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Assembly
California Legislature



COMMITTEES
CHAIR: VETERANS AFFAIRS
AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO.2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
HIGHER EDUCATION
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Irwin@assembly.ca.gov

October 11, 2017

Public Advisor's Office – CPUC
505 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco, CA, 94102

-Via Email: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov-

RE: CPUC Case Number A.16-07-002

Dear Public Advisor:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recently proposed rate hikes by California American Water (Cal-Am). These rate hikes will affect 47% of the residents and businesses in City of Thousand Oaks, who are my constituents.

Cal Am announced a new restructuring plan which will consolidate five water systems including Ventura County, where Thousand Oaks is located, with other service areas in Southern California including Los Angeles and San Diego Counties.

Cal Am has stated the consolidation will result in increases to operations, maintenance, and capital costs, including costs in other water systems throughout Southern California. Depending on water use, rate hikes for the first year alone will range from 5%-25%. Ratepayers can expect 14% average increase over three years.

Residents and businesses in Thousand Oaks should not have to be burdened with these exorbitant rate hikes as a result of their business decision. The City of Thousand Oaks Water Services Division and California Water Service Company (Cal Water) are two other water purveyors for 53% of consumers not serviced by Cal Am. On average consumer increases by the City Water Services Division and Cal Water are only 3%. Cal Am's proposed rate hike would unfairly quadruple rates. In fact, the cumulative impact to 18,000 residents is four million per year.

The City of Thousand Oaks has attended CPUC proceedings, submitted testimony and has attempted numerous settlements with Cal Am before the deadline.

As the State Assemblymember representing this area, I am requesting the CPUC reject the proposed rate hikes. They are unjustified and are an unfair financial burden to residents and businesses alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacquie Irwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, 44th AD