

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIF

4	Charles P. Varvayanis,) Case 16-10-005) (Filed October 6, 2016)
5	Complainant,)
6	vs.)
7	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association,)

Defendant.

VERIFIED POST-TELECONFERENCE BRIEF

Charles P. Varvayanis P. O. Box 395 Long Barn, CA 95335 Telephone: (209) 586-3782

charles@varvayanis.com E-mail:

December 21, 2016

1 Charles P. Varvayanis P. O. Box 395 2 Long Barn, CA 95335 Telephone: (209) 586-3782 3 E-mail: charles@varvayanis.com 4 5 BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 6 Case 16-10-005 7 (Filed October 6, 2016) Charles P. Varvayanis, 8 Complainant, Related Modification Decision 16-08-006 (Issued August 19, 2016) 9 VS. Related Original Decision 16-01-047 10 Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association, (Issued January 29, 2016) 11 Defendant. Related Case 12-03-017 (Filed March 14, 2012) 12 VERIFIED POST-TELECONFERENCE 13 BRIEF 14 15 Administrative Law Judge Eric Wildgrube requested a telephone conference at 11 a.m. 16 on December 20, 2016 to discuss a matter with the parties, Complainant Charles Varvayanis (the 17 "Complainant") and Defendant Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association, ("Odd Fellows"). 18 The matter became a discussion of the \$825 cost figure specified by the DWA as opposed to 19 \$571.60 cost figure alleged by Odd Fellows. The Complainant attempted to articulate his 20 position. ALJ Eric Wildgrube requested proof of the Complainant's payments to Odd Fellows 21 for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. 22 The Complainant legally merged three lots into one in 2007 and purchased another lot in 23 2009. Odd Fellows refused to recognize the mergers and invoiced the Complainant for four lots 24 until the Complainant sued Odd Fellows in 2012. The total payment for each lot was apparently 25 split between three partial payments. Each payment amount was specified by Odd Fellows'

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Agent/Account Carlson, Hass and Associates in response to the Complainant asking "How much do I owe?" Two weeks after making the first payment, the Complainant learned his bill was not paid in full and again asked "How much do I owe?" The third payment included an additional amount to cover a prorated legal fee verbally requested by Odd Fellows but never invoiced or otherwise documented by Odd Fellows, however it was paid in good faith. Copies of invoices and payments are attached herewith as Exhibits A and B.

The Complainant has intimate knowledge of the water system, Odd Fellows' operations and costs having held a seat on the Odd Fellows Board of Directors for six years and having served as Odd Fellows' President and Director of the Water System.

Following is a clarification of the Complainant's position including the details to support the Complainant's position:

I. INTRODUCTION

A complaint was filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (hereafter "CPUC" or "Commission") on March 14, 2012, resulting in CPUC Case 12-03-017 and CPUC Decision 16-01-047 dated January 28, 2016 (hereafter "Original Decision") against Odd Fellows.

On June 29, 2016, Odd Fellows filed a CPUC Petition for Modification of the Original Decision (hereafter "Petition for Modification") specifically seeking a modification of Ordering Paragraph 3.b on page 37. The resulting CPUC Decision 16-08-006 dated August 19, 2016 (hereafter "Modified Decision") granted the Petition for Modification along with a few changes made by the CPUC. The Modified Decision changes nothing in respect to the Complainant and as a result has no effect on the Complainant.

It is worthwhile noting that the Original Decision was the result of a full commission decision of all five commissioners.

Complainant's position:

- As set forth in the Original Decision on page 37, paragraph 3.b; ordering twenty quarterly refund payments of \$15.57 over five years totaling ~ \$311.33 per lot.
- Odd Fellows refuses to pay the \$15.57 quarterly refund payment amounts ordered in both the Original Decision and Modified Decision, but instead is paying \$2.88 refund payments.

