

From: [Daniel and Jennifer Wilson](#)
To: [Sharon Scantlebury](#)
Subject: San Simon Valley INA
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2015 12:12:20 PM
Attachments: [San Simon INA letter.pdf](#)

Ms. Scantlebury,

Attached, please find our comments regarding the San Simon Valley Sub-Basin INA.

Thank you,

Jennifer Wilson

Daniel and Jennifer Wilson
PO Box 476
2937 W. Cox Rd.
Willcox, AZ 85644

July 16, 2015

VIA EMAIL

Sharon Scantlebury Docket Supervisor
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Email: sscantlebury@azwater.gov

RE: San Simon Valley Sub-Basin Irrigation Non-Expansion Area

Ms. Scantlebury,

My name is Jennifer Wilson and my family owns a small 2.5 acre pecan orchard outside of Willcox. My husband and I are extremely concerned about the proposed San Simon Valley Sub-Basin Irrigation Non-Expansion Area. We feel this proposed INA is not the best interest of the San Simon Valley and surrounding areas.

The San Simon and Bowie areas are heavily dependent on Agriculture. Both towns are struggling to survive and we feel the INA will prevent any future growth in the area, agricultural or otherwise. The proposed INA is driven by a few who are interested in closing the market to new growth to protect their profits. It is not driven by the desire to increase water conservation or to protect property values.

Right now, the area is seeing record droughts for an extensive period of time and is heavily dependent on ground water. We should be looking for ways to increase ground water conservation not stopping any new irrigation. If the proposed INA becomes fact, property values of good farm and ranch land that is currently fallow for any number of reasons will plummet.

How is irrigating native mesquite trees to protect land values a sound idea? It is not, but that is exactly what is happening. People are reacting out of fear that if they don't start using the wells they have, they will not be able to use them in the future and their property values will become severely depressed.

The proposed San Simon Valley Sub-Basin INA has consequences that reach far beyond its boundaries. The same group of investors who have pushed for the San Simon INA have also put in several extremely large pistachio orchards north of Willcox. Who is to stop them from pushing the same ideas here just so they can stop another large farm from coming in and creating competition?

Let's step back from the issue of non-expansion and start looking at how we can increase conservation a different way. Because if we don't do anything about the amount of water being used now by current irrigators, we will not have a positive impact on the amount of ground water available.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Wilson