

Tristan Davis

From: John Plescow
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:08 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence; Consina Griffin-Greaux
Subject: FW: Proposed Water and wastewater rate increase Grenelefe area

Please, add to docket 20250023.

From: Consina Griffin-Greaux <CGriffin@psc.state.fl.us> **On Behalf Of** Consumer Contact
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:54 AM
To: John Plescow <JPlescow@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: RE: Proposed Water and wastewater rate increase Grenelefe area

John,
Please forward to clerk's office. 20250023
C'Griffin-Greaux

From: Jeffrey Cairns <jefflcairns@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 8:00 PM
To: Consumer Contact <Contact@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Proposed Water and wastewater rate increase Grenelefe area

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My Community's Struggle: Water and
Wastewater Rate Increase
Docket Number 20250023
- WS

When I learned about the proposed water and wastewater rate increase under docket number 20250023 - WS, I was genuinely alarmed. This isn't just a number on a statement—it's a change that could hit all of us, from families on my street to local businesses I depend on. What really got my attention was the realization that if this goes through, my water bill could actually surpass my electric bill. It's hard to imagine paying more for water—a basic necessity—than for the energy that powers my home.

Water and wastewater services are the foundation of daily life in my community. While I know it's important to maintain infrastructure and service quality, the thought that my water bill might eclipse my electric bill is troubling. For most of us, these are two essential utilities, and seeing water become the costlier burden is unsettling. Even a slight increase in monthly costs can stretch already tight budgets and make daily life more stressful.

The response from my community has been loud and clear. I've heard worried voices at

town meetings and read heartfelt letters from friends, local leaders, and advocacy groups. We're all concerned about how this rate hike will affect real people, especially those living on fixed incomes, like my elderly neighbor or the young family striving to make ends meet.

Higher rates mean some families could be forced to choose between paying for water or other basics. Parents at school drop-off talk about their anxiety; I feel it too, especially now that I'm budgeting for bills where water might actually cost more than electricity.

Seniors, low-income families, and people with disabilities—like my cousin—would likely feel the burden most. The thought of anyone risking health or sanitation because water becomes unaffordable is heartbreaking.

What's especially concerning with this proposed rate increase is that it's not even meant to upgrade the system for current customers.

Instead, it appears designed to pass on the costs of future homes that developers want to build to us—the existing residents. The developer is looking for a way to avoid paying for the infrastructure upgrades needed for their new properties, shifting that financial load onto those of us who already live here. That's simply not right. We should not be footing the bill for someone else's profits while getting no improvement to our own service or quality of life.

For me—and for so many of us—this rate increase feels like a threat to our way of life. It's not an abstract worry; it's something we'd feel in every bill and at every community gathering.

1. Increased Financial Stress: Rising costs for essentials like food and housing are already a challenge. Add to that a water bill higher than the electric bill, and the pressure becomes overwhelming.
2. Threats to Public Health: Clean water should never be a luxury. If families lose access because they can't pay, our community's health and dignity are at risk.
3. Reduced Community Cohesion: When financial hardship hits, it divides us, making it harder to come together, support each other, and participate in community life.

Based on everything I've seen and heard, opposition to docket number 20250023 - WS is strong and deeply personal. People are mobilizing, sharing their stories, and voicing their concerns in every way they can. The message is united: this rate increase would devastate our community, unfairly burdens current residents for future development, and we need a fairer solution that doesn't leave anyone choosing between water and other necessities simply to help a developer's bottom line.

Conclusion

This proposed rate hike isn't just a budget adjustment—it's an issue that could change how we live, forcing us to prioritize water over electricity and other essentials, and even asking us to subsidize someone else's plans. I hope decision-makers hear our voices, recognize the real impact, and work with us to protect the health, stability, and unity of our community.

Thank You