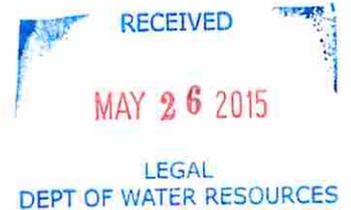


5-21-2015

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DEAR SHARON

I WAS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING THIS PAST SATURDAY IN BOWIE. I'M A SMALL LAND OWNER IN SAN SIMON, ARIZONA. I'VE BEEN IN THE AREA SINCE 2003.

LET ME PAINT YOU A BROAD PICTURE.

CALIFORNIA / OUT OF TOWN FARMING PEOPLE CORPORATIONS / COOPS / BIG BUSINESS CAME INTO THE AREA THE PAST FEW YEARS.

LET'S CALL THEM "THE TREE BARONS"

THEY HAVE PURCHASED AND PLANTED LARGE TRACTS OF LAND WITH PISTACHIO AND PECAN TREES.

THEY ARE DRILLING DEEP WATER WELLS AND PUMPING OUT LARGE AMOUNTS OF GROUND WATER.

THEY HAVE CAUSED THE SUPPOSEDLY DRAW DOWN (IF IT REALLY DOES EXIST). I'LL DISCUSS THAT LATER IN THIS NARRATIVE.

THEY THEN USED AN ANTIQUATED INA PETITION LAW TO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL 100% OF THE WATER. SO, THE 25% PETITIONERS WANT 100% OF THE WATER. THE 75% (75 PERCENTERS) GET NOTHING.

THE LAST INA IN ARIZONA WAS 1980, 35 YEARS AGO.

I CAN NOT MENTALLY JUSTIFY HOW 25% OF THE FARMS "THE TREE BARONS" CAN EXPECT THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO GIVE THEM 100% OF THE WATER IN THE SAN SIMON SUB BASIN. THIS IS NOT RIGHT AND IS NOT EQUITABLE TO ALL.

I KNOW SAN SIMON / BOWIE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD FARMS IN THEIR FAMILIES FOR 70 / 80 YEARS – MANY MANY

GENERATIONS – EVEN BACK TO 1912 WHEN ARIZONA WAS FORMED. THEY WILL LOSE THEIR ABILITY TO FARM THE LAND THEY HAVE OWNED FOR A HUNDRED YEARS. THEY WILL BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD WITH NO ABILITY TO IRRIGATE LEGALLY. THIS IS SAD AND NOT RIGHT.

I FEEL THIS IS A PLOY BY “THE TREE BARONS” TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF THEIR HOLDINGS, TO ELIMINATE ANY FUTURE COMPETITION AT THE EXPENSE OF THE 75 PER CENTERS AND TO HOARD THE WATER.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND FOR MR TOM BUSCHATZKE TO APPROVE THIS INA HE MUST HAVE AN ARIZONA STATE HYDROLOGY REPORT THAT STATES “BASED ON THE CURRENT LEVEL OF PUMPING THE AQUIFER – WATER TABLE IS INADEQUATE TO MAINTAIN A SAFE LEVEL OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME”. WITHOUT THAT I AM UNDER THE UNDERSTANDING HE CAN NOT APPROVE THIS INA PETITION. WHAT THAT TIME PERIOD IN THE HYDROLOGY REPORT IS ‘IM NOT SURE’; TWENTY YEARS, FIFTY YEARS OR A HUNDRED YEARS.

BIG QUESTIONS ---- BIG CONCERNS

1 - WHAT IS THE TIME PERIOD USED TO DETERMINE ADEQUACY?

2 – WHAT TESTING DATA ARE THE STATE HYDROLOGISTS USING IN THEIR ANALYSIS?

DO YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT DATA OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME BASED ON CURRENT PUMPING LEVELS. I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T THINK ENOUGH INFORMATION IS YET AVAILABLE OVER TIME WITH CURRENT PUMPING RATES TO MAKE A TRULY RATIONAL DECISION. BASED ON FIGURES FRANK CORKHILL, CHIEF HYDROLOGIST, PRESENTED ON 5-16-2015 IN BOWIE IT APPEARS THERE IS AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WATER IN THE AQUIFER FOR MANY HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

BASED ON THAT MR BUSCHATZKE HAS TO DECLINE THE INA PETITION.

LET ME GIVE YOU ONE ISOLATED WELL TEST SAMPLE.

MY WELL NUMBER 55-627872 ON PROPERTY LOCATED JUST OFF WOOD CANYON RD NEAR I-10 AND SAN SIMON.

IN 1998, A SOUNDING LOG WAS DONE AND THE STATIC WATER LEVEL WAS 66 FEET.

ON 5-15-2015, ANOTHER TEST WAS DONE AND THE STATIC WATER LEVEL WAS 58 ½ FEET.

THIS IS A 7 ½ FOOT INCREASE IN THE WATER LEVEL THE PAST 17 YEARS.

PUT THAT IN YOUR TEST RESULTS. THE WATER IN THAT AREA IS RISING.

THE TREE BARONS ARE GOING FOR THE DEEP WATER, THOUSAND FOOT WELLS AND DEEPER. THERE IS ALSO A SEPARATE SIGNIFICANT SHALLOW WATER TABLE IN THE SAN SIMON AREA.

DOWN TO AROUND 150 FEET THERE IS ALSO 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 DEEP. VERY LITTLE OR NO WATER EXISTS IN THE BLUE CLAY. THE DEEP WATER AQUIFER THEN BEGINS WHICH I AM TOLD IS BETTER QUALITY WATER. 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.

IT SEEMS TO ME THE SHALLOW WATER WELLS SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM ANY DEEP WELL INA DISCUSSIONS AT ALL.

THE TREE BARONS SHOULD CONTROL THEIR OWN USAGE AS THEY CONTROL MOST OF THE PUMPING. THEY NEED TO APPLY VERY STRICT CONSERVATION METHODS.

I'M SORRY IF I HAVE OFFENDED ANYONE OR STEPPED ON ANY TOES. BUT, THIS IS A VERY PERSONAL EMOTIONAL ISSUE

WHEN LARGE CORPORATE ENTITIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO TAKE SOMETHING AWAY, THAT YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD. BUT, THEN AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SORRY – CAUSE THE TREE BARRONS SURE DIDN'T MIND STEPPING ON THE TOES OF THE 75 PER CENTERS.
GREED DOES STRANGE THINGS TO OTHERWISE "GOOD PEOPLE".

I HOPE MR BUSCHATZKE MAKES THE RIGHT DECISION AND REJECTS THIS INA PETITION. IT IS A VERY BIG ONE FOR A LOT OF GOOD HARD WORKING COMMON FOLK IN THE SAN SIMON AREA.

THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH



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