

Control Number: 50944



Item Number: 324

Addendum StartPage: 0

PUCT DOCKET NO. 50944

RATEPAYER COMMENTS/REQUESTS TO INTERVENE

If you wish to PROTEST the proposed rate change, you must submit this torm and 10 copies to:

Filing Clerk
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Unless protests are received from at least 10% of ratepayers or from any affected municipality, or the Commission Staff requests a hearing, no hearing will be held, and the rates will be effective as proposed.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION (to be completed by customers submitting protests)

First Name: John Last Name: Moore
Phone Number: 210 6217842 Fax Number: 210 855 9970
Email Address: MSMOORe 13/0 gmail, com
Email Address: MSMoore 1310 gmail com Address, City, State: 663 Windmill Ranch Rd, Spring Branch, TX 78070
Location where service is received: (if different from the mailing address)
Please fill out the following:
I wish to PROTEST the following proposed rate action/s: I wish to be a COMMENTER. I understand that: I am NOT a party to this case; my comments are not considered evidence in this case; and I have no further obligation to participate in the proceeding. Public comments may help inform the PUCT of the public concerns and identify issues to be explored. Please provide comments below. Attach a separate page, if necessary. South west water claims they have not raised rates in past 4 years self-busever in Dec 2017 they implemented a rate increase for 2017-2019. Attached
☐ I am requesting to INTERVENE in this proceeding. As an INTERVENOR, I understand that: I am a party to the case; I am required to respond to all discovery requests from other parties; I may be required to attend hearings, and if I file testimony, I may be cross-examined in the hearing; if I file any documents in the case, I must provide a copy to every other party in the case; and I acknowledge that I am bound by the Procedural Rules of the PUCT and the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).
Signature of Protestant: Date: 08/01/2020
☐ I am requesting to INTERVENE in this proceeding. As an INTERVENOR, I understand that: I am a party to the case; I am required to respond to all discovery requests from other parties; I may be required to attend hearings, and if I file testimony, I may be cross-examined in the hearing; if I file any documents in the case, I must provide a copy to every other party in the case; and I acknowledge that I am bound by the Procedural Rules of the PUCT and the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). Signature of Protestant:

Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al **1-888-782-8477**

Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones may contact the PUCT's Customer Assistance Hotline

at

512-936-7136

PUCT DOCKET NO. 50944

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE **PURSUANT TO TEXAS WATER CODE § 13.187**

Monarch Utilities I L.P.				10983 and 20899					
	Company Na	ime	CCN Number(s)						
may be rev utility's offi rates will ap If the Com- ratepayers (municipality	iewed online at interche ce at the address below ply to service received mission receives a suf 10 percent of the utility	nange.puc.texas.go v or at the Commis after the effective ficient number of y's customers over ther the proposed	v. You no ssion's offedate provests, whose ratesfective	nay also inspec fice (1701 N. Co ided below, unlo separately or in tes the Commiss	Texas (Commission or t a copy of the rate chongress Ave, Austin, cess modified or suspen a combined protest sion has original jurisdict will be set for hearing	nange application TX 78701). The pended by the Comletter, from at leaction) or from any	n at your proposed mission ast 2,946 affected		
(must be at (Proposed ra		e is provided to cus ty are not final. The	tomers an Commiss	ion may modify t			future		
) for Proposed Ra			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
					ital investments of				
	_	_	-		ain and improve its	s systems in or	der		
to provid	le quality water and	u wasiewaier se	rvice ic	customers.					
BILLING Water	G COMPARISON	ſ							
Existing	5,000 gallons: \$	See	/mo	Proposed	5,000 gallons: \$	See	_ /mo		
Existing	10,000 gallons: \$	Attached	/mo -	Proposed	10,000 gallons: \$	Attached	/mo		
Water –	Pass Through Cha	arges							
Existing	5,000 gallons: \$	See	/mo	Proposed	5,000 gallons: \$	See	/mo		
Existing	10,000 gallons: \$	Attached	/mo	Proposed	10,000 gallons: \$	Attached	/mo		
<u>Sewer</u>									
Existing	5,000 gallons: \$	See Attached	/mo	Proposed	5,000 gallons: \$	See Attached	/mo		
Dlegge se	ee attached list of s	uhdivisions and	1 ovetem	as affected					
1 icase se	ce attached fist of s	Subdivision(s) o	×		Rate Change				
12535 R	eed Rd	Sugar Land		TX		77478			
Company Address		City		State		Zip			
•	•	3				1			
(866) 65									
Compan	y Phone Number								
\$3,329,311		(\$816,717)			\$653,549				
	nual Revenue Increase		rough An	nual Revenue II		ual Revenue Incre	ease		
July 16	2020			Saa Attaalaa	ad.				
July 15,	2020 rrent Rate Change Not	ice Delivered	<u></u>	See Attache ate of Last Rate					

