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Viewpoint Lake clears state regulatory hurdle



Jarod Opperman/Daily News-Sun

Viewpoint Lake

Jan Ek, general manager of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, discusses Viewpoint Lake with the Viewpoint Lake Management Board Tuesday.

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By **JEFF DEMPSEY, DAILY NEWS-SUN** | [1 comment](#)

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has reached an agreement with the state that the RCSC general manager said will save the community millions of dollars in repairs at Viewpoint Lake.

“It’s exciting news. I’ve been working on this for a while now, but **I couldn’t tell anybody what it was**,” General Manager Jan Ek said Tuesday afternoon at a meeting of the Viewpoint Lake Management Board.

Ek told the board the RCSC has received relief from the water allocation requirement, courtesy of an administrative review by the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

She said the RCSC was seeking to prove the lake’s seepage was refilling the water table and in the course of that pursuit the possibility was raised of seeking administrative relief.

“We realized when we looked at it that we had a very good chance to qualify,” Ek said.

Sun City’s Viewpoint Lake has been a point of contention in the community for years. The lake has been seeping water at an unacceptable rate and finding a solution to that situation had proved difficult.

The RCSC was frequently failing to meet its water use allocation — water from the lake is also used to water the golf courses — and was purchasing water credits to offset the difference at a cost of \$75,000 to \$90,000 annually. In the fall of 2011, RCSC management met with the ADWR to confirm they could pursue relief. Once officials received the go-ahead, they created a water management plan, including RCSC’s historical data, and submitted their findings. Those

findings needed to prove to ADWR's satisfaction that re-lining the entire lake would be cost-prohibitive to the community and disproportionate to the size of the community.

"The new liner would cost millions," Ek said. "We would have to section off the lake, drain part of it, dry it, dig up the dirt, put the new liner in — and all of (the residents) would have to pull up their docks while this happened. We would not be able to control the smell, and there is no telling how long the whole process would take."

The relief request was submitted in May. Ek said the RCSC just received the final approval, though there are requirements that must be fulfilled on RCSC's end.

First, the irrigation systems at North, Willowbrook, Willowcreek, Riverview and Lakes East must be replaced in the next five years. Second, the RCSC must conduct annual meetings for the residents of Sun City on the importance of water conservation.

"This is really a win-win for us, quite frankly," she said. "It couldn't have worked out any better for us."

Ek said the money saved on purchasing water credits will now be used on lake maintenance and the irrigation system repairs.

The RCSC will have to apply again for the relief exemption sometime in the next couple of years, Ek said, but she said she was told they are not likely to face any problems.

"Because we've already been through the process, and so recently, we're really likely to get approval and the same stipulations," she said.

"This problem, this dark cloud that has been over our heads, is now gone."

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1 comment:

- **annereport posted at 10:06 am on Thu, Feb 21, 2013.**



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We want to see proof that what RCSC General Manager Jan Ek claims is true. We want to see any documentation from ADWR that would verify that if the irrigation systems were done and there were annual meetings to teach the members to conserve water the RCSC could get relief on the water allocations.

Educating the residents about water conservation is suspect since RCSC's water use and personal water use by the members are not connected. Flushing toilets and showering before going into the pool would not make a dent in the water allocations.

It also doesn't make sense that after thirty years the RCSC didn't know that they would have to reline the lake. It's time to get it done and the RCSC has the money in hand to do it, immediately.

Ms. Ek admits she doesn't know how much it will cost or how long it will take which leads us to conclude that the RCSC has not written the specifications or taken bids to reline Viewpoint Lake. If they have, we want to see them.

Ms. Ek claims she worked on this ADWR deal in secret. We want the secrecy to stop. She is not qualified in these matters to be handling them in secret.

The RCSC's penchant for closed records is one of the claims we are taking to court in our lawsuit against the RCSC. Learn more by going to <http://www.annereport.com>. Support us!