

It is incredibly difficult to advocate for bond approval because:

At this time we don't know what the cost of EPCOR and Bermuda assets will be, the actual interest rate, or how much of the \$130M bond will be used to purchase Bermuda Water that services south BHC and nearby Ft. Mohave. It has long been a goal of BHC to annex Ft. Mohave. Perhaps the city wants bonding so Ft. Mohave voters will approve annexation into the city, "to have a say in their water rates". Is this the real reason the city wants this bond?

What do we know?

The city is asking for 30 year bond authorization of \$130,000,000 at 8% interest.

If the city buys EPCOR and/or Bermuda's assets "IN AND AROUND THE CITY" your water bill will increase substantially...

But wait, I thought Voting Yes was to prevent EPCOR and Bermuda from raising our rates. Instead the City will raise your rates to both cover the cost of repaying the bonds needed to buy the water company(s), as well as for operations and maintenance. In addition to water cost, (unspecified) the City will add a new **\$47.34 Bond Fee** onto your water bill for the next **30 years**. A municipal water company may like the city sewer become another slush-fund for waste, fraud, and inefficiency.

What will your household's bond fee be...

Bond principal: **\$130,000,000**

Interest of **8%** for **30 years**: **\$213,401,816**

Debt service: (principal + interest) **\$343,401,816**

BHC Population: **40,252**

Debt service per person: $\$343,401,816 / 40,252 = \8531

Annual debt service per person: $\$8531 / 30 \text{ years} = \284

Monthly debt service per person: $\$284 / 12 \text{ months/year} = \23.67

Average number of persons per BHC household: **2**

Average monthly household cost for debt service $\$23.67 \times 2 = \47.34 (not including the cost of water, meter charges, etc.)

*(US Census)

Conclusion: **VOTE NO**

Marc Goldstone

BHC resident, business owner, and taxpayer

4090 Yucca Street

Bullhead City, Arizona 86429

(928) 754-8305

I'm retired Military. (26 years) I've lived in BHC for 18 years, and as such I wasn't born yesterday. With age comes experience and the ability to recognize expensive and unnecessary boondoggles, and that's exactly what this bond measure is!

Several years ago EPCOR purchased the water companies serving Bullhead City. EPCOR of course assumed significant debt to fund those purchases. That debt service is already reflected in our water rates and EPCOR's value. The fact is that Wall Street will profit by selling bonds multiple times for the same infrastructure leaving us taxpayers and ratepayers holding the bag.

The City in a blatant revenue and power grab wants us voters to approve a \$130M bond (blank check) to pay for the debt service needed to acquire EPCOR for an estimated \$55M, leaving \$75M with which to also buy the portion of Bermuda Water "located in and around" Bullhead City. If this bond authorization were approved we would all pay about \$47/month just for debt service, not including any water.

I understand that after the City takes Bermuda Water's assets, they once again intend to annex Ft. Mohave. The City will deny that this is their plan, but we all know that **pigs don't fly and POLITICIANS LIE**. The City expects to be successful in a future annexation attempt because Ft. Mohave residents will otherwise have no say in their water rates which will then be set by the BHC Council.

It's not hard to see the City's true motivation... grow government by doubling sales tax revenue, government shared revenues, etc. This isn't about helping Bullhead's water rate payers, it's all about revenue, power and unbridled greed at City Hall.

Please join me by voting **NO** in our mutual self interest and that of families!

Jimmie Houts
Bullhead City, AZ

Dear Bullhead City Voters,

I'm proud to work for EPCOR in Bullhead City. I have 21 years working in the water department in Bullhead providing great customer service to all our customers. Every day, we take pride in delivering safe, clean, affordable water to all our 19,000 customers. Whether it's 119 degrees or freezing outside, our employees make sure that our residents have reliable water service. I've taken pride working with all our customers for the past 21 years and it saddens me to imagine that their water bills will double or triple if the City gets their way and prop 415 passes. The residents of Bullhead will not be able to afford this.