Date of Last Rate Change

^{*}Prior to providing notice, the utility shall file a request for the assignment of a docket number for the application.

Southwest Water claims they have not raised rates in the past four years. However, in December 2017 they implemented a rate increase. The rate increase from 2017 was an estimated 50% increase implemented incrementally over 2017 through 2019. Now Southwest water is wanting to raise rates again. I have not seen anything done in our neighborhood to justify increasing our charges an additional time. I also find it insulting that they lied in their request by saying they haven't proposed a rate change in the past four years. Please see attached which shows our base rate for a 5/8" line has gone from \$40.95 in 2017 to the current \$74.44 and now they propose raising it to \$91.31 in September of 2021. That is an approximately 123% increase in a 4 year time frame. In addition, the price per 1000 gallons of water has gone from \$2.50 in 2017 to \$4.52 and now they propose raising it to \$7.25 by August of 2022. That is an approximately 190% increase in a 5 year time frame. I am unclear how they are justifying that degree of increase and object to this unacceptable highway robbery.



12535 Reed Road Sugar Land, TX 77478 TXCustomerCare@swwc.com www.swwc.com

July 15, 2020

Dear Valued Customer:

I have been astounded by the resiliency of Texans during this extraordinary time. On behalf of all our employees, I want to thank you for doing your part—and for your words of support for our workers. We appreciate you very much. Today, I have some important information for you.

On July 15, 2020, Monarch Utilities I L.P. filed a request with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for a rate review. You are receiving notice of this rate filing because you are a current Monarch Utilities customer, and we want to explain the need to adjust your rates from time to time—and answer questions you may have.

Staying safe and operational

As an essential service, water and wastewater utilities are vital to our lives. They are also the most expensive utilities to build and maintain. At home or in your place of business, you expect clean and safe water to always be available. But the process is far from simple. The resources that go into this often-unseen infrastructure and intensive water processing work are substantial. Over the past four years, Monarch Utilities has invested over \$35.1 million on system upgrades across the state to keep your water and wastewater systems safe.

This is how we act as stewards of safe water. We maintain and upgrade the infrastructure needed to keep water safe and flowing. Periodically, we must recoup those costs of capital improvements already made with rate adjustments. This keeps us in business to serve you.

How this affects your household

Spending more money on running your household is *never easy*. As many of us are at home more amidst the pandemic, expenses such as utilities and groceries have increased. We all understand that clean, readily available water is a big part of staying healthy, and we want that to be as cost-efficient as possible. Here is how you can expect your rates to change:

How much will my rates change?

For 81% of our water customers with a 5/8" meter, we are proposing a 3.92% increase to their monthly water bill for 5,000 gallons. Other customers will see their bills change by different percentages, and some changes will be phased in over a period of years.

For 98% of our wastewater customers with a 5/8" meter, we are proposing a 6.59% increase to their monthly wastewater bill for 5,000 gallons. Other customers will see their bills change by different percentages, and some changes will be phased in over a period of years.

Note that the rate adjustments will be different across Texas. Please review the attached tables to see the proposed rates and rate change comparisons for your service district.

When will my rates change?

