

Apple Valley Ranchos takeover

Greek dramatist Aeschylus is credited with saying, "In war, truth is the first casualty." From this, we can deduce that the Town of Apple Valley is at war with Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company (AVR).

Representatives of the Town have been lying by omission (and just plain lying) about AVR in order to grease the skids on their hostile takeover of the utility. Thus it's no surprise that Town Manager Frank Robinson has uttered yet another lie in saying that Apple Valley residents have no idea what their water rates will be if AVR's parent corporation is purchased by another corporation ("Takeover cost no drop in the bucket," Press Dispatch, March 15). For the \$300,000+ per year that Apple Valley pays Robinson, it could get someone who knows the facts.

Water rates are not set by the water utilities. Water utilities may request rate changes, but the ultimate decision lies with the California Public Utilities Commission.

You also quote Robinson attempting to spread fear, uncertainty, and doubt about our water supply, accusing the prospective purchaser of AVR of having no experience operating a water system in California. Perhaps Robinson would like to share with us what experience he and/or other members of the Apple Valley Town Council have in operating a water supply anywhere, ever?

The ongoing mania on the part of the Town Council to seize AVR is reminiscent of its mind-bogglingly stupid purchase of the Apple Valley Country Club, which has cost Town residents millions that we'll be lucky ever to see again.

— *Greg Raven, Apple Valley*

Letter to the Editor published in the March 22, 2015 issue of *The Daily Press*