

# APPLE VALLEY REVIEW

## Two hearings set for water rate hikes

published by mhprov on Wed, 04/30/2014 - 08:48

Public encouraged to attend meetings on Wednesday

From Staff Reports

The California Public Utilities Commission on Wednesday will host two hearings to discuss proposed increases in local water rates, according to a town news release.

Town officials are encouraging residents to attend the meetings hosted by the CPUC, the regulator agency responsible for reviewing and approving Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company rate increases.

In January, Apple Valley Ranchos, now a wholly owned subsidiary of the Carlyle Group, submitted an application to raise rates significantly over the next three years.

“We strongly urge all Apple Valley Ranchos customers to come out in force next week and voice their opinions,” Apple Valley Mayor Art Bishop said in a written statement. “It will be up to the citizens of Apple Valley to make it known how deeply these rate hikes impact them.”

During the hearing, customers will have the opportunity to discuss the rate hikes and learn more about Apple Valley Rancho’s proposed increases.

The company is asking for increases of 14.88 percent in 2015, 8.48 percent in 2016 and 8.19 percent in 2017. These rates would be compounding, meaning that the near 9 percent increase planned for 2016 would be on top of the proposed near 15 percent increase in 2015. Average users would see their water bills increase dramatically if AVR’s application is granted.

“This is not the first time rates have been raised,” said Mayor Bishop. “Apple Valley Ranchos has proposed, and been granted, rate hikes numerous times during the past decade. The proposed hikes would be difficult for many in Apple Valley to afford.”

The hearings are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Apple Valley Conference Center, 14975 Dale Evans Parkway. For more information, visit [www.applevalley.org](http://www.applevalley.org).