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Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

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Subject Docket Number 52797

Esteemed Commissioners:

This letter is a formal protest of the rates and continuing increases proposed by Undine Development LLC (CCN numbers 12407 and 20948) after purchase of the assets of Conroe Resorts Utilities LLC (CCN numbers 11942 and 20638). The latter company has been profitable and its current rates are already high. During some months our charges for water and waste treatment exceed the total for electric power and natural gas supply.

Undine's rates will increase our current cost of water supply and treatment by over 64 percent, a significant hit to the living expenses of a retired couple and to the expenses of the nearly 300 residents of the Del Lago community, roughly half retired, served by these facilities. We ask that Undine be required to establish and maintain rates not exceeding those charged by the previous system owner.

While any supplier should be able to profit from their investment and effort they should not be allowed to profiteer with supplies/services necessary to life and health of their customers. For example, Undine's proposed sewage treatment fee is a flat rate rather than a function of the water usage as has been typical. This unfairly transfers this cost from businesses, such as a resort hotel, to the surrounding homeowners and has the appearance of collusion between the utility and the hotel. Note that the waste water treatment plant is relatively new (less than fifteen years old) and of modern design and does not need upgrading.

The homeowners of Del Lago need the protection from exorbitant utility rates that Undine Development LLC is proposing that the Public Utility Commission can provide. We ask that the rates allowed for this system be kept no higher than those allowed the previous owner, Conroe Resort Utilities LLC.

Respectfully,



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