

The following comments were submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Evelyn Corrigan  
Submission Time: Mar 11 2024 5:29PM  
Email: [evelyn.corrigan@gmail.com](mailto:evelyn.corrigan@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-603-8895  
Address: 191 Hanaford Rd  
Blanchard , ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: CDS Stoneridge Utilities

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "I have just received a proposal/request from our utility company asking for a 261%-543% rate increase for our residential water in the Stoneridge community. I strongly oppose this request. Most of the residents in Stoneridge (myself included) are on fixed incomes like social security or a fixed pension. a modest increase of 10-20% is totally acceptable, but the huge increase they are proposing will make it where many cannot afford this kind of increase. What do we need to do to stop this request?"

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Name: John Thomas  
Submission Time: Mar 11 2024 10:14PM  
Email: [coug1975@gmail.com](mailto:coug1975@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-691-9720  
Address: 1920 Blanchard Elk Rd  
Blanchard , ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: stoneridge water utility

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "I am in complete opposition of this absurd request for 300+% increase in meter fees. The fact of the matter is the only thing that has changed in the years since chan purchased this was all the houses he has decided to pump onto the golf course. There has been very little growth to happy valley sub division since we have lived here in 14 years. His lack of planning and over building should not fall on our pocketbooks to fix. I can understand something reasonable like 33% increase on a monthly fee. But what he is asking for is absurd. And since he has put in all the new houses on the golf course my downstream water service has diminished considerably. Can't even run 2 faucets at yhe same time without losing half the volume in each fixture. Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts "

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The following comments were submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Daniel Ross  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 11:06AM  
Email: [dingleberrytulips@yahoo.com](mailto:dingleberrytulips@yahoo.com)  
Telephone: 509-951-3657

Address: P.O. Box 54  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: CDS StoneRidge Utilities, LLC

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "Greetings,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rate increases by Stoneridge Utilities, LLC. Myself, my wife and our 4 children have been residents of the Happy Valley Ranchos service area since 2010. I find the proposed rate increase to be exorbitant and unreasonable. It would be reasonable to apply rate increases over a period of years to account for the increased cost of production due to inflation or planned infrastructure improvements. It is not reasonable to attempt to recoup expenses or losses due to mismanagement in a lump-sum fashion off the backs of working families and retirees on fixed incomes. This issue has shed some light on some serious concerns regarding the business practices being employed by the current ownership of the Utility. In addition to the commission's denial of the proposed rate increases, I would further urge the commission to conduct a full audit of CDS StoneRidge Utilities, LLC. A question that should be investigated would be in the case of the Happy Valley Ranchos subdivision, it is my understanding that connection to Stoneridge Utilities in the early 2000s resulted in a \$5 monthly surcharge that was supposed to be for a set term of 20 years? When the new ownership took over, the sur-charge was increased to \$14.03 per month, with no explanation or indication of a sunset on the 20-year term of the original obligation? One would think that an increased sur-charge amount would result in a truncated term to satisfy the agreed upon obligation. I hope and trust that this commission will conduct a thorough investigation into these and other questionable practices, as well as the merit of this proposal and that your findings will lead you to reject this outlandish request. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Daniel J. Ross "

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Name: Ann Weaver

Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 11:23AM

Email: [arw93@hotmail.com](mailto:arw93@hotmail.com)

Telephone: 406-891-3471

Address: 664 Stoneridge Rd.

Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: Stoneridge Utilities

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "I don't like to complain BUT don't you think this is a bit ridiculous for raising the water rates that much. I am a widow and only live on Social Security and with my husbands passing it has been tough enough with only one source of income. When you buy a piece of property you check into all angles on what your responsibility is on that property and if you can't afford it --- don't buy it! There is NO WAY I could ever throw my bills onto someone else, they would just laugh at me and if I couldn't pay my bills, that property would come down to a foreclosure .How can one person think they can get by with all this???????? Do you think I could ask my neighbors if they could pay my bills for me till the day

the lord comes and takes me home? I would like to see an audit down. Thank you for your time and God Bless. "

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Name: Cynthia St Cyr  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 11:30AM  
Email: [cstcyr0424@gmail.com](mailto:cstcyr0424@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-714-9572  
Address: 55 Parkland Ct  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: Stoneridge Utilities