If passed, Proposition 415 would condemn our local water company and trigger a bunch of bad consequences. It would put a lot of good, hardworking, dedicated people out of work. The residents of Bullhead will be the ones to burden this large financial debt.

I strongly urge our customers to Vote "NO" on Proposition 415. Tell your friends and neighbors that Proposition 415 is a disaster for Bullhead City's future.

Thank you,

James Lands
Fort Mohave, AZ

Dear Bullhead City Voters,

I have been proud to work for EPCOR in Bullhead City for the past 13 years. Every day, we take pride in delivering safe, clean, affordable water to our 19,000 customers. Whether it's 119 degrees or freezing outside, our employees make sure that our residents have reliable water service.

If passed, Proposition 415 would condemn our local water company and trigger a bunch of bad consequences. It would put a lot of good, hardworking, dedicated people - like me - out of work. It would also saddle residents with tons of debt and could raise our taxes and water rates.

Vote "NO" on Proposition 415. Tell your friends and neighbors that Proposition 415 is a disaster for Bullhead City's future.

Thank you,

Jeff Loya
Fort Mohave, AZ

I am opposed to Prop 415, as a citizen of Bullhead City. Our city cannot take on an extreme debt of this magnitude. The city will have to raise taxes and water rates for everyone.

Vote NO on Prop 415.

William Wallstead
Kingman, AZ

Dear Voter:

It has been very frustrating to listen to the Bullhead City Manager and the City Council talk about taking over our local water company (EPCOR).

Every concerned taxpayer should vote NO on Proposition 415. It will cost taxpayers \$400 million in debt over time. We can't afford it!

Vote NO on Prop. 415!

Thank you,

Stephanie Walker
Bullhead City, AZ

Dear Bullhead City Voters,

I have been proud to work for EPCOR in Bullhead City for the past 28 years. Every day, we take pride in delivering safe, clean, affordable water to our 19,000 customers. Whether it's 119 degrees or freezing outside, our employees make sure that our residents have reliable water service.

If passed, Proposition 415 would condemn our local water company and trigger a bunch of bad consequences. It would put a lot of good, hardworking, dedicated people - like me - out of work. It would also saddle residents with tons of debt and could raise our taxes and water rates.

Vote "NO" on Proposition 415. Tell your friends and neighbors that Proposition 415 is a disaster for Bullhead City's future.

Thank you,

Antoinette Brouws
Bullhead City, AZ

I've been in Bullhead City long enough to know that the government raised our wastewater rates when it took over the sewer system. What's going to stop the Mayor and City Council from raising our water rates if they take over EPCOR's water system?

Fact is, this is going to cost taxpayers. There's no other way around it.

Keep our water system as is. Don't spend our money on something we don't need right now. I'm voting No on Prop. 415!

Richard VanHorn
Bullhead City, AZ

If you are a voter and water customer in Bullhead City, I urge you to read the Prop. 415 ballot language for the Nov. 5 general election.

Bullhead City wants residents to approve the use of eminent domain to takeover EPCOR at a cost of \$130 million.

Don't fall for the fancy numbers the city is throwing out, and don't buy the spin about how it won't cost us anything. Just read the ballot language and decide for yourself.

How will the city pay back the \$130 million? Taxpayers, that's who. You and me. Vote wisely, people. Vote NO on Prop. 415!

Thank you,

Dave Evans
Fort Mohave, AZ

If Bullhead City can buy EPCOR for \$55 million, then why is it asking voters to approve \$130 million in bonds? Seems like there is some fuzzy math happening there.

Wake up residents of Bullhead City. Look at your ballot. This is going to cost us.

With that kind of debt, how is the city going to lower our water rates? The answer is, they can't and they won't because this town is going to be paying back millions of dollars each year to buy a water system that isn't for sale.

Vote NO on Prop. 415!

Wayne Russell
Fort Mohave, AZ

Dear Voters of Bullhead City:

I'm shocked ... shocked that government officials are once again behaving recklessly against the interests of the Bullhead City taxpayer.