As a result of legislation passed in the 2013 Texas legislative session, water and wastewater rate change requests go through a rigorous review process by the PUC. The Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPUC) represents customers like yourself in rate cases. A utility requests rates and those rates are ultimately set by the PUC. The review process could take up to 185 days.

We understand this will be an adjustment for you

We know this comes at a difficult time amidst a public health crisis and strained economic circumstances for many. I want you to know we have weighed these decisions carefully against the need to keep safe water coming to you via a system that is sustainable over the coming decades.

You should also know Monarch has not proposed a rate change in the past four years while still maintaining and upgrading your systems. When COVID-19 came to Texas, we suspended disconnections and late charges for nonpayment to ensure our customers had access to water and wastewater services. This was just one of the ways we worked to keep you safe.

I invite you to learn more about what it takes to protect and deliver water, as well as our community partnerships, as we move through this rate adjustment process at www.swwc.com.

Monarch will continue to maintain and improve your water and wastewater system to deliver to you, and the environment, the best possible water quality while remaining mindful of costs under our control.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your water and wastewater services provider.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. McIntyre

President

Monarch Utilities I L.P.

Enc: Notice of Proposed Rate Change

Attached is a copy of the Notice of Proposed Rate Change as required by the PUC. Please review this notice carefully, as it provides additional information about Monarch's request and the processing of our application by the PUC.



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July 15, 2020

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IMPORTANT CORRECTIONS TO NOTICE

Please replace page 14 of the Notice you recently received with this page, which corrects a typographical error on the original A full and correct copy of the Notice can be found at the following online address. http://files.swwc.com/tx/tariff/notices/2020-Monarch-Rate-Notice-Docket-50944 pdf

		Monarch Uti	ATE CHANGE -WATER lities I L P ock, River Bend, Windn			
		Date of Last Rate C				
	CURRENT RATES		Phase 1 and 2 Per	Phase 3		
	Monthly base rate		eff 09-24-2020	eff 09-24-2021	eff 08-19-2022	
M	leter Size					
	5/8"	\$50-70 \$74 44	\$54 12 \$82 88	\$57-54 \$91.31	\$54 15	
5	5/8"x3/4"				\$54 15	
	3/4"	\$76-05 \$111 66	\$81-18 \$124 32	\$86-32 \$136 97	\$81 23	
ļ	1"	\$126 75 \$186 10	\$135-30 \$207 20	\$143-86 \$228 28	\$135.38	
	1 1/2"	\$253-50 \$372 20	\$270-60 \$414 40	\$287-72 \$456 55	\$270 75	
	2"	\$4 05 60 \$595 52	\$432.96 \$663.04	\$460-35 \$730 48	\$433 20	
	3"	\$760-50 \$1,116.60	\$811-80 \$1,243 20	\$863-15 \$1,369 65	\$812.25	
	4"	\$1,267-50 \$1,861 00	\$1,353-00 \$2,072 00	\$1,438-58 \$2,282.75	\$1,353 75	
	6"	\$ 2,535-00 \$3,722 00	\$ 2,706-00 \$4,144 00	\$2,877-16 \$4,565-50	\$2,707 50	
	8"	\$4,056 00 \$5,955 00	\$4 ,329 60 \$6,630 40	\$4,603-45 \$7,304 80	\$4,332 00	
	10"				\$6,227 25	
•	12"				\$11,642 25	
GALLONAGE CHARGE			eff 09-24-2020	eff 09-24-2021	eff 08-19-2022	
TIER	VOLUME	CHARGE per 1000 gals	CHARGE per 1000 gals	CHARGE per 1000 gals	CHARGE per 1000 gals	
Tier 1	0 to 2,000 gals	\$4 52	5 03	5.53	\$7.25	
Tier 2	2,001 to 10,000 gals	\$7 51	8 35	9.19	\$8 93	
Tier 3	10,001 to 20,000 gals	\$9 04	10 05	11 06	\$10 12	
Tier 4	over 20,000 gals	\$12 08	13 43	14 78	\$10.78	
Pass-Through Monthly base charge all Meter Sizes			\$10 6670	\$10 6670	\$0.00	
Comal Frinity GCD Purchased Water Pass-Through Charge per 1000 gal all usage			\$0 0722 \$0 0722		\$0.00	
	MISCELLANEOUS FEES					
Tap Fee Residential		\$700 00	\$1,470 00	\$1,470 00	\$1,470 00	
Tap Fee Large Meter		actual costs	actual costs	actual costs	actual costs	
Reconnect Fee Non-Payment		\$25 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	
Reconnect Fee Customer's Request		\$50 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	
Meter Relocation Fee		actual costs	actual costs	actual costs	actual costs	
Meter Conversion Fee		actual costs	actual costs	actual costs	actual costs	
Meter Tampering or Diversion Fee		\$100 00	\$100 00	\$100 00	\$100 00	
Transfer Fee		\$45 00	\$45 00	\$45 00	\$45 00	
Late Charge		10% of delinquent bill	10% of delinquent bill	10% of delinquent bill	10% of delinquent bill	
Returned Check Charge		\$25 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	
Deposit Residential		\$50 00	\$50 00	\$50 00	\$50 00	
Deposit Non-residential		1/6 estimated annual bill	 	1/6 estimated annual bill	1/6 estimated annual bill	
Me	ter Test Fee	\$25 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	\$25 00	
Seaso	onal Reconnect	6 x mo rate when leave and return	6 x mo rate when leave and return	6 x mo rate when leave and return	6 x mo rate when leave and return	
Supplementa	al Emergency Service	\$13 43/ın dıa	\$14 64/ın dıa	\$14 64/ın dıa	\$14 64/ın dıa	

