



## INA for Mohave County, Hualapai Basin

1 message

John Hicks [REDACTED]  
To: sscantlebury@azwater.gov

Fri, Sep 30, 2022 at 2:20 PM

Dear, Director Buschatzke,

As a 30 plus year resident, I wanted to convey my opposition to the initiation of an INA for the Hualapai Basin, Mohave County. It is my educated understanding that there is no crisis in the basin, that the City of Kingman is not at any risk of running out of water, and that the pursuit of an INA is more aligned with the County and City and the local Homebuilding industry wanting to control the water, as opposed to conserving water and extending the life of the basin.

The reports and data continually presented by the City and County which point to a supposed "dire water" situation, have been largely based upon invalid assumptions and a large degree of inaccurate and outright misleading data. I sincerely hope the INA discussion will lead to the local officials beginning to use accurate information and realistic assumptions so we can all proceed in a more focused manner. I am strongly in support of the City and County initiating water conservation protocols and methods which will extend the life of the basin, and that fully embrace and supports moderate agriculture uses. Should the basin ever be determined to be in a crisis I would support overall limits relating to all development in the basin, imposed on both private and public sectors.

As a result the City and County have also resorted to sending out fear-based mailers to its citizens outlining unrealistic scenarios and informing residents that if an INA does not get approved the water situation will be dire — including increased water rates and the potential for the City to run out of water.

The same City and County are now complaining loudly that the state supports the selling of unused Colorado River water allocations (Queen Creek), despite having richly benefitted when the City sold its own allocation.....The City may need to drill a few wells in the deeper portion of the basin, but that has been anticipated for at least 25 years, and funds had been provided to complete that many years ago.

What's ironic is the City sold its 18,500 ac ft allocation of Colorado River Water to Mohave County and other Cities in this County, in the mid-1990s. The City received about \$7-\$8 million dollars in return for its obligation to initiate and enhance its water conservation efforts, as well as further develop and protect the City's access to Hualapai basin water by drilling in the deeper portion of the basin. They have failed on both obligations.

They still pump groundwater to irrigate the City golf Course, at close to 1 million gallons per day in the summer, as well as use groundwater for irrigating the large green belt parks. The City also never drilled wells outside the sub-basin, although they committed to doing so as a part of the sale of the River allocation. The City is not in danger of running out of water, but will likely need to drill deeper wells at some point. They had the funds to complete this and failed to do so. I point this out only to remind others of the City and County positions over the years — the idea that we are somehow victims is not truthful and manipulating the residents into believing otherwise is purposefully spreading untruths.

I do not support targeting one industry with an INA when the City and County have failed to uphold their duties and the basin is not in a crisis.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
John  
John Hicks