They want to take over our local water company and put it under government control. It's called eminent domain.

I'm urging everyone to Vote No on Proposition 415.

How much will Prop 415 really cost? At least \$130 million in today's dollars. Over time, it will cost us \$400 million to pay off the debt.

We need to vote NO on Proposition 415 and send a message to our government that they should stop behaving irresponsibly and leave local private businesses alone.

Vote NO on Proposition 415

Thank you,

Jeremy Thomas
Bullhead City, AZ

Dear Voter:

It has been very frustrating to listen to the Bullhead City Manager and the City Council talk about taking over our local water company (EPCOR).

Every concerned taxpayer should vote NO on Proposition 415. It will cost taxpayers \$400 million in debt over time. We can't afford it!

Vote NO on Prop. 415!

Thank you,

Christian Verdugo Diaz
Bullhead City, AZ

The \$130 million cost of taking over EPCOR's water system is one thing, but how is our government going to pay for creating a brand new water department with high-paid employees, pensions and benefits? That's called growing government.

Leave EPCOR alone. Focus on running the city and stop spending our money.

Vote NO on Prop. 415!

Jeff Hayes
Bullhead City, AZ

Dear Voter,

I'm a Bullhead City resident, and I normally don't weigh in on political stuff. But I can't believe all of the things I'm hearing about the city taking over our water system.

City "leaders" want taxpayers to shell out \$130 million to buy EPCOR. How are we going to afford this? There's no such thing as a money tree.

Mark my words: The city WILL raise your water rates. There's no way around it.

Thank you,

Brian Walker
Bullhead City, AZ

I read in the newspaper the other day that Bullhead City Mayor Tom Brady finally admitted that it "might hurt your pocketbook now" to take over EPCOR Water (July 18, 2019, Mohave Daily News online). He said residents will applaud the city in the future if they vote to authorize eminent domain.

Well, I'm not going to gamble away my future on a politician's promise, especially when I have to pay more today.

Bottom line is this: The city will find a way to tax its residents to pay for this scheme.

We can't afford it. Vote NO on Prop. 415.

Thank you,

Andy Barajas
Bullhead City, AZ

Last time I checked this city had other big needs, such as good jobs, better roads and more police and firefighters.

We are a small town and we need economic development. How about we take all of this money the city says it has and really help the residents of our community? Why should we pay more to buy a water system that isn't broken?

Vote NO on Prop. 415.

Brian Ishmael
Fort Mohave, AZ

As a resident in Bullhead City, I'm incredibly disappointed by our city government's reckless decision to ask voters to approve eminent domain to take over EPCOR.

When has it ever been OK for government to condemn a private business, especially when that business serves the city so well? If it can happen to EPCOR, it can happen to any business in Bullhead City.

I am urging my friends and neighbors to vote NO on Proposition 415. This will be a hit to residents, taxpayers and our local economy. The city simply can't afford this.

Vote NO on Prop. 415.

Thank you,

Ryan Vaughn
Fort Mohave, AZ

I am opposed to Prop. 415. Our city cannot take on an extreme debt of this magnitude and not have to raise our taxes, as well as raising water rates for everyone.

Vote NO on Prop 415.

Thank you,

Ruby Eduardo Jimenez
Fort Mohave, AZ

The \$130 million cost of taking over EPCOR's water system is one thing, but how is our government going to pay for creating a brand new water department with high-paid employees, pensions and benefits? That's called growing government.

Leave EPCOR alone. Focus on running the city and stop spending our money.

Vote NO on Prop. 415!

William Eduardo
Fort Mohave, AZ

I am opposed to Prop 415, as a citizen of Bullhead City. Our city cannot take on an extreme debt of this magnitude. The city will have to raise taxes and water rates for everyone.

Vote NO on Prop 415.

Doug Ishmael
Fort Mohave, AZ

Many of us live paycheck to paycheck.

Now I hear that our City Council wants residents to approve eminent domain to take over EPCOR and our water system. It will cost up to \$400 million when it's all said and done. Where do you think that money will come from? That's right, our wallets.

