

Filing Receipt

Received - 2023-03-16 04:42:46 PM Control Number - 50788 ItemNumber - 332

§

§

§

§

§

RATEPAYERS APPEAL OF THE DECISION BY WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TO CHANGE WATER AND SEWER RATES **BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE**

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION'S FIRST ERRATA TO FIFTH SUPPLMENTAL DIRECT <u>TESTIMONY OF JAMIE L. MAULDIN</u>

COMES NOW, Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation (WOWSC) and hereby files this First Errata to Fifth Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin on behalf of WOWSC, originally filed on February 10, 2023. This errata corrects the references listed below:

Page	Line	<u>Original</u>	Correction		
4	23	"\$478,184.08"	"\$473,739.08"		
5	23	"\$478,184.08"	"\$473,739.08"		
6	19	"\$85,662"	"\$81,217"		
8	1	"\$478,184.08"	"\$473,739.08"		
1	JLM1	"Attachment JLM-1"	"Revised Attachment JLM-1"		

The revisions are shown in the attached redlined pages and reflected in the attached clean version of the Errata to Fifth Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin.

Respectfully submitted,

LLOYD GOSSELINK ROCHELLE & TOWNSEND, P.C.

816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 322-5800
(512) 472-0532 (Fax)

JAMIEL. MAULDIN State Bar No. 24065694 jmauldin@lglawfirm.com

RICHARD A ARNETT II State Bar No. 24131230 rarnett@lglawfirm.com

ATTORNEYS FOR WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, notice of the filing of this document was provided to all parties of record via electronic mail on March 16, 2023, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

Jamie L. Mauldin

§

\$ \$ \$ \$

RATEPAYERS APPEAL OF THE DECISION BY WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TO CHANGE WATER AND SEWER RATES **BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE**

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

REDLINED

ERRATA TO

FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JAMIE L. MAULDIN

ON BEHALF OF

WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

MARCH 16, 2023

A. The purpose of my fifth supplemental direct testimony is to present expert opinion
 testimony concerning the reasonableness of the rate case expenses incurred by
 WOWSC in preparing and defending the Rate Appeal since Ratepayers original filing
 on April 27, 2020, to include expenses incurred since May 24, 2022 through
 January 31, 2023.

Reimbursable rate case expenses have been incurred by WOWSC since 6 7 May 23, 2022 relating to the Rate Appeal proceeding. WOWSC is requesting 8 reimbursement of all reasonable rate case expenses. My first supplemental direct 9 testimony supports the reasonableness of the legal and consultant expenses WOWSC 10 incurred as of May 31, 2021. My second supplemental testimony supports the 11 reasonableness of the legal and consultant expenses incurred by WOWSC as of 12 September 30, 2021. My third supplemental testimony supports the reasonableness of 13 the legal and consultant expenses incurred by WOWSC since September 30, 2021. My 14 fourth supplemental testimony supports the reasonableness of the legal and consultant 15 expenses incurred by WOWSC since December 15, 2021. My fifth supplemental 16 testimony supports the reasonableness of the legal and consultant expenses incurred by 17 WOWSC since May 23, 2022.

18 Q. ARE YOU SPONSORING ANY SCHEDULES?

- 19 A. No.
- 20

III. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

21 Q. WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS?

A. Based upon my review, I recommend that WOWSC be allowed to recover the
reasonable and necessary legal and consultant rate case expenses of \$478,184.08
\$473,739.08 as of January 31, 2023, which includes expenses incurred from May 23,

1 2022 through January 31, 2023. Since filing my fourth supplemental direct testimony, 2 WOWSC has incurred necessary and reasonable additional attorney fees associated 3 with this proceeding, including attending the Open Meeting where the Commission 4 remanded the proceeding back to the State Office of Administrative Hearings 5 ("SOAH"), participation in a prehearing conference, establishing a new procedural schedule, responding to many discovery requests, preparation of defensive pleadings, 6 7 reviewing and analyzing other parties' supplemental direct testimony, and overseeing 8 and preparing supplemental direct testimony and supplemental rebuttal testimony.

