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June 19, 2020

Luly E. Massaro, Clerk
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

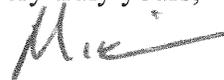
Re: Providence Water Supply Board
Rate Case – Docket No. 4994

Dear Luly:

Enclosed for filing is Providence Water's Motion objecting to Bristol County Water Authority's Data Request No. BCWA 9-1 and Request for a Protective Order.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Very truly yours,



Michael R. McElroy

MRMc/tmg

cc: Service List

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD : DOCKET No. 4994

PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD'S MOTION OBJECTING TO
BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY DATA REQUEST BCWA 9-1 AND
REQUEST FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to Commission Rules 1.19(C) and 1.19(E), the Providence Water Supply Board (Providence Water) hereby objects to Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA) data request BCWA 9-1 issued on June 10, 2020, on the grounds that the request is unduly burdensome, unreasonable, not material, and not relevant. Providence Water requests an appropriate protective order.

BCWA 9-1 requests the following:

“Please provide a schedule in the same format as “Schedule HJS-22 Proposed Rates” that shows what the rates would be based on Providence’s rebuttal position in this Docket if Providence used the same method for developing rates that was used in Docket 4618 rather than the cost of service study used in this Docket.”

Despite the fact that this Commission ordered Providence Water to develop rates using a new cost of service study, which is what Providence Water has done in this docket, BCWA has at this late date asked Providence Water to develop alternative rates using the old cost of service method utilized in Docket 4618.¹

This request is unduly burdensome, unreasonable, not material, and not relevant to the issues in Docket 4994 for the following reasons:

¹ The evidentiary hearings in this docket begin on July 13, 2020, which is less than a month away.

1. This Commission has specifically ordered Providence Water not to use the cost of service method from Docket 4618, but instead to develop a new cost of service study, which is what Providence Water has done in this docket. It makes no sense to force Providence Water to redo the proposed rates utilizing an old cost of service approach that this Commission has directed should not be used.

2. It would cost Providence Water and its ratepayers as much additional money as the cost allocation and rate design study has already cost in this docket, which is about \$45,000. Requiring Providence Water to bear this expense would impose an unreasonable burden on Providence Water and its ratepayers.

3. We have inquired of our rate design experts, Harold Smith and Collin Drat, and they do not have the time or capacity to be able to do a project of this magnitude before the scheduled evidentiary hearings begin.

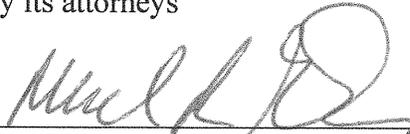
4. As a practical matter, what BCWA is asking for simply cannot be done because it would take several weeks and there is less than a month before the hearings begin.

5. Commission Rule 1.19(C) provides that data requests may be objected to if the requests are unreasonable and/or the material is not relevant. Moreover, Commission Rule 1.19(E) provides that the presiding officer “may make an order when justice requires to protect the party from unreasonable annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, burden or expense” BCWA’s last minute filing of this data request is untimely, unreasonable, oppressive, burdensome, and unduly expensive.

Accordingly, Providence Water requests respectfully that a protective order enter stating that data request BCWA 9-1 need not be answered by Providence Water.

Respectfully submitted,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD
By its attorneys

Dated: 6/19/20

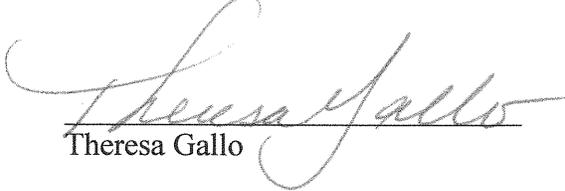


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the 19th day of June, 2020, I filed and served this document on the service list.


Theresa Gallo

**Docket No. 4994 - Providence Water Supply Board – General Rate Filing
Service List updated 2/4/2020**

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