We need to come together as concerned taxpayers to stand up for our rights. VOTE NO on Proposition 415. We must put a stop to it.

Eduardo Gomez
Bullhead City, AZ

If you are a voter and water customer in Bullhead City, I urge you to read the Prop. 415 ballot language for the Nov. 5 general election.

Bullhead City wants residents to approve the use of eminent domain to takeover EPCOR at a cost of \$130 million.

Don't fall for the fancy numbers the city is throwing out, and don't buy the spin about how it won't cost us anything. Just read the ballot language and decide for yourself.

How will the city pay back the \$130 million? Taxpayers, that's who. You and me. Vote wisely, people. Vote NO on Prop. 415!

Thank you,

Amanda Brouws
Bullhead City, AZ

Dear Voters of Bullhead City:

I'm shocked ... shocked that government officials are once again behaving recklessly against the interests of the Bullhead City taxpayer.

They want to take over our local water company and put it under government control. It's called eminent domain.

I'm urging everyone to Vote No on Proposition 415.

How much will Prop 415 really cost? At least \$130 million in today's dollars. Over time, it will cost us \$400 million to pay off the debt.

We need to vote NO on Proposition 415 and send a message to our government that they should stop behaving irresponsibly and leave local private businesses alone.

Vote NO on Proposition 415.

Thank you,

Chris Williams
Bullhead City, AZ

I am opposed to Prop 415, as a citizen of Bullhead City. Our city cannot take on an extreme debt of this magnitude. The city will have to raise taxes and water rates for everyone.

Vote NO on Prop 415.

Thank you,

Brian Diego
Bullhead City, AZ

Dear Voter,

I'm a Bullhead City resident, and I normally don't weigh in on political stuff. But I can't believe all of the things I'm hearing about the city taking over our water system.

City "leaders" want taxpayers to shell out \$130 million to buy EPCOR. How are we going to afford this? There's no such thing as a money tree.

Mark my words: The city WILL raise your water rates. There's no way around it.

Thank you,

Roberto Muniz
Bullhead City, AZ

I'm a Bullhead City resident and water customer. There is no need for the city government to seize EPCOR's water system just so we can be taxed more to pay for it.

My water works just fine. Do I wish my bill was less? Sure. I'd like to pay less for a lot of things, like electricity, cable and my phone, too. The city has made no guarantees our water rates will be less. So why are we doing this?

Vote No on Proposition 415.

Tim Dolan
Bullhead City, AZ

Dear Voter:

It has been very frustrating to listen to the Bullhead City Manager and the City Council talk about taking over our local water company (EPCOR).

Every concerned taxpayer should vote NO on Proposition 415. It will cost taxpayers \$400 million in debt over time. We can't afford it!

Vote NO on Prop. 415!

Thank you,

Charlie Gibson
Fort Mohave, AZ

Recently, EPCOR purchased the water companies previously serving Bullhead City. EPCOR assumed significant debt to fund those purchases. That debt service is now reflected in our ACC approved rates. Now the City in a blatant revenue and power grab wants voters to approve a gluttonous \$130M bond (blank check) to pay for the debt service needed to acquire EPCOR for about \$55M. This leaves \$75M with which to also buy the portion of Bermuda Water "located in and around" Bullhead City. If this bond authorization is approved we will all paying debt service of up to \$47/month on top of the existing debt service.

From experience, every time there is a business merger or acquisition, it's the consumer that loses since all costs incurred in the course of business are merely passed down to us ratepayers.

I understand that per the terms of the bond and after the City takes Bermuda Water's assets, they no doubt intend to once again attempt annexation of Ft. Mohave. This time they expect to be successful, due to having the added incentive of Ft. Mohave residents wanting a say in their water rates.

It's not hard to see the City's true motivation which is to double sales tax revenue, government shared revenues, etc. This isn't about helping Bullhead City water rate payers, it's all about revenue, power and greed at City Hall.

