via Facsimile (832) 214-3905

/s/ Daniel R. Dutko

Daniel R. Dutko

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-5772,WS Docket No. 47279

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P.

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# AFFIDAVIT OF GAIL STEPHENS ACEBO

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STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority on this day personally appeared Gail Stephens Acebo, who, after being duly sworn, upon his oath stated:

- 1. "My name is Gail Stephens Acebo. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I moved into 10614 Serenity Sound, Magnolia, Texas 77354, around nine (9) years ago. I have used Quadvest for my water service since I moved in nine years ago. In roughly June of 2016 my water bill and water usage quadrupled for no reason. I was later told that Quadvest installed smart meters. They did not inform me that they were going to change the water meters. I was never given the opportunity to determine the accuracy of the new meter, because Quadvest never told me it was going to be installed.



- 3. During my entire time at our home, we never dramatically increased our water usage. The irrigation system runs three times a week, all year long, no matter the time of year. During the time Quadvest claimed we increased our water usage, we were actually using much less water because my husband was sick and often not in the house.
- 4. Quadvest made numerous excuses about why our water bill increased so dramatically. They claimed we must have leaks, which we did not. They also claimed they were averaging, which turned out to not be true.
- 5. Quadvest overcharged us and then lied to us about why our bills were so high.
- 6. My house is on 1 acre, and the yard and flowerbeds are approximately 36,000 square feet which doesn't include any concrete or home. We do not have a pool. The irrigation system is run 3 times a week depending upon rainfall."

Further affiant sayeth not.

Sail Stephens Acebo

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this the 13k November, 2017, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.



Notaly Public In and For The State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 2

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF
 § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

#### SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-5772.WS Docket No. 47279

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF
 § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

#### AFFIDAVIT OF ETHEL BARRETT

STATE OF TEXAS

§ KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority on this day personally appeared Ethel Barrett, who, after being duly sworn, upon his oath stated:

- 1. "My name is Ethel Barrett. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I moved into 11018 Lake Windcrest, Magnolia, Texas 77354 in October 2006. I set up my water service with Quadvest as soon as we moved into our house. In the summer of 2016, immediately after Quadvest installed the smart meters, our bills increased dramatically. Our water usage increased from less than 20,090 gallons to more than 60,000 gallons. I was never given the opportunity to determine the accuracy of the new meter.
- 3. During the time our water bills increased so dramatically we were not using any more water than normal and during some of that time we were using less water because our irrigation system was broken.
- 4. Our let is almost 3 acres, but most of it is wooded. We only irrigate around one acre and our irrigation system waters three times a week. We do have a pool, but no fountains."

Further affiant sayeth not.

1/11/17 5.



Ethel Barrett

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this the 1/2 day of Nachor, 2017, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.



Notary Public In and For The State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 2/1/19

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P.

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF

ADSAINDSTRATIVE HEARINGS

#### BOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-6772.WJ Dockat No. 47279

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., BANCH UTILITIES CORP., and BANCH UTILITIES, L.P.

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# AFEIDAVIT OF MARY ERATO

# STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF HARRIE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

BEFORE MR, the undersigned asthosizy on this day parsonally appressed Mary Brain, who,

after being daly sworn, upon his oath stated:

- "My name is Mary Easto. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and are oppable of making this affidavit. I have parcound knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are two and conset.
- I moved into 32643 Green Band Court, Magnelia, Turns 77354 in June of 2014. I set up my water survice with Quadwest when I moved into the house. In the summar of 2016, my water bill increased domnatically after they installed the summer.
- 3. Quadvest tried to blame the increase on the infinition system, but we do not use the automatic infigation system. Next they blamed it on a leak and recommended calling a plaumber. We did not have a leak.
- 4. From 2014 through 2016 we fild not increase our water usage.



5. Quriotis 1.5 serve. We have a pool but no Romanine. We have an auto intigation system but it is not used. Instead we water the grass manually and very indequantly.

Rather affiant sayofh not.

