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November 22, 2017

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

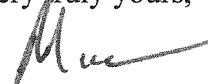
Re: Providence Water Supply Board
Docket No. 4618

Dear Luly:

Enclosed for filing are an original and nine copies of Providence Water Supply Board's Objection to Bristol County Water Authority's Motion to Strike Objection and Compel Response to Bristol County Water Authority Data Request 1-4(g).

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

Very truly yours,



Michael R. McElroy

MRMc:tmg
cc: Service List

PWSB/Revenue Reserve/Objection

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD

:

DOCKET No. 4618

**PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD'S OBJECTION TO THE BRISTOL
COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S MOTION TO STRIKE OBJECTION AND
COMPEL RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST 1-4(g)**

Providence Water Supply Board ("Providence Water") is seeking permission from the Commission to transfer \$2,394,651.28 from its restricted revenue reserve account into its operating account to cover revenue shortfalls due to reduced consumption in fiscal year 2017. Such transfers were authorized in Report and Order No. 20160 in Docket 4061, where this Commission said that Providence Water's restricted revenue reserve fund may be "used to cover shortfalls in allowed revenues upon a showing by Providence Water Supply Board that the shortfall resulted from reduced consumption." (at 20).

Providence Water experienced reduced consumption in fiscal year 2017 as compared to the consumption amounts allowed in Dockets 4571 and 4618. Those dockets encompass fiscal year 2017. As demonstrated by the Testimony of Nancy Parrillo, retail consumption was down 785,991 hcf or 6.01%. There was a slight increase in wholesale consumption, and as a result, overall system wide consumption was down 711,182 hcf or 2.74% (Parrillo, at 2, and Exhibit NEP1 and NEP1A).

The issue in this docket is whether there has been a shortfall in revenues due to reduced consumption for the fiscal year 2017, as compared to the allowed revenues established in the most recent Providence Water rate Dockets 4571 and 4618. Bristol County Water Authority ("BCWA") (Data Request 1-4(g)) asks Providence Water to explain what it did with "extra revenue" allegedly collected in fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015. Providence Water has objected because the

events which occurred in fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015 are not relevant or material to the filing in this docket, which deals with fiscal year 2017.

Moreover, the events which occurred in 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015 (revenues and expenses) were all rolled into and reconciled in Providence Water's most recent rate cases Dockets 4571 and 4618. Dockets 4571 and 4618 are completed. BCWA was a full party intervenor in Docket 4571. The Order was issued in that docket on September 1, 2015. No appeal was filed by BCWA or any other party. The Report and Order for Docket 4618 has not yet been issued, but the hearings have concluded and the Commission made its decisions in open meetings.

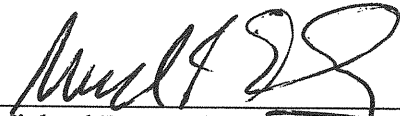
BCWA is improperly seeking to relitigate issues that were resolved in previous dockets (but not to BCWA's satisfaction). BCWA admits as much on page 2 of its Motion, where it states: "In Docket 4618, the BCWA argued that the balances in Providence's restricted accounts – including the Revenue Reserve – should be used to benefit ratepayers by lowering Providence's rate increases." (at 2). BCWA fails to point out that BCWA's argument in this regard was rejected by this Commission. When the Report and Order is eventually issued in Docket 4618, BCWA may choose to file an appeal to the Supreme Court on this issue, but it is wholly improper for BCWA to seek to relitigate this issue in Providence Water's restricted account transfer docket.¹

For the foregoing reasons, Providence Water requests that its Objection to BCWA Data Request 1-4(g) be sustained and that BCWA's Motion to Strike Objection and Compel Response be denied.

¹ BCWA also claimed that Providence Water has not submitted quarterly reports showing the balances in the restricted accounts. This is not accurate. Providence Water has submitted its quarterly restricted account reports. Providence Water was not aware that the Commission expected these reports to be served on the service list in this docket because such reports have previously been filed with the Commission, but not served on the service list. Legal counsel to the Commission recently stated that she feels these reports are compliance filings and should be served on the service list. Therefore, on November 21, 2017, the two most recent restricted account reports were served upon the service list in this docket. These two reports had previously been sent to the Commission Clerk on October 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD
By its attorney

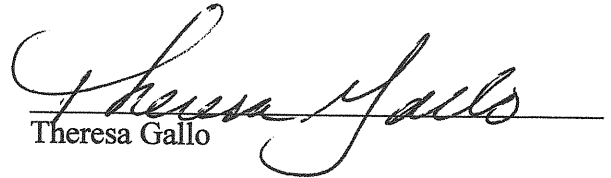
Date: November 22, 2017



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 22nd day of November, 2017, I sent a copy of the foregoing to the service list.


Theresa Gallo

PWSB/Revenue Reserve/Objection

**Docket No. 4618 - Providence Water Supply Board – General Rate Filing
Service List updated 12/27/16**

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