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ROBERT L. JONES
22725 North Dusty Trail Boulevard
Sun City West, Arizona 85375-2043

ORIGINAL

623-214-0761 (phone & fax)
jobobaz@aol.com

Professional Geologist, Ret.
Professional Civil Engineer, Ret.
Director, Governing Board, Sun City West
Commissioner, Arizona Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Commissioner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: July 8, 2002

TO: Heather Murphy

FAX NUMBER: 602-364-0925

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 2 news articles and a copy of one of my letters to the editor regarding this issue

RE: Case Number W-01656A-980577 and Subsidence in the Sun Cities

Heather:

Please distribute copies of this fax to the ACC Commissioners. Thank you. I have faxed one to Bill Mundell directly.

Bob Jones

Arizona Corporation Commission

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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 7/8/02

TO: Bill Mundell, Chairman, ACC

FAX NUMBER: 602-542-0752

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 2 news articles and a copy of one of my letter to the editor regarding this issue

RE: CAP water and subsidence in the Sun Cities

Dear Bill,

Any questions re the hydrology of the Agua Fria project and its impact on the Sun Cities were already heard and acted upon by the ACC. The recent data cited by SCTA is not pertinent to our area. Recharge always creates a "mounding" of the aquifer in the immediate area of the recharge effort.

Our need is immediate because subsidence is happening to us NOW! (See news articles.) Further delay will jeopardize our communities. Also, per the recent bill passed by the Legislature, the Groundwater Savings Project is essential if we are to extend our expiring GIU's.

Bob Jones

CC: All ACC members by way of Heather Murphy.

To: Editor, Daily News-Sun 623-876-3698

From: Robert L. Jones, Chairman, SCW Water Committee, Geologist
22725 North Dusty Trail Blvd., SCW, AZ 623-214-0761

Dec. 3, 2001

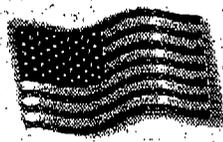
Support the use of CAP Water

I am continually surprised by the repeated attacks (such as that from Marianne Sikler in the Daily News Sun on December 1, 2001) against the use of Citizens Water Resources' CAP water allocation to irrigate the golf courses in the Sun Cities. It is perfectly reasonable to me that the utility must transfer to the water users the expense of constructing the pipeline. After all, they are a business. However, they cannot arbitrarily set the water rates. Our Arizona Corporation Commission will have to approve all expenses and act as our watchdog. Even with the projected increase in our water bills, they will still remain among the lowest in the Phoenix area. CAP water is fine for irrigation and doesn't need costly treatment. Therefore, using the water for irrigation is the cheapest way to utilize CAP water directly in our communities. We have been told repeatedly by the Arizona Department of Water Resources that we must begin using renewable water resources.

It is really very simple. It's the PUMPING of groundwater that we must reduce. Putting Citizens' CAP water allocation into the distant Agua Fria recharge facility may never impact the groundwater supply of the Sun Cities. The CAP Task Force spent months working with expert testimony to choose the best method for utilizing CAP water in our communities. They REJECTED the Agua Fria Recharge Project as an option because there is no guarantee that water deposited there would ever impact the Sun Cities' aquifer. The alluvial deposits through which the groundwater moves are not a homogeneous, continuous body and may not be hydraulically connected to all surrounding communities. Also, the flow of groundwater is a very slow process and develops strange and unpredictable configurations. However, using CAP water on the golf courses in Sun City and Sun City West would have an immediate effect.

Currently, our communities use more groundwater than the entire city of Phoenix and more than the communities of Glendale, Peoria, El Mirage and Surprise combined! Obviously, Phoenix and the communities in our area are making use of renewable water resources while we continue to pump groundwater for all water needs. The current and unchecked overdrafting of our precious groundwater supply has been going on since the Sun Cities were built. Small wonder that our communities have been designated a "critical groundwater area" by ADWR. No wonder we are considered water hogs! Support the use of CAP water NOW!

Robert Jones
Chairman, Sun City West Water Committee
Geologist & Civil Engineer



Daily News

Vol. 45 No. 295, 2 Sections 20 Pages

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2002

Officials warn of subsidence threat in Sun City

PIPELINE DECISION LOOMS: Using CAP water will bring some relief, says Rep. Mike Gleason

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City and Youngtown have been sinking at dramatic rates the last three years, but some relief might be on the way.

The Arizona Corporation Commission is poised to make a decision next week on the Central Arizona Project

water pipeline.

But if it is approved, it might not be enough to stem the subsidence in Sun City and Youngtown, said Rep. Mike Gleason of Sun City West, R-District 15, which encompasses Sun City West, Sun City south of Grand Avenue and much of Surprise.

Gleason points to reports

from the Arizona Department of Water Resources and satellite images indicating both Sun City and Youngtown have been sinking at more than an inch a year for the last three years.

