

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING ON VALLEY UTILITIES WATER COMPANY, INC.
AND TIERRA BUENA WATER COMPANY'S APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL
INCREASES IN WATER RATES, AND FOR APPROVAL TO CONSOLIDATE
OPERATIONS AND TRANSFER THE UTILITY ASSETS OF TIERRA BUENA TO
VALLEY UTILITIES PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 40-285
(DOCKET NOS. W-01412A-23-0070 AND W-02076A-23-0071)**

Summary

On March 24, 2023, Valley Utilities Water Company, Inc. (“Valley Utilities”) filed an application with the Arizona Corporation Commission (“Commission”) for approval of an increase in water rates in Docket No. W-01412A-23-0070. Valley Utilities requests authorization to increase its water rates to generate total revenues of \$2,982,743. This would constitute an increase in revenues of \$293,325, or 12.58 percent over test year revenues of \$2,331,627. For a customer served by a 3/4-inch meter with median consumption of 7,471 gallons, the proposed rate increase would increase the typical monthly bill by \$8.02, or 17.71 percent, from a current monthly bill of \$45.28 to \$53.30.

On the same date, Tierra Buena Water Company (“Tierra Buena”) filed an application with the Commission for approval of an increase in water rates in Docket No. W- 02076A-23-0071. Tierra Buena requests authorization to decrease its water rates to generate total revenues of \$213,191. This would constitute a decrease in revenues of \$16,555, or 7.21 percent, over test year revenues of \$229,746. For a customer served by a 1-inch meter with median consumption of 16,546 gallons, the proposed rate changes would decrease the typical monthly bill by \$7.01, or 5.73 percent, from a current monthly bill of \$122.28 to \$115.27.

In addition, Valley Utilities and Tierra Buena request authorization to consolidate, including the transfer of Tierra Buena's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity and all useful and necessary assets to Valley Utilities. The Companies have proposed rates which, if the Companies are authorized to consolidate, would increase the typical monthly bill of a Valley Utilities customer served by a 3/4-inch meter by \$7 .96, or 17.58 percent, from a current monthly bill of \$45.28 to \$53.24. The Companies' consolidated rates would decrease the typical monthly bill of a Tierra Buena customer served by a 1-inch meter by \$12.82, or 10.48 percent, from a current monthly bill of \$122.28 to \$109.46

THE COMMISSION IS NOT BOUND BY THE PROPOSALS OF VALLEY UTILITIES, TIERRA BUENA, STAFF, OR ANY INTERVENORS. THE COMMISSION WILL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE RELIEF TO BE GRANTED IN RESPONSE TO THE APPLICATION BASED ON THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN THIS MATTER.

How You Can View or Obtain a Copy of the Application

Copies of the Application are available from Valley Utilities and Tierra Buena at their office located at 6808 N. Dysart Road, Suite 112, Glendale, AZ 85307, during regular business hours; at the Commission's Docket Control Center at 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona, and the Commission's office at 400 West Congress Street, Suite 218, Tucson, Arizona, during

regular business hours, and on the Commission website (www.azcc.gov) using the e-Docket function and the Docket Number shown above.

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Hearing Information

The Commission will hold a hearing on this matter beginning **March 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Commission's offices at 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

A public comment meeting will be held at the beginning of the first day of hearing, and comment may be provided in person or telephonically. To provide telephonic public comments, call **1-877-309-3457**, and enter participant no. **801972877##**.

Written public comments may be submitted by mailing a letter referencing **Docket No. W-01412A-23-0070, et al.** to Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007, or by submitting comments on the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) using "Cases and Open Meetings" and "Make a Public Comment in a Docket." If you require assistance, you may contact the Consumer Services Section at 602-542-4251 or 1-800-222-7000.

If you do not intervene in this proceeding, you will receive no further notice of the proceedings in this docket unless you sign up to Follow the Docket. However, all documents filed in this docket are available online (usually within 24 hours after docketing) at the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) using the e-Docket function. **Information on how to Follow a Docket is available on the Commission's website by clicking on "Cases and Open Meetings" and "Follow a Docket or Document Type."**

About Intervention

The law provides for an open public hearing at which, under appropriate circumstances, interested persons may intervene. An interested person may be granted intervention if the outcome of the case will directly and substantially impact the person, and the person's intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case. Intervention, among other things, entitles a party to present sworn evidence at hearing and to cross-examine other parties' witnesses. **Intervention is not required for you to appear at the hearing and provide public comment, to file written comments in the record of the case, or to receive emailed notice of each filing made in the case by following the docket.**

Information about what intervention means, including an explanation of the rights and responsibilities of an intervenor, is available on the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) by clicking on "Cases and Open Meetings" and then clicking on "Intervene in a Case." The information includes a Sample Intervention Request and a Fillable Intervention Request Form.

To request intervention, you must file a written request to intervene, either (a) by filing a hard copy request (meeting filing requirements) with Docket Control (Docket Control, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007), or (b) by eFiling the request. Your request **must be filed or eFiled no later than February 23, 2024**. Instructions and restrictions for eFiling are available on the Commission's website at <http://azcc.gov/hearing/efile-for-utilities-instruction>. You also

must serve a copy of the request to intervene on each party of record, on the same day that you file the request to intervene with the Commission.

Your request to intervene **must** contain the information below:

1. Your name, address, and telephone number,
2. The docket number for the case in which you are requesting to intervene,
3. A short statement explaining:
 - a. Your interest in the proceeding (e.g., a customer of the regulated company involved, a property owner in an area to be affected by the case, etc.),
 - b. How you will be directly and substantially affected by the outcome of the case, and
 - c. Why your intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case,
4. A statement certifying that you have sent a copy of your request to intervene to the regulated company or its attorney and to all other parties of record in the case, and
5. If you are not represented by an attorney who is an active member of the Arizona State Bar, and you are not representing yourself as an individual, sufficient information and any appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with Arizona Supreme Court Rules 31.1, 31.2, 31.3, 38, 39, and 42, as applicable. This only applies if you are NOT representing yourself and you are not a licensed attorney.

The granting of motions to intervene shall be governed by A.A.C. R14-3-105, except that all motions to intervene must be filed on or before **February 23, 2024.**

ADA/Equal Access Information

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, as well as request this document in an alternative format, by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Carolyn Buck, E-mail ADACoordinator@azcc.gov, voice phone number 602-542-2247. Requests should be made as early as possible and no later than 48 hours in advance of the event to allow time to arrange the accommodation.