

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** 1014rmac@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 12:22 AM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Jean Jewell; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Rich & Mary Boettcher

Name: Rich & Mary Boettcher  
Case Number: DIA-W-15-01  
Email: 1014rmac@gmail.com  
Telephone: 208-659-7784  
Address: 1937 W Diamond Bar Rd  
Rathdrum Idaho, 83858

Name of Utility Company: Diamond Bar Estates Water Company  
Comment: We are writing in response to Case No. DIA-W-15-01.

As owners in Diamond Bar Estates for the past 14 years, we were shocked to get a notice of a proposed 80% increase in our water bill and given with such short notice!

We cannot begin to follow how this proposal can be warranted. We have calculated our own personal usage for last year (2015) and our total expense was \$997.20. If we use the same amount of water this coming year, our bill will be \$1,792.80!

When we purchased our piece of property in 2001, we bought with the knowledge that we would have irrigation water during the warm months for a lump sum fee of between \$200-300/year. (which we did for a few years) With this in mind, we put a lot of time and effort into developing our 5 acre parcel. It hurt us in 2007 when they all of a sudden our water usage rates were increased and the flat rate for irrigation water was done away with. We now pay in one summer month what we used to pay for the whole season. With the new proposed rates, our budget will not allow us to maintain our property at the same level that we do now. Our neighborhood has retired fixed income families as well as families trying to run small hobby farms that need pastures, which requires water. Without water, the families who cannot afford these new proposed rates, yards and pastures will turn to brown weeds. This will affect the resale for all of us in this development.

The owner of Diamond Bar Water is also the developer of Diamond Bar Estates. Diamond Bar Estates is a 5 acre community that allows for large yards, gardens, animals and pastures which cannot be maintained at this proposed rate. We definitely do not follow the mathematics of the attached exhibits in the application and cannot imagine why after so many years, there is suddenly a need for an 80% increase in the rate. Money should have been set aside over the years for the replacement & maintenance of our water system. We especially feel this way because the same person initially designed and orchestrated the rate schedule, which is far under today's rate- let alone the new proposed rate. We fear our water system has been neglected and let go over the years and possibly the money was spent elsewhere? Money is needed now because our system is in need of some serious work. We have been without water off/on several times over the past 2 years. We were told last summer for an extended period of time not to use irrigation water. This was not due to the lack of water but rather to mechanical failure.

We hope that this proposal will be invested thoroughly. Thank you for your consideration.

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