



JACKSON COUNTY

Health & Human Services

Environmental Public Health

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To Whom It May Concern,

This correspondence addresses the past and potential problems associated with the public water system at Whispering Pines Mobile Home Village in an effort to provide a compelling case for a connection to the Charlotte Ann Water District. I am the Drinking Water Coordinator for all of the public water systems that have groundwater as the source of potable water in Jackson County. Whispering Pines Mobile Home Village is one of these systems.

The owner, Steve Taylor of Whispering Pines MHV has had six wells drilled in the last twenty years. To date, only three of these wells are producing water. Unfortunately, the remaining wells are not producing the volume of water that they once did due to a depletion of groundwater in the area. It is not uncommon for this operator to bring in hauled water to meet the demand of this 63-space mobile home park. The other important aspect of this property is that there are no more locations to drill additional wells. Oregon Health Authority-Drinking Water Services (OHA-DWS) has strict well set back regulations from surface water, other existing wells and sewer lines.

In 2013, a Sensitivity Analysis Data Study was conducted by OHA-DWS and found that the aquifer that provides water to this system is considered moderate to highly sensitive due to the influence of the surface water from Bear Creek which runs approximately 500 feet from this system. Due to the sensitive nature of this aquifer, the area that was burned around the wells has a high risk of chemical contaminants leaching into the groundwater. In addition, the creek also has the potential to bring contaminants into the aquifer from the multitude of burned properties upstream.

In October of 2015, well #6 had confirmed E. coli. This resulted in a required 4-log disinfection to be implemented. This means that the system must have a specific chlorination level met at all times to ensure safe drinking water. Currently, there are only

12 out of the 200 systems in Jackson County that are required to meet a 4-log disinfection level.

As an Environmental Health Specialist at Jackson County Health & Human Services, and Jackson County's Drinking Water Program Coordinator, I effectively serve as the Oregon Health Authorities representative in Jackson County concerning matters involving public drinking water. The current water situation at the Whispering Pines Mobile Home Park property constitutes a "danger to public health", as that term is defined in ORS 431.705(4).

(a) Impure or inadequate domestic water.

Allowing this system to connect to the municipal water source that is within close proximity to this property would guarantee a safe and adequate drinking water supply to its residents.

Respectfully,



Susan Baker
Drinking Water Program Coordinator
Jackson County