

MID-COAST ADVISORY COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 64
MOSS BEACH CA 94038

DATE: January 21, 1992

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
San Mateo County

FROM: Councilmembers: Ayers, , Meyer

SUBJECT: Public Utility Commission Hearing on Citizen's
Utility Rate Increase

RECOMMENDATIONS:

File formal complaint to the Public Utility Commission to require that Citizen's Utility upgrade the water system to meet the minimum requirements for fire safety and to reject any rate increase request, until this is completed.

Background:

Citizens Utility Company is currently requesting a rate increase of up to 45%, it serves the communities of Moss Beach and Montara. During our last Mid-Coast Advisory meeting January 8, 1992, the Moss Beach Montara Water Association (a group of citizens), and Point Montara fire department representative presented to us their concerns regarding the service provided by Citizens Utility.

The residents informed us that the Public Utility Commission will be holding a formal hearing on the rate increase issue in Mid- February.

According to the Water Association Members, Citizens Utility has been doing very little to repair and update the water lines and storage facilities. After hearing the citizens speak, we were alarmed at the current state of service and lack of adequate water supply to fight fires.

Due to the fact that the utility company has done little to upgrade the service lines and storage capacity to meet the needs of the community, we feel that a rate increase is not justified. It is our recommendation that prior to any rate increase, the issues discussed in the following need to be addressed and implemented by the utility company.

We feel that the current situation is extremely dangerous and in need of immediate attention. It is definitely a health, safety and welfare issue of extreme importance. Some of the problems that need to be addressed by the utility company are:

FIRE SAFETY
DETERIORATING WATER LINES
LOW WATER PRESSURE
INADEQUATE WATER STORAGE
INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY

Dan Bortolotti, the battalion chief of Point Montara volunteer fire fighters, and elected fire board member, reported on the current condition of the water flows, and called them "dangerously imperiling the community on life safety and welfare issues." We toured the fire station and the area of influence and the findings were both frightening and startling.

Please study the following report that Mr. Bortolotti submitted to us for review. Also, submitted for your review is the request for a rate increase submitted by Citizen's Utility to the PUC.

Conclusion:

In the interest of public safety and the welfare of our community, we expect the Board of Supervisors is eager to expedite a solution. Our suggestion, in addition to the present recommendation, is that the Board act immediately to provide adequate water supplies to the residents of Montara and Moss Beach. It is our understanding that the line of responsibility points directly towards the County Board of Supervisors, acting to defend our rights as citizens on the basis of health, welfare and safety issues.

We sincerely appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Councilmembers: Ayers, Campbell, Meyer