

From: [roberta serface](#)
To: [Sharon Scantlebury](#)
Subject: Letter from landowner San Simon Valley against proposed INA
Date: Sunday, June 07, 2015 3:27:43 PM
Attachments: [letter inre INA SAn Simon Valley.doc](#)

I am a landowner, of 40 acres, in the San Simon Valley and am against the proposed INA.
Attached is my letter stating the reasons why I am against this proposal.

Thank you,

Roberta K. Serface

June 4, 2015

TO: DIRECTOR of AZ Dept. Water Resources
sscantlebury@azwater.gov

IN RE: Proposed INA: San Simon Valley Sub-Basin

Dear Sir:

I have owned my 40.12 acre parcel (402-77-006-5) of land within the San Simon Valley, Cochise County, since 1980. I purchased this piece of land for my retirement so that I could have a nice place to perhaps grow a vineyard or small orchard and a nice garden. I have looked forward to being 'self-sustaining' when I retire. I have not had a well drilled because I didn't think I needed to until moving onto the land. Now I am almost ready to do what I have planned for 35 years only to be confronted with the fact that a few (2-3) farmers in that area believe that they should be the only ones with a right to use the underground aquifer!

That is not only absolutely absurd, but also very frightening to think that someone, who may or may not have been in that area for a long time, cares nothing about other property owners and whether they may have the ability to use the same water that they are using.

For those 35 years I have paid taxes for the schools and fire just like they have and just because they have been pumping out the groundwater for their use in orchards, etc. certainly does not mean that they can now have the ability to say "we can use the water because we have been using it and you can't now because you haven't been using it". If anything, they are the ones that should be restricted in water usage from the aquifer because they are the ones that have been depleting it by irrigating their large orchards and fields and not being water conscious!

When I first purchased the newly sub-divided Miller Ranch land (my grandparents were actually friends of those ranchers and my relatives have lived in that area since the early 1900's!) I was given information about the underground aquifer that stated the water was 200' below the surface and would be guaranteed to still be there. I believe I still have the paperwork that states that. And that was even before the Gila groundwater issue in the 1990's.

If the Department has studied that groundwater basin and now it is well-below that level, you can bet that those same big orchard owners are the ones that have lowered it, so it makes no sense that the State of Arizona would even allow a few greedy farmers, who want nothing more than to keep all the water in the aquifer to themselves and to heck with anyone else wanting to use it for irrigating, and make a law where no other landowner could use the water for anything other than domestic use! Senseless greed does no one any good.

I certainly wish for the Director, Thomas Buschatzke, to make the right decision for the San Simon Valley and decline to designate an INA. It would be wrong, pure and simple. Perhaps there should be some restrictions made on the amount of water one landowner/farmer can use per year, but please do not make it where smaller land owners cannot use the water that we purchased rights to when we bought our land.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Roberta K. Serface