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "IPUC Commissioners,  
I am writing to you in respect to Case # SWS-W-24-01 at the request of Stoneridge Utilities, LLC. The proposed rate increases of 261% and 543% for a base rate increase is not only against fair practice, but also creates an undue hardship on the citizens who rely on the water provided by this utility company. The average annual rate increase per year across the nation for utilities is 4.1% according to Bluefield Research. In fact, the largest water rate increases across the nation was in El Paso, Tx and San Jose California which boasted an 8% increase. Monthly water bills range from a low of \$19.15 in San Antonio, Texas, to a high of \$114.25 in San Francisco, California.

Stoneridge Utilities has stated that there hasn't been a rate increase since 2007, even with an annual increase since 2007 of 4.1% annually, the base rate should only be at \$47.52 after 17 years of 4.1% annually for a ¾ or 1-inch meter. While we all understand that need for a rate increase to ensure Stoneridge Utilities maintains and is profitable, a single jump rate increase of 261% or 543% is unacceptable and unfair to the customers that rely on these services and also have no other choice. I have provided tables below based on an annual rate increase of 4.1%.

Subsequently Stoneridge Utilities has requested a monthly user fee increase from \$.79/1,000 gallons up to \$2.94/1,000 gallons which is a 272% increase. Again, far above the national average and while we understand a need to increase revenue, this type of increase is increasingly impactful to our community. The two-person home uses approximately 6,090 gallons of water according to [www.fatherresource.org/family-water-usage.com](http://www.fatherresource.org/family-water-usage.com). With this increase to both base rate and water usage the monthly bill will go from \$28.74 to \$107.23 for residents with a ¾ in meter, for those with a 1-inch meter will go from \$28.74 to \$174.82 per month. Which is a 508% increase in monthly fee and usage. We strongly urge IPUC to decline this significant rate increase, and adhere to the national average of rate increases that can be absorbed steadily by the communities and users of the water provided by Stoneridge Utilities.

We also request that IPUC review the request and conduct an audit of Stoneridge Utilities, as using customer-based rate increases to pay for debt capitalization, and a reduction of revenue from the golf irrigation down to zero is not acceptable. The below points indicate areas that we believe should be reviewed for consideration that supports the request for a comprehensive audit of Stoneridge Utilities. Costs requested based on the rate increase proposal

- The utility wants to replace 3 pump motors. To our knowledge, there are currently two wells for the utility. The application document cites attachment W-1, but it is not included in the available download paperwork. This is an expenditure for which the utility bears sole responsibility for, not its users.

- The owner of the utility claims to have financial harm from the reduction in water sales to the golf course. However, the golf course drilled its own well to avoid water charges from the utility. Please note that the owner of the golf course is the same owner of the utility, so in summary the owner was in fact paying himself. Through this increase the owner is transferring what the course owed the utility onto the customers, with this proposed increase the owner is doubling his gains which is approximately 50,00,000 gallons of water cost annually.
  - The utility also wants the users to fund the connection costs of 20 vacant plotted lots owned by the owner of those lots, which is also the owner of the utility. This cost should not be passed onto the users.
  - The utility wants to install approximately 360 water meters to remotely read the water usage. This expense should be covered by the utility not the users.
  - The utility wants to install (replace?) "backup electrical generators" at water pump sites. No paperwork is included in the available downloaded documents. This expenditure is the sole responsibility of the utility not the users.
- In summation, we strongly urge IPUC to deny this rate increase request in its entirety.

Thank you,  
Cynthia St. Cyr"

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Name: James WHITEAKER  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 11:50AM  
Email: [jameslwhiteaker@gmail.com](mailto:jameslwhiteaker@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 619-921-7031  
Address: 151 Forest Ridge Rd  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: Stoneridge Utilities LLC

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "To whom it may concern:  
Regarding the proposed application to increase minimum monthly user fees 261% for a 3/4" meter and 543% for a 1" meter. Most of us in this community are retired and are on fixed incomes, as my wife and I are. This would be an unreasonable hardship to the people of this community, to have us pay for, the mismanagement of this utility. Most people would not object to small increases as costs increase, but this is not reasonable. Please do not approve these rate increases.  
Thank you for your consideration on these matters, "