II. COMPLAINANT'S ARGUMENT

1. **CPUC rejected Odd Fellows' argument for \$571.60** – On November 19, 2015 Odd Fellows filed "COMMENTS OF APPLICANT ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION ON REVISED PROPOSED DECISION RESOLVING A COMPLAINT AND AUTHORIZING A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AS MODIFIED".

The Commission rejected arguments presented in the above document including the \$571.60 figure based on guidance from the CPUC Division of Water and Audits (hereafter "DWA" or "Water Division") as documented in the Original Decision, 8. Comments on Proposed Decision starting at the first paragraph on Page 31:

"In its comments to the revised proposed decision Odd Fellows also now questions the Water Division's computation of water rates, although it did not question them in its comments to the initial proposed decision.23 The Water Division requested cost information from Odd Fellows and the Water Company prior to writing its report, but had issues with the accuracy and usefulness of the unsegregated information it received. (See Final Report at 14-16.) The Water Division therefore used the best available information such as Budget Reports that came from the Water Company's Board of Director Minutes. Once it determined Fiscal Year 2013 financials, the Water Division then backcast or deflated this amount using approved inflation factors to determine the Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 revenue requirement. We therefore make no changes to the Final Report in response to Odd Fellow's comments."

The DWA's report attached to the Original Decision as ATTACHMENT A starting at page 15, first paragraph states:

"The Recreation Association provided its financial report updated to May 31, 2013. ⁴³ In the financial report, the auditors state that

. . the financial statements do not express an opinion or provide any assurances about whether the financial statements are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America . . . The policy is to prepare the financial statements on the modified basis of each cash receipts and cash disbursements. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present the financial position or results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. . . . We are not independent with respect to Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association, Inc 44 45

The CPA's clarified that they performed a compilation based on data provided by OFSRA without conducting any testing of the underlying data. They did not audit the financial records. The financial report did not segregate all water related income and expenses. Rather, it presented all information for the Recreation Association for all activities that were handled by the Recreation Association. The Recreation Association also stated that it did not segregate records for the water service offered. Due to this, Staff could not rely on the accuracy of the historical"

2. The Modified Decision – The Modified Decision does not incorporate, reference, endorse, recognize, etc. the \$571.60 figure presented by Odd Fellows or Appendix B of the Petition for Modification making it irrelevant and moot. Instead the Modified Decision paragraph 3.b. on Page 10, clearly states:

"Odd Fellows must make a refund to all customers who made payments in excess of reasonable rates only..."

⁴³ Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association Inc., Compiled Financial Statements, May 31, 2013.

⁴⁴ Id, at page 1

⁴⁵ In a clarification, OFSRA's CPA firm noted that they perform accounting services on a regular monthly basis for OFSRA and its professional standards do not require it to be independent with respect to clients when performing a compilation of financial statements. Letter from Eric A. Carlson, CPA to Ravi Kumra, dated 10/23/2014.

The CPUC defined amount Odd Fellows is to refund is incorporated in two paragraphs in its Modified Decision:

1) Modified Decision, 1. Background, starting at the last paragraph on page 2:

"Notably, the Decision at page 34, Conclusions of Law 34, Refunds should go to customers who have overpaid their bills in the first instance, and not to customers who have paid less than what the Water Division found to be a reasonable rate. The recognition that customers who did not pay either Odd Fellows or the Water Company amounts in excess of reasonable rates should not be entitled to receive a refund was not unambiguously reflected by the OPs."

Note to the reader: "Decision at page 34, Conclusions of Law 34" should likely read "Decision at page 34, Conclusions of Law 12".

2) Modified Decision, first paragraph under 4. Discussion on page 6:

"The Commission agrees OPs 3.a and 3.b should reflect the intent stated by the Decision and that it is reasonable that refunds paid by Water Company and Odd Fellows should go to customers who have overpaid their bills in the first instance, and not to customers who have paid less than what the Water Division found to be a reasonable rate."

The Original Decision at page 34, Conclusions of Law 12 states:

"Refunds should go to customers who have overpaid their bills in the first instance, and not to customers who have paid less than what the Water Division found to be a reasonable rate."

