

From: [BROCK Malia](#)
To: [PUC.FilingCenter](#)
Cc: [EISDORFER Jason](#); [CONWAY Bryan](#)
Subject: FW: PPWater
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 10:38:41 AM

Please file under UM 1665, thank you.
Malia

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Ellen White [<mailto:mewwhite@me.com>]
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2015 2:08 PM
To: BROCK Malia
Subject: re: PPWater

Malia Brock and Commissioners,

I very much appreciate all the work you have done on PPWSC' behalf under deplorable circumstances. I very much want what little protection you provide for our water, and welcome your attempt to wrestle control of that water and the roads from our unscrupulous neighbors. However I am very unhappy about your choosing to allow people to opt in or opt out of the system. Most utilities, so far as I know, require minimum payments for the upkeep of the utility system whether that system is used or not. Were I to move temporarily for six months to New York, I would still have to pay for garbage pick up here in Palo Alto despite the fact that I would have no garbage out to be collected. Similarly, I would continue to pay an electric bill which would be of reduced usage but still sufficient enough to maintain the system. PPWSC worked in this way; everyone paid for the upkeep of the system in order for there to be a system to opt into in the future even though that person might not use any water at the time. I think this is only fair, and I know that I am not the only one to think so.

I am worried, as are others, that the only full-time residents at Pigeon Point, the Macalunos, will opt out of the system. At one time PPWSC had a fence enclosure around the water tanks and a padlock on the gate. Mr. Macaluso simply cut the padlock off the gate and then chained the gate shut with his own padlock. It was at that point that PPWSC decided to get legal help. Originally, we had the agreement of all members only to lose two members after the cost of litigation began to skyrocket. Those members engaged another lawyer to enlist the help of OPUC which is where we are today.

Were the Macalunos to opt out with both their properties, three or four of us would be left to pay for the partial restoration of the water system. (Remember before the Macalunos PPWSC maintained a filter system and provided relatively clean water from the tanks not the orange sludge that now comes from the tanks. The filter system under the new plan is not to be replaced.) The few of us who paid for the new system would, I feel certain, face the same scenario: the Macalunos would simply steal water and we would be afforded absolutely no protection - once again left to go to court on our own, something none of us would probably want to do. Were the Macalunos to opt in with one property and not the other, they would once again avoid paying their fair share. At one time the Macalunos rented a home in Port Orford; apparently they destroyed the well on that property (a favorite activity!). From that point on, the Macalunos hauled water from Pigeon Point to their rental property in Port Orford. I have pictures of the trailer fitted with a water tank which they used for this mission. Although you might claim that their doing so would be fined in so much as they would be metered for the extra water usage, this does not change the fact that they would not pay the basic infrastructure fee or the annual maintenance fee for one of their properties which the rest of us would be forced to gift to them.

I believe that the PPWSC bylaws require everyone to pay for the maintenance of the water system whether they use water or not. I would like to see this requirement continue under OPUC. Some people I know are already considering opting out of the system and simply buying water for those times when they are in residence. What would happen if everyone opted out of the system? Will any one person be willing to pay \$25,000 for an upgraded water system from which others tap into without interference or circumvent by sharing water between themselves? Is there a hygiene issue here? Can someone maintain a house with no visible means of water for their sanitation system?

I am not a full time resident at Pigeon Point. With the help of my three wells I could simply buy water as a stop gap measure during the dry fall period. I do not want to do this. I would like the security of knowing that I had a continuous source of water for whatever emergency might arise. However, unless the Macalunos opt in to the

system with both their properties, I feel my best choice is to opt out and get water the best I can from other cheaper choices.

Sincerely, Mary Ellen White October 4th, 2015