A Regulatory Assessment of 1% is added to base rate and gallonage charges

Water Assist (previously Help2Others) is a payment assistance program for qualifying low-income customers. Water Assist, through its partner agencies, provides eligible customers a recurring monthly pledge of \$20 for water or \$40 for both water and sewer bills. Another component of Water Assist is emergency or catastrophic assistance to customers (one time per year) regardless of their income level.



Customer Service 866.654.SWWC (7992)

November 10, 2017

Dear Valued Customer,

On November 10, Water Services, Inc. filed a request with the City of Bulverde ("City") for a rate increase. This notice is to provide you with an explanation for the rate increase and its overall effect.

When will rates change?

Water Services requested new rates to be effective on December 15, 2017.

Why is there a rate change?

SouthWest Water Company acquired Water Services, Diamond and Huntington water utilities in 2006 and 2007. In 2016, these companies merged with the newly acquired Wiedenfeld Water Works which formed SWWC Utilities, Inc. doing business as Water Services, Inc. In total, we have made needed improvements to each of the water systems totaling around \$8.5 million. We are now proposing to increase rates in phases over time in order to offset the amount we have spent improving the water systems, and to recover increased operating costs.

What improvements have we made?

Over the years, we made substantial improvements to all Water Services, Inc. systems. A few of the improvements we have made include:

Automatic Meter Reading (AMR): This system allows your meter to send signals to our technicians driving by, which is captured and used for your monthly billing. With this system, we can ensure quick, accurate reads, eliminate human error, and alert you faster about high usage.

Water facilities: This encompasses production, treatment, storage and pumping to provide adequate water supply and pressure at state and federal drinking water standards. Plant and related components installed at various locations include new electrical controls and wiring, new storage tanks, and production wells. We also upgraded or repaired pumps, disinfection system upgrades, and key components in our entire Water Services, Inc. system.

Electronic processes: Customers now have the option to instantly access their account online, receive paperless billing, or make payments online.

November 10, 2017 Page 2

How much are we asking rates to increase?

We propose rates be phased in over three years for all of our customers within the City with the first phase taking effect later this year. On average after the new rates are fully phased in, water revenue would increase by about 50% and all Water Services, Diamond, Huntington and Wiedenfeld customers will have the same rates.

Overall, the rate increase is necessary to cover the cost of important upgrades to facilities and equipment needed to provide Water Service, Inc. customers with excellent water and services. We hope you understand the proposed rate increases are essential in order to continue to provide quality service that meets the PUC and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standards.