9 The Proposal for Decision ("PFD") issued on March 31, 2022, recommended 10 that WOWSC recover its rate case expenses as of December 15, 2021, and also 11 recommended recovery of trailing rate case expenses incurred between the date of the 12 PFD filing and when the Commission's decision becomes final. WOWSC has had to 13 incur significant additional rate case expenses due to the Commission remanding the 14 proceeding back to SOAH. WOWSC is aware that the rate case expenses incurred in 15 this rate appeal are significantly higher than the contested rate increase, but this 16 proceeding has been heavily litigated over the last three years and WOWSC has had to 17 engage in extensive discovery and motion practice, in addition to being required to 18 prepare two additional rounds of testimony due to the Commission's remand.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROCESS YOU UNDERTOOK TO REACH YOUR CONCLUSION.

A. Based on my experience and education, and following a thorough and critical review
of all of the relevant information, I concluded that the reasonable and necessary rate
case expenses for legal services as of January 31, 2023, is \$478,184.08 \$473,739.08.
A rate case expense summary sheet detailing each expense by attorney and consultant

is attached to my fifth supplemental testimony as Fifth Supplemental Attachment
JLM-1. I recommend that the Commission find this amount to be the reasonable and
necessary reimbursable legal and consultant rate case expenses for WOWSC in this
proceeding. I also recommend that the Commission allow WOWSC to recover the rate
case expenses of its consultant, Grant Rabon and his associates, of NewGen Strategies
& Solutions ("NewGen"), pursuant 16 Texas Administrative Code ("TAC") § 24.44.

7 WOWSC engaged the services of Lloyd Gosselink in May 2020. I have 8 directed the work performed by Lloyd Gosselink employees on behalf of WOWSC 9 since that time. I have reviewed the billings of Lloyd Gosselink submitted to WOWSC 10 for legal services from June 1, 2020, through January 31, 2023, in connection with 11 WOWSC defending the Rate Appeal. I affirm that those billings accurately reflect the 12 time spent and expenditures incurred by Lloyd Gosselink on WOWSC's behalf. Those 13 billings were accurately calculated before they were tendered and did not include any 14 double billing. None of the charges billed to WOWSC have been recovered through 15 reimbursement for other expenses. The expenses charged were associated with the 16 review and defense of the Rate Appeal and were necessary to advise WOWSC and to 17 accomplish tasks in the rate proceeding.

For the period of May 23, 2022, through January 31, 2023, Lloyd Gosselink billed \$85,662 \$81,217 for legal services in connection with WOWSC's proposed rate increase. This figure includes legal fees and expenses. The fees and expenses were necessary for the legal representation of WOWSC. The legal work included advising WOWSC, review of the Rate Appeal, preparation of pleadings, review and preparation of evidentiary exhibits, preparation of discovery, and preparation of testimony, and other trailing expenses.

1 The current amount requested for legal expenses of \$478,184.08 \$473,739.08 2 is reasonable given the complexity of this case and comparable to the rate case expenses awarded in other rate appeals.¹ WOWSC has incurred significant additional attorney 3 fees associated with this proceeding due to the Commission's remand to SOAH, 4 5 including briefing, preparation of pleadings defending WOWSC and myself from abusive allegations of misconduct, preparation of several rounds of testimony, and 6 7 drafting other responsive pleadings. Additionally, parties are expected to participate in 8 another hearing on the merits and, possibly, additional briefing. WOWSC will continue 9 to incur legal expenses related to this rate appeal until the Commission's Order is final 10 and unappealable.

Q. DOES THE RATE APPEAL INCLUDE ANY NOVEL OR DIFFICULT ISSUES THAT A TYPICAL WATER UTILITY APPLICATION DOES NOT INCLUDE?

A. Yes. In my direct testimony, I discuss the variety of novel, difficult, and complex
issues. These issues have continued to arise throughout this proceeding. WOWSC
faces a contentious appellant and has had to engage in significant motion practice and
discovery throughout this appeal. And, as discussed above, this proceeding was
remanded to SOAH for additional analysis, which has caused WOWSC to incur
additional legal fees.

¹ Ratepayers Appeal of the Decision by Bear Creek Special Utility District to Chang Rates, Docket No. 49351, Order on Rehearing at 3, Findings of Fact No. 56 (Nov. 19, 2021) (Bear Creek Order) awarding \$409k in rate case expenses.

