

From: [Michelle Griffin](#)  
To: [TDEWS Kimberly - PUC](#)  
Subject: Fwd: OPUC WA 83  
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 12:49:46 PM  
Attachments: [TomOShea.docx](#)  
[WaterPermit.docx](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mechelle Griffin** <[mgriffin8322@gmail.com](mailto:mgriffin8322@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 8:50 AM  
Subject: OPUC WA 83  
To: <[puc.consumer@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:puc.consumer@puc.oregon.gov)>  
Cc: Joseph Batz <[batz.joseph@gmail.com](mailto:batz.joseph@gmail.com)>

Dear Commissioners,

As mentioned in my testimony at the August 4 meeting, please find below some links to the Nextdoor App that reference problems with wells in our area. (Please let me know if you are unable to access these links as I have screenshots of all of them.)

Also, please find attached is a copy of the letter by Tom O' Shea, Sunriver Resort Managing Director, published in the August 2021 edition of the Sunriver Scene and a copy of the water permit on the application filed by Sunriver Water LLC.

Of the six wells listed on the water permit, one well (Well #16) isn't located in Central Oregon (Is it's location listed on the permit a typographical error?). Another well, (listed as the North Well) was not recognized by the managers of Sunriver Water LLC at the August 4 meeting. Was it decommissioned? Well #4 referenced in Tom O' Shea's letter is not listed on the permit. This makes sense if the well was decommissioned prior to the June 19, 2007 date on the permit. Well #15 is not listed on the permit as it was drilled in 2020. Well #2 is for fire suppression use only since it contains a high quantity of sand that can clog the system (as stated by the managers of SW LLC at the August 4 meeting).

The decommission of wells, the drilling of new ones, wells incorrectly listed on the 2007 permit or not recognized by the current operators, the testimony of well owners in surrounding communities of the difficulty of supplying potable water to their homes, an extreme drought, all paint a disturbing picture of our current water situation.

The construction of homes with 7.5 bathrooms, the irrigation of golf courses with aquifer water and adding swimming pools is not environmentally nor ecologically sound at any time and especially when the entire West is in extreme drought.

Please help our community continue to provide safe, adequate and affordable drinking water for current users. I urge the PUC to deny this application unless and until the developers address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Mechelle Griffin

[https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/?post=166254458&cp=0&s=tpd&pinned\\_post=true&section=posts&ct=TW\\_Ya9rmRUykWHcVrGLgVwW2TCrVbD5RLIZLB0fabxLrgLqPHI1xaQNZBsGL-88\\_&ec=VxSJFbPbudqm3RmbqsRSldKGxZqCXJSS-0vyqMERec%3D](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=166254458&cp=0&s=tpd&pinned_post=true&section=posts&ct=TW_Ya9rmRUykWHcVrGLgVwW2TCrVbD5RLIZLB0fabxLrgLqPHI1xaQNZBsGL-88_&ec=VxSJFbPbudqm3RmbqsRSldKGxZqCXJSS-0vyqMERec%3D)

On this next link, you have to read through a lot of messages until you get to KC Cotle's comment about issues with his and his neighbor's water wells. Following his comments are comments from others who have issues with their wells.

[https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/?post=168422772&is=tpe&mar=false&ct=AAy26LzJ9IojGcWis4BVLTP5wk8\\_LZY7PnZTSp3piBGi7O8iH3ri9x9AFIUBP0G&ec=OWKiORDj9vEHAYwTV6YMARldwuFdgGkeefhwfGYAE0s%3D](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=168422772&is=tpe&mar=false&ct=AAy26LzJ9IojGcWis4BVLTP5wk8_LZY7PnZTSp3piBGi7O8iH3ri9x9AFIUBP0G&ec=OWKiORDj9vEHAYwTV6YMARldwuFdgGkeefhwfGYAE0s%3D)

This next link talks about depth of wells.

[https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/?post=183534095&is=npe&mar=false&ct=HvLraxoSgbKZ8g2OEyld1tvUUeLGV1QuJbIN-0hp3KyZ6Gz3\\_w64jURthhW\\_5P3K&ec=ID9EVf8Fqz\\_GipY9I9G7ig%3D%3D](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=183534095&is=npe&mar=false&ct=HvLraxoSgbKZ8g2OEyld1tvUUeLGV1QuJbIN-0hp3KyZ6Gz3_w64jURthhW_5P3K&ec=ID9EVf8Fqz_GipY9I9G7ig%3D%3D)

On this link, Susan Curl references several people "loosing" (sp.) their wells frequently.