The proposed CAP pipeline that the ACC will vote on next week will help, but the task force said the sinking that is already occurring will continue up to a decade because Gleason said Arizona American Water Co. will still use some groundwater

Sun City Taxpayers Association officials insist using an existing recharge basin near the Agua Fria River north of Jomax Road would be more cost-effective and would still recharge the aquifer from which groundwater is pumped. The cost of the pipeline is estimated at between \$15 million and \$17 million.

Herb Schumann, an independent consultant on subsidence issues, who formerly worked for the U.S.

Geological Survey, said Sun City should have been preparing for the issue well before it reached this point.

"It is a problem, and the people in Sun City have to wake up," he said.

Schumann's studies were commissioned by the Sun City Home Owners Association. He said sinking an inch a year is a significant amount.

Subsidence in the surface of the land is the inevitable result of the overdrafting of

the groundwater aquifer. As water is pumped out of the ground in amounts substantially in excess of natural replenishment, then over time the land above the groundwater table slowly subsides and land fissures develop.

Schumann said if the subsidence level is the same exact amount throughout a community, there would not be much of a problem. However, that rarely ever

See Officials cite, A5

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FROM PAGE 1

Officials cite benefits of pipeline to help curb local subsidence

From A1

happens, he added.

"It does not go down at the same rate," he said.

Schumann said if nothing is done to curb the sinking, roads and streets will be severely damaged and drainage and gas lines could also break.

He said that if subsidence continues, homeowners, the foundations of their houses shifting, resulting in cracks on windows and doors.

"These are all very common things," he said. "It's a serious problem."

Schumann said the problem, while not going away, could be slowed if the proper steps are taken.

"Stop the pumping," he said. "It is simply because they are pumping more than Mother Nature is putting into the ground."

Sun City resident Gene

Jensen, who has worked with water issues all his life, said structural damage is not the big issue.

Sewer systems, water and gas mains are what could be damaged the most, he said.

"If one side of Sun City sinks (and the other does not), sewer and street drainage systems would be affected," Jensen said.

If nothing is done, he said, streets could start cracking along with some major drops.

"One inch makes quite a difference," Jensen said.

Gleason said no one should be surprised Sun City is sinking.

"We had been pumping for 20 years," he said. "The question was not when (Sun City would sink), but how much it would."

The former Kansas resident, who's running for a seat on the Arizona

Call us

Please call Michael Maresh at 876-2513 or e-mail him at mmaresh@aztrib.com if your home has evidence of subsidence damage.

Corporation Commission, said he has seen firsthand problems relating to subsidence.

"Sun City is quite large," he said. "Is it uniform, or is it sinking on one end? If the whole town sinks together, there probably will be no major problems."

Gleason said homeowners — if they aren't already, could start to see cracks in their foundations.

"The first thing people

will see if their homes do shift will be their doors not being able to close," he said.

Gleason said Sun City West is not experiencing any problems — yet — because the community is 20 years behind Sun City in pumping water from the ground.

Gleason supports irrigating golf courses with CAP water via a pipeline.

"This would allow us to turn off the rec-centers pumps," Gleason said, adding that if the pipeline is approved, it will bring some relief to the subsidence problem in Sun City.

But the state representative said something else must be done to stop any additional subsidence from occurring.

"In some way in the future we are going to have to get off pumping groundwater entirely," he said.

Michael Maresh can be reached at 876-2513 or mmaresh@aztrib.com.

P. 2 of 2

Subsidence Threat

P 1 of 2 transcribed by subscribers

Daily News-Sun

An editor

SATURDAY, JULY 6, AND SUNDAY JULY 7, 2002

Vol. 45 No. 298, 3 Sections 52 Pages

Sun Citian feels trapped by subsidence

LOSING GROUND: Homeowner frustrated by damage to property

BY MICHAEL MARSH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

One look at Carolou Anderson's Sun City home illustrates Sun City is sinking at a dramatic rate.

Anderson's porch slants, and the cement on her porch has started to pull away from the front of her home. Also telling are the numerous large cracks around and inside the 11-year Sun City resident's home.