Docket No. 50788 Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation **Rate Case Expenses**

	Date	LGRT Inv. #		LGRT Fees	Non-Consultant	LGRT INVOICE	NOTES
					Disbursements	ACTUAL TOTAL	
	6/26/2020	97511347	\$	7,674.00	<u> (</u>	5 7,674.00	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	7/8/2020	97512426	\$	1,275.00	2	§ 1,275.00	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	8/26/2020	97513856	\$	5,110.50	2	\$ 5,110.50	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	10/22/2020	97515385	\$	68,535.00\$	66.80 <mark>5</mark>	68,601.80	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	11/12/2020	97516427	\$	8,820.00		§ 8,820.00	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	12/22/2020	97518766	\$	29,870.00\$	55.52 <mark>5</mark>	§ 29,925.52	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	1/11/2021	97519431	\$	4,213.00 \$		\$ 4,213.00	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	2/9/2021	97519807	\$	11,650.00 \$	- 5	§ 11,650.00	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	3/8/2021	97520641	\$	11,440.50\$	36.80 <mark>3</mark>	§ 11,477.30	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	4/13/2021	97521461	\$	26,576.50\$	1,296.75	§ 27,873.25	Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	5/13/2021	97522524	\$	14,404.00\$	5.00	§ 14,409.00	Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	6/2/2021	97522723	\$	41,117.00 \$	- <mark>-</mark>	§ 41,117.00	Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	6/22/2021	97523260	\$	- \$	0.20		Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	7/14/2021	97524054	\$	36,773.00\$	871.18 <mark>8</mark>		Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	8/11/2021	97524965	\$	1,913.00\$	265.40 <mark>3</mark>	5 2,178.40	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
E I	9/13/2021	97525699	\$	135.50 \$		§ 135.50	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
LGRT	10/12/2021	97526506	\$	81.00 \$		<u>§ 81.00</u>	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
7	12/14/2021	97527557	\$	27,634.00\$	856.96 <mark>3</mark>		Provided in Third Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
ļ	12/28/2021	97527992	\$	24,136.00\$	8,586.92 <mark>3</mark>		Provided in Third Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	1/27/2022	97528271	\$	15,803.00\$	497.00		Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
ļ	2/10/2022	97529009	\$	16,996.00\$	23.00		Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
-	3/8/2022	97529849	\$	1,414.00\$	49.60 <mark>3</mark>		Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	4/14/2022	97531067	\$	392.00\$	49.45		Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	5/24/2022	97532228	\$	5,166.00		5,166.00	Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	6/13/2022	97532541	\$	4,088.00		5 4,088.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
-	7/12/2022	97533223	\$	4,592.00		<u>5 4,592.00</u>	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
-	8/9/2022	97533946	\$	2,758.00		<u>5 2,758.00</u>	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	9/12/2022	97534700	\$	350.00			Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	10/17/2022	97535419	\$	616.00		010100	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
-	11/15/2022 12/27/2022	<u>97536174</u> 97537121	D 0	6,218.00 19,112.00		<u>6, 218.00</u> 10,143.00 19, 112.00 19,372.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
ŀ		97538168	Ф С	19,112.00			Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
-	1/12/2023 2/7/2023	97538496	Ъ С	23,484.00		<u>19,999.00</u> 20,259.00 23,484.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	2/1/2023	97558496 Totals	۵ ۵	442,346.00 \$	12,660.58	25,484.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
ł		Totals	5 3	442,340.00 [3	LGRT TOTAL S	455,006.58 459,451.58	
					Dokt To The	100,000.00 100,101.00	
	Date	NewGen Inv. #		NewGen Fees		NewGen INVOICE	NOTES
	2					ACTUAL TOTAL	
	5/31/2021	11372	s	4,000.00		4,000.00	Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
ľ	6/30/2021	11542	\$	5,390.00		5,390.00	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
ŀ	11/30/2021	12260	\$	1,687.50		<u>5</u> 1,687.50	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maudin
eu	12/28/2021	12395	\$	750.00		5 750.00	Provided in Third Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
NewGen	1/31/2022	12527	\$	500.00		500.00	Provided in Fund Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maulain Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maulain
Vev	10/31/2022	14633	\$	3,925.00		\$ 3,925.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maddin Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maddin
	11/20/2022	14818	\$	260.00	5		Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maudan Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maudain
ŀ	12/31/2022	14998	\$	260.00	5		Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maudan Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maudain
ŀ	1/31/2023	15206	\$	1,960.00		5 1,960.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Maudan Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
		Totals	s \$	18,732.50			
					NewGen TOTAL	§ 18,732.50	

