



Community Development Department

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Molalla, OR 97038

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October 8, 2022

To: Mike Pinney
Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality

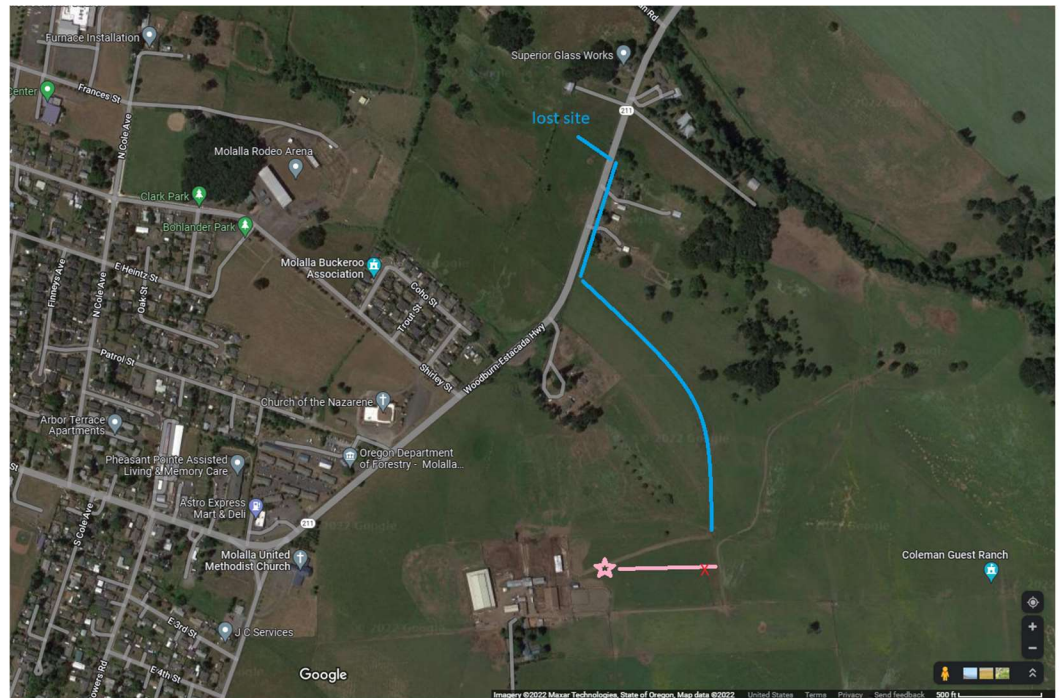
RE: Molalla Irrigator Recycled Water Spill – 5 day Follow up

Dear Mike,

On the evening of October 3rd, 2022 an Irrigator serving Class C Recycled Water to Coleman Field Section 2 stopped reeling in at 150ft (of its 500 ft cycle), but continued to irrigate water. The situation persisted for approximately 15.5 hours, causing an estimated 228,475 gallons of Recycled Water to exit Section 2 fields and flow down the State Hwy 211, and onto a neighboring farm field. On Tuesday October 9th the City contacted your office by phone (required 24-hour notice). The following is information on response steps taken and constitutes the required 5-day follow-up.

1. What happened and where?

The Map (right) shows where the Irrigator was located (Star), the 500 ft run it was set up to perform (pink line), and the spot where the irrigator stopped reeling (red x). The Blue line shows where subsequent ponded water ran down the field and onto the neighbor's property, address 15151 Hwy 211.



