

FLORENCE PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST COPPER



Taking another significant step to protect the Town's drinking water resources, the Florence Town Council voted 6-1 on December 19 to approve a resolution confirming its strong opposition to the Florence Copper Project and urging other federal, state, and county governments to reject the environmentally and economically risky project as well. The resolution, No. 1324-11, was approved 6-1, with only Councilman Amie Raasch declining to support it.

The resolution arose out of the continuing efforts of Curis Resources Limited and its Curis Arizona subsidiary to develop an in-situ copper mine in and around Florence. In-situ leach mining involves injecting an acidic solution into the subsurface in order to release metals contained in buried rock. Unfortunately, the acidic solution can release additional buried materials, such as naturally occurring radioactive materials. It also relies on hydraulic containment to protect drinking water supplies. Elsewhere in the country, the process has a poor record of maintaining and achieving groundwater protection standards. Curis originally proposed to put the mine's acid injection wells in a residential area immediately upgradient of a drinking water well used by Johnson Utilities to supply water to its 83,000 Florence area customers.

On November 7, the Town Council unanimously rejected the request by Curis to circumvent the Town's 2020 general plan and allow the company to build its mine in a master-planned subdivision area of Florence. The Council concluded that the Florence Copper proposal posed unacceptable risks to the Town's economic future, environment, and public health. Most notably, the Council found that Curis' risky scheme threatened the drinking water aquifer used by Johnson Utilities to serve safe water to much of the Town. The Council also found that approving the Curis proposal would be unfair to residents who purchased nearby homes in reliance on the general plan—not expecting to be living next door to a high-profile industrial mining operation.

Rather than accept the considered judgment of the Council—reached after months of study and intense public input—Curis responded by announcing its intent to avoid the Town's decision by moving its project to nearby state trust land, outside the reach of the Town zoning jurisdiction. That effort continues, but the approval of Resolution 1324-11 should ensure that the Town's substantial concerns are considered by its fellow governmental agencies.

Those agencies will include the State Land Department, which will need to approve relevant leases, and two environmental agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ").

Resolution 1324-11 provides: "The Mayor and Council hereby express their strong opposition to the risks presented by the Florence Copper Project and urge all federal, state, and county agencies involved in the permitting process for the Florence Copper Project to recognize that approving such a project along the Gila River, in close proximity to populated areas and a vital aquifer, is ill advised."

The Resolution added: "Because such risks involve the possibility of injury to the health, safety and welfare of the Town's residents as well as their water supply, the Florence Copper Project may do irreparable harm to the economic well-being of the Town of Florence."

It concluded with a call for State Land, EPA, and ADEQ to deny permits necessary for the project: "For the aforementioned reasons, the Mayor and Council further urge such agencies to deny any and all permit applications for the Florence Copper Project."

Mayor Vicki Kilvinger noted that the Council had studied the issue for months; she ultimately concluded that the risks to the Town's irreplaceable water supply were simply too great. Councilman Bill Hawkins, meanwhile, stressed that the Town had other, better opportunities to create jobs. He noted the recent addition of two hospitals, which provide steady and well-paying jobs that are not subject to the boom-and-bust cycle of the mining industry.

Although Town residents and Johnson customers have won another round in this long-running battle, more is yet to come. Curis has stated that it is continuing its efforts to obtain approvals for the State Land Department, ADEQ, and EPA. Permitting processes before those government agencies will include opportunities for written public comment and, perhaps, public meetings. The Town's strong position on Resolution 1324-11 will be noted. Johnson will keep its customers informed about opportunities for them to individually comment as well.

In the meantime, Johnson Utilities and its customers appreciate the thorough effort and courage displayed by the Mayor and Council.

"The Mayor and Council have invested a huge amount of time to considering this proposal. They've done so under the pressure brought by Curis' army of lobbyists and lawyers," said George Johnson. "It is to the credit of the Mayor and Council that they got this issue right."

It was both complex and, at least superficially, appealing. We're gratified that the Mayor and Council invested the time necessary and displayed the courage required to kill this ill-advised proposal."

County Supervisor Bryan Martyn

has not come out in support of the Florence Town Council Resolution to protect our water. When asked for a statement as to why he is not giving his support to the Town, he responded: "The Florence Copper project also represents an immediate, positive economic impact on the Town of Florence." The Supervisor followed by saying: "Are the mitigation measures enough to warrant the reward compared to the risk? Revenue and jobs are great." As our supervisor, Bryan Martyn has the responsibility of looking out for the best interest of our area, and what interest is greater than protecting our water? Why is he not taking a firm position against this risky project like the Florence Town Council was bold enough to do?

Johnson Utilities invites you to our annual

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

January 7, 2012 11AM - 4PM

Club at Oasis

5764 E Hunt Hwy Florence, AZ 85132



Water Conservation Tips

- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
- Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.
- When cleaning out fish tanks, give the nutrient-rich water to your plants.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
- Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- If your toilet flapper doesn't close after flushing, replace it.
- When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.



Petting Zoo



- Games
- Raffles
- FREE LUNCH (12-2pm)
- Arts-N-Crafts (provided by Johnson Community Library)
- Petting zoo
- Local Vendor Booths (Limited Spaces, First come First served)
- Rock Wall & Bouncers (provided by the YMCA)
- Face Painting
- DJ
- Kids Golf Games (provided by Club at Oasis)
- JCL BOOK SALE
- and so MUCH MORE!

More San Tan Valley communities have committed to recycling!

Central Arizona Solid Waste is committed to making San Tan Valley one of the top recycling communities in Arizona. Congratulations to the San Tan Heights Community for starting recycling in 2012 and moving San Tan Valley forward in that direction. HOA communities have an opportunity to sign up for free curbside recycling to be included in their trash pickup services.