For those who meet certain income requirements, we provide a water assistance program called Help2Others (H2O). This water assistance program is entirely shareholder funded – customers don't bear any of the costs. Those who qualify will receive monthly credit towards their bill. Find out more on how to enroll by calling 866.654.7992 or emailing h2o@swwc.com.

Enclosed in this letter is a copy of the Notice of Proposed Rate Change as required by the PUC. Please review this carefully as it provides more information about our request.

We value you as a customer and strive each day to maintain and constantly improve your water quality and service. Thank you for the opportunity to be your water and sewer services provider.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Profilet, Jr., P.E. Managing Director, Texas Utilities

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE PURSUANT TO Tex. Water Code § 13.1871

SWWC Utilities, In	c. dba Water Services,	Inc. 11106	
Company Name		CCN N	ımber
has filed a rate change app the rate change application after the effective date prov	at the city's offices. The	proposed rates will app	bly to service received
EFFECTIVE DATE OF P	ROPOSED INCREASE	: <u>D</u>	ecember 15, 2017
(must be at least 35 days a is filed) (Proposed rates requested b refund or credit against future in excess of the rate finally) Reasons for Proposed Rate since acquisition to bring the improve customer service. companies to improve operations.	y the utility are not final, re bills all sums collecte ordered plus interest.) e change: SWWC e water systems up to sta	The City may modify of during the pendency of the during the pendency of the control of the cont	the rates and order a of the rate proceeding sted over \$8.5 million ry standards and ince the merger of
Suodi	vision(s) of Systems(s) A	Trected by Nate Change	
12525 Reed Road	Sugar Land	TX	77478
Company Address	City	State	Zip
(281) 207-5700		_	
Company Phone Nu	mber		
Phase 1: \$421,381; Phase 2: \$4 Annual Revenue Inc		11/10/2017 Date Notice De	livered
Water Services 01/01/2015 Di	amond 03/01/2015	various dates thro	ughout month
Date of Last Rate C	hange	Date Meters Ty	pically read

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE - WATER

Formerly Diamond (Windmill)

