October 8, 2025

Office of Commission Clerk Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Docket 20250075 – WU - Application for Staff Assisted Rate Case (SARC) in Citrus County by Citrus Waterworks, Inc. – Response to Staff Third Data Request

Dear Commission Clerk,

Citrus Waterworks, Inc. (Citrus) hereby submits its response to Staff Third Data Request.

1. In response to staff's first data request, the Utility indicated that it served approximately 157 residential customers in 2024. Out of these 157 residential customers, please identify how many are served by the Ellsworth Point and the Backwater Heights water systems.

Response: In the test period, there were approximately 118 residential customers in the Blackwater Heights system and 39 in the Ellsworth Point system.

2. Please identify which water system serves the general service customer. Additionally, please provide the address of the general service customer.

Response: This one general service customer is served by the Blackwater Heights water system. The address is 5274 W. Dunnellon Rd., Dunnellon, FL.

3. Based on the Utility's territory map, it appears the general service customer is outside of the Utility's certificated service territory. Is Citrus aware of any other customers that are being served outside of its authorized service territory?

Response: No. Citrus believes the one general service customer is the only customer.

- 4. Please answer the following questions regarding the Utility's requested meter replacements (Document No. 04245-2025):
 - a. Invoices from January 1, 2025, February 28, 2025, and May 31, 2025, were provided for a total of 43 meters. Is the Utility seeking cost recovery of only these 43 meters?

Response: Those were replaced after the test year ending December 31, 2024. The other meters were recorded on the utility's books and were audited in this docket; therefore, they are already included in Staff's calculation of rate base.

b. Please provide the anticipated in-service date(s) for these 43 meters.

Response: These meters are already in service. The invoices are issued after the installations are completed.

c. Please provide a brief explanation as to why these meters are needing to be replaced.

Response: Meters are typically replaced due to age, number of gallons registered, and/or if the meter is inoperable. Also, if the sight glass is unreadable. The reason they are replaced is twofold. First, to accurately bill the customers based upon actual consumption. This affects two things, revenues and unaccounted for water. If the meter is not operable or registers slow, the customers are not being billed for the actual water used. Also, this lowers the amount of revenue recorded by the utility. Further, since the new meters are accurately recording actual water usage, this lowers the amount of unaccounted for water.

d. Citrus indicated it has replaced 94 of its 175 meters. Will the 43 meters identified in this proceeding bring the total replaced meters up to 137? Or are the 43 meters already included as part of the 94 replaced meters?

Response: The 43 meters recently replaced are part of the 94 meters and are included in that amount.

e. Please indicate if any additional meters (aside from the identified 43 meters) need replacement and when the Utility anticipates replacing them, if applicable.

<u>Response:</u> The majority of the meters have already been replaced. Meters will be replaced if it is discovered they are either reading slow or are inoperable.

5. Staff preliminarily calculated the Utility's excessive unaccounted for water (EUW) to be 23.1 percent in its Staff Report. Please provide an explanation indicating the reason(s) for the EUW and any steps the Utility is taking to mitigate EUW.

Response: Due to the age of the system, there are many leaks in the mains and services. Due to the high unaccounted water, the utility had the system walked. Several leaks were discovered and repaired. Since purchasing the system, Citrus has spent \$18,103 making numerous repairs, primarily on water mains. Also, the customer meters were old and not registering the appropriate amount of actual water used. These meters were replaced.

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy Rendell
Vice President

Investor Owned Utilities

//For Citrus Waterworks, Inc.