Public Comment: Erika Morgan, Email dated December 11, 2014 Related to the Public Hearing PLN13-0027
Posted November 25, 2014
Tracey Redd

From: Erika Morgan <smilemeadow@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 3:45 PM
To: MDRT User; Brenda Martinez
Cc: Erika Morgan
Subject: VILLAGES MPD PHASE 2 PRELIMINARY PLAT C - PLN13-0027 corrected testimony
12/11/version
Attachments: doc06320020141130124156.pdf; PastedGraphic-2.tif

Hello;
I am Erika Morgan, for full disclosure, I am on the Black Diamond City Council, but this concern is as a private individual, as a property owner, and as a private domestic water well user.

1. My well water had white glacial silt in it Friday September 26, 2014, a condition that it had not experienced since its first drilling 35 years ago. The water was completely cleared up by October 18, 2014 when the grading and re-contouring of the "big gravel pit" on the Yarrow Bay PP1A property, was completed. I also include the public well reports, on my well below for your convenience.

2. Ground under PP1A is described as upper permeable to any water infiltration, and as a principal aquifer recharge area, according to the Golder Study of 1986. This study also indicates that the aquifer that my well is connected to, also connects to an incursion into groundwater represented by the "big old gravel pit" located on the PP1A property of the Yarrow Bay Villages development in Black Diamond.

3. Late last fall the forest that has been growing on PP1A since 1986, has been completely removed and the ground of 100 acres scraped clean. This completely removed any "filtrating sponge effect" of the forest that was protecting our shared aquifer as it has never experienced in the past. In the past, logging and replanting of the forest occurred only during the low rainfall periods, and no whole-scale grading. This sort of activity commenced only on a rotating schedule of no more than 40 acres at any one time.

4. Extensive re-contouring was done on the "large gravel pit" in PP1A, including moving it somewhat and changing its shape. This spot has been mined for gravel in the past. It is an excavation into the ground water level. The water levels here tend rise slowly with fall rains as a rehydration of the groundwater reserves. Then when there is rainfall and that combined with "pineapple express warming torrential rain", the water levels can rise quickly, they will stay high until there is a drawdown of this groundwater in late summer. Normally this spot never completely dry, and this past season, was no exception.

5. The Golder Study indicates, that the aquifer the Morgan well is connected to, could connect to the "large gravel pit" in PP1A. The influx of white glacial silt, during the time of con-touring of this site proves the connection.

6. Other wells in the area also complained of the white glacial silt during this time.

7. This area now is actually functioning as a huge 100 ac. "rain garden" sans the proper or indeed any rain garden lining or filling, that would help protect our regional ground water from non-point source pollutants. The hydro-seeding has made it attractive to hundreds of geese as a large grazing and pooping area for them.

8. Since the clearing of PP1A last November, December the water level of our meandering Rock Creek wetland, (site of the discharge of Black Diamond's failed sewage lagoons), has come up 2 feet between Jones Lake and Lake Sawyer. This is because at least some water is running more freely and faster off PP1A and into this wetland, probably under the surface through the upper permeable soils described as underlay of PP1A. Planned guardrails on Abrams Ave. were not able to be placed because of the raised "normal high water mark" meant their supports would demand pile-driving into the expanded bed of a moving meandering Rock Creek. Now a completely new and more expensive solution will be needed to handle the public safety situation there.

9. Black Diamond's failed sewage lagoon treatment system caused the pollution of Lake Sawyer in the early 1980s, I fear the large hydro-seeded area attractive to many geese, who poop directly onto the unprotected and completely exposed upper permeable deposits, will only repeat the experiment of the failed sewage lagoons for Lake Sawyer's water quality.

10. Yarrow Bay has asked the city of Black Diamond to move ahead on their VILLAGES MPD PHASE 2 PRELIMINARY PLAT C - PLN13-0027, which is and additional 103 acres just south of PP1A, and which will have the effect of increasing the unmitigated environmentally devastating effects of the previous clearing and grading by 100%. That area also is part of this upper permeable soils
formation. No applications have been made to actually proceed with any further development upon the cleared land, but there is some discussion about installing public utilities on it.

11. Other aquifer users have also experienced the white glacial silt as I have and my concern is that the water connectivity, the silt represents, means that our wells could also become contaminated like Lake Sawyer was in the past.

12. Additionally, I find reference to a “buried major and ancient channel of the Green River” transversing the “deep outwash glacial remains” found under The Villages footprint.