3. **Calculation of refunds** – The Original Decision and the Modified Decision both rely on findings by the Water Division that rate payers paid \$825 for water for improved lots and \$759 for water for unimproved lots as published and attached to the Original Decision as ATTACHMENT A at page 25, Table 3:

-6-

		Domecheli Report			Utility Asessment Amount			Assessment / Lot	Over/(Under) Collection			Total Over/Under Collection								
Assessment	Г	w/o CIP		w/CIP	lı	mproved	U	nimproved		per staff		Per	Per		Improved	Ur	nimproved		Total	Refund by
Period						Lot		Lot	Re	ecommendation	ln	nproved	Unimproved		Lot		Lot			
									W	o special study		Lot	Lot		(305 lots)		(59 lots)			
		а		b		С		d		е		f=c•e	g=e-d		h=f*305 ¹		i=g*59 ¹	Ι.	j=h+l ¹	
3/1/2012-5/31/2012	Т				\$	793	\$	793	\$	495	\$	298	\$ 298	\$	22,702	\$	4,391	\$	27,093	-
6/1/2012-5/31/2013	\$	522	\$	802	\$	825	\$	759	\$	514	\$	311	\$ 245	\$	94,957	\$	14,475	S	109,432	Recreation Assoc.
6/1/2013-5/31/2014	\$	537	\$	826	\$	968	\$	890	\$	545	\$	423	\$ 345	\$	128,884	\$	20,330	Ş	149,214	Water Company
6/1/2014-5/31/2015	\$	553	\$	851	\$	997	\$	997	\$	524	\$	473	\$ 473	\$	144,297	\$	27,911	\$	172,208	Water Company
													Total Refund	\$	368,138	\$	62,715	\$	430,854	
													Total Ovecollecti	i \$	390,840	\$	67,107	Ş	457,947	
														Γ				Ī		
Votes																				
Over/Under Collection	ns for	FY 2011 is fo	or 3	months (Marc	ch th	rough May	20	12)												

The refunds were calculated by the DWA as \$311 for improved lots and \$245 for unimproved lots, also documented in Table 3. These refund rates divided by the 20 quarterly refund payments as ordered in the Original Decision and Modified Decisions yield individual payments of \$15.55 for improved lots and \$12.25 for unimproved lots.

Note: The discrepancy between the Complainant's calculated \$15.57 refund amount and DWA's \$15.55 refund amount exists because the Complainant used Dollars and Cents throughout all of its calculations while the DWA rounded to whole Dollar amounts in the earlier portions of its calculations.

Complainant notes: He would be satisfied with either the \$15.55 or \$15.57 amount for the quarterly payments and uses them interchangeably.

4. Odd Fellows incorrectly continues to calculate refunds based on \$571.60 for water – As set forth above, the Commission, based on the DWA's comments, rejected the figures supplied by Odd Fellows which include the \$571.60 Odd Fellows references in this matter and elsewhere. Neither the Original Decision nor Modified Decision incorporate, reference, endorse, recognize, etc. the amount of \$571.60 for water or Appendix B of the Petition for Modification, making the amount of \$571.60 irrelevant and moot. Both the Original

1	Decision and Modified Decision rely the DWA's findings that rate payers paid \$825 for water
2	for improved lots and \$759 for water for unimproved lots.
3	
4	5. Additional evidence – Additional evidence will be presented at the Evidentiary
5	Hearing.
6	
7	III. CONCLUSION
8	Based on the foregoing, Complainant CHARLES P. VARVAYANIS respectfully
9	requests an Evidentiary Hearing.
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12	DATED: December 21, 2016 Respectfully submitted,
13	By: Charles P. Varrayonis
14	Charles P. Varvayanis
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VERIFICATION

I am the Complainant Charles P. Varvayanis and I am authorized to make this verification on my behalf. The statements in the foregoing are true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters which are therein stated on information and believe, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on December 21, 2016, at Long Barn, California.