So join me in voting NO in your own and family's self-interest!

Richard Libubziewski
Bullhead City, AZ

Would you give the City one of your blank checks? **Hell No!**

The City is once again asking all of us to do just that, in this case a blank check for **\$343,401,816**. (cost of repaying a \$150,000,000, 30 year bond at 8%.

Given the city's population of 40,252, this means \$8531 in unnecessary debt for each and every man, woman, child, and to be politically correct confused folks that don't self identify as one of the foregoing. I don't know about you, but repaying this debt alone would be enough for me to pay our families current water bill in full, for more than the next 30 years.

I agree with prior statements which disclosed the City's ulterior motive for taking over the water company(s), which makes absolutely no fiscal sense. The motivation for the taking of EPCOR and Bermuda Water is all about **growing government**. The city is attempting to deceive and scare folks, as evidenced by the arguments in support of this bad plan that were submitted by the same people and organizations that survive off the largess of the city which funds them with taxpayer funds.

I'm a proud deplorable, and a fiscal conservative. I chose to live in Bullhead City instead of Phoenix or Los Angeles where every service is provided whom to tomb by those cities at enormous taxpayer expense. I will have no part in enabling the taking of private property especially since the water companies have been providing a good service at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately hard water is what's available locally, and not the fault of the water company.

For the reasons stated, and to assure our community remains an affordable place to live, I urge you to join me in voting **NO on Proposition 415**.

Larry Crummey
Bullhead City, Arizona

The reason I'm opposed to the city's takeover of EPCOR Water is double sided for me; I am the wife of an EPCOR employee, as well as a citizen who has been a homeowner and raised my family here for nearly three decades.

My husband, as well as EPCOR's other employees, are proud to work for their employer. EPCOR has been a family to us, and has given its employees the training and education to bring safe, quality water to our community. More than 95% of the staff are licensed, certified professionals in water treatment & distribution. With the city taking over the operations, I fear the same standards won't be met. Also, many livelihoods of these local employees are at stake, meaning some may have to leave an employer they respect, and a job they are proud of.

As a homeowner and taxpayer in Bullhead City, I'm concerned that taking a bond of this magnitude is a detriment to our community's future. Having to pay this bond along with our water bill means we not only see a substantial increase, but rates will not be controlled as they are now. We've already witnessed this on our sewer bills; a five-year graduated increase with no way of dispute or vote. This is our opportunity to halt these types of blind increases in the future.

The city has no experience in the water business. We simply cannot afford to let our water quality - or pocketbook - to diminish as a result of this takeover.

Kristi Gebow
Bullhead City, AZ

For the past seven years, EPCOR has been proud to provide safe, clean and reliable water service to our customers in Bullhead City.

Yet, Bullhead City wants voters to approve an irresponsible plan to use eminent domain to seize the water system and put it under government control.

We urge you to read your ballot carefully before you vote. Here are the facts:

- **Prop. 415 will cost taxpayers millions.** Bullhead City is asking voters to approve up to \$130 million in bonds at 8 percent interest over 30 years to seize a private business. That's \$400 million over time that would be repaid by you, the taxpayer.
- **Your water rates could double under Prop. 415.** The average EPCOR water customer in Bullhead City pays \$37 a month. Under Prop. 415, the average customer could pay up to \$50 a month just to pay back the debt.
- **Eminent domain is an extreme measure in which the government seizes private property.** If Prop. 415 is approved, a jury will decide the value of the system – not the city – and taxpayers will be on the hook for the bill. This money would be better spent improving roads, investing in public safety and focusing on creating good jobs for residents.
- **We are experts at operating water systems.** EPCOR has 300 employees in Arizona committed to delivering clean, safe water to communities every day. We can do it more efficiently than the government because that's what we've done for more than a century. Your government does not have the expertise.

EPCOR's dedicated employees deserve better. Our customers deserve better. And Bullhead City taxpayers certainly deserve better from their government.

Please vote NO on Proposition 415.

Shawn Bradford
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