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Name: Michael Kizer  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 11:53AM  
Email: [mkizers@msn.com](mailto:mkizers@msn.com)  
Telephone: 425-268-2706  
Address: 77 Parkland Ct  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: StoneRidge Utilities LLC

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "I have already wrote a coment regarding Case # SWS-W-24-01 StoneRidge Untilities LLC. I am including some information that I just found out and would like to include my complaint for not justifying a 261-561% rate hike. We found out that the StoneRidge golf course drilled their own well or wells for their needs, this is why their will be a zero bill to the golf cours. But now that this has happned StoneRidge Utilities LLC is claiming it will have \$500,000 loss of revinue. This revinue loss the Utility is claiming is not an actual loss, all of the maintenance and utility expsence will go down because of this water use decrease and what the utility is asking us to fund is loss of revenue that has no actual bases. I also found out that StoneRidge Utilities LLC has one of its 3 wells in deficit with a colasped casing that was known on the owner of StoneRidge Utilites LLC purchase. I am asking for an audit of StoneRidge Utilities this year and previous year to see where the losses are and the justification for this enormous rate increase. I would also like to have more time for others in our StoneRidge Utilities LLC water district to coment, it feels like this application was sent in at a time when most of the community was gone and did not have time to respond. Can we have a Zoom meeting or town hall meeting with the IPUC board to convey our complaints, thoughts and see how it is possible to come to a aggreable outcome to our community.

Regards,  
Michael & Diana Kizer  
425-268-2706  
77 Parkland Ct  
Blanchard Idaho, 83804"

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Joan Budai  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 12:06PM  
Email: [joan@budai.com](mailto:joan@budai.com)  
Telephone: 208437123  
Address: 248 Vista Drive  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: StoneRidge

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "I strenuously object to the obscene rate increase that's being proposed by Stoneridge Utilities. I, like many others in this area, are retired and am on Social Security. I grow a large garden every year to offset the ever-increasing food prices. If the proposed rate goes into effect the base rate for water will nearly quadruple for me and the increased usage in July and August will make the cost of gardening out of my price range. Please audit Stoneridge Utilities to discover if there's any serious reason for such an outrageous increase besides greed! "

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: gary lamb  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 1:56PM  
Email: [lambgary80@gmail.com](mailto:lambgary80@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 805-395-0606  
Address: 88 Ironwood Dr  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: StoneRidge Utilities, LLC

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "Please do not approve a 261% increase for water service at our townhome in Blanchard, ID 83804. Our pensions never go up more than 2% a year. Thank you for your consideration. Gary and Lynn Lamb"

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Kelley Hicks  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 3:04PM  
Email: [kelley.hicks@yahoo.com](mailto:kelley.hicks@yahoo.com)  
Telephone: 805-798-0021  
Address: 1443 Poirier Rd  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: CDS StoneRidge Utilities

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "As a retired person on a fixed income, I think the proposed water rate increase is exorbitant. I am not opposed to an increase, but I feel this proposal is excessive and will create hardship for those of us on fixed incomes. Thank you for considering this when looking at this proposal. Kelley Hicks"

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Carlton and Kathleen Edwards  
Submission Time: Mar 12 2024 4:34PM  
Email: [ironhorsetravel1@aol.com](mailto:ironhorsetravel1@aol.com)  
Telephone: 530-318-1890  
Address: 80 Parkland Dr  
Blanchard, ID 83804

Name of Utility Company: CDS StoneRidge Utilities, LLC

Case ID: SWS-W-24-01

Comment: "We are opposing the rate increase proposal application from CDS StoneRidge Utilities, LLC. The percentage increase of 261% and 543% is upsetting and ridiculous. There has not been an increase since 2007 and this increase would put most resident, who are retired and on a fixed income in financial jeopardy. For a company to request such a large increase in such a short time show the this company has financial mishandlings. To show a deficite of \$900,000 and a zero amount to be paid by StoneRidge Golf Course, which uses more water than all houses combined, would warrant an audit. We are requesting that IPUC assigns an independent auditor to look into the financial state to CDS StoneRidge Utilites, LLC before recommending any sort of rate increase."

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