



Sharon Scantlebury <sscantlebury@azwater.gov>

Fourth Management Plan

Marcus Martin <mdmfarms@gmail.com>
To: sscantlebury@azwater.gov

Thu, Aug 20, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Dear Ms. Scantlebury:

In 1976, I began my farming career on my parent's farm located west of Coolidge, AZ. I attended the initial planning meetings where then Governor Bruce Babbitt, promised that the proposed 1980 Groundwater Act, was designed to protect agriculture's right to pump groundwater and wouldn't be used to prevent the landowner from continuing to farm his property.

It was acknowledged then and continues to this day, that groundwater which is economically feasible to be pumped for agriculture would be allowed for this purpose. Once the cost of pumping became economically prohibitive then pumping for agricultural purposes would cease. This has been documented for decades by the San Carlos Irrigation District. There have been numerous occasions when very expensive CAP water was available for purchase by individuals farming San Carlos Irrigation District lands and thousands of acre feet of water went unpurchased.

The Fourth Management Plan subverts and undermines the promises that were made to the Arizona farmers and landowners. Over the past 40 years, Arizona's farmers and landowners have demonstrated a willingness to work with the ADWR to conserve groundwater. However, the measures proposed within the Fourth Management Plan demonstrate a lack of willingness by the ADWR to work fairly and equitably towards these common goals.

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