

INA REQUEST FOR THE HUALAPAI GROUNDWATER BASIN

Dear Ms. Sharon Scantlebury,

As a farmer in Mohave County near Kingman, AZ we are deeply concerned about the request for an INA for the Hualapai Basin. We started looking around Kingman in 2017 for the viability of farming in the area and find it very exciting. Upon extensive research we purchased some land in December of 2019 that was bought exclusively to farm. We are a family farm and had a dream of raising crops that could be a benefit to the nation. With the goal of becoming a part of the community and supporting the local businesses we started farming shortly thereafter. We have hired many local people over the past 2 to 3 years and as well as supported many local businesses with the services we needed from them at the farm. These local businesses get a large amount of revenue from the farming in the area and they would also have a dramatic negative impact on their revenue.

Our goal is to be a very careful steward of the water as this is a very precious commodity and we do not take it lightly. We use only what is needed to keep the crops alive.

This INA would create a tremendous financial burden for us as the land that we bought would be substantially overpaid for. We are not big players in the farming industry and it would have a disastrous effect on us.

We did not get any representative from the AWR to come to our farm to measure or ask specific questions on what we are doing. We have measured our water from the day we started pumping and could provide accurate data to them for verification. We would welcome this.

Could you spend the next year gathering information from the farmers in the area so this could be 100% accurate on usage and then make a decision. Is farming less important than commercial or housing development? Farming has brought significant revenue to the county and seems to me it should not be singled out. We all want to continue to have food for our families and need these crops grown.

We oppose the INA request in the Hualapai Basin

Thankyou kindly,
BJ Baerg
Kingman, Arizona Farmer.