

From: Spudsassy@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2008 5:05 PM
To: Doug W. Dunham
Subject: Big Chino Water Rule Making
Dear Mr. Dunham,

My family and I live in the Big Chino Valley in Paulden and fear that Chino Valley, Prescott and Prescott Valley being allowed to pump millions of gallons of groundwater out of the aquifer will ultimately devastate the Verde River and it's wildlife and put thousands of homes with private wells in jeopardy of being drawn down. . Heaven help our future generations. All of these municipalities past records have proven how irresponsible and greedy each one of the governments are. Nine years ago when they were told they were mining groundwater they responded by using and promising away as much water as possible before ADWR forced them to stop. It didn't take long for Prescott & Chino to start mining groundwater out of the Little Chino basin, with a much smaller population using it. To this day these cities continue to plan to build and grow until there is absolutely nothing left to build. None of these agencies have any real intention of doing anything to protect the Verde River. Their only concern is to get as much water as possible so they can grow, grow, grow. These government agencies have no regard whatsoever for preserving the Verde River nor do any of them care one whit whether they start drying up residential wells in Paulden. Not as long as they get what they want. I don't call a plan to monitor their wells a mitigation plan at all. Does anyone really believe any of these cities will stop pumping if their wells levels start declining? Of course they won't! By that time, their excuse will be that they can't leave their customers without water! They have no mitigation plan and stubbornly refuse to put together a real one. A *real* mitigation plan would have an alternate source of water available to use in the event they start mining groundwater or start to impact the Verde headwaters. Once Prescott and Chino Valley get their straws in the ground, they will pump as much water as they want with no regard to any one or any thing other than *their* citizens. I am against allowing Chino Valley pump all of the retired grandfathered irrigation rights they have purchased from one location. Chino Valley has proven to be very sneaky and underhanded in their dealings to try to circumvent the intent of the statute to forbid transfer of water from one basin to another. I believe I just read recently that with the ongoing drought and the current Paulden area residents combined with pumping from Prescott and Chino they will be mining groundwater right off the bat. With this being the case, why on earth would ADWR allow mass quantities of pumping to happen? Surely, the intent of the law to forbid transfer of groundwater from one basin into another was originally crafted to protect aquifers from being mined. This Arizona statute is so full of loop holes just about anyone outside of the basin is going to be allowed to pump water. The Verde River is a state treasure and should be protected and preserved at all costs. The Verde River is what is really important and meaningful in this life. Not more ugly rooftops!. Please, please do not pass further rules that will open the door to sure disaster for future generations and devastation to the Verde River and its habitat.

Sincerely,

Lynn Duke & Family

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