TOTAL RATE CASE EXPENSES \$ <u>473,739.08</u> 478,184.08

RATEPAYERS APPEAL OF THE DECISION BY WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TO CHANGE WATER AND SEWER RATES **BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE**

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

CLEAN COPY ERRATA

FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JAMIE L. MAULDIN

ON BEHALF OF

WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

MARCH 16, 2023

FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMIE L. MAULDIN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL ATTACHMENTS				
IV.	CONCLUSION	10		
III.	RECOMMENDATIONS	.4		
II.	PURPOSE AND SCOPE	.3		
I.	INTRODUCTION	.3		

Revised Fifth Supplemental Attachment JLM-1	Rate Case Expense Summary Sheet
Revised Fifth Supplemental Attachment JLM-1	Rate Case Expense Summary Sheet

RATEPAYERS APPEAL OF THE DECISION BY WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION TO CHANGE WATER AND SEWER RATES

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMIE L. MAULDIN

I. INTRODUCTION

2 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

3 A. My name is Jamie L. Mauldin. I am an attorney and a principal at the law firm of Lloyd

4 Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. ("Lloyd Gosselink"), which has its principal

place of business located at 816 Congress Ave., Suite 1900, Austin, TX 78701.

6 Q. HAVE YOU FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

7 A. Yes. On March 10, 2021, I filed direct testimony, on June 7, 2021, I filed supplemental 8 direct testimony, on November 19, 2021, I filed my second supplemental direct 9 testimony, on December 30, 2021, I filed my third supplemental direct testimony, on 10 May 25, 2022, I filed my fourth supplemental direct testimony on behalf of 11 Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation ("WOWSC") in defending Ratepayers 12 Appeal of the Decision by WOWSC to Change Water and Sewer Rates against the 13 Ratepayers ("Rate Appeal") with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") in this case. 14

15

1

5

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

16 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF YOUR FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL 17 TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. The purpose of my fifth supplemental direct testimony is to present expert opinion
 testimony concerning the reasonableness of the rate case expenses incurred by
 WOWSC in preparing and defending the Rate Appeal since Ratepayers original filing
 on April 27, 2020, to include expenses incurred since May 24, 2022 through
 January 31, 2023.

6 Reimbursable rate case expenses have been incurred by WOWSC since 7 May 23, 2022 relating to the Rate Appeal proceeding. WOWSC is requesting 8 reimbursement of all reasonable rate case expenses. My first supplemental direct 9 testimony supports the reasonableness of the legal and consultant expenses WOWSC 10 incurred as of May 31, 2021. My second supplemental testimony supports the 11 reasonableness of the legal and consultant expenses incurred by WOWSC as of 12 September 30, 2021. My third supplemental testimony supports the reasonableness of the legal and consultant expenses incurred by WOWSC since September 30, 2021. My 13 14 fourth supplemental testimony supports the reasonableness of the legal and consultant 15 expenses incurred by WOWSC since December 15, 2021. My fifth supplemental 16 testimony supports the reasonableness of the legal and consultant expenses incurred by 17 WOWSC since May 23, 2022.

18 Q. ARE YOU SPONSORING ANY SCHEDULES?

- 19 A. No.
- 20

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

21 Q. WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS?

A. Based upon my review, I recommend that WOWSC be allowed to recover the
 reasonable and necessary legal and consultant rate case expenses of \$473,739.08 as of
 January 31, 2023, which includes expenses incurred from May 23, 2022 through

1 January 31, 2023. Since filing my fourth supplemental direct testimony, WOWSC has 2 incurred necessary and reasonable additional attorney fees associated with this proceeding, including attending the Open Meeting where the Commission remanded 3 4 the proceeding back to the State Office of Administrative Hearings ("SOAH"), 5 participation in a prehearing conference, establishing a new procedural schedule, 6 responding to many discovery requests, preparation of defensive pleadings, reviewing 7 and analyzing other parties' supplemental direct testimony, and overseeing and preparing supplemental direct testimony and supplemental rebuttal testimony. 8

