



Sharon Scantlebury <sscantlebury@azwater.gov>

INA in the Hualipai Basin

1 message

Wayne Hollins [REDACTED]
To: sscantlebury@azwater.gov

Tue, Nov 15, 2022 at 10:22 AM

Ms Scantlebury,

I am writing in opposition to the INA at the current time. Not saying it may never be needed but I do not believe enough has been done to recharge the basin at this point.

Even in this drought there is plenty of water that could be infiltrated into the aquifer that would fully recharge it. Just one inch of rainfall over the aquifer area provides enough water to recharge the aquifer for 3 years if it was put into the aquifer. 97,000 acre feet of water, approximately.

There apparently no one responsible for the watershed. There has been no action to slow, spread and sink the water into the aquifer. This takes some simple rock, wood or earthen structures in the drainages high in the watershed. That is just now being talked about in the NRCD. The other part of the equation is the ag land has too much bare soil. The nut farmers have planted trees which is a good thing. Trees are a big part of the water cycle. They make oxygen for us to breath and food for us to eat. They moderate the water cycle. There canopy will eventually help cool the soil temp. The problem with bare soil is that bare soil is bad soil as said in the permaculture arena. Not much rain will infiltrate bare soil, water will run off and take the dirt with it. If we want water to infiltrate the soil we must improve the soil health, add organic matter which is 55-60 percent carbon. Do not turn the soil, no till! Grow cover multi species cover crops and graze ruminants! No chemical fertilizers or cides! We live in an ecosystem not just a water system. What we do to part of the ecosystem directly affects the rest of the ecosystem. As can be seen with the water problem here we also have a soil health problem. They are both related closer than most think. For every percent of organic matter we can get into our dirt it will increase the ability of our dirt to infiltrate approximately 20,000 gallons of water. That is 20,000 gallons that will not run off but be available for the plants and to infiltrate into the aquifer. You cannot regulate water into the aquifer. If it is not going in naturally it needs some help. We won't ever completely stop runoff over the whole area but we can infiltrate every inch over the portion of the aquifer that is being used for ag. Again, the proper features must be installed. If done in the proper area it can be done relatively cheaply and low tech. Even at that it will take years to accomplish. Then there is always maintenance!

If you want to help the water situation here in Mohave County please do not do it by regulation. Insist that the city and county governments along with the residents exhaust all means of conservation, Rainwater harvesting and education have been employed before establishing an INA. Too much time has been spent talking about the problem and little has been discussed about the solution and less has been done about implementing solutions. The County has a manual "Mohave County Low Impact Development Guide for Flood Protection and Water Sustainability". When this is fully implemented and we still are behind the curve ball on the water issue then maybe an INA would be a good step to take!

Thank you for your time.

Wayne Hollins
Water Conservation Education Consultant with the Big Sandy NRCD