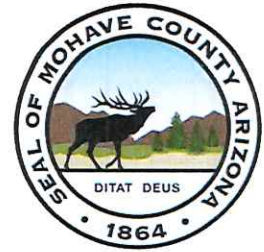


MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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Travis J. Lingenfelter - Mohave County Supervisor District 1

September 30, 2022

Mr. Thomas Buschatzke, Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1110 W. Washington St., Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Support for a Subsequent INA for the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin

Dear Director Buschatzke:

Pursuant to A.R.S. 45-432, I would respectfully request that the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) designate the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin as a subsequent Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA) in 2022. In accordance with A.R.S. 45-432, the ADWR Director may designate a rural groundwater basin which is not included within an Active Management Area as a subsequent INA if the ADWR Director determines that: (1) There is insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for irrigation of the cultivated lands in the area at the current rates of withdrawal; and (2) The establishment of an active management area pursuant to A.R.S. 45-412 is not necessary.

As shown by the data presented by ADWR staff on September 20, 2022, groundwater is currently being mined with over four times as much water currently being pumped out (45,000/acre-feet annually) of the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin than is being recharged (12,000/acre-feet annually) into the groundwater basin. According to 2022 data from USGS & ADWR, the lands currently being irrigated by large-scale farms will cause the groundwater level in the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin to drop below the Adequate Water Supply level of 1200' in 100 years or less. Without the needed designation of an INA in 2022 to curb low priority, high volume uses of our ancient and non-renewable groundwater, the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin will be depleted by the current annual groundwater deficit of 33,000/acre-feet annually.

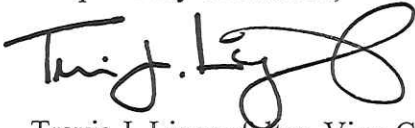
Within a subsequent Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin INA, a limit on additional lands being irrigated would be immediately placed into effect; Kingman's future would remain sustainable because the 100/yr assured water supply requirement could be met, and; non-exempt wells within the INA would have to be monitored and water use reported to ADWR so that the health of the groundwater basin could be monitored. Improvements in aquifer recharge and water conservation measures should and will continue to be implemented by both Mohave County and City of Kingman. However, active recharge and water conservation measures **will never** be capable of conserving & recharging the current annual deficit of 33,000/acre-feet annually.

Inaction at this time means that Mohave County and an estimated 70,000 citizens in-and-around the City of Kingman that rely upon the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin as their primary and forever water source will risk the depletion of this non-renewable rural groundwater basin, with no "Plan B" envisioned as an alternative water source. The citizens of Mohave County living both in-and-around the county seat of Kingman, Arizona, deserve to have their collective water future secured which justifies action by ADWR at this time.

Mohave County, the City of Kingman and the USGS have been partnering on this expanding groundwater crisis since 2017 to track, analyze, and understand the groundwater conditions in the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin. The existing USGS HVHM was developed to serve water-resource managers who are responsible for looking out for the public health, safety and welfare in understanding the effects of groundwater withdrawals on groundwater levels in the basin, as the growing crisis must be decided based upon the 2022 data. You will be presented with several acrobatic arguments against the INA from corporate farms, their employees and family and friends, yet they do not change the fact and simple math that four times as much groundwater is currently being pumped of the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin than is being recharged every year.

In closing, with the Bureau of Reclamation describing the crashing of the Colorado River system and identifying the need for the seven basin states to conserve an additional two-to-four-million-acre-feet of Colorado River water in 2023; with the extreme and continuing aridification of the American Southwest; the lack of several years of robust and needed monsoon rains, and; the absence of required runoff levels – our regional and local public agencies are now deeply and profoundly concerned about resolving the growing groundwater crisis evident in the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin. We ask you to please designate the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin as a subsequent Irrigation Non-Expansion Area based upon the 2022 USGS & ADWR data.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis J. Lingenfelter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Travis J. Lingenfelter, Vice-Chair
County Supervisor – District 1
Mohave County Board of Supervisors
County of Mohave, Arizona

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