

Date 2/25/21

Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

DFT #: 20200139

As a resident of Cypress Lakes, I have seen our Utilities Inc. bill triple during my residency. Specifically wastewater costs are the target in this latest increase.

In 2010, an expansion of our wastewater treatment system was necessary to accommodate approximately 120 additional homes in Cypress Lakes. Without notification to Property Management/Owners, Utilities Inc., made that upgrade to the tune of nearly \$1,000,000. The price tag for this was placed on all our residents by action of the Public Service Commission and we have paid the bill. There has been no budgetary request since 2010 for our wastewater treatment plant.

But we are now faced with an increase of an additional 30% in rates through request by Utilities Inc. This is to pay for four other communities sewer facilities. One of those systems is 50+ years old and is under court order to upgrade. Paying for their capital expenditure disenfranchises our residents, places an unfair burden on them economically and ties the hands of Cypress Lakes Property Management to remain competitive in Polk County. Cypress Lakes community is the ONLY one in Polk County served by Utilities Inc.

I request that the Public Service Commission deny the request for a rate increase and have it be assessed to those communities benefitting from the proposed \$26,000,000+ in capital expenditures.

Sincerely,

MIKE + SHARON HALLAD  
2323 SNOWY PLOVER DR  
LAKELAND FL 33810

COMMISSION  
CLERK

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**Michael Hallax**  
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