

THE STANDARD

Dave Hawkins

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WHITE HILLS – Administrative Law Judge Yvette Kinsey early this month is expected to issue the order she's recommending to the Arizona Corporation Commission involving application for a utility to serve the master-planned community Las Vegas businessman Leonard Mardian is developing in White Hills. The Mardian owned Double Diamond Utilities, Inc. must have a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to provide water and waste-water service to the Ranch at White Hills.

Some 25,000 homes are planned in the development but the utility application involves only the first project phase. "The requested service area for Double Diamond covers 640 acres with current site plans for 1,800 single family units, 700 multi-family units, one school site and 80 acres of commercial development," said Arizona Corporation Commission member Kris Mayes.

Mardian agent Kathy Tackett-Hicks, of KTH Consulting, said the utility would expand as needed to serve future development. Mardian previously demonstrated annual availability of roughly 8,000 acre-feet of water from the Detrital Basin to serve the Ranch at White Hills.

Mayes said she's pleased that the Mardian group has incorporated a number of water conservation features into development design.

"They're proposing that for every house that is built out there that the rooftops of those houses, as well as commercial buildings, have rainwater collection and storage which is very interesting," Mayes said. "We haven't seen that yet from a mass market developer."

Mayes noted that plans to build a golf course won't advance until there's enough homes to generate enough effluent to water it. She indicated concern, however, that Mardian plans "numerous" golf courses for the community.

"It seems one golf course would be enough," Mayes said. She said she'll ask questions about golf courses when the Commission considers Kinsey's recommended order during a hearing expected in March or April.

Mardian also proposes development of some 40,000 homes in the Mardian Ranch project located near the Ranch at White Hills.

Hicks said the plan involves using Double Diamond Utilities to serve that project as well, though the water would come from the Hualapai Basin.

Courtesy of The Standard