> DGER call number: TD224 W2 W317h 1997
> Index terms: GREEN RIVER/KING CO. / HYDROGEOLOGY/HYDROLOGY - GROUND WATER/RIVER MORPHOLOGY - BURIED CHANNELS

The “Regional Water Association of South King County” had rejected the thought of Black Diamond re-injecting treated sewage water from a conventional plant into our shared ground water as being a part of the “fix” for Black Diamond’s sewage issues because of fears for their shared groundwater aquifer being tainted. They wrote a letter in 1988 to such effect, a copy of which I will include. This together with the description of the upper permeability of the ground under “The Villages in Black Diamond” has left me mystified as to why there are not measures and mitigations to protect the regionally groundwater, from which private, small systems and municipal systems are pulling potable water. South King County’s future ground water is our surface water in Black Diamond. Surface water can be made clean with a “pristine mimicking” process if there is natural filtration through suitable material, but this does not happen in upper permeable soil types with major underground rivers spreading the water along into our shared ground water. Today, many more are depend upon the water quality and quantity then in May 1988, and there is a lot of developed infrastructure representing a lot of capital dependent on good water being delivered from Black Diamond’s lands.

I am sorry to be so slow in making this reporting but am having a tough time finding an active successor of RWA who protected the shared groundwater in South King County’s past. The promised “Water Management Plan” is available on line and I have read it, much of the basic descriptions seem to substantiate what I have observed personally, so they must still be perfectly valid. How do I find some entity can help Black Diamond protect the regional public interest? I have written before about Black Diamond’s checkered past with the failed sewage lagoon system. The people of this town today are particularly sensitive about the issue of water quality in the water that flows off our land, the Lake Sawyer residents because they experienced the bad result of a faulty idea and the old Black Diamond residents because of the shame the failure represents.

Erika Morgan
33625 Abrams Ave, Black Diamond, 98010

exhibits 3 of them:
one, may 1988 letter of concern
two my well reports and tag # from public record

ERRICA MORGAN - (View PDF file)
Public Land Survey: NW, NW, S-23, T-21-N, R-06-E, Tax Parcel Number: (blank)
County: King, Well Address: (blank)
Well Log ID: 91163, Well Tag ID:(blank), Notice of Intent Number: (blank)
Well Diameter: 6 in., Well Depth: 130 ft.
Well Type: Water
Well Completion Date: 08/18/1981, Well Log Received Date: (blank)

Well ID
Well Id S_471757122004601
Location Name
Name MORGAN ERICA
Well Type
well type Well
Well Depth (ft) 130
well depth
Surface Elevation (ft) elevation ft 640
X Coord (WAN-SPF) 1347758.375
y coord (wamsp) 111372
Has Water Level Data? Yes = 37 feet june 10, 1986
Has Water Quality Data? No
Local Number
local number 21N/66E-23D01
Ecology Well Tag Unknown
DOE well tag
Parcel Number
GWMA code South King County
Basin
basin Covington Creek
CARA Area
area None
City
city King County
Well ID
Measurement Date
Measurement Time
Water Level Depth (ft)
Well Depth (ft)
Measure Method
S_471757122004601
04/09/1987
10:50
water level 38.12
well depth 130 by Steel tape
S_471757122004601
06/11/1986
07:10
water level 37.48 by Steel tape
well depth 130
S_471757122004601
09/08/1986
water level 32.36 by Steel tape
well depth 130

three map of the area of ground water concern from title page of the plan's supplement
May 20, 1988

Brown & Caldwell
Consulting Engineers
100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

Attn: Mr. George Mason

Re: Black Diamond Waste Treatment

Gentlemen:

The Regional Water Association of South King County ("RWA") wishes to express its concern over the possibility of land application of Black Diamond's waste water.

RWA in coordination with DSHS, DOE and King County is in the process of preparing a Master Comprehensive Plan of Water Supply and Management for South King County - including the Black Diamond area. This study consists of three components: (1) A Critical Water Supply Plan under the State Act; (2) A Groundwater Management Plan under the State Act; and (3) A joint study with USGS of available groundwater resources.

One of the major thrusts of the above is aquifer management and protection.

Because of soil conditions and a pattern of shallow aquifers running from the Black Diamond area westward, land application of sewage could present a serious threat to groundwater critical to the future needs of South King County.

Very truly yours,

John T. Sawyer,
RWA Administrator

JTS/bjh