CURRENT RATES			PROPOSEE	RATES PHASE 1 eff:	12-15-2017	PROPOSED RATES PHASE 2 eff: 12-15-2018			PROPOSED RATES PHASE 3 eff: 12-15-2019		
Montidy base rate meluding 0 gallons			Monthly base rate meluding 0 gallons		Monthly base rate meluding 0 gallons			Monthly base rate including 0 gallons			
Meter Size. Formerly Diamond		Meter Size:		Meter Size.			Meter Size				
		\$40.95	5/8"		\$53.20	5/8"		\$57.91		5/8"	\$63.03
		\$40.95	3/4"		\$79.80	3/4"		\$86 87	3/4"		\$94,55
]"	\$102.38	ı"		\$133.00	l a		\$144.78	1"		\$157.58
	1 1/2"	\$204.75		1 1/2" \$266		T 1/2"		\$289.55	1 1/2"		\$315.15
2"		\$327.60	2"		\$425.60	2"		\$463,28	2"		\$504.24
3"		\$614.25	3"		\$798.00	3"		\$868.65	3"		\$945.45
	4"	\$1,023.75		.["	\$1,330,00	4"		\$1,447,75	4"		\$1,575.75
, 6"		\$2,047.50		(1"	\$2,660 00	0"		\$2,895.50	6"		\$3,151.50 \$5,042.40
	8"	\$3,276.00		S"	\$4,256.00		8"	\$4,632.80		8.,	
		·									
GALLONAGE CHARGE:		GALLONAGE CHARGE eff: 12-15-2017		GALLONAGE CHARGE eff: 12-15-20		T: 12-15-2018	GALLONAGE CHARGE eff:				
TIER	VOLUME	CHARGE per 1000 gals.	THER	VOLUME	CHARGE per 1000 gals.	TIER	VOLUME	CHARGE per 1000 gals.	TIER	VOLUME	CHARGE pe 1000 gals.
	ali gallons		ļ	1							
Tier I	0 to 2,000 gals.	\$2.50	Lier I	0 to 2,000 gals.	\$3.25	Tiet 1	0 to 2,000 gals.	\$3.54	Tier I	0 to 2,000 gals	\$3.85
Liei 2	2,001 to 10,000 gals	\$1,15	Lici 2	2,001 to 10,000 gals	\$4.74	Tier 2	2,001 to 10,000 gals	\$5.16	Tier 2	2,001 to 10,000 gals	\$5.62
Fier 3	10,000 to 20,000 gals	\$5,00	frei 3	10,000 to 20,000 gals.	S6 50	Fier 3	10,000 to 20,000 gals	\$7.07	Fier 3	10,000 to 20,000 gals.	\$7.70
Tier 4	over 20,000 gals.	\$8,00	Lend	over 20,000 gals.	\$10.39	Tier 4	over 20,000 gals	\$11.31	Tier 4	over 20,000 gals	\$12.31
Purchased Water Pass Though	all gallons	\$1.89	PW Pass Through			PW Pass Through			PW Pass Through		
Though	1	l									
	MISCELLANEOUS FI	ŒS	MISCELLANEOUS FEES (no change)		MISCELLANEOUS FEES (no			MISCELLANEOUS FEES (
Тар	Fee, Residential	\$700.00	<u> </u>	Tap Fee: Residential \$700 00		Tap Fee: Residential		\$700.00	Tap Fee Residential		\$700.00
	Fee, Large Meter	actual costs	L	hee Large Meter	actual costs	Tap Fee: Large Muter		actual costs	Tap Fee: Large Meter		actual costs
Reconne	et Feet Non-Payment	\$25,00		et Fee, Non-Payment	\$25.00	Reconnect Lee Non-Payment		\$25.00	Reconnect Feet Non-Payment		\$25,00 \$50,00
Reconnect	Lee Customer's Request	\$50.00	L	Fee, Customer's Request			et Fee: Customer's Request	\$50,00	Reconnect Fee Customer's Request		\$30.00
Fransfer Fee		\$45.00	Transfer Lee		\$45.00	Transfer Fee		\$45.00	Transfer Fee		10% of
Late Charge		10% of delinquent bill	Late Charge		10% of delinquent bill	Late Change		10% of delinquent bill	Late Charge		delinquent bil
Returned Check Charge		\$25.00	Returned Check Charge		\$25 00		urned Check Charge	\$25 (0)	Returned Check Charge		\$25.00
Deposit: Residential		\$50,00	Deposit Residential		\$50.00	Deposit, Residential		\$50.00	Deposit: Residential		\$50.00
Deposit Non-residential		1/6 estimated annual bill	Deposit, Non-residential		1/6 estimated annual bill	Deposit; Non-residential		1/6 estimated annual bill	Deposit Non-residential		1/6 estimated annual bill
Meter Test Fee		\$25.00	,	deter Test Lee	\$25.00	Meter Test Fee		\$25.00	Meter Test Fee		\$25.00
Customer Service Inspection			Custom	er Service Inspection		Custo	mer Service Inspection		Customer Service Inspection,		
Other: Suppl Emergency Service 5		\$13.43/in dia	Other: Su	ppl 1 mergency Service	\$13.43/m dia	Other Suppl Emergency Service \$13.43		\$13.43/m dia	Other: Suppl Emergency Service		\$13.43/m dia

Regulatory Assessment of 1% is added to base rate and callonage charges. Additional fees and meter sizes may be shown on a separate page

If applicable, list any bill payment assistance programs to low income Ratepayers

Help2Others (H2O) is a company funded assistance program designed to assist quantifying customers pay their monthly water utility bill. Customers who qualify for the H2O program will receive a monthly \$40 credit (\$20 for water and \$20 for sewer) through the duration of their enrollment as long as they continue to pay their bill and remain current. The program is designed to assist customers valous total combined household income does not exceed \$25% of the current. Techeral Poverty (midelines)