



SUN CITY HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION
Sun City's Advocate
Since 1963

SCHOA CONTINUES THE FIGHT AGAINST EPCOR WASTEWATER FORCES CONSOLIDATION CASE Review and Update

It was less than a month ago on June 15th that the SCHOA Board of Directors unanimously approved to appeal the recent decision by four members of the Arizona Corporation Commission that was approved by a four to one vote on June 13. The commissioners who voted for consolidation are Tom Forese, Doug Little, Andy Tobin and Boyd Dunn; Commissioner Burns opposed.

EPCOR formally filed with the ACC in April of 2016 to determine the rates and charges for utility services by Aqua Fria, Anthem, Mohave, Sun City, and Sun City West districts and for the consideration of consolidation. Even though EPCOR filed in 2016, it has been known for the past three years that EPCOR would be taking this step which would incur a significant increase for Sun City residents. During this time, Greg Eisert, Chairman, SCHOA Government Affairs Committee, has represented the Sun City community at the ACC meetings and hearings as an intervenor for Sun City. At a recent meeting, Mr. Eisert stated “SCHOA’s position on consolidation is based on ‘the massive amount of folks’ who have stated they do not want to be consolidated under any circumstances. SCHOA’s position is that Sun City should be maintained as a stand-alone district and should be responsible only for paying its own costs of service even if consolidation would not result in higher rates.” He also reported that he has been involved in 30 – 40 meetings where at least 2,000 Sun City residents were in attendance addressing their concerns. If you would like to view the most recent documents regarding this case, they are available on the ACC website at www.azcc.gov. The document number to select for EPCOR Wastewater case is WS-01303A-16-0145 when visiting the website if you would like more information.

During the past four years, SCHOA has sponsored town hall meetings, invited the ACC commissioners to attend an open meeting in Sun City to listen to residents “first hand,” offered educational workshops informing residents the importance of signing petitions, writing letters, and encouraging and educating community members and this commitment and fight continues. In January, 2017, SCHOA, the RCSC and the RCA (Retired Citizens Association of Sun City) sponsored buses to assist residents in going to the ACC and attend an open meeting. Six buses were filled and residents expressed their concerns regarding consolidation and the serious impact this could have on many residents. Sun City is invested in “neighbor helping neighbor;” it is through this investment that SCHOA often becomes aware of residents who are dealing with serious financial concerns. Many residents cannot afford to see consolidation implemented.

Nevertheless, the four Commissioners voted for full-forced consolidation of all five of the EPCOR Wastewater Districts. Following the June 15th meeting SCHOA surveyed the Sun City ratepayers and concluded the Community was extremely upset and was in favor of SCHOA filing an appeal. The SCHOA Board, therefore, approved to move forward with an appeal. If nothing is done, rates double and Sun City will subsidize all the other four EPCOR districts to the tune of Five Million Dollars per year for their rate relief. It is also likely the Commissioners will vote in favor of consolidating Sun City EPCOR water rates which will cause them to double as well. There is no choice, but to keep fighting.

Recognizing the legal expenses that are involved with this appeal, the SCHOA Board initiated a Rate Case Litigation Fund in order to fund the fight for the Community. An attorney has been hired and the appeal process has begun based on the support of Sun City residents. Funds are needed and will continue to be for months to come. Initially, \$60,000 was requested; in a short length of time 25% of this was received. The goal is to reach this goal by the end of July. Initially a donation was asked of \$15 per person which would fund legal fees with the support of a percentage of residents. Many residents are donating more understanding some Sun City neighbors may not be able to do so. Flyers have been prepared and SCHOA continues to make them available for individuals who wish to provide the information to neighbors, friends, organizations, and businesses.

Recognizing at this time of the year about 30% of the community isn't in Sun City, email blasts continue to keep neighbors who are away informed and they, too, are responding to the appeal. In early July, the ability to make donations on the SCHOA website will be available.

SCHOA asked for the Community to provide assistance and citizens are "stepping up." With this support SCHOA is committed to continuing the fight for all Sun City residents. No donation is too large or too small.....If you have any questions or would like to assist in any way, contact SCHOA at 623 974 4718 or email Marketing@suncityhoa.org.

Donations may be mailed to SCHOA at 10401 W Coggins Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. Checks may be made payable to SCHOA (memo: Rate Case Litigation Fund). The office is opened 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday – Friday; donations may be made at the office.