By: Charles P. Varvayonis

Charles P. Varvayanis

Exhibit A - Page 1 of 10

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Invoice

c/o 14570 MONO WAY, STE. G SONORA, CA 95370 Date Invoice # 6/6/2012 379

Bill To	We now accept Credit Cards - please circle one Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover
Charles P Varvayanis P.O. Box 395 Long Barn, CA 95335 Lot # 09.006	Name
·	TERMS

Payable upon receipt

	Description	Amount
012/2013 Assessment		1,024.0

Accounts not paid in full by August 31, 2012 will be assessed a \$25 delinquent charge per lot per month.

Total

\$1,024.00

Phone #

209-532-5171



Carlson, Haff & Associates

An Accountancy Corporation Exhibit A - Page 2 of 10
14570 Mono Way, Suite G
Sonora, CA 95370

Carlson, Haff & Associates

An Accountancy Corporation 14570 Mono Way, Suite G Sonora, CA 95370

Exhibit A - Page 3 of 10



Exhibit A - Page 4 of 10

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Invoice

c/o 14570 MONO WAY, STE. G SONORA, CA 95370

Date	Invoice #
6/6/2012	380

Bill To	
Charles Varvayanis	
P.O. Box 395	
Long Barn, CA 95335	
09.007	
	1

We now accept Credit Cards - please circle one
Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover
Name
Address
ZipCode
Card #
Expiration date
3 digit security code
e-mail address

TERMS

Payable upon receipt

Description	Amount
2012/2013 Assessment	1,024.00

Accounts not paid in full by August 31, 2012 will be assessed a \$25 delinquent charge per lot per month.

Total

\$1,024.00

Phone #

209-532-5171



Carlson, Haff & Associates An Accountancy Corporation Exhibit A - Page 5 of 10 14570 Mono Way, Suite G Sonora, CA 95370

Carlson, Haff & Associates

An Accountancy Corporation 14570 Mono Way, Suite G Sonora, CA 95370

Exhibit A - Page 6 of 10



Exhibit A - Page 7 of 10

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Invoice

c/o 14570 MONO WAY, STE. G SONORA, CA 95370 Date Invoice # 6/6/2012 381

Bill To	We now accept Credit Cards - please circle one
Charles Varvayanis P.O. Box 395 Long Barn, CA 95335 09.014	Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover Name Address ZipCode Card # Expiration date 3 digit security code e-mail address
	TERMS Payable upon receipt

Description	Amount
2012/2013 Assessment	1,024.00

Accounts not paid in full by August 31, 2012 will be assessed a \$25 delinquent charge per lot per month.

Phone #

209-532-5171

Total s

\$1,024.00

Exhibit A - Page 8 of 10

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Invoice

c/o 14570 MONO WAY, STE. G SONORA, CA 95370 Date Invoice # 6/6/2012 382

Payable upon receipt

Bill To	We now accept Credit Cards - please circle one Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover
Charles Varvayanis P.O. Box 395 Long Barn, CA 95335 24.041	Name
	TERMS

Description Amount

2012/2013 Assessment 1,024.00

Accounts not paid in full by August 31, 2012 will be assessed a \$25 delinquent charge per lot per month.

Total

\$1,024.00

Phone #

209-532-5171



Carlson, Haff & Associates
An Accountancy Corporation Exhibit A - Page 9 of 10
14570 Mono Way, Suite G
Sonora, CA 95370

