

From: [Winston Lewis](#)
To: [Sharon Scantlebury](#)
Cc: portalland@vtc.net; catspaw@vtc.net; "Jackie Lewis"; "mike mikeandcecil.com"
Subject: Response to: PROPOSED IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREA: SAN SIMON VALLEY SUB-BASIN
Date: Friday, May 22, 2015 4:07:54 PM

While I appreciate the new orchards and the thoughtful work that went into their planning and hopefully well drilling, I am totally opposed to an Irrigation Non Expansion Area in the San Simon Valley Sub-Basin for the following reasons:

1. There was a minimal and token effort to contact potential petitioners or anti-petitioners. No time or thought was given to whose interests across the basin are at stake. It seems only the mega-corporations that just drilled the new wells were the petitioners and want to protect their interests.
2. Little to no thought has been given to the total impact. Many homeowners and small businesses in the area have wells that pump well over 35 gpm now and irrigate. They were not consulted in the initial petition.
3. Enforcement – who will enforce the rules? Who will go from house to house and verify that the wells are monitored and that they are in compliance with this proposition? This only increases the tax burden IF the county can figure out how to do this.
4. Total disregard for good farming practices. Many local farmers who were not part of the original petition were not contacted. They follow “good fallow ground” practices and allow wells and land to not be used or farmed for periods of time that may go back 5 or 10 years in our desert environment.
5. No survey was completed or planned to be completed of all the wells – agricultural, home use, or even hand dug and not registered. A petition like this did not account for the hand dug wells that are at least a century old, and sometimes more recent, nor did it consider the registered wells in the area.
6. Many locals have wells that currently pump 40 gpm or more (40 gpm being building code compliant). They were not asked to petition, yet the restriction at 35 gpm and reporting requirements would be applied to them!

Bottom line: I do not approve of this action in any way, shape, or form.

Winston Lewis
Chiricahua Mountain Property Owner.