9 The Proposal for Decision ("PFD") issued on March 31, 2022, recommended 10 that WOWSC recover its rate case expenses as of December 15, 2021, and also 11 recommended recovery of trailing rate case expenses incurred between the date of the 12 PFD filing and when the Commission's decision becomes final. WOWSC has had to 13 incur significant additional rate case expenses due to the Commission remanding the 14 proceeding back to SOAH. WOWSC is aware that the rate case expenses incurred in 15 this rate appeal are significantly higher than the contested rate increase, but this 16 proceeding has been heavily litigated over the last three years and WOWSC has had to 17 engage in extensive discovery and motion practice, in addition to being required to prepare two additional rounds of testimony due to the Commission's remand. 18

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROCESS YOU UNDERTOOK TO REACH YOUR CONCLUSION.

A. Based on my experience and education, and following a thorough and critical review of all of the relevant information, I concluded that the reasonable and necessary rate case expenses for legal services as of January 31, 2023, is \$473,739.08. A rate case expense summary sheet detailing each expense by attorney and consultant is attached

1 fifth supplemental testimony as Fifth Supplemental to mv Attachment 2 JLM-1. I recommend that the Commission find this amount to be the reasonable and necessary reimbursable legal and consultant rate case expenses for WOWSC in this 3 4 proceeding. I also recommend that the Commission allow WOWSC to recover the rate 5 case expenses of its consultant, Grant Rabon and his associates, of NewGen Strategies 6 & Solutions ("NewGen"), pursuant 16 Texas Administrative Code ("TAC") § 24.44.

7 WOWSC engaged the services of Lloyd Gosselink in May 2020. I have directed the work performed by Lloyd Gosselink employees on behalf of WOWSC 8 9 since that time. I have reviewed the billings of Lloyd Gosselink submitted to WOWSC 10 for legal services from June 1, 2020, through January 31, 2023, in connection with 11 WOWSC defending the Rate Appeal. I affirm that those billings accurately reflect the 12 time spent and expenditures incurred by Lloyd Gosselink on WOWSC's behalf. Those 13 billings were accurately calculated before they were tendered and did not include any 14 double billing. None of the charges billed to WOWSC have been recovered through 15 reimbursement for other expenses. The expenses charged were associated with the 16 review and defense of the Rate Appeal and were necessary to advise WOWSC and to 17 accomplish tasks in the rate proceeding.

For the period of May 23, 2022, through January 31, 2023, Lloyd Gosselink billed \$81,217 for legal services in connection with WOWSC's proposed rate increase. This figure includes legal fees and expenses. The fees and expenses were necessary for the legal representation of WOWSC. The legal work included advising WOWSC, review of the Rate Appeal, preparation of pleadings, review and preparation of evidentiary exhibits, preparation of discovery, and preparation of testimony, and other trailing expenses.

1 The hourly rates for attorneys of \$270-\$330, and for the paralegals of 2 \$140-\$150, upon which the billings are based, are generally lower than the same hourly rates charged other clients for comparable services during the same time frame. My 3 4 hourly rate for this proceeding is significantly lower than my normal hourly rate 5 charged to similar clients. Additionally, our firm's hourly rates are at the lower end of 6 the range compared to the rates charged by other lawyers with similar experience 7 providing similar services. To further minimize expenses, I used associates and paralegals where possible because of their lower billing rates. In assigning the tasks to 8 9 attorneys, I ensured that the attorneys did not duplicate the work of one another. The 10 hours spent performing the tasks assigned to Lloyd Gosselink were necessary to 11 complete those tasks in a professional manner and on a timely basis. My many years 12 of experience participating in utility rate cases aid in our efforts to keep rate case 13 expenses reasonable.

The invoices submitted by Lloyd Gosselink include a description of services performed and time expended on each activity. The invoices dated from June 13, 2022 through February 7, 2023, for this proceeding are attached to my fifth supplemental testimony as Fifth Supplemental Attachment JLM-2. Lloyd Gosselink has documented all charges with time sheets, invoices, and records.