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SUBSCRIPTED AND SWORN TO REFORE ME on the the 14 very of



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My Commission Explore: 217114

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#### SOAH BOCKET NO: 573-17-3329.WS Docket No. 46439

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON. et al. 5 BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF against QUADVEST LP. QUADVEST INC. BANCH UTELITIES CORF. and RANCE UNLITES.L.P.

ADMINISTICATIVE HEARINGS

# SOATE DOCKATE NO. 473-17-5772 WE Desket No. 47277

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, ALL ABSYORD THE STATE OFFICE OF STATESTIC OUADVESTIC \$ RANCH UTBLIFERS CORP. and RANCH & ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS UTELITIES, L.P.

ESSIDAVES OF GLADYES AVE

STATE OF TEXAS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS . 6

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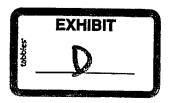
OOUNTY OF HARRIS .**S**.

BEFORE ME, the moderniqued quitarity on this day personally appeared Gladys Floyd, . who, sthe being day swore, upon his oath stated:

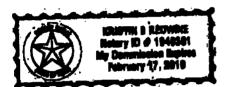
- 1. "My mome is Gladys Floyd, I am over the age of tweety one (21), of sound mind, and an capable of making this allidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidevit, and they are true and comect.
- 2. Imerved into A011E Childhouse Cincle, Magnolia, Resus 77354 in 2000. Luct up my water nervice with Quadvest when I moved in:
- 3. In manner of 2016, my water bill doubled for no mason. Leading up to that time, east during that time, we did not increase our water ways in any way.
- 4. We five on 2 score but only half of that is inighted. At the time Quadvest increased our water bill, we were watering every 2 to 3 days. We have no pools or frontaine."

Further affiant seveth not.

Talles Flags



SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE MB on this the get day of Neurope 2017, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.



Notary Public Is and For The State of Texas

My Commission Bentres; 2/17/19

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. BHFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# SOAH DOCKET NO. 47.1-17-5772.WS Docket No. 47.:79

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# AFFIDAVIT OF PAUL GARDAPHE

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

K NOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority on this day personally appeared Paul Gardaphe,

who, after being duly sworn, upon his oath stated:

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- "My name is Paul Gardaphe. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I moved into 9335 Clubhouse Circle, Magnolia, Texas 77354 in November of 2013. I set up my water service with Quadvest when I moved into my house. In the summer of 2016, after they installed the smart meter, my water bills v/ent up dramatically. I was never given the opportunity to determine the accuracy of the neve meter but I did take a picture of it.
- From the date I moved in through 2016 our household did not increase our water usage in any way.



4. Our lot is two acres, we have a pool, a fount in, and an irrigation system. We use the irrigation system sparingly, depending on whet ar we need it. In 2016, we did not need to use the irrigation system much because we had so much rain that year.

Further affiant sayofh not.

Hardappe Paul Gardanhe

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this the  $\frac{q^{+}}{2}$  day of <u>November</u>, 2017, to certify which, witness my I and and seal of office.



Netary Public In and For The State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 2/1/10

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. **BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF** 

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-5772.WS Docket No. 47279

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

#### AFFIDAVIT OF RANDOLPH HANSEN

# STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

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BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority on this day personally appeared Randolph Hansen, who, after being duly sworn, upon his oath stated:

- "My name is Randolph Hansen. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I moved into 10314 Screnity Sound, Magnolia, Texas 77354 in December of 2015. I set up my water service with Quadvest when I moved into the house. In the summer of 2016, my water usage increased dramatically even though we did not use any more water than normal.
- 3. I never received notice that Quadvest was changing out the water meters. I was never given the opportunity to determine the accuracy of the new meter, because Quadvest never told me it was going to be installed.



4. Our lot is 2'acros and we have an intigation system that waters twice a week. We have no

pool or fountains."

Further affiant sayeth not.

Randolph Hansen

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this the 10<sup>44</sup> day of **Noncolog**, 2017, to certify which, witness my hand and scal of office.

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Notary Public In and For

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Notary Hubble in and For The State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 2/17/19

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCHUTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P. **BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF** 

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

#### SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-5772.WS Docket No. 47279

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P.

