

Subject: BVRI eNews 5-Jan-Ratepayers-of-Lake-Alpine-Water-Company-Update
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From: Bear Valley Residents Inc. (BVRI) (sent by Bear Valley Residents Inc. (BVRI) <bvrisecretary@wwwbvri.ccsend.com>)
To: kaitken@brynmorgan.com

Ratepayers of Lake Alpine Water Company Update

BVRI e-News

January 5, 2015

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Dear Katherine,

Happy New Year from BVRI.

We are sending this email to give you an update on the ongoing issue regarding the action filed by the non-profit association entitled Ratepayers of Lake Alpine Water Company (the "Ratepayers group" or RLAWC).

RLAWC ISSUE UPDATE

The Ratepayers of Lake Alpine Water Company (the "Ratepayers group" or RLAWC) contends that it represents the homeowners of Bear Valley. The Board of Directors of Bear Valley Residents, Inc. (BVRI), however, has advised the California Public Utility Commission ("CPUC") that is not the case.



This case arose out of this alleged group of homeowner representatives protesting the sale of stock by James Orvis and Marlene Orvis of the Lake Alpine Water Company to Aspen Forest Investments, Inc. It is our understanding that Bear Valley homeowner Gloria Dralla testified she was the sole officer and director of the Ratepayers group. This case eventually led to a decision by the Administrative Law Judge, which is now pending final decision by the CPUC. The Ratepayers group submitted an itemized list of legal expenses of over \$200,000 in an attempt to obtain payment from the Water Company.

On December 6, 2014, the Administrative Law Judge ruled that it was, in fact, true that Aspen Forest should have made formal application to the CPUC for the 2003 stock sale, but allowed the sale to proceed. The CPUC recognized that Aspen Forest participation in the management of the Lake Alpine Water Company was, in fact, in the best interest of the community,

and the Board of Directors of BVRI agrees with that assessment.

The CPUC Administrative Law Judge ruled that only a small portion of the Ratepayers group's legal expenses should be awarded. They reduced the \$200,000 request to \$42,517.07. If this ruling stands, it is likely that each homeowner / ratepayer of the Water Company will be assessed at least an additional \$80.00 for those fees. The BVRI Board of Directors has continually sent letters to the CPUC stating the Board's opposition to this unnecessary, expensive effort.

The filings in this case are voluminous; however, anyone wishing to view them can go to the CPUC website and look up [Proceeding #A1104013](#). The proceedings show the involvement of the Ratepayers group, their protesting, and their continual bombardment of the staff for some sort of action, all of which necessitated a lengthy process. There are also the legal fees of the Water Company that may come in to play at some time in the future.

One of the critical issues in the case was a list of folks who signed on as part of the Ratepayers group's protest. From what the Board understands, some of those folks asked to be withdrawn from the list; however, there was no formal withdrawal of their names as protesters. Accordingly, when the case went to hearing, it was not determined who was actually opposing the stock transfer.

Your BVRI Board of Directors has previously advised that this issue was ongoing and the attorneys' fees were mounting, some or all of which could be passed on to the homeowners / ratepayers. We are as disappointed as you that even a portion of these legal fees will be borne by LAWC customers. If you wish to write a letter of your own to the CPUC on this matter, we have provided a [sample letter on our website](#) including the CPUC address. If any BVRI members who were on the original RLAWC list wish to disclaim their initial involvement, you may wish to include that in your letter as well.

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if you have additional email addresses at which you'd like to receive our updates or if you have family or friends who would also like to get the news directly, please [click here to email](#) BVRI Board Secretary, Katherine Aitken-Young with their information.

Thank you for your support. We are pleased to serve the Bear Valley community.

Sincerely,

The BVRI Board



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