

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. 25-00054-UT

**FORMAL RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS MADE BY TRACEY PADILLA OF MELODY RANCH
WATER COMPANY

DURING THE 5 MAY 2026 STATUS HEARING**

Submitted to:

Honorable Commissioners and Hearing Officer

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Submitted by:

Roy McClellan, Melody Ranch Resident

I. INTRODUCTION

This filing is submitted in response to statements made by Mrs. Tracey Padilla, representing Melody Ranch Water Company, during the Status Hearing held on 5 May 2026 in Case No. 25-00054-UT. The purpose of this filing is to request clarification, documentation, and accountability regarding several statements made by Mrs. Padilla that directly impact the accuracy of information provided to the Commission and the transparency owed to the residents of Melody Ranch.

II. REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTED PROOF OF ALLEGED WATER THEFT

During the 5 May hearing, Mrs. Padilla asserted that “water theft” is occurring within the Melody Ranch Subdivision.

Given the seriousness of this allegation, I respectfully request that the Commission require Melody Ranch Water Company to provide verifiable, documented evidence supporting this claim, including:

Dates, locations, and circumstances of alleged theft

Any physical evidence collected

Reports filed with law enforcement or regulatory agencies

Any investigations conducted

Any corrective or enforcement actions taken

Absent such evidence, this allegation should not be treated as factual nor used to justify operational decisions, rate considerations, or deficiencies in reporting.

III. CONCERNS REGARDING ACCURACY OF WATER USAGE DATA

Mrs. Padilla acknowledged during the hearing that the water usage numbers provided to the PRC are estimations, not factual meter-based readings.

This admission raises significant concerns regarding the reliability of the data being submitted to the Commission.

Based on direct observation and community experience, it is my suspicion that Melody Ranch Water Company does not conduct regular physical meter readings. If this is accurate, the company is unable to provide:

Accurate consumption data

Accurate loss calculations

Accurate operational metrics

Reliable information for regulatory review

I respectfully request that the Commission require Melody Ranch Water Company to:

Confirm whether physical meter readings are being conducted.

Provide the dates of all physical meter readings for the past 12 months.

Explain the methodology used to generate estimated usage numbers.

Provide a corrective plan to ensure accurate, routine meter readings moving forward.

IV. REQUEST FOR A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR BREAKDOWN OF OPERATIONAL COSTS

Mrs. Padilla stated that Melody Ranch Water Company must pay for electricity, a licensed water operator, insurance, and water testing.

The community respectfully requests a complete, itemized, dollar-for-dollar breakdown of all monthly and annual operational costs, including:

Payments to all vendors and service providers

Wages and salaries of all employees

Insurance premiums

Water testing costs

Utility costs

Administrative and overhead expenses

Any additional fees, reimbursements, or discretionary spending

This level of transparency is essential for both the community and the Commission to understand how ratepayer funds are being used.

V. PATTERN OF VAGUE, UNSUPPORTED STATEMENTS

Throughout multiple hearings, Mrs. Padilla has repeatedly provided vague or unsupported statements and has frequently cited her “lack of knowledge” or “ignorance of the process” as justification for incomplete or inaccurate information.

At this stage, Mrs. Padilla is represented by legal counsel.

Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that:

All statements be factual, supported, and complete

All filings meet regulatory standards

Claims of unfamiliarity with required processes no longer be accepted as justification for incomplete or inaccurate information

The community respectfully requests that the Commission hold Melody Ranch Water Company to the same standards of accuracy, documentation, and accountability required of all regulated utilities.

VI. RELEVANCE TO UPCOMING COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

The issues outlined in this filing represent only a portion of the concerns held by residents of Melody Ranch. These topics—and others—are intended to be addressed in a community Town Hall meeting, which the community has repeatedly requested.

The Commission should be aware that the community seeks open, transparent dialogue supported by factual documentation, not general statements or unverified claims.

VII. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission require Melody Ranch Water Company and Mrs. Padilla to provide:

Documented proof of alleged water theft

Accurate, verifiable water usage data

A complete dollar-for-dollar operational cost breakdown

Clear, supported statements rather than unsupported claims or admissions of unfamiliarity

These actions are necessary to ensure regulatory compliance, transparency, and the restoration of community confidence.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy McClellan

Melody Ranch Resident

Edgewood, New Mexico

Date: 9 May 2026