

From: [RICKY MASSEY](#)
To: [Sharon Scantlebury](#)
Subject: San Simon Water
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2015 5:40:07 AM
Attachments: [Arizona Water Resource letter.docx](#)
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Arizona Department of water resources

Sharon,

My name is Ricky Massey of Massey Enterprises. We farm in the San Simon Valley and I would like to submit the attached statement to your office for support of the proposed INA for the San Simon water basin.

We feel it is very important for the State to begin to move forward with regulations to protect this important resource.

I will be attending the public meeting in Bowie but also wish this hard copy of my opinions be on file with your agency.

My contact information is: Ricky Massey 575-644-0048 racrop@vtc.net

Contact me for any questions you might have, as I wish to be of help in any way possible.

Sincerely,
Ricky Massey

Arizona Water Resource

Massey Enterprises is a family farming operation that has been farming the land in the San Simon Valley for the past 35 years. We also farm in the Animas Valley of New Mexico beginning in 1952, making 63 years in production agriculture.

We have been the stewards of the Arizona lands that have been in continuous production since the opening of the San Simon valley back in the late 1940's. We have watched over this Arizona water resource for many years, continually changing our operation, using the most efficient methods as they have become available in utilizing the water. We are always striving to use less water in our operation. I know other operations have done the same. Others in the San Simon basin are doing the same in their agriculture production. This is why many of us are supporting the INA regulation that has been proposed.

Arizona is a desert state and as such we welcome efforts to regulate the San Simon Water Basin, in an effort to insure that future generations have water. We understand the value of this resource and how important it is to preserve.

The Massey family has been very fortunate to farm in the Animas Valley, the next valley to the east of San Simon. Both valleys began farming operations in the late 1940's. New Mexico allowed expansion for 10 – 12 years, then in 1959 the valley was closed and water rights were established, with limits on the amounts of water. This has been very good because the Animas basin has been fairly stable over the years and will be available to future generations.

Arizona has allowed unlimited expansion of the San Simon Valley for the past 60 plus years. We feel it is now time to administer an INA (Irrigation Non-expansion Area) for the San Simon Basin. Everyone knows there is not enough water to develop every acre in the San Simon Valley. We do not want Arizona to become the next California with all of their water issues. It is time for new regulation to protect this water resource!

What we are seeing today is the rapid expansion of the lands in the San Simon valley. Word has gotten out that Arizona does not have any restrictions for water used in this area. Investors with large amounts of money are seeking to take advantage of this situation. By buying ranch lands and transforming them into irrigated lands, thereby increasing their value.

In our area at the south end of the Valley, a group from California said they were going to open up new operations in the Cienega. This operation would triple the irrigated land in this area. Not only would the acreage increase but also the crop they intend to plant would require double the water usage over what has historically been used for the past 50 years. Therefore the amount of water drawn from the valley would be 5 fold the current use in 5-6 years. I do not believe this to be sustainable. There just is not that much water in this area.

Our well men that service the San Simon area tell us they get calls weekly from all over the country, inquiring about developing new land in the area. Asking if it is true you can use all the water you want with no restrictions.

This is why we feel it is so important to establish an INA, giving the State time to get meaningful regulation in place to protect the San Simon water resource for the future generations.

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