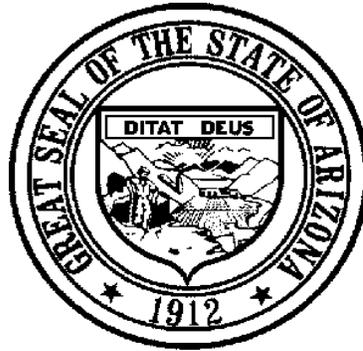


# Arizona Department of Water Resources

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For Immediate Release:  
July 19, 2005  
Janet Napolitano,  
Governor  
Herb Guenther,  
Director

## NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office  
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### Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Settles Groundwater Management Charges

The Arizona Department of Water Resources announced today that Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., has agreed to settle claims made by the State of Arizona regarding excess use of groundwater on the golf courses.

Under the settlement, the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. will pay a penalty of approximately \$5,000 for exceeding its groundwater withdrawal authorities under the Arizona Groundwater Management Act; "pay back" the aquifer 881 acre-feet of water for exceeding conservation requirements on the golf courses; and be on a probationary status for five years.

Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. is the owner and operator of Lakes East, Lakes West, North, Quail Run, Riverview, South, Willowbrook, and Willowcreek golf courses.

Throughout calendar year 2002, the golf courses exceeded their maximum annual groundwater withdrawal authority by pumping more groundwater than their rights allowed, and in both 2002 and 2003 exceeded their annual conservation requirements.

Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. avoided an additional \$110,000 in penalties by initiating management practices and infrastructure improvements to reduce its use of groundwater.

Since 1995, Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. has invested more than \$6 million in improvements and upgrades to its facilities. Further, Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. has committed to make additional improvements to reduce groundwater use by 2007. In recognition of these actions, ADWR has agreed to waive the \$110,000 penalty provided Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. continues to comply with groundwater management requirements, including replacing the excess groundwater it used.

"Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. acted quickly and responsibly to correct the groundwater management problems at its golf courses," said ADWR Director Herb Guenther. "They have hired experienced superintendents, conducted training for the staff, initiated best management practices at the facilities, and have begun additional infrastructure improvements designed to save water.

"The civil penalty is appropriate for groundwater management exceedances, which could have been prevented," Guenther said. "Conserving groundwater is a central component of Arizona's Groundwater Management Act, and it is critical that all groundwater users limit their use to only that which is permitted."