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RATEPAYERS' APPEAL OF THE DECISION BY LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT TO CHANGE RATES	§ § §	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION 2019 MAY -8 5:10 PM PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
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STAFF'S RESPONSE TO ORDER NO. 5

COMES NOW the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Staff), representing the public interest, and files this Staff's Response to Order No. 5 and would show the following:

I. BACKGROUND

On January 29, 2019, South Padre Island Golf Course via the SPI Golf Homeowners JV, Inc. (SPI) filed an appeal pursuant to Texas Water Code (TWC) §§ 13.043 and 13.1861 challenging a decision by the Laguna Madre Water District to increase SPI's rates for untreated irrigation water. On March 8, 2019, SPI filed an amended appeal pursuant to TWC § 12.013, challenging the same increase.

On April 23, 2019, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued Order No. 5, denying Staff's and Laguna Madre's motions to dismiss and ordering the parties to file comments regarding how to proceed with the petition and propose a procedural schedule.

II. COMMENTS

Staff opposes any limits on its ability to conduct discovery in this case.

III. PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Staff proposes the following Procedural Schedule:

EVENT	DEADLINE
Laguna Madre's Direct Testimony	June 14, 2019
Objections to Laguna Madre's Direct Testimony	June 21, 2019
Replies to Objections to Laguna Madre's Direct Testimony	June 28, 2019

SPI's Direct Testimony or Statement of Position	July 12, 2019
Objections to SPI's Direct Testimony	July 19, 2019
Replies to Objections to SPI's Direct Testimony	July 26, 2019
Staff's Direct Testimony	August 9, 2019
Objections to Staff's Direct Testimony	August 16, 2019
Replies to Objections to Staff's Direct Testimony	August 23, 2019
Laguna Madre's Rebuttal Testimony	August 30, 2019
Objections to Laguna Madre's Rebuttal Testimony	September 6, 2019
Deadline for written requests for discovery	September 13, 2019
Replies to objections to Laguna Madre's Rebuttal Testimony	September 13, 2019
Identification of Witnesses that will be subject to Cross-Examination at the Hearing on the Merits	September 27, 2019
Hearing on the Merits	October 21, 2019-October 23, 2019 or October 28-October 30 2019

IV. CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully requests that the ALJ issue an order consistent with Staff's recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION**

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director

Katherine Lengieza Gross
Managing Attorney

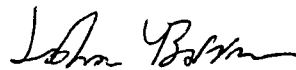


Joshua Adam Barron
State Bar No. 24087146
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326
(512) 936-7235
(512) 936-7268 (facsimile)
Joshua.Barron@puc.texas.gov

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on this the 8th of May, 2019 in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.



Joshua Adam Barron