[https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/?post=189346774&is=tpe&mar=false&ct=ar\\_d9I4F3zwdK4UkMxJNX4t2IgeBT1W98p-ImGI\\_q5obtsqj68QFP7zMLEWd\\_M&ec=OWKiORDj9vEHAYwTV6YMARldwuFdgGkeefhwfGYAE0s%3D](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=189346774&is=tpe&mar=false&ct=ar_d9I4F3zwdK4UkMxJNX4t2IgeBT1W98p-ImGI_q5obtsqj68QFP7zMLEWd_M&ec=OWKiORDj9vEHAYwTV6YMARldwuFdgGkeefhwfGYAE0s%3D)

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## Clarification on Sunriver water wells

*By Tom O'Shea, Sunriver Resort Managing Director*

In last month's Scene, there were two submittals regarding concerns over the elimination of two wells (number #4 and #12) with the sale of the Sunriver Water Company (SWC) in 2019. We would like to clarify the situation surrounding the concerns expressed.

Located next to the banks of the Deschutes River and north of Harper Bridge, Well #4 was constructed in 1943 as part of Camp Abbot and began serving Sunriver in 1967. The water rights associated with #4 were for groundwater extraction (as are all water rights owned by SWC). In 1995, Oregon Water Resources advised SWC that the rights for #4 could no longer be utilized at that location due to its proximity to the Deschutes and their concern that surface water from the river might make its way into #4. As a result, the water rights to #4 were transferred to another SWC well further away from the Deschutes, and the pumps and equipment were removed. The shaft was later filled with concrete to render it inoperable. At the time of the sale of SWC, #4 had not been in service to SWC for 20 years, so had no impact on water production to the system.

Also mentioned was Well #12, located at the northeast corner of Crosswater. Constructed in 1993 as part of the Crosswater development, this well was given to SWC by the developer. A few years into service, it was discovered that water from #12 was unsuitable for domestic use (due to blue mineral deposits) and, in 2006 when the main Sunriver production well #14 was completed, #12 was disconnected. The water rights associated with #12 were transferred to #14, and the well was modified to provide for irrigation of the Crosswater golf course with specific rights for that use only.

Both of these wells were retained by Sunriver Resort to eliminate the ongoing costs and liabilities of owning those sites by SWC. This was reviewed and approved by the Public Utility Commission as part of the SWC sale in 2019. Also, it was determined that retaining these wells would not have any adverse impact on the operations and service to SWC customers, including the ability of SWC to serve the Caldera Springs expansion area in the future. This information is all contained in the PUC records and can be found on the PUC website for any who may be interested in examining further.

STATE OF OREGON  
 COUNTY OF DESCHUTES

Exhibit A8 and B3

Existing Service Territory is unhighlighted  
 proposed territory is highlighted

PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE PUBLIC WATERS

THIS PERMIT IS HEREBY ISSUED TO:

SUNRIVER WATER, LLC  
 PO BOX 3699  
 SUNRIVER OR 97707

This superseding permit is issued to describe an amendment for additional points of appropriation and a change in place of use proposed under Permit Amendment Application T-12575 and approved by Special Order Vol. 107, Page 1002. This permit supersedes Permit G-17460.

The specific limits and conditions of the use are listed below.

APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: G-16874

SOURCE OF WATER: SIX WELLS IN THE DESCHUTES RIVER BASIN

RATE: 3.9 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND, LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM VOLUME OF 1790.0 ACRE FEET ANNUALLY

DATE OF PRIORITY: JUNE 19, 2007

USE: QUASI-MUNICIPAL

PERIOD OF USE: YEAR-ROUND

**Authorized Point of Diversion:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
19 S	11 E	WM	29	NE NE	WELL 9 - 1200 FEET SOUTH AND 70 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 29
19 S	11 E	WM	32	SW SW	WELL 2 - 1070 FEET NORTH AND 1300 FEET EAST FROM THE SW CORNER OF SECTION 32
19 S	11 W	WM	33	NE NE	WELL 16 - 465 FEET SOUTH AND 4457 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 33
20 S	11 E	WM	5	NE NE	NORTH WELL - 875 FEET SOUTH AND 340 FEET WEST FROM THE NE CORNER OF SECTION 5
20 S	11 E	WM	5	NE NE	WELL 14 - 890 FEET SOUTH AND 352 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 5
20 S	11 E	WM	8	NW NW	WELL 12 - 215 FEET SOUTH AND 830 FEET EAST FROM THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 8

**Authorized Place of Use:**

QUASI - MUNICIPAL					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	POA
19 S	11 E	WM	20	NE SW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	20	NW SW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	20	SW SW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	20	SE SW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	20	NE SE	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	20	NW SE	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	20	SW SE	Well 16

QUASI - MUNICIPAL					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	POA
19 S	11 E	WM	20	SE SE	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	28	SW NE	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	28	SW NW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	28	SE NW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	28	NE SW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	28	NW SW	Well 16
19 S	11 E	WM	28	SW SW	Well 16

G-16874/T-12575.alh

Permit G-17882