According to reports from the Arizona Department of Water Resources, as well as satellite images, both Sun City and Youngtown have been sinking at more than an

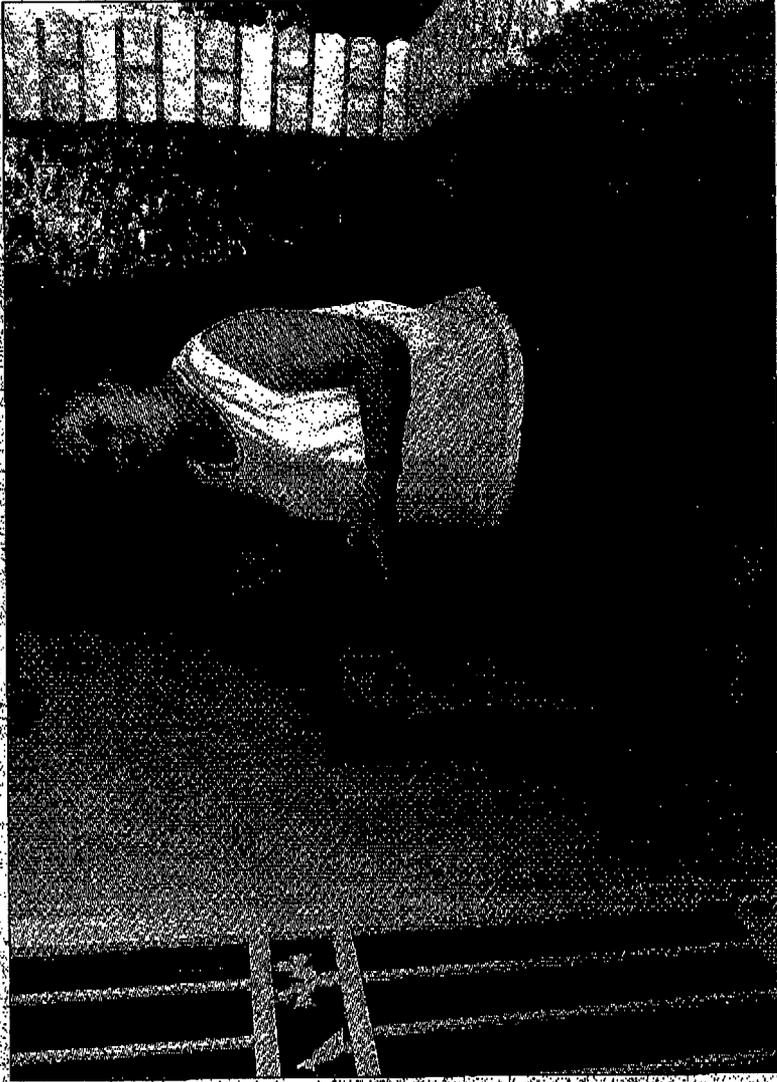
inch a year for the last three years. Anderson's home is just one example of subsidence occurring in Sun City.

"I have lived here 11 years, and I didn't have a crack," she said, while pointing to some foundation cracks above her front door. More alarming, she said, is how her front porch — once level — has shifted downward toward the street.

Subsidence is the inevitable result of overdrafting of the groundwater aquifer. As water is pumped out of the ground in amounts substantially in excess of natural replenishment, the land above the groundwater table slowly sinks over time and land fissures develop.

Water and subsidence experts are not surprised at Anderson's plight.

Herb Schumann, an independent consultant on subsidence issues who formerly



WALL-E: HOPKINS/DAILY NEWS-SUN
Carolou Anderson says the front porch of her Sun City home started sloping so bad the brickwork started to crumble and she removed a waist-high wall between the house and porch column.

worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, said home foundations shifting, and cracks forming on windows and doors, are not uncommon occurrences where subsidence occurs.

Rep. Mike Gleason of Sun

City West, R-District 15, which encompasses Sun City West, Sun City, south of Grand Avenue and much of Surprise, said he isn't surprised at what is happening to Anderson's home.

"When you have

subsidence, this is what you can expect," he said.

Gleason said groundwater still will be used for domestic purposes in the Sun Cities even if the Arizona

See Homeowner worries, A5

Homeowner worries about property value

From A1

Corporation Commission approves the Central Arizona Project pipeline next week, so more homeowners will likely suffer subsidence damage.

If the commission approves the CAP pipeline, it will be used to transport Colorado River water to the Sun Cities for use on golf courses. Right now, the communities rely on groundwater for both domestic and golf course use.

Anderson said if she had known Sun City was going to be sinking, she may not have moved here in 1991.

"It gave me something to think about," she said. "I am glad I got the house for the price I paid."

Inside one bedroom is a deep, two-foot long crack that keeps getting bigger, she said.

There isn't much she can do, with one exception. "I cry a lot," she said.

Anderson said her options are limited. "I cannot afford to move," she said, adding she is afraid to walk over to a tree in her back yard where a crack in the ground is visible and keeps getting larger and deeper.

She also wonders who would buy her home with all the cracks and foundation shifting.

"You are supposed to tell them everything that is wrong," she said.

To mask the cracks, Anderson said she has thought about installing aluminum siding. The home, which was built in 1970, started getting small cracks a few years ago, but Anderson said she became concerned when more started to surface while the existing ones grew.

"It's terrible, just terrible," she said.

Michael Maresch can be reached at 876-2513 or mmaresch@aztrib.com.

P 2 of 2 Trapped by Subsidence