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# **AFFIDAVIT OF MARTIN LEO**

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

EFORE ME, the undersigned authority on this day personally appeared Martin Leo, who, after being duly sworn, upon his oath stated:

- "My name is Martin Leo. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I moved into 10411 Serenity Sound, Magnolla, Texas 77354 in 2013. I set up my water service with Quadvest when we moved in. In the summer of 2016, our water bills increased dramatically for no reason. We did not increase our water usage from 2013 through 2016. We had the same number of people in the house the whole time and nothing changed. The ohly thing that changed was Quadvest's installation of smart meters.



- After our water bill increased so dramatically, Quadvest blamed it on leaks and then said something must be running in our house. We checked and we did not have any leaks and nothing was left running.
- Qur lot is 2 acres. We have a pool with no fountains. We have an irrigation system that runs
  3;days a week but only 7 or 8 months a year."

Further affiant sayeth not.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this the 14th day of November, 2017, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.



Notary Public In and For The State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 2 19

COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al.,\$BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OFagainst QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC.,\$RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH\$ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGSUTILITIES, L.P.\$

# SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-5772.WS Docket No. 47279

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P.

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# AFFIDAVIT OF ILL WESTBROOK

STATE OF TEXAS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority on this day personally appeared Jill Westbrook, who, after being duly sworn, upon his oath stated:

- "My name is Jill Westbrook. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I moved into 9426 Deer Path Lane, Magnolia, Texas 77354 in 2010. I set up my water service with Quadvest when I moved into my house. In the summer of 2016, my water bill went up dramatically for no reason. I did not increase my water usage, in fact, my water usage was down because it had rained so much at that time. My water bill increased only after Quadvest installed smart meters. I never received notice that Quadvest was changing out the water meters. I was never given the opportunity to determine the accuracy of the new meter, because Quadvest never told me it was going to be installed.
- 3. From 2010 through 2016 my water usage did not increase at our house or in our yard.



- 4. When my bill increased dramatically, I called Quadvest and they asid I probably had a leak. We checked for leaks and did not have any leaks. Next Quadvest blamed the increased water usage on our irrigation system, even though we barely used the irrigation system at that time because it was raining so much.
- 5. We have a pool and one fountain (but it recirculates water). Our lot is one acre and we have an irrigation system. We only use the irrigation system occasionally, and then only for 5 minute cycles, three times a week."

Further affiant sayeth not.

Wis III Westbrook

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this the UK day of Noven Dr. 2017, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.



Notary Public In and For

The State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 210 19

# Docket No. 46439

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COMPLAINT OF WES ANDERSON, et al., against QUADVEST LP, QUADVEST INC., RANCH UTILITIES CORP., and RANCH UTILITIES, L.P.

# PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

# **AFFIDAVIT OF STEPHEN J. JONES**

# STATE OF TEXAS § § KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS COUNTY OF HARRIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority on this day personally appeared Stephen Jones, who, after being duly sworn, upon his oath stated:

- "My name is Stephen J. Jones. I am over the age of twenty-one (21), of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this affidavit, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I moved into 32811 Sawgrass Court on July 1, 2016. I set up my water service with Quadvest in June of 2016 and they did not inform me that they were going to change the water meters. In fact, I never received notice that Quadvest was changing out the water meters. I was never given the opportunity to determine the accuracy of the new meter, because Quadvest never told me it was going to be installed.
- 3. After the meter was installed, without my knowledge, all of the white clothes we were washing were permanently stained and ruined. I learned later that clothes were stained from the iron in the water that broke loose with the meter change. Quadvest did nothing to replace my clothing.
- 4. Even though we just moved in and did not use much water, Quadvest sent us a bill alleging we used 99,000 gallons of water in July of 2016. My family has never used

anywhere near 99,000 gallons of water in a month. In July of 2016 we did not even use our sprinkler system the first two weeks of the month as we had roofers working in the yard and the sprinkler system was completely off during that time.

- 5. Quadvest ignored my requests to substantiate my alleged use of 99,000 gallons of water. I have never been given an opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the new meter.
- 6. Quadvest later changed the meter out again. Again, my clothing was stained because Quadvest failed to give us proper notice"

Further affiant sayeth not.

Stephen J. Jones



Notar Public In and For The State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 2