

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor



THOMAS BUSCHATZKE
Director

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
602.771.8500
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June 24, 2022

Honorable Travis J. Lingenfelter
Supervisor, Mohave County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 7000
700 West Beale Street
Kingman, AZ 86402-7000

Re: Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin

Dear Supervisor Lingenfelter:

I am responding to your letter to me dated June 23, 2022 requesting that I initiate procedures to designate the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin (Hualapai Basin) as a subsequent Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA) pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-432. Your request is made on behalf of the Mohave County Board of Supervisors.

As you know, by letters dated October 28, 2016 and May 28, 2020, I declined requests by the Mohave County Board of Supervisors to designate the Hualapai Basin as a subsequent INA. Your letter cites to the 2022 update to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Hualapai Valley Hydrologic Model as the basis of your current request. You state that the updated model indicates a much higher risk of groundwater depletion due to the large-scale irrigation in the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin. You also reference the need for the Colorado River Basin States to conserve between two million and four million additional acre-feet of Colorado River water, the ongoing and extreme drought conditions, the lack of monsoon rains and the absence of runoff that currently exists in the arid area of the Hualapai Basin.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources will review the updated USGS model and other relevant information, including the current and projected drought conditions, to determine whether the information supports the initiation of procedures to designate the Hualapai Basin as a subsequent INA. Prior to making a determination on whether to initiate designation

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procedures, I will also hold one or more public meetings within the Hualapai Basin and I will consider the public comments received in making a determination on whether to initiate designation procedures. After that process, I will respond to your request to initiate procedures to designate the Hualapai Basin as an INA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Buschatzke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Buschatzke

Director

cc: Honorable Regina E. Cobb, DDS, LD5 State Representative
Honorable Leo Biasiucci, LD5 State Senator
Honorable Sonny Borrelli, LD5 State Senator
Mohave County Board of Supervisors
Sam Elters, Mohave County Manager