



## **Filing Receipt**

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**Item Number - 1985**

Aqua increasing our monthly non-metered sewer rate from \$87.97 to \$145.40 would represent a drastic 65% price increase overnight, about 27 times higher than the current US annual inflation rate of 2.4%. At the current sewer rate of \$87.97, residents in the Sunset Oaks community in Maxwell, TX already pay more than double the state average for sewer, which is \$36.83 based on the usage of 5,000 gallons in a 2024 survey. Or ~239% more than the state average.

Subjecting residents to a 65% rate increase for sewer alone (or ~395% more than the 2024 state average) would certainly hurt household budgets and the local economy due to our reduced discretionary incomes. That extra sewer cost of \$57.43/month (times hundreds or thousands of households) could go toward supporting local businesses and tourism, which help maintain a healthy economy for Texans, instead of funneling that money out of the state to a multibillion-dollar corporation based in Pennsylvania.

Essential Utilities, the parent company of Aqua, consistently generates an annual profit margin around 25-30%, which is comparable to innovative tech giants like Apple and Microsoft. Aqua's parent company would easily remain highly profitable if our sewer rate stays at the already-high \$87.97, or ~239% more than the 2024 state average.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important issue affecting regular Texans."