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To: ADWR

Sharon Scantiebury

Docket Supervisor Legal Division

I spoke at the meeting and listed a few facts why there should not be an INA.

I have farmed my whole life purchasing my first farm at 18 in the California Central valley. I have farmed in AZ since the mid 90's in the Yuma region growing a little over 5000 acres vegetables and summer crops.

I came to Mohave County because I felt it had a unique opportunity to have a family farm and grow tree crop that I was involved with on our family farm growing up. Our family has farmed for generations. We are 20 family members now (I'm about 61 and the youngest grandchild is 1) and look forward to more grand children being born here. I have 2 sons and 2 son in laws working here and we try to treat our other workers like family also. There are 22 workers here currently.

Our Farm is doing exceptionally well, and we have harvested Almonds for 3 years now with more trees coming into production. With out a doubt we are growing the most successful Almonds outside of California. We recently received the trademark Arizona Almonds.

As a farmer that has been involved here from almost the very beginning, I know as a fact many of the Irrigation wells that have been drilled for Ag will never be

used. Many are so crooked that a pump will not fit in the hole, and many have very poor-quality water.

The very cost of pumping water in this area makes many crops unprofitable.

Many people site that why are we trying to farm the desert? Many crops need to grow in the desert as Yuma is the vegetable capital of the USA in the winter. Growing some of these specialty crops in Mohave County takes some of the burden from areas that are struggling for water like California central valley.

One thing that wasn't mentioned in the meeting is there may be families that would like to truck farm for a farmers' market. Even that may take 20 to 40 acres and an INA would simply kill that dream and many in the community would be robbed of that opportunity of buying local grown food.

A very disappointing aspect of the meetings I have attended is the politics that are getting played. There are so many non-factual comments are spoken with authority that are presented as science. The facts are so easy to be gotten, just a visit to the farm. They don't need drive by or fly over. Just pull in and we can take the guess work out of it. If my orchard has 2100' of drip hose per acre and I have a emitter every 2' and each one put out a regulated amount you come up with a actual fact. That number will match my water meter and it confirms once again the amount of water I'm using. Our water usage is way lower than the charts presented yet we are told that science backs up their assumption's.

Another fact that I did not have the time to bring out in the meeting this year with the wet monsoon season we have saved over 30 days of irrigation in our peak water use time of the growing season.

Another fact that is used for assumptions is that UC Davis or some publication is used as a baseline. There are several reasons these are not suited for this area.

1. Most of the data is not current.
2. We are using the latest highbred trees that are daraf, so the trees don't get as big yet produce high volume of quality crops.
3. Also, our growing season is faster than Central Valley. We bloom later and harvest earlier. So, our irrigation season is shorter.

We all know that the city will have to drill new wells regardless of agriculture or not. Wells have a limited lifespan and must be replaced. Farm's will be paying property taxes based on their value plus the revenue from the many purchases from local businesses and should offset any extra cost.

In closing there are many things that I could bring up but rest it with ADWR that you will make the right decision. Please no INA at this time, lets be fair to all landowners. Time has a way of balancing things out.

I believe that if in the future the farmers would see a substantial drop in water table, they would be open to a true solution. At this time, it appears that many of our leaders our more interested in their agenda and could it be that its financial benefits themselves?

Thank You

Steve Schmidt & Family