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**Date:** October 23, 2016 at 8:30:09 AM PDT

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**Subject:** screwed again

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Board people,

Not to mention a State Water Board that enables CalAm and won't penalize them for decades of non-performance. Only their customers lose, and CalAm can revisit the CPUC for further under collections when milestones are missed. The following letters appeared in today's Monterey Herald. Thought it might interest you.

Oh wait, this is probably your idea of ex parte and you can't read it. So any argument turns out to be untimely. Screwed again. Never mind.

"I used to be disgusted, but now I am just abused." Elvis Costello

Michael Baer  
Monterey resident

## **Cal Am can't lose by charging for unused water**

What a heartwarming story on the front page of the Oct. 19 Herald. California American water, with the approval of its financial pimp, the Public Utilities Commission, will be able to recover up to \$40 million for "under collection." Why it's enough to make an entrepreneur giddy. Just imagine. You don't have to worry about supply and demand, or inventory and maintenance, let alone such outmoded concepts as customer service.

It's a can't-lose-no-matter-what business model.

But even though we're being gouged repeatedly by this rapacious bloodsucker, perhaps we had best be quiet about it.

Why? Because if word about these business practices spreads to other areas of commerce, we might really be in for it. Imagine if Safeway sent you a bill each month for food you didn't buy, and Chevron did likewise for gas you didn't need. You soon wouldn't have a pot to pee in, but if Cal Am

is involved, rest assured that you will be billed for it whether you use the pot or not.

— *Glenn Nolte, Carmel Valley*

### **Idea of publicly owned water is more appealing**

How is it that the state of California can impose water rationing on us and then allow a water provider to collect payment for water we didn't use?

What kind of Kafkaesque world do we live in where a private company can legally confiscate money from its customers for goods they neither bought nor received? There was no "under collecting." California American Water received full payment for all of the water its customers purchased.

But Cal Am also wants to be paid for the water its customers did not purchase, and our state, through the Public Utilities Commission, is ordering citizens to pay up.

It appears the state is protecting shareholders and highly paid Cal Am executives at the expense of the community.

When a company suffers reduced income due to reduced sales, it should be the shareholders who are affected, not individuals who responsibly cut back on water usage to help alleviate the drought.

The ongoing outrageous conduct of Cal Am is making the idea of public ownership of this utility more appealing by the day.

— *Cheryl Kopp, Marina*