Recycling is one of the best ways for you to have a positive impact on the world in which we live. Recycling is important to both the natural environment and to the people who live in it. We should all recycle because the amount of rubbish we create is constantly increasing.

Here's why:

Increasing wealth means that people are buying more products and ultimately creating more waste.

Increasing population means that there are more people on the planet to create waste. New packaging and technological products are being developed; and many of these products contain materials that are not biodegradable. New lifestyle changes, such as eating fast food, means that we create additional waste that isn't biodegradable. We are still offering free recycling to HOA communities contracted with CASW.

For more information contact our "Trash Lady", Ellen, at trashladies@gmail.com.



968 E Hunt Hwy
Queen Creek Arizona 85143
480-987-9870
www.johnsonutilities.com

Our Children Our Community Our Future

Golf Club at Oasis

U p d a t e



Rally for the cure

Date: January 14 2012

Sign up by January 7 2012

\$40.00 per person including lunch

Two Person Scramble

Shotgun Start at 9am

Demo Days by YAR Putters

Lots of Fun

Games and Prizes

“longest drive”

“closest to the pin”

and more fun games

WEAR PINK!!

It takes more than one to
rally; are you in?

Contact the Pro Shop for
more information or to register



5764 E Hunt Hwy
Florence Arizona 85132
480-888-8890
www.clubatoasis.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From all the staff at the Oasis. We hope 2012 is a healthy and prosperous year for you and your families.

The employees at the Oasis are looking forward to a busy and fun filled year. Our first tournament this year is the Rally for the Cure: A Susan G Komen fund raiser for breast cancer, scheduled for January 14th. It will be a Two Person Scramble with a 9:00 am shot gun start. The cost is \$40 per person. This includes green fees, longest drive, closest to the pin and a cook-your-own-burger lunch. The last day to sign up will be January 7th 2012. Please show your support for this great cause. Call or stop by the Pro shop for more information or to sign up. January 14th is also our demo day for Yar Putters. Come out and try the newest innovation in putting.

Congratulations to Ian Gray for his Hole in One, December 2nd 2011, #15 a par 3, 240 yard shot from the black tees.

We now have lights on the driving net and practice area. Why not relax with a drink in the evenings and hit a few balls, or bring the children by after school to work on their game?

We are looking for Saturday morning league players. Please call Rich Connally at 480-797-4338 to sign up or for more information.

We continue to have problems with children playing on the golf course. The golf course is private property. It is not a safe place to play. We use reclaimed water to water the course; as well, a traveling golf ball could cause serious injury to a child or adult. Please help us keep your children safe by keeping them off the course!!

Again, I would like to wish you and your family a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.
Lynn Mosher
Director of Golf
Club at Oasis



Did you know?

Monthly Statements

Everyone is mailed a bill through the United States Postal Service. If a Johnson Utilities monthly statement is not received, please contact customer service and have another one sent to you. Please Note: Johnson Utilities statements are mailed out the last week of every month. For example: January's bills are mailed out the last week of December and are due January 15th. Residential, Commercial, and Builder's statements are all accounted for when leaving the Johnson Utilities' office. Johnson Utilities has no control nor can it be held responsible for the whereabouts of your statement once it is picked up by USPS and leaves our facility. You are still responsible for your monthly bill. Johnson Utilities Water/Waste Water statements are billed on a monthly basis and are due on the 15th of every month.

E-Bill

E-Bill enables you to access your monthly electric bill from the Internet using any available web browser. The Johnson Utilities monthly statement is emailed to the email address you provide and access is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Visit www.johnsonutilities.com and simply click on MY ACCOUNT to sign up today.

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)

Electronic Funds Transfer, often called EFT, is a payment method that replaces sending a paper check. Your monthly balance will automatically be withdrawn on the 15th of every month. You no longer have to worry about whether your payment made it through the mail on time. Registration for EFT is a simple one-time process. In order to have your funds deducted electronically from your checking account you will have to provide us with a Voided Check and an EFT Form which you can conveniently download online.

Online Payment

The PAY ONLINE option allows customers to pay their Johnson Utilities bill with Visa, Mastercard, or Discover. Online payments are processed (takes up to 3 days) through Authorized.net and there is a fee (\$1.00) for this service. HOWEVER, you can not make a payment online if your account:

1. Received a Disconnect Notice. 2. Your account is about to be disconnected. 3. Your account has been disconnected due to delinquency. Please visit our FAQ's online for more information.

Pay in Person

Johnson Utilities is located at 968 E Hunt Hwy. Our lobby hours are Monday-Friday 8AM-4:45PM. We gladly accept payments during these business hours. Please bring your Johnson Utilities statement for faster service.

Pay over the phone

We gladly accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover Payments over the phone. You may call 480-987-9870 Monday-Friday 8AM-4:45PM to make a payment to your account. Please have your Johnson Utilities account number available to ensure faster service. Please note that there is a longer on hold time on the 15th of the month.

Johnson Community Library Update

968-1 E Hunt Hwy
Queen Creek AZ 85143
www.johnsoncommunitylibrary.org
480-353-2770

Library Cards are *FREE*

Library Hours

Monday-Saturday
9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Reading Time

Tuesday's and Thursday's
11:00 AM - NOON

Arts-N-Crafts

Wednesday's and Friday's
NOON - 1:00 PM

Donations *Always Welcome*

Arts-N-Crafts donations
currently being accepted

Johnson Utilities

968 E Hunt Hwy
Queen Creek, Arizona
85143

480-987-9870

www.johnsonutilities.com

Start service or Cancel service
online
FAQ's
Payment
Water Conservation tips
and so much more!

