

**From:** [Dave Conner](#)  
**To:** [Sharon Scantlebury](#)  
**Subject:** FW: INA proposed for San Simon Valley.  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 6:14:01 PM

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SHARON SCANTLEBURY

May 27, 2015

LEGAL DIVISION  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for providing a form for public comment on the proposed INA for the San Simon Valley and Bowie area, and for your team's patience at the public hearing in Bowie on Saturday, May 16. I thought I would wait until I had heard all verbal testimony from the local farmers and ranchers who have weathered a lot more winters in San Simon and Bowie than I have before offering any comments.

I attended this four hour meeting with my son, Mike, and my grandson, Chris, who just graduated from college in Florida. We didn't take any three generation photos, but we did spend fourteen hours together in a truck driving from Parker, Colorado to Benson, Arizona, so we could be at this hearing with several hundred other "neighbors". We did this because we thought it was personal, and important for our family to be represented at this hearing.

I have always had and felt a connection to Cochise County. Blue skies, open vistas, space to grow things, and run some horses & calves.

I met Rex Allan in the early 70's, and listened to him talk about growing up in Willcox, Arizona, and some of the stories he told about the people in Willcox and in Cochise County made me think that I would like to have neighbors and friends like the people he talked about. I bought 160 acres near Dos Cabezas, and 160 acres close to Willcox. I sold the property near Dos Cabezas in the mid-70's. Following the oil and gas recession of the early 80's, I no longer had the resources to develop the farm near Willcox, and had to sell that property as well. I think it became part of a subdivision.

After working for the last thirty five years, I had accumulated some savings again, and decided to start looking at property once more in Cochise County. My realtor, Cheryl Glenn from Benson, showed me a lot of properties, and I finally found a 160 acre site in San Simon that I liked. That location had excellent water, good soil, and several Pecan Trees on the property, in addition to outbuildings suitable for tractor storage and room to store other equipment. There was also a domestic well and housing for

my future retirement on this property. This spring, my son and I planted our first 40 acres of Pistachio Trees, made improvements to the sand trap on the well, and replaced the gearhead on the well. We installed our first drip lines, and took a deep breath, and smiled. We are pistachio farmers at last, beginning a new chapter in our lives.

I am not fully retired yet, and I have other business matters to attend to in Colorado. This is the beginning of a new dream for me. I would like to plant additional pistachio trees in the future, as I am able to sell off other assets to provide working capital for the farm.

While the work on our first 40 acres was finished before the INA petition started, it is heartbreaking to think that we may not be able to finish planting our remaining 120 acres on our farm. Any decision to proceed with the INA would mean that the remainder of our property would lose significant value. My dream and what I had hoped to build for my retirement and for my family could not happen without the freedom to use additional water.

Based on the information we saw and heard at this meeting, it does not appear that there is any severe water shortage that would justify an INA for this area. It does appear that a few large land owners are attempting to move against their neighbors while enriching their own properties by creating a water monopoly for themselves. I could not rationalize why a handful of petitioners could believe an INA is necessary except for monetary and personal gain. This gain would come at the expense of many who have worked their entire lives pouring blood, sweat, and tears into their property in hope of one day having something more than they have today.

It is the hope of something more that built this country; that spawned the Great American Dream. It is the same hope that drives all of us to get out of bed each day and work hard for a better tomorrow. We all want a better life for our families, and to leave a lasting legacy to our children and grandchildren.

The passage of this INA will be a dream killer for hundreds of hard working families in Cochise County, including ours. With that said, I implore you to vote against enacting legislation that would create an INA for the San Simon and Bowie areas.

I appreciate your time in reading this e-mail, and for your prudent consideration, as this matter has such a far ranging effect on so many families like ours.

Sincerely,

Dave Conner  
Mike Conner  
Chris Conner,

Evangel Partners, LLC  
Property owners in San Simon and Bowie Arizona.

