

Return addresses of signers listed below
September 21, 2011

Jeana Eastman
Water Right Application Caseworker
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: OWRD Public Notice: Initial Review on Application G-17456 in the name of John Orlando

Dear Ms. Eastman:

The letter is written by the undersigned who want to express their deep frustration and opposition to the current situation regarding the Skyline Farm commercial event center located at 12735 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97231.

It is manifestly obvious to anyone observing the operations of this enterprise that owner Mr. John Orlando is ignoring current water use regulations. While he may have an 'exempt' water right to irrigate ½ acre for domestic purposes WITHOUT WASTE, his abuse of our communal water resource is in violation of current state regulations.

It is clear from direct observations and satellite photos that he is irrigating considerably more than ½ acre, perhaps as many as 5-8 acres of landscaping and produce. We hope that your office will intervene and curtail this activity.

Within a two mile semi-circle radius of the intersection of NW Skyline Boulevard and NW Cornelius Pass Road, 4 commercial water permits are in place. In addition, at least 125 private residences rely on 'exempt' status wells. This estimate does not include residential properties along nearby Phillips Road. All residents of this area depend on the unquantified, yet finite, water table as a community resource. While static well water levels are monitored in nearby Washington County, no such surveillance occurs along the Skyline ridge. In fact, in the past 10 years static water levels of those monitored wells have been declining, as evidenced by graphs provided by Mr. Darrell Hedin, the Regional Water Master.

Without a clear understanding of the resilience of our aquifer, the unregulated and unacceptable water uses at Skyline Farm are a potential threat to the livability our community. We are an urban-rural interface neighborhood without access to an alternative water source. If well output declines in this area, we do not have a reserve water supply for single household needs. Remedy would be prohibitively expensive.

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On many days irrigation water runoff from Skyline Farm flows into the drainage ditch along Skyline Blvd. Although this farm claims water conservation as its mode of operation, we do not see clear evidence to support this declaration. Absent from your communication with Mr. Orlando is an agricultural water management and conservation plan.

In recent years Oregon has declared seven critical groundwater areas, including nearby Cooper Mountain-Bull Mountain in Washington County. The intent is to protect critical ground water areas by curtailing well drilling and new commercial water development. (http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/PUBS/aquabook_protections.shtml). *"...Oregon water protections and restrictions state that once a critical groundwater proceeding is initiated by the Water Resources Commission, no new well permits are issued during the course of the proceeding. The final order may restrict both existing and future uses in order to stabilize the resource..."* **We believe a similar restriction is necessary and appropriate along the Skyline corridor.**

It is also important to point out that Mr. Orlando has received a notice of zoning violation from Multnomah County for disregarding land use laws. The pattern, we infer, is a complete disregard for the community where he has imposed his commercial enterprise. Without censure by your office his overharvesting of water is certain to continue.

We are absolutely opposed to his intent to harvest excessive water from our communal water resource!

Please note: Legal counsel has advised us to contact you by letter to request your intervention.

Sincerely,

The names listed below in alphabetical order include postal addresses:

Patrick and Susan Ahern
21000 NW Logie Trail Rd.
Portland, OR 97231

Dexter Bacon
15839 NW Rock Creek Rd.
Portland, OR 97231

Zoe Bacon
15839 NW Rock Creek Rd.
Portland, OR 97231

Pat Brady
13130 NW Skyline Blvd.
Portland, OR 97231

Tom and Jana Calverley
12485 NW Skyline Blvd.
Portland, OR 97231

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Rosaline Elfick
 12120 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

Tim and Laura Goldfarb
 15400 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

Karin Hunt
 16340 NW Rock Creek Rd.
 Portland, OR 97231

Jay Kravitz
 14323 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

Jim and Diane Shaw
 12106 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

George Sowder
 16618 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

Leon Speroff
 15001 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

Sen Speroff
 15001 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231

Matt and Becky Stormont
 PO Box 91036
 Portland, OR 97291
 (Physical address: 12615 NW Skyline Blvd.
 Portland, OR 97231)

c.c. Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Commissioner
 501 NE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
 Portland, OR 97214

Mitch Greenlick, Oregon State Representative
 District Office: 712 NW Spring Ave.
 Portland, OR 97229

Darrell Hedin, Regional Water Master
 Water Master District 18
 OWRD – NW Region
 1400 Walnut St., #240
 Hillsboro, OR 97123

Kevin Porter
 Multnomah County Land Use Planning
 1600 SE 190th Ave, Suite 116
 Portland, OR 97233

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