19 Neither Lloyd Gosselink nor any consultants for WOWSC have charged for 20 luxury items, including first-class airfare, limousine service, entertainment, or 21 alcoholic beverages. No meals were charged in excess of \$25 per person, and no 22 individual billed for more than 12 hours per day. The documentation in this case is 23 similar to that provided in many previous rate cases before the Commission.

1 The current amount requested for legal expenses of \$473,739.08 is reasonable 2 given the complexity of this case and comparable to the rate case expenses awarded in other rate appeals.¹ WOWSC has incurred significant additional attorney fees 3 4 associated with this proceeding due to the Commission's remand to SOAH, including 5 briefing, preparation of pleadings defending WOWSC and myself from abusive 6 allegations of misconduct, preparation of several rounds of testimony, and drafting 7 other responsive pleadings. Additionally, parties are expected to participate in another hearing on the merits and, possibly, additional briefing. WOWSC will continue to 8 9 incur legal expenses related to this rate appeal until the Commission's Order is final 10 and unappealable.

Q. DOES THE RATE APPEAL INCLUDE ANY NOVEL OR DIFFICULT ISSUES THAT A TYPICAL WATER UTILITY APPLICATION DOES NOT INCLUDE?

A. Yes. In my direct testimony, I discuss the variety of novel, difficult, and complex
issues. These issues have continued to arise throughout this proceeding. WOWSC
faces a contentious appellant and has had to engage in significant motion practice and
discovery throughout this appeal. And, as discussed above, this proceeding was
remanded to SOAH for additional analysis, which has caused WOWSC to incur
additional legal fees.

¹ Ratepayers Appeal of the Decision by Bear Creek Special Utility District to Chang Rates, Docket No. 49351, Order on Rehearing at 3, Findings of Fact No. 56 (Nov. 19, 2021) (Bear Creek Order) awarding \$409k in rate case expenses.

Q. ARE THE LEGAL EXPENSES THAT WOWSC IS SEEKING TO RECOVER JUST, REASONABLE, NECESSARY, AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

A. Yes. The legal expenses that WOWSC seeks to recover are just, reasonable, necessary,
and in the public interest. Recovery of reasonable and necessary legal expenses
associated with preparation and defense of a rate appeal and the associated proceeding
have long been recoverable, is allowed by Commission rule, and is authorized by
TWC § 13.043(e). For the reasons I mentioned above, it was reasonable and necessary
for WOWSC to seek legal advice and assistance in defending the Rate Appeal, the time
spent was reasonable and necessary, and the hourly rates charges are reasonable.

- 11 Q. WAS IT REASONABLE AND NECESSARY FOR WOWSC TO INCUR
 12 LEGAL EXPENSES TO PREPARE PREFILED DIRECT, REBUTTAL,
 13 SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT, AND SUPPLEMENTAL REBUTTAL
 14 TESTIMONY?
- A. Yes. The Commission's rules at 16 TAC § 24.101(e) recognize the complexities that
 may be involved in the preparation and defense of a Rate Appeal.
- 17 Q. DID WOWSC INCUR ANY CONSULTANT EXPENSES IN THIS RATE
 18 APPEAL?
- A. Yes. WOWSC incurred the expenses associated with the following experts: NewGen
 Strategies & Solutions.

Q. ARE THE CONSULTANT EXPENSES FOR NEWGEN INCURRED IN THIS RATE APPEAL REASONABLE AND NECESSARY?

A. Yes. For the period of October 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023, the expenses for
NewGen are \$6,405. Based on my years of experience working with utility consultants,

1 Mr. Rabon's hourly rate of \$260-\$310 and hourly rates of his associates, upon which 2 the billings are based, is comparable to rates charged by consultants with similar levels of expertise and experience as Mr. Rabon. I have also reviewed the number of hours 3 4 Mr. Rabon and his associates have spent on the review, analysis, and testimony 5 regarding depreciation in this proceeding and on responding to discovery. In my 6 opinion, the amount of time spent is appropriate given the level of complexity of this 7 The NewGen invoice for services dated from October 1, 2022, through case. 8 January 31, 2023 for this proceeding are attached to my fifth supplemental testimony 9 as Fifth Supplemental Attachment JLM-3. The amount requested for NewGen's 10 expenses of \$18,732.50, as of the date of filing, is reasonable.

