IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING WATER RIGHTS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS

November 5th, 2026

Dear Eagle Crest Property Owners,

We would like to share an important update regarding ECMA's water rights and the steps being taken to protect our community's long-term water resources.

Recently, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) denied ECMA's request to transfer water rights from the abandoned Well 2a to the newly constructed Well 2C. The denial stems from declining groundwater levels within the Deschutes Basin, specifically a drop in our aquifers static water level of approximately 22 feet over the last 30 years, which exceeds the 10-foot threshold established by OWRD.

In response, ECMA has assembled a team of experienced engineers, geologists, and water rights attorneys to assist in evaluating the situation and developing an appropriate response to OWRD. Based on their recommendations, an important component of our response will be the development of a comprehensive water conservation plan demonstrating ECMA's commitment to responsible water management.

As part of this process, ECMA will be evaluating a variety of potential conservation measures, including:

- Identifying landscaped and common areas where irrigation could be reduced or eliminated.
- Evaluating reasonable irrigation schedules and restrictions to minimize unnecessary water usage.
- Exploring the installation of water meters to better monitor and manage consumption.
- Identifying other practical conservation opportunities that support the long-term sustainability of our water resources.

We recognize that discussions involving water conservation, particularly potential changes to irrigation practices and metering, may raise questions and concerns among property owners. These are not decisions ECMA takes lightly. Our goal is to carefully evaluate available options, balance the needs of our community, and develop reasonable solutions that help protect our water rights while preserving the quality and character of Eagle Crest.

It is also important to understand that **this challenge is not unique to Eagle Crest.** Declining groundwater levels and increasing demands on water resources are affecting numerous well owners and communities throughout Central Oregon. As the region continues to address these challenges, responsible water management will become increasingly important. While we are

currently addressing this short-term issue, at any point in the future, OWRD could impose stricter requirements on all users in the Deschutes Basin.

While the denial of the transfer request is certainly a concern, we want to emphasize that **this does not mean Eagle Crest is facing an immediate loss of its water supply.** Based on discussions with our legal counsel, we believe OWRD recognizes the importance of maintaining access to water while expecting communities such as ours to demonstrate meaningful conservation efforts.

Our priority remains protecting ECMA's water rights, maintaining a reliable water supply, and safeguarding the long-term interests of Eagle Crest property owners. Equally important is our commitment to managing the financial impacts of these challenges responsibly. As reflected in the development of the 2027 budget, ECMA is making a concerted effort to anticipate potential expenses, plan for necessary improvements. While the full scope of future requirements and associated costs remains uncertain, thoughtful financial planning and responsible stewardship of association resources will remain central to our approach.

As this process moves forward, we are committed to keeping homeowners informed and communicating any proposed changes that may affect the community. At this stage, the conservation measures outlined above are being evaluated and should not be interpreted as final decisions or adopted restrictions.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work through this important issue. By approaching these challenges proactively and responsibly, we can help ensure that Eagle Crest remains a desirable and sustainable community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Eagle Crest Master Association (ECMA)