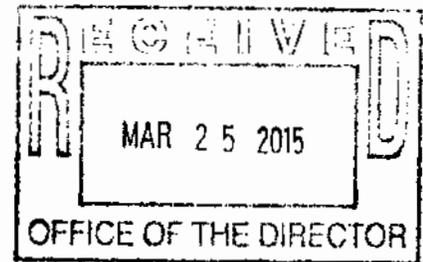


3-24-2015

THOMAS BUSCHATZKE, DIRECTOR
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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DEAR MR BUSCHATZKE –

LAST WEEK IN OUR DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PENDING SAN SIMON INA PETITION I TOUCHED ON SOMETHING AND WE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THAT I WANTED TO FURTHER CLARIFY WITH YOU. I AM NOT SURE WHAT DATA YOU ARE WORKING WITH ON THE WATER LEVELS OF THE SAN SIMON WATER AQUIFER BUT SOMETHING I THINK YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF IS THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF POCKETS OF WATER IN THIS AQUIFER. I AM FAR FROM ANY EXPERT AND NO DOUBT YOU ARE MUCH MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT WATER AQUIFERS THAN I AM, BUT, I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF SOMETHING ABOUT THE SAN SIMON BASIN. AFTER TALKING WITH PEOPLE IN THE SAN SIMON VALLEY FOR YEARS ABOUT WATER IT SEEMS, AT LEAST WEST OF THE SAN SIMON RIVER, THAT THERE IS A SHALLOW WATER TABLE AND A DEEP WATER TABLE. DOWN TO AROUND 150 FEET THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF WATER AND THAT ACCORDING TO LOCAL WELL PUMP PEOPLE THE STATIC LEVEL HAS REMAINED VERY STABLE OVER THE DECADES. CURRENT STANDING WATER LEVELS ARE AROUND 59 FEET, GIVE OR TAKE. LOWER THAN THIS 150 FEET LEVEL IS A LAYER OF BLUE CLAY THAT CAN RUN FROM ANYWHERE TO 300 TO 1000 FEET. VERY LITTLE OR NO WATER EXISTS IN THE BLUE CLAY. THE DEEP WATER AQUIFER THEN BEGINS WHICH I AM TOLD IS ARTESIAN AND BETTER QUALITY WATER. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TREE BARONS IN SAN SIMON DRILL FOR THE DEEP WATER AND ARE DRAWING THE MAJORITY OF THE WATER IN THIS POCKET OF THE AQUIFER. IT APPEARS THIS IS GENERALLY EAST OF THE SAN SIMON RIVER.

MY WELLS IN SAN SIMON ARE THE SHALLOW WELLS. I HAVE TALKED TO OTHER SHALLOW WELL OWNERS IN THE AREA ABOUT THIS SITUATION. IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THE INA IS APPROVED, WHICH AS YOU KNOW I AM STRONGLY AGAINST, CAN THE SHALLOW WELL OWNERS SOMEHOW BE EXEMPTED SINCE IT APPEARS THE WATER LEVELS ARE REMAINING FAIRLY STATIC AND NOTHING CLOSE TO THE DRAW DOWN THAT MIGHT BE OCCURRING IN THE AQUIFER POCKET THAT THE TREE BARONS ARE DRAWING DOWN IN THE DEEP STRATA POCKET OF WATER.

IM STILL HAVING MAJOR PROBLEMS TRYING TO MENTALLY JUSTIFY HOW THE TREE BARONS WITH ONLY 25% OF THE LAND CAN EXPECT THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO APPROVE THIS INA WHICH WILL RETRICT THE REMAINING 75% FROM DRILLING OR DRAWING WATER ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY. THIS IS JUST NOT A FAIR ALTERNATIVE. IF THE DEEP WATER STATIC LEVELS ARE CURRENTLY SIGNIFICANTLY DROPPING AND ACTION HAS TO BE TAKEN THERE HAS TO BE A MORE VIABLE OPTION THAT WOULD RESULT IN SOME EQUITABLE RESULT FOR ALL PARTIES INVOLVED. IF THE INA IS APPROVED AND THE TREE BARONS GET ALL THE WATER, THAT IS NOT EQUITABLE. THAT IS WRONG.



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