



City of Dunes City  
82877 Spruce St.  
PO Box 97  
Westlake, OR 97493  
Phone (541) 997-3338  
Fax (541) 997-5751  
www.dunescity.com

July 29, 2021

Stephanie Yamada  
Public Utility Commission of Oregon  
P O Box 1088  
Salem, OR 97308

Natascha Smith  
PUC Staff – Department of Justice  
Business Activities Section  
1162 Court St., N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

Thomas Puttman  
South Coast Water Company  
620 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: In the Matter of South Coast Water Company, LLC  
Request for a General Rate Revision

To Whom It May Concern:

The customers of the South Coast Water Company, LLC (hereafter SCWS), reside within the boundaries of Dunes City city limits. The area is predominantly considered median income, with many of the residents being retired and living on fixed incomes or young families with young children, just starting out. While we understand the need for rate increases as the expenses of doing business continue to rise, the City would oppose an increase of this magnitude.

The letter sent to SCWC customers indicated the average monthly bill of \$47.54 would increase to \$121.02 as a result of the rates suggested in the petition. This calculates to a 255% increase. Such an increase would be a shock to the budget of any family and could be devastating to those on fixed incomes. We suggest a much lower, more reasonable rate be considered.

Our neighboring city to the north, Florence, has a monthly rate for water of \$29.00. Our neighboring city to the South, Reedsport, has a monthly rate for water of \$28.75. Neither city currently charges an additional per gallon

Mayor  
Robert Forsythe

Council President  
Sheldon Meyer

City Council  
Duke Wells  
Tom Mallen  
Robert Orr  
Susan Snow  
Rory Hammond

City Administrator  
Jamie Mills

Administrative Assistants  
Melissa House and  
Linda Johnson

Permit Tech  
Clare Kurth

Planning Secretary  
Rapunzel Oberholtzer  
And Lani Noroña

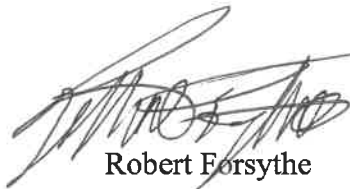
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usage rate. The City supports a per gallon usage rate, as we believe it encourages conservation, but again, this usage rate should be reasonable.

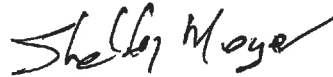
Mr. Puttman's letter makes no mention in his Notice as to what that rate might be, or if it is proposed to be changed from the current rate. While it is true both cities have far more customers than currently served by SCWC, we are aware that Mr. Puttman desires to expand his boundaries to provide even more Dunes City residents with water service. We applaud, and even welcome, those efforts, however, we don't think the expansion of the water system, and the resulting increase of income for SCWC, should be paid for by its current customers. We believe it is the responsibility of the company to pay for any such expansion of the system or seek funding from outside sources and/or investors. Any increase sought by SCWC should be to operate and maintain the current system and not address any future expansion ideas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the proposed rate increase. Should further information be needed or desired, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



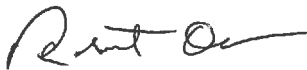
Robert Forsythe  
Mayor



Sheldon Meyer  
Council President



Duke Wells  
Councilor



Robert Orr  
Councilor



Rory Hammond  
Councilor

Tom Mallen *absent*  
Councilor

cc: Megan W. Decker, Chair  
Letha Tawney, Commissioner  
Mark R. Thompson, Commissioner