

February 20, 2004

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WATER RESOURCES DEPT  
SALEM, OREGON

Tim McClellan, and the neighbors in the Marks Prairie area  
7780 S. Mark Road  
Canby, OR 97013

State of Oregon Water Commission  
725 Summer Street St. NE  
Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271

To the Board on the Water Commission:

We are writing to inform you of water issues in our area. Specifically, because of the many, many irrigation wells that have been drilled in the last 10 years, the amount of water available to senior water users has been severely diminished. This is further complicated by the change in underground dynamics, with tiling of properties. When water begins to recharge, it is drained away to the creeks, and is not available as groundwater, but becomes surface water. Two years ago, Bill Ferber was called out to determine the cause of wells going dry. At least five people had their wells deepened and pumps lowered, more than 10 were sucking air and sand instead of water during the month of August, and one had to drill a new well.

We are concerned about continued development in our area. The aquifer is most definitely stressed, and we would like to prevent further harm, both to the resource and to property values. As the situation now stands, we have approximately 60 wells ranging from 20 feet to 483 feet in an approximate 4 square mile area. The most recent wells that have caused interference have been irrigation wells, which well exceed the normal domestic use of 15,000 per day. We believe that the irrigation users could use their allotted water in a more conservative manner, and seal aquifers to prevent co-mingling, and this would help some. We also believe this area has been saturated in sustainable yield.

We are requesting a **delay** on new permits and existing applications that have not been finalized. Our group of neighbors is currently working with Bill Ferber, Donn Miller, Doug Woodcock and Bill Fujii, all employees with OWRD, on monitoring well static water levels and determining where aquifers start and stop. We have purchased our own tape to measure static levels more frequently and more comprehensively than Mr. Ferber is able to do. ***A temporary moratorium placed on this area will provide much needed time for studying the causes and effects, without adding new variables and complications if additional wells are drilled and allowed.*** The Water Resources Department is helping us examine the area and working to stabilize the conditions. We would like to pursue the avenue of classifying this area to some sort of a limited ground water area, after we have completed our study. The overall study could take up to 7 years, but a minimum moratorium of 1 year (or more) would be adequate.

Please honor our request to study and protect this state's resource.





# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

March 17, 2004

Tim McClellan  
7780 S. Mark Road  
Canby, Oregon 97013

Dear Mr. McClellan:

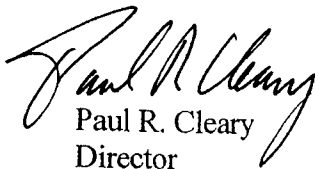
Thank you for the February 20, 2004, letter from you and your neighbors outlining concerns regarding ground water development in your area. The staff members you identify in the letter agree that your area has experienced continued ground water development, and that the area may be showing some signs of aquifer stress with shallower wells having supply problems.

Your request for restrictions on new ground water uses is properly addressed to the Commission, as that is the body that approves administrative restrictions on water use. The Commission, however, relies on its Ground Water Advisory Committee (GWAC) to provide recommendations on ground water-related matters. I would propose that prior to formally petitioning the Commission on this potential administrative action, you first present the matter before the Ground Water Advisory Committee. This presentation would offer an opportunity for the Committee, Department staff, and your neighborhood group to assess the local issues, data availability and needs, and the ground water management options. I am including a list of management options for your review and use to identify which option your group may want to pursue.

The next meeting of the Ground Water Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2004, at our Salem office located in the North Mall Office Building, 725 Summer St NE, Suite A. If this April meeting will work for you, please contact the Department's GWAC coordinator, Donn Miller, at (503) 986-0845 to be placed on the agenda.

Thank you for your interest and assistance.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Cleary  
Director

Enclosure

# Location Map Marks Prairie Area

