

Errol,

It was nice to meet with you and your team. It's fantastic that Heather Ridge is looking at options to ensure your future sustainability. You are correct that there are multiple factors prohibitive of the City compensating Heather Ridge for any use of the groundwater supply you are using to irrigate your golf course.

There is something I would like to add. While water conservation is critical to extend the life of groundwater supplies you are using for irrigation, the aquifers are being depleted and should only be viewed as a temporary source. Aurora Water, by ordinance, cannot connect a golf course to our system if such course is irrigating cool-season turf (e.g. Kentucky Bluegrass). Not only would water conservation practices help extend the limited groundwater supplies, if those conservation measures included converting cool-season turf to an approved warm-season turf (e.g. Tahoma 31 Bermuda grass) those conversions may help prepare the Heather Ridge golf course be considered for future water service from Aurora (after payment of appropriate connection fees and meeting any other criteria existing at that time).

Aurora Water staff are happy to continue these conversations.

Thanks!

Marshall P. Brown
General Manager

Aurora Water | City of Aurora
Phone: 303.739.7370



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From: errol@idmybag.com <errol@idmybag.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 2:49 PM

To: Brown, Marshall <mbrown@auroragov.org>

Cc: Rossman, Casey <crossman@auroragov.org>; Hancock, Stephanie

<SHancock@auroragov.org>; Coffman, Michael <mcoffman@auroragov.org>; Van Lewis -

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<knutsonbob@msn.com>; Carter Burks <cbskier23@gmail.com>

Subject: Aurora Water / Heather Ridge Metropolitan District future water needs - Discussion

Dear Mr. Marshall Brown,

Thank you for meeting with us (HRMD), Heather Ridge Metropolitan District Jan 14th, about the water we purchased after forming the HRMD. I feel it is appropriate to present a brief history regarding the formation of the district. In the fall of 1996, Ward IV Council representative, Molly Markert notified citizens adjacent to the Heather Ridge golf course that the golf course was for sale and developers were planning for thousands of (new front doors), multi-story apartments slated for low-income housing. These existing 1,127 homeowners adjacent to the golf course were concerned how such a development would affect their community with loss of the open space, property values, and way of life. The citizens ask the city how this plan could be prevented. The city suggested the community form a Metropolitan District and buy the golf course. So, with the guidance of Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer, the council and an attorney firm, WBA the HRMD citizens voted to buy the golf course by an 86% approval on December 1, 2009.

So now the citizens of HRMD had a brand-new set of events to manage, with none of them having the skills or experience for such tasks ahead. One of these, on the back burner, was 810 acre-feet of groundwater from 2 aquifers that were included in the purchase. None of us has experience with water, but we did know that it has value. Beginning in 2024, the State of Colorado initiated a program requiring us to report our usage. Our first report to them was that the HRMD uses an average of 150 acre-feet annually. When HRMD purchased the asset, due to ownership neglect, only one of the four wells was operational was producing only a fraction of the requirement to irrigate the grounds. Since the HRMD purchase, more than \$2 million has been invested to activate all four wells and install a state-of-the-art, computerized irrigation

system, making irrigation much more water-conservative and efficient. Now, as we look toward the future, we realize we need to be concerned with our water needs, and ask the question, “Would it be advantageous for the city and HRMD to explore sharing HRMD water and Aurora water?” Our excess water then could be shared with Aurora, and later in times of drought, Aurora's excess water could be shared with the HRMD. Our goal is to be able to keep and maintain the golf course for 100 years.

At this meeting, it was made clear that Aurora Water could not enter into any compensation agreements for a proposal such as the one suggested. Furthermore, Aurora referenced ordinances and operational issues that would prevent any such relationship, along with an enlightening analysis of water resource issues, including access to non-potable water and groundwater. Aurora recommends that HRMD's water conservation is the only viable future action to ensure the golf course's operation for decades to come. That Aurora is qualified and available to help HRMD “xeriscape” using current information and policies to reduce water needs.

HRMD appreciated Aurora Water staff's time to educate HRMD on the above matters. If you feel this document misstates or is absent of facts relevant to the meeting, please reply. Our purpose in this letter is to publicly acknowledge our concerns about present and future water issues, and together keep our ideas and considerations with open communication with the City of Aurora regarding HRMD water issues. Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Errol Rowland,

Hether Ridge, Metropolitan District

President

CC: Mike Coffman, Mayor

Stephanie Hancock, Ward IV Council Representative

Casey Rossman, Aurora Water

HRMD Staff

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Heather Ridge Metropolitan District

