

Daniel K. Barnes
1681 Marvin Barnes Rd.
San Simon, AZ 85632

June 24, 2015

Sharon Scantlebury
Docket Supervisor
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012

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JUN 29 2015
LEGAL
DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES

Dear Sharon:

I write to state my opposition to the proposed INA in the San Simon Valley sub-basin. The implementation of an INA would be a huge detriment to me personally and to several of my neighbors. The value of our land will drop precipitously if we no longer have the ability farm it and pump water.

I'm a 4th generation disabled farmer whose family settled in this valley. I purchased a 351 acre farm in 1990 and shortly thereafter broke my neck in an automobile accident. Despite the injury I kept farming up until 2005. I struggled to make ends meet and had to seek employment off the farm. I worked as a semi-driver for another local farmer. On July 19, 2005 I was involved in another accident while driving my employer's 18 wheeler hauling hay. This reinjured my neck and caused severe additional back injuries. Since that time I've had 4 spinal surgeries that have left me permanently disabled. These injuries and the financial burdens have prevented me from farming the land I've worked so hard to keep. I was able to pay for this land with the personal injury settlement (annuity) from my first accident. I currently use my workman's compensation benefits to keep the property taxes current.

Because of my disability, I have no other way to generate income. I currently live with my 79 year old mother and it takes both of our income to pay our living expenses. She won't be here to take care of me forever, so I worry about my ability to financially provide for myself. Selling this property is my only hope of retirement income. The farm is surrounded by production agriculture. In fact, the property was under contract and set to close in March of 2015, but because of the turmoil and uncertainty surrounding the proposed INA, the buyer backed out.

During the buyer's due diligence period, the Department of Water resources measured the static water level and found that the levels had not dropped significantly since the last time they had been measured (3 to 4 years ago). I've reviewed the groundwater flow model on your website and it seems to indicate that there will be sufficient water 100 years from now. Your projections state that there will be a minimum of 400 feet and as much as several thousand feet of saturated thickness in the lower aquifer in year 2115 for the agricultural areas of the sub basin

I don't feel that it's right for big farmers with deep pockets to protect their own interests (and increase their property values) by persuading the state to implement an INA. The state should not be able to wipe out my dreams with stroke of a pen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel K Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "s".

Daniel K. Barnes

Mr. Dan Barnes
1681 W Marvin Barnes Rd
San Simon, AZ 85632

PHOENIX AZ 852

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Phoenix, Arizona 85012

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