



By: Thom McGraham
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ADWR OKs water availability for 2nd major Mardian residential development project within 7 months

MOHAVE COUNTY - The Mardian group has successfully completed another major state requirement for its second master-planned community - The Mardian Ranch - with the issuance by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) of an Analysis of Adequate Water Supply (physical availability).

The analysis in the second such letter received by the Mardian group, confirms that the ADWR is satisfied that the company has demonstrated the availability of water in amounts sufficient to serve 23,000 residential units, in addition to the 25,000 residential units previously approved by the ADWR in late 2006, as well as the companion commercial, public and park uses identified in the Master Plan. The Mardian Ranch development is located east of The Ranch at White Hills project, between the top of the White Hills and Pierce Ferry Road. The Mardian Ranch General Plan and Area Plan proposals were approved by both the Mohave County Planning & Zoning Commission and the County Board of Supervisors in 2006. The combined properties in both master-planning designs for The Ranch at White Hills and The Mardian Ranch comprise in excess of 47,000 acres.

The two water approval determinations issued by the ADWR have now identified sufficient water reserves to develop 48,000 residential units, commercial, public facilities, parks and other land uses as identified in the Mohave County approved General and Area Plan documents for the. "We are very pleased with the ADWR approvals. After four years of intensive well drilling, geologic and hydrologic analysis, groundwater testing and other related activities, that has required a \$15 million dollar investment, we have met and exceeded the requirements of the Department of Water Resources and are now in position to move forward with our ultimate plans", said Leonard Mardian, Property Owner and Developer. "The planning efforts and project development we undertook several years ago are coming together very nicely at this point," he said.

Mardian said the four-year field and office endeavor to successfully make application, complete the stringent field and data requirements, drill and test the wells, fulfill the processing mandates and secure the water approvals for both of the Mardian master-planned properties "was no easy task."

Mardian Team Project Manager, Elno Roundy oversaw and worked on the water development process from the beginning which included determining potential well sites and coordinating multiple field crews and well-drilling teams - "that was full-time job in itself," Mardian recalled. "Assimilating the retrieved data, working with geologists and hydrologists to develop the most conducive framework of the site characteristics and dealing with frequent field adjustments was critical to the overall success of the groundwater study efforts," said Mardian.

Roundy has accumulated much knowledge in his 44-year background as a Natural Resource Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management and as a private rangeland consultant. He is intimately familiar with the Mohave Desert and, in particular, the lay of the land in the region of the Rahcn at White Hills.

Several other professionals on the Mardian team including Luis Vega, an Exploration Geologist with Del Rayo International, provided additional information and research. According to Roundy, Vega, a Kingman resident, who has worked on projects worldwide, "has provided enormous geologic support needed for this project study and I consider Luis as the best in his field," said Roundy. "Luis was on-site for all of the well drilling needed to determine water quantity, analyze soil/rock strata, and to make on-the-spot determinations and decisions when unusual drilling conditions were encountered," Roundy explained.

The combined expertise of Roundy, Vega, the hydrological consulting firms as well as the rest of the Mardian team, when combined with geologic and hydrologic data, provided the basis to select a general area for the various well sites. As proof of the result of their combined expertise, all twenty-four well sites selected by the team during the extended study struck water.

"A perfect record of hitting water at every well site over this extended period, is incredible", said Kathy Tackett-Hicks, another Mardian Project Manager. Tackett-Hicks was responsible for the state agency's processing of the water applications and worked with the field experts in assimilating the data. "I don't believe we could have had a more qualified team working on these water studies - these guys are remarkable," Tackett-Hicks said. "With both of the water approvals secured, Leonard and Susan Mardian are continuing to develop their master plan property interests," she said.