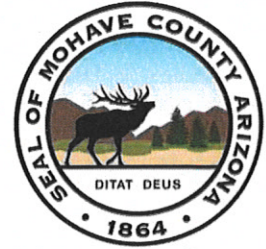


MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

P.O. Box 7000
700 West Beale Street
Kingman, Arizona 86402-7000
Telephone (928) 753-8618 Cell (928) 715-1560
TDD - (928) 753-0726
Website -- www.mohavecounty.us



Jean Bishop *Mohave County Supervisor District 4*

Good evening and thank you for taking the time to hold a public hearing on this important issue. I am Jean Bishop, life-long resident of Mohave County, District 4 County Supervisor, and current President of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona. I am deeply concerned over this issue; a portion of the Hualapai Valley Basin is in my District, and I want to ensure that the community has access to water that is plentiful and affordable. I strongly encourage ADWR to use its authority to designate the Basin as an INA.

For anyone who is against this designation, an INA does not hamper growth in the County. It will not impact residential gardens or fields less than 2 acres. What it will do is allow us to manage our ground water in a responsible way, unlike how it is being handled now.

Looking back, over the past decade, the Basin has seen over an 88% increase in the number of high-volume wells being installed, with many more on the way. This is by far more than the County or the City anticipated and means that our Basin's ground water is being depleted faster than we can replenish.

With decades of non-ground water management, prolonged drought, and heightened fire dangers, ADWR needs to do the right thing and designate the Basin. This will give our community confidence that they will continue to have access to water to support future generations.

For agriculture and wells, Mohave County has no say in the land use approval process, there are no reporting guidelines on how much water these wells pump, how deep the wells will be, or how many wells these parcels can have. This leaves our County at a severe disadvantage when it comes to planning for its growth and economic prosperity. The decisions regarding wells and agriculture are left up to you and you can help us by designating the Basin as an INA.

We know our County. Our General Plan lays out how we see our County growing and prospering. Our plan does not anticipate large-scale farming or irrigation; however, by not having the Basin designated as an INA, the County and its taxpayers will be left holding the bag when the Basin reaches critical levels because large scale agriculture, from mostly out of state, have been allowed to drill wells and pump however much water they want out of the Basin.

What happens when the Basin reaches critical levels? Unfortunately, the County's taxpayers will bear the burden of higher water costs and potential tax increases to pay for deeper wells to be drilled or they will be faced with having no water. Right now, the costs associated with drilling a new well is quite costly, can you just imagine what that cost will look like in the future? This can be avoided and we have a chance of preventing this by having you, ADWR, designate the Basin as an INA.

By designating the Basin as an INA, you will give us the necessary management tools we need to ensure our County has water for years to come and that our region will continue to grow in the way we have planned for it growing in our General Plan.

Again, I strongly urge you to designate the Basin as an INA.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Jean Bishop
Mohave County Board of Supervisor District 4
bishoj@mohave.gov
928-753-8618