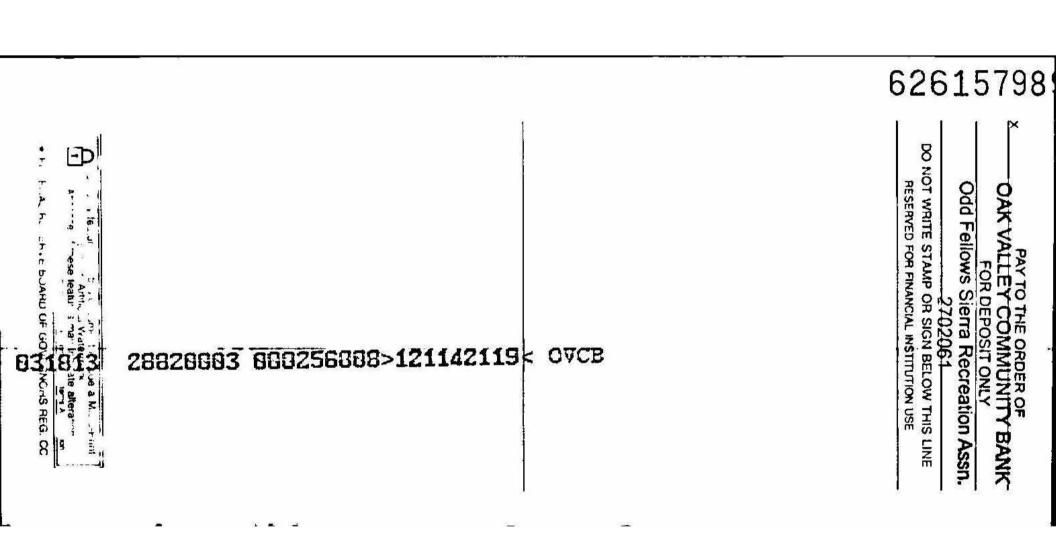
Carlson, Haff & Associates

An Accountancy Corporation 14570 Mono Way, Suite G Sonora, CA 95370

Exhibit A - Page 10 of 10



Account: 24982 JORDAN			JORDAN	WAY WEST-VARVAYANIS	TAL CUSTOMER	\$571.60		
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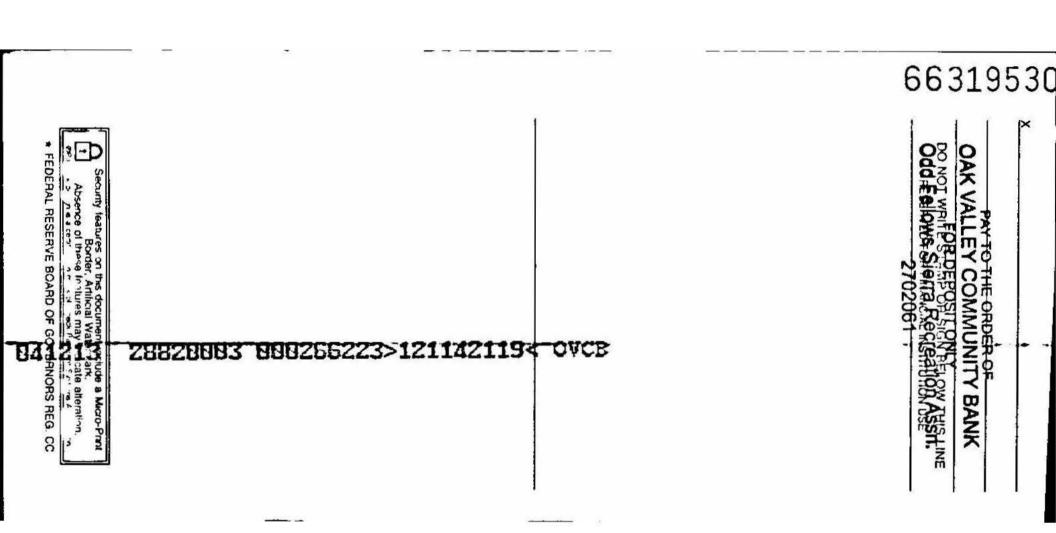