2. What steps did the City take to notify those potentially impacted.

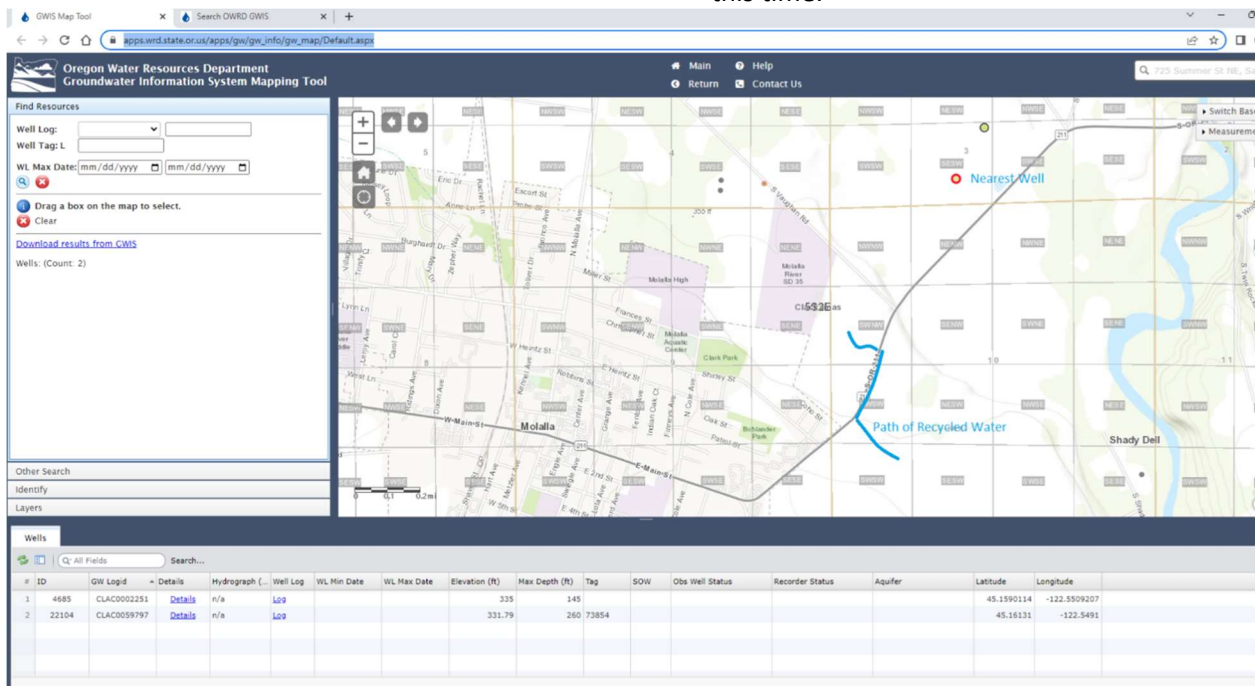
The City performed a door-to-door house call on to 15126 and 15124 HWY 211 which border the ditch line along HWY 211 where the water ran. The property 15151 HWY 211 has no dwelling upon it and is



unoccupied. The City contacted both the owner of this property and the Farmer who holds the agricultural lease, and explained the situation. The City received permission to enter the site and place 3 of its “Warning, Treated Wastewater” Cautionary signs to notify the public, image (Left). The City also conducted a visual inspection and confirmed that the water stopped before it reached a small holding pond to the west on the property.

3. What is the City doing to ensure no drinking water wells were affected?

Upon discovering the situation, the City performed a search using the Oregon Drinking Water Authority’s Geographic Information Survey system. The nearest well was identified as CLAC_2251, which lies about ½ mile to the northeast (red dot on the map below). The well construction log indicates the water table for this well is 145 ft below the surface. Therefore, the City has no concerns that any wells were affected at this time.



4. What is the City doing to ensure the equipment does not repeat this situation?

The City is in the process of reaching out to its equipment supplier, Valley Fab Corp., which is based out of Brooks. The City wishes to (1) understand the behavior of Irrigator S/N WM 4000 – 2B 1500 – 4.1 – 284 – 15 during this event, (2) confirm whether the irrigator behaved as designed or whether this was a malfunction, and (3) obtain recommendations from Valley Fab and the equipment Manufacturer on custom adjustments Molalla can make to its Irrigation Fleet to avoid this situation in the future. A formal letter requesting this service has been drafted and is under review. The City expects to be able to send this letter early next week.

Respectfully,

Andy Peters, Public Works Div Manager

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