

Arizona Department of Water Resources

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NEWS RELEASE



Janet Napolitano,
Governor

Herb Guenther,
Director

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Public Information Office
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ADWR cites, fines 8 golf courses for groundwater overuse

More than \$58,000 in penalties assessed

Arizona Department of Water Resources staff determined eight Phoenix area golf courses committed groundwater use violations over the past four years. The Department issued citations, with fines totaling \$58,812.50, ADWR Director Herb Guenther said today.

Staff of the Phoenix Active Management Area examined water audits and reports from the facilities' operators and found they violated conservation allotments by using more groundwater than they were allowed to withdraw.

Maricopa County has more golf courses – 144 – than any other county in the United States. "The golf operators generally are quite careful and conscientious about their water use. They recognize the need to achieve water efficiencies and conserve where they can," said Phoenix AMA Area Director Mark Frank.

Recognizing the necessity of conservation in an arid location, the Department limits water use and encourages the course owners to irrigate with reclaimed effluent.

The golf operators cited were:

- Apache Wells Country Club
- Mountain Shadows Country Club
- Phantom Horse Golf Course
- Paradise Valley Country Club
- Sunland Village East Golf Course
- Union Hills Country Club, and
- Fountain of the Sun, and
- Orange Tree Resort

The Tucson AMA has taken similar enforcement action, and recently collected \$16,350 in fines and the results of a professional water audit, to settle violations of the conservation requirements by the San Ignacio course for 2003, 2004 and 2005. Money collected by ADWR for violations reverts to the State's general fund.

Violator	Penalty
Apache Wells Country Club	\$2,875
Mountain Shadows Country Club	\$5,625
Phantom Horse Golf Course	\$16,625
Paradise Valley Country Club	\$6,125
Sunland Village East Golf Course	\$625
Union Hills Country Club	\$10,875
Fountain of the Sun	2004, 2005 water use are in compliance. In 2002 and 2003, operators exceeded the conservation allotment by 81 acre-feet. Sanction: purchase and extinguish 81 acre feet of long-term storage credits.
Orange Tree Resort	Stipulation & consent order sent for this violation of 257 acre feet. We are requiring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lakes be sealed, • 5 acres of turf be converted to low water use landscaping • The driving range not be overseeded for three years, and • A penalty of \$16,062.50 to be paid.

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