11 Q. DOES WOWSC INTEND TO RECOVER ITS RATE APPEAL EXPENSES?

- 12 A. Yes, as I have explained in my direct testimony.
- 13 IV. CONCLUSION

14 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT 15 TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?

A. Yes, it does. I reserve the right to supplement the expenses, make corrections,
revisions, or deletions at the Commission's direction.

Docket No. 50788 Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation Rate Case Expenses

	Date	LGRT Inv. #	LGRT Fees	Non-Consultant		LGRT INVOICE	NOTES
				Disbursements		ACTUAL TOTAL	
	6/26/2020	97511347	\$ 7,674.00		\$		Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	7/8/2020	97512426	\$ 1,275.00		\$		Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	8/26/2020	97513856	\$ 5,110.50		\$		Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	10/22/2020	97515385	\$ 68,535.00	\$ 66.80			Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	11/12/2020	97516427	\$ 8,820.00		\$		Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	12/22/2020	97518766	\$ 29,870.00		_		Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	1/11/2021	97519431	\$ 4,213.00	\$ -	\$		Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	2/9/2021	97519807	\$ 11,650.00	\$ -	\$		Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	3/8/2021	97520641	\$ 11,440.50		_	/	Provided in Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	4/13/2021	97521461	\$ 26,576.50	,	_		Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	5/13/2021	97522524	\$ 14,404.00			14,409.00	Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	6/2/2021	97522723	\$ 41,117.00			41,117.00	Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	6/22/2021	97523260	\$-	\$ 0.20	_	0.20	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	7/14/2021	97524054	\$ 36,773.00	\$ 871.18		37,644.18	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	8/11/2021	97524965	\$ 1,913.00	\$ 265.40	_	2,178.40	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
۲.	9/13/2021	97525699	\$ 135.50		\$	135.50	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
LGRT	10/12/2021	97526506	\$ 81.00				Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
- A	12/14/2021	97527557	\$ 27,634.00		_	28,490.96	Provided in Third Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	12/28/2021	97527992	\$ 24,136.00		_	32,722.92	Provided in Third Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	1/27/2022	97528271	\$ 15,803.00			16,300.00	Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	2/10/2022	97529009	\$ 16,996.00	\$ 23.00	\$	17,019.00	Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	3/8/2022	97529849	\$ 1,414.00			1,463.60	Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	4/14/2022	97531067	\$ 392.00	\$ 49.45	_	441.45	Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	5/24/2022	97532228	\$ 5,166.00		\$		Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	6/13/2022	97532541	\$ 4,088.00		\$	4,088.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	7/12/2022	97533223	\$ 4,592.00		\$	4,592.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	8/9/2022	97533946	\$ 2,758.00		\$	2,758.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	9/12/2022	97534700	\$ 350.00		\$	350.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	10/17/2022	97535419	\$ 616.00		\$	616.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	11/15/2022	97536174	\$ 6,218.00		\$	6,218.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	12/27/2022	97537121	\$ 19,112.00		\$	19,112.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	1/12/2023	97538168	\$ 19,999.00		\$	19,999.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	2/7/2023	97538496	\$ 23,484.00		\$	23,484.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
		Totals	\$ 442,346.00				
				LGRT TOTAL	/ \$	455,006.58	
	-						
	Date	NewGen Inv. #	NewGen Fees			NewGen INVOICE	NOTES
						ACTUAL TOTAL	
	5/31/2021	11372	\$ 4,000.00		\$	4,000.00	Provided in First Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	6/30/2021	11542	\$ 5,390.00		\$	5,390.00	Provided in Second Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
_	11/30/2021	12260	\$ 1,687.50		\$	/	Provided in Third Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
NewGen	12/28/2021	12395	\$ 750.00		\$	750.00	Provided in Third Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
M	1/31/2022	12527	\$ 500.00		\$		Provided in Fourth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
Ne	10/31/2022	14633	\$ 3,925.00		\$	3,925.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	11/20/2022	14818	\$ 260.00		\$	260.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	12/31/2022	14998	\$ 260.00		\$	260.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
	1/31/2023	15206	\$ 1,960.00		\$	1,960.00	Provided in Fifth Supplemental Testimony of Jamie L. Mauldin
		Totals	\$ 18,732.50				
				NewGen TOTAL	/ \$	18,732.50	

TOTAL RATE CASE EXPENSES \$

473,739.08