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GRAY ENTERPRISES, LP

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Action Item 8A

December 12, 2024

Mesa Water District Secretary
ATTN: Denise Garcia
1965 Placentia Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

RE: Protest of Proposed Water Rate Adjustments

We are protesting the increased rates that are proposed for 2024-2028. Back in 2017, we protested the rates for 2018 to 2022 because the water company increased the rates by 5% annually, when the Consumer Price Index was increasing by only 2%. In the 2024-2028 budget, you are proposing to increase water rates by 11%, 10%, 7%, 7% and 8%. How do you know what the Consumer Index will be?

Our Tenants are well aware that prices have increased over the last two years; however, before that, the Consumer Price Index was at 2% and yet, you increased the rates by over 5%. So, utility companies are already ahead of inflation.

Raising rates on water by such huge increases every year makes it even more expensive to our restaurant tenants and gym tenants and all other tenants to run their businesses. California already has the highest utility rates in the nation to cover high salaries, and generous benefits and pensions.

Looking for ways to cut expenses is what private businesses must do all the time. It is time for the Public Utilities Sector to do the same.

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