



California Public Utilities Commission: Public Participation Hearing on Liberty Utilities' Acquisition of Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company (March 16, 2015)

WHAT DID THE PUBLIC SAY?

“What does Liberty Utilities know about water? Well, we actually operate water utilities in five states. We also operate waste water facilities in a couple of our states. We have 180,000 water customers and some 200+ water professionals in the five states we are operating in. I hope you can see that clearly we are a seasoned and professional water organization. We’re embracing every one of the employees currently working at Ranchos to be part of our team moving forward. I am here to confirm with you, and it is actually in our testimony in front of the CPUC and the ORA, that the price that we pay and the transaction cost to close this thing, will not go into the rates associated with this transaction. So as a result of us buying this company or rather set of companies, the rates will not go up as a result of that.”

*David Pasieka, President
Liberty Utilities*

“As a Ranchos customer and a resident of Apple Valley, I’m personally reassured to know that there are still companies that see our town as a good business investment. As a Facebook follower of the town government, I saw a positive post just last week, celebrating a new pizza restaurant company moving into an existing storefront. Yet recent cold calling, email blast and postcard mailing campaigns in and around town, disparages another company. This company, who also wants to do business here. I would rather know my money isn’t being wasted on unnecessary bond debt and instead see a company is reinvesting its profits back into the water system.”

*Tamara Alaniz
High Desert Water Professional*

“Apple Valley Ranchos Water Co has a proven record for over 50 years, and I am proud to say I couldn’t ask for a better company to work for. After studying the philosophy of Liberty Utilities, it is that of continuing local decision making, management, customer service, and being part of the community is very important.”

*Jerry Bender, Employee and Local Resident
Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company*

“Our most vital commodity in the High Desert should not be entrusted to a town that has to raise bonds for purchase, no expertise in managing a water utility and would have to continue to raise bond money and increase rates to continue to facilitate new infrastructure, regulatory compliance, and future drought conditions. We never understand the value of water until the well runs dry. Liberty is the company that can safeguard this precious resource while maintaining the objectives of the Apple Valley community.”

*Bret Kadel
Metropolitan Water*

“I am extremely disturbed by the lack of transparency by our town, and that is what we can expect if they take over the water. I truly think the best interest for the public, today and tomorrow, for quality water, appropriate infrastructure maintenance.”

*Leann Lee
Local Resident*

“Unless somebody can say that these people are corrupt and not doing their job, I don’t see why this should be blocked. All of us can read the newspaper and see: we are running out of water. So gosh, it’s no surprise that water rates are going through the roof. That’s not their fault, they are responding to market forces.”

*David Mueller
Apple Valley Resident*

“Liberty Utilities is the right fit to purchase Apple Valley Ranchos. With their commitment to community service, customer service, sustainability and their proven record in safety and customer satisfaction, we the town would be well served by the Liberty group.”

*Mike Lent, Employee and Local Resident
Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company*