



Hualapai Valley INA Request

1 message

Jamaica [REDACTED]

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Reply-To: Jamaica [REDACTED]

To: "sscantlebury@azwater.gov" <sscantlebury@azwater.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

I attended the recent INA information meeting held in Kingman, but I did not make a public comment.

I am strongly in favor of establishing an INA in the Hualapai Valley water basin.

I have been a resident of Kingman since my teens, for over 36 years. For the past decade I've been watching with horror as farm after farm went into our desert ecosystem.

At the meeting I listened with dismay as local farmers proclaimed their water saving efforts and how everyone in the room, for or against the INA, seemed to accept the fact we will use up the water in this aquifer. The only point of contention was how long it will take...a couple hundred years or maybe a thousand. The main concern seemed to be whether it would affect those of us alive today, in the next century. We are so short-sighted and greedy, as a species.

Desert aquifers are truly geologic water. They are as finite a resource as oil deposits. When it's gone, it's gone. But unlike oil, water is a basic human need, a basic human right. There is simply no excuse for letting a few people or corporations profit from this water. The farmers seemed to like the idea of the county spending millions of taxpayer dollars to mitigate the current massive discharge/recharge rate disparity. All the while they are profiting from crops that do not contribute to the local economy or the local food supply. When those farms fail, they will get federal subsidies, but the wells will still exist. What do they plan to do with those wells, and all the thousands of acres of land they own but are not currently farming??? It doesn't take a genius to figure out they plan to get rich selling water to Las Vegas in the not-too-distant future.

Arizona officials continue to be extremely reticent in dealing with the true scarcity of water in the desert. Earlier generations made no effort to mitigate water consumption here, and our generation has continued that tradition. We are literally stealing water that will be needed by future generations of Arizonans just to live here.

With over 8000 acres already planted and being irrigated at an average of 44-48 acre-inches of water per year, I fear the INA will be too little, too late...however, better late than never. This will buy time for our descendants to come up with technology to compensate for the greed of our current generation. The facts fully support the creation of the Hualapai Valley Basin INA, and I strongly urge the ADWR to make this happen with all due haste.

Regards,
Jamaica Smith

[REDACTED]
[Kingman, AZ 86409](#)