

Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 9:52 AM

Subject: Ticket Assigned – Underdrains

When Matt first wrote this article he did NOT mention or include the underdrains.
Matt asks us to

I have been working with the Silver Springs underdrains for 40 years, and lived in this community for 33 years, and I agree that they our responsibility and liability and we should maintain and fix them and that it won't be hard or expensive. As a Professional Civil Engineer and Hydrologist, I worked for Jack Johnson when they were installed and I was Assistant State Engineer in charge of Groundwater studies when Park City groundwater was studied by the state in 2010. I marveled in 1980 at the initial flows from the original underdrain and at the groundwater flow into the foundation excavation for my new home in 1990.

I continue to work as a consultant for Loughlin Water Associates on local water issues. I have worked with this community Pro-Bono when our [Silver Springs] water system failed and sold, on the Mountain Regional Water Board for ten years, on the dam and lake repair and ownership issues as well as the underdrain maintenance committee with some outstanding and dedicated community members.

Silver Springs was a swamp or wetland in 1979 and the underdrains were installed so they could put houses it will become a swamp again, This area is a groundwater discharge area from snowmelt recharge on the mountains and is a big sponge that fills and spills every spring and slowly drains off every summer. Our under drain system is simply perforated PVC pipe encased in gravel 4-8 feet deep and connected by manholes, that skims the top off the groundwater level when it rises in the spring and drains it to the remnant channel for Willow Creek just east of Silver Springs

I have three personal underdrain pumps in my crawlspace that go off 5-10 times a day for 4-6 months a year because the underdrain leg in front of my house does not work well. I see a noticeable spike in my electric bill because of this. To estimate this energy load fill two five gallon buckets with water and walk up your stairs. The underdrain system drains more than 100 million gallons or a billion pounds of water off the top of our near field groundwater every year, by gravity, for free.

It does not affect the deep groundwater aquifers that we get our drinking water from. It does not drain the lakes. It affects some houses more than others but it affects us all in establishing sustainable and livable ground water levels in our community. A malfunction in the underdrains has caused damage to houses and landscapes in a matter of hours but these problems are easily rectified with the proper engineering and maintenance. Annual maintenance should continue for a few thousand dollars per year with a reserve fund for bigger repairs and permission to access back lot lines with the communities guarantee that all property disturbed will be replaced in kind.

If we do not control the groundwater level around our community, both collectively and personally, peoples crawl spaces and basements will flood and foundations will 'float' and houses will be ruined? There will be multiple multi-million dollar law suits. If we willfully abandon this system that I have been a proponent of for years, I will have to recuse myself personally and professionally from any service to this community to avoid the inevitable entangling gross negligence law suits. I cannot be a part of that shortsighted and irresponsible decision and the expensive aftermath.

We spend much more money on lawyers each year fighting the malicious, slanderous and libelous claims of the undrain deniers and the community dividers. That money could be spent maintaining this utility for the common good and not for defending from divisive untruths from self-serving alarmists who chose to ignore reality.

Listen to the lawyers, listen to the engineers, listen to the professionals that we hire to protect us. Listen to the community volunteers that step up to serve this neighborhood despite countless personal attacks over the years that have limited their numbers and sapped their enthusiasm. That has been the real cost of this divisive issue. It is an inconvenient truth that the under drains are ours to maintain and we should be a responsible community and own up to those facts for the common good, public welfare and the sustainability of our community.

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