A	ccount: 25431 WHEELER	PLEASE POST THIS PAYMENT FOR OUR MUTUAL CUST ROAD - VARVAYANIS	\$571.60
PAT JO	X 395	Please Direct Any Questions To: (800) 278-8302 ONLINE BANKING - BILL PAYI	35/1210 MENT 00000808
LONG E	BARN, CA 95335-0395 25431 Wheeler Road - Varvayanis	BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.	March 19, 2013
ay FIVE	HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE AND 60	/100	DOLLARS
	ODD FELLOWS SIERRA REC. ASS	SOC.	\$ *****571.60
	C/O EDIOS & OSDI DONI		
To The Order	C/O ERICA A. CARLSON 14570 MONO WAY STE G SONORA, CA 95370-8997		Void After 180 DAYS. Signature On File

65862192 DO NOT WRITE STAMP SHEETS BELOW THIS LINE Odd Fellows RESERVED FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION USE Recreation Assn. 28828883 888256889>121142119 CVCB

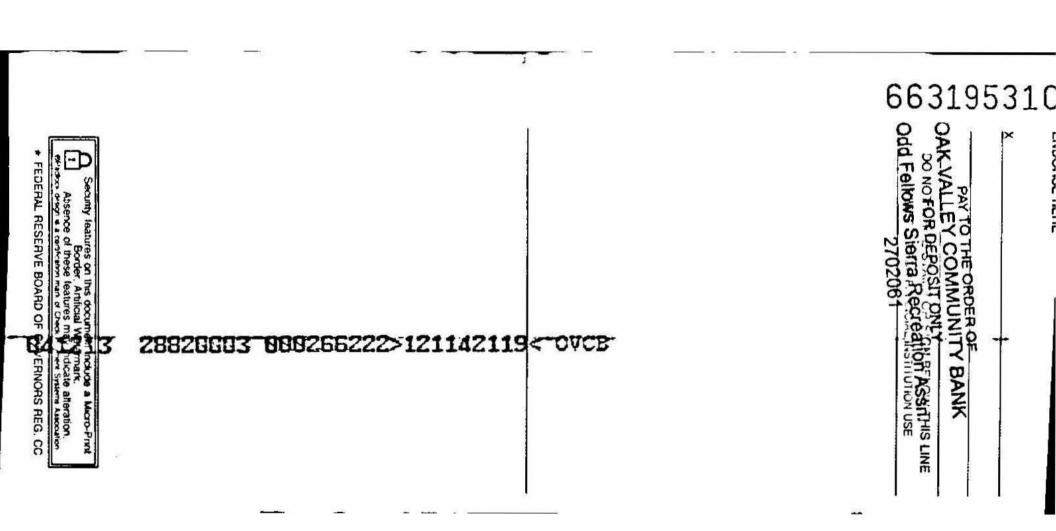
DOCUMENT CONTAINS COLORED BACKGROUND ON WHITE PAPER. "YOID" FEATURE, SIMULATED WATERMARK (REVERSE SIDE) INCRO-PRINT BORDER. 25431 WHEELER ROAD - VARVAYANIS \$452.40 Account: Please Direct Any Questions 35/1210 To: (800) 278-8302 ONLINE BANKING - BILL PAYMENT 0000008105 CHARLES P VARVAYANIS PAT JONES PO BOX 395 April 04, 2013 LONG BARN, CA 95335-0395 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. MEMO: 25431 Wheller Road - Varvayanis **DOLLARS** Pay FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY TWO AND 40/100 -----*452.40 ODD FELLOWS SIERRA REC. ASSOC. C/O ERICA A. CARLSON To Void After 180 DAYS. 14570 MONO WAY STE G The Signature On File SONORA, CA 95370-8997 Drder This check has been authorized Of by your depositor

#*OOBJOS# #1121000358# 001265206119# 189



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"OOBIOS" :121000358: OO1265206119" 189



ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC. C/O 14570 MONO WAY, SUITE G **SONORA, CA 95370**

RECEIPT

Date: 4/9/2014

Received of: Charles Varvayanis

*** Four hundred fifty-three and 42/100 Dollars *** \$453.42

Legal fees on lot 24.041 \$226.71

Legal fees on lot 09.007A \$226.71

Cash/dheck no.

allen Brugess