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BRIAN C. McNEIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

COMMISSIONER

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION Arizona Corporation Commission

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2000 JAN -7 P 2:05

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JAN 07 2000

AZ CORP COMMISSION

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Signature box containing a handwritten signature.

January 7, 2000

TO: ALL PARTIES OF RECORD

IN RE: SUN CITY WATER COMPANY AND SUN CITY WEST UTILITIES
COMPANY - DOCKET NOS. W-01656A-98-0577 and SW-02334A-98-0577

The attached was faxed to this office on January 7, 2000. There was no indication that any of the parties received a copy, therefore I am enclosing a copy for your file.

Sincerely,

Debbi Person

Debbi Person
Secretary to Jerry L. Rudibaugh

Sun City Taxpayers Association, Inc.

12630 N. 103rd Avenue, Rm. 221

Sun City, Arizona 85351-3476

Telephone (623) 933-7530
(623)

FAX (623) 933-0394
(623)

scta@juno.com



THE ACTION GROUP
"Guardian of Sun City's Pocketbook"

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2000

ARIZONA CORP. COMM.
HEARING DIVISION

TO: Chief Hearing Officer Jerry Rudibaugh, ACC

FAX #: 602-542-4230

DATE TRANSMITTED: January 7, 2000

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): Two (2)

MESSAGE: As follows:

Dear Officer Rudibaugh:

This article appeared in one of our local papers.

Thought you would find it interesting.

SIGNED: Mary Elaine Charlesworth
 MARY ELAINE CHARLESWORTH, President

MEC/rec

CAP Task Force plan is faulty

Water will seek own level, not mound up under Sun City

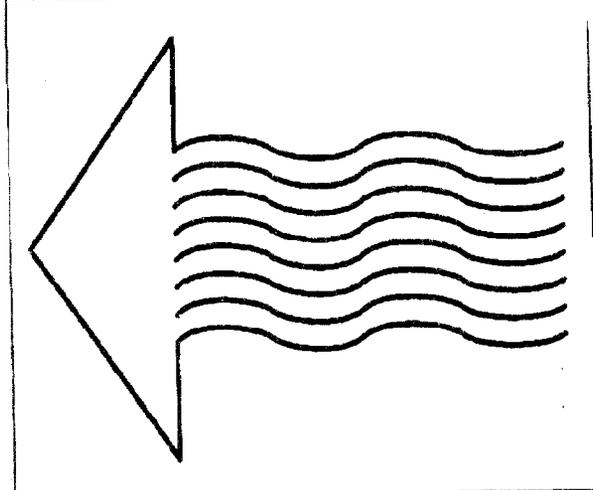
SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — JANUARY 5-11, 2000

should have expected some sort of vigorous response when I said (so to speak) "The Emperor has no clothes." Yes, I had actually dared to challenge the efficacy of the heavily promoted CAP water project. Let me respond to Dess Chappellear's critique of my letter about the CAP water scheme.

Item 1. Regarding difficult construction: Certainly managing a \$15 million civil engineering project would be a piece of cake for a project manager of Mr. Chappellear's caliber. But that \$15 million is what Sun Citizens will pour out for a project whose justification is questionable. The thrust of my comment was that it was the complexity of the project itself that made it so costly.

Item 2. Regarding saving Sun City groundwater: The many wells in the west Salt River Valley collectively place severe demands on the existing groundwater. Each well lowers the groundwater level in its vicinity. In response to these demands, the groundwater surface will tilt one way or the other (this is called the hydraulic gradient). If a family of wells under a relatively small area such as the Sun City golf courses are shut down in an effort to "save" the good water there, the slope of the hydraulic gradient under Sun City will begin to tilt toward other thirsty wells in the vicinity (Peoria and Surprise for instance). Hydrology reference books all state that groundwater in an unconfined aquifer flows from an area of higher elevation to a lower one. If there is flow away from Sun City, that means no water is "saved." If the predicted savings do not occur, the main justification for this costly project is gone.

Item 3. Regarding the idea that milk poured into a bowl of dry cereal does not act like groundwater in an alluvium aquifer: The thrust of my chalk talk at the Corporation Commission hearing was to demonstrate in layman's terms how water-based liquids on this planet will tend to



seek their own level! It should have been obvious that my demonstration had absolutely nothing to do with the speed of that liquid movement. I was very hoarse that day, but I recall telling the hearing officer that both liquids (milk and groundwater) would act similarly. Perhaps the audience could not hear me.

Item 4. Regarding a Figure 7 in the Hydro-System's report (there were actually two reports by Hydro-Systems): The Figure 7 in each document has absolutely nothing to do with a one-foot rise in the valley groundwater. To be charitable, let's assume Mr. Chappellear intended to reference Figure 17 of Hydro-System's "Hydrogeologic Characteristics and Impacts Report." Figure 17 of that report depicts a theoretical groundwater level boundary in the west

Salt River Valley that would occur when all inputs to the aquifer were totaled and then all outflows (except all wells in the Valley) are subtracted. The report has no place in any meaningful discussion about the recharge project.

Item 5. Regarding the inference that turning off a few golf course wells will halt or mitigate the falling water table: This challenge seems to be just another way of saying the water table under Sun City will not fluctuate to some degree in concert with the water table under Peoria, Surprise or whatever. I've covered this above.

Item 6. Regarding the implied threat of subsidence in Sun City and then the implication that the \$15 million project will protect us: I suggest the Task Force first copy and examine the driller's logs of all the wells in Sun City. With that information at hand and by utilizing available mathematical formulas, the past, present, and future stresses on the alluvium under Sun City can be estimated. If there is a substantiated threat of subsidence, the people should be informed. If the calculations reveal there is no threat, these scare tactics should cease. In any event, the Task Force can have a lot of fun with the calculations.

Item 7. Regarding the dissolved solids in CAP water: F.G. Driscoll (1986) mentions the importance of the ratio of sodium to calcium and magnesium. When high sodium water reaches soil, some of the sodium is taken up by clay in exchange for calcium and magnesium. He opines the soil could be degraded. Please note Table 4 of Professor Dapples' 1990 Report Part II reveals CAP water contains about 3.5 times more sodium than Sun City well water. It's up to the Rec Centers' turf experts to evaluate the likelihood of trouble.

DON COLEMAN
SUN CITY