

Robert C and Patricia L Fickett

3046 N. Mahan Road
San Simon, AZ 85632

July 14, 2015

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Thomas Buschatzke, Director
3550 N. Central Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85012

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DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES

Dear Director Buschatzke,

This letter comes to voice our objection to the San Simon Valley Sub-Basin Irrigation Non-Expansion Area as submitted for approval by the director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. This proposed INA closely resembles an *Oligarchy* or *Plutocracy*, which will be a benefit to a few with little thought of the whole.

For those unfamiliar with either of these, an *Oligarchy* is a power structure in which authority effectively rests with a small number of people, such as royalty, government officials, wealthy landowners and businesspersons, religious monarchies, military, or corporations. They are considered totalitarian and rely on oppression of the less fortunate to exist. A *Plutocracy* is a form of oligarchy and defines a society or a system ruled and dominated by a small minority of the wealthiest or most influential citizens.

The term *plutocracy* is most often used as a derogative to warn against undesirable conditions. Throughout history philosophers and scholars have criticize plutocrats for their disregard of social responsibilities and using their influence to be self serving.

In the last decade we have seen our community change from 30 or 40 farmers to the majority of the valley being taken over by a few corporate farms. Landowners invested in the community have been replaced by foreign owners/investors who have little interest in the prosperity of the local society or the welfare of its citizens. Now they have found a means where they can suppress the sell and development of additional land and control the use of the ground water for themselves. If allowed to proceed as proposed, many landowners will be adversely impacted by this action and a number will loose their life investment.

The economy of the Valley will be affected by the INA, as it will stunt the growth of the area. The purchase of land will pretty much dry up, for who wants to purchase land where they cannot use the water. Once present landowners realize they are paying taxes on land they cannot sell or farm, they will stop and the land will eventually revert to the State and decrease the tax base in Cochise County. This will affect the school who is already struggling with reduced funding due to a lower enrollment and decreased assessed value of land. The utility cooperatives will experience less demand for product and begin to feel the adverse affects. Neighboring communities will become affected as they experience as the area declines and there is diminishing need for goods and services. Citizens who have put their life savings in the land and expected to use the proceeds as their retirement will become more of a burden to society. The list can go on and on.

Change is an interesting fact of life. It is something we all fear, but the most inevitable thing in our lives. Today is different from yesterday and tomorrow will be different from today. With that in mind, change is expected, but needs to be carefully monitored and done with careful consideration.

We do understand water is a valuable resource and the use needs to be monitored, but we feel there can be a more equitable plan developed where every ones investment is considered and addressed. Thank you for your time in considering our opinion of this proposed action.

Patricia is a 3th generation life-long resident of San Simon and Robert has lived here for 50 years. They have raised a family in the valley and are landowners who the INA will affect. We ask you make your decision with prayer and careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Fickett



Patricia L. Fickett

Robert C. and Patricia J. Fickler

3016 N. Mahan Road
San Simon, AZ 85302

July 14, 2012

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Thomas G. Bostick, Director
3550 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Director Bostick:

This letter comes to voice our objection to the San Simon Valley 500-Beam Irrigation Non-Expansion Area as submitted for approval by the director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. This proposed IWA closely resembles an Oligarchy or Plutocracy which will be a benefit to a few with little thought of the whole. For those unfamiliar with either of these, an Oligarchy is a power structure in which authority effectively rests in the hands of a few individuals, a corporation, or a corporation. They are concerned with their own interests and not the interests of the community as a whole. A Plutocracy is a form of oligarchy and often a society or a system ruled and dominated by a small minority of the wealthiest or most influential citizens.

The term plutocracy is most often used as a derogative to warn against undesirable conditions. Throughout history philosophers and scholars have criticized plutocrats for their disregard of social responsibilities and using their influence to be self-serving.

In the last decade we have seen our community change from 30 or 40 farmers to the majority of the valley being taken over by a few corporate farmers. Landowners invested in the community have been replaced by foreign owners who have little interest in the prosperity of the local society or the welfare of its citizens. Now they have found a means where they can suppress the soil and development of additional land and control the use of the ground water for themselves. It is feared that any landowners will be adversely affected by this action and a number will lose their investments.

The economy of the Valley will be affected by the IWA as it will stunt the growth of the area. The purchase of land will greatly multiply up, for who wants to purchase land when they cannot use the water. Once present landowners realize they are paying taxes on land they cannot sell or farm, they will stop and the land will eventually revert to the State and decrease the tax base in Cochise County. This will affect the school who is already struggling with reduced funding due to a lower enrollment and decreased assessed value of land. The utility cooperative will experience less demand for power and begin to feel the adverse effects. Neighboring communities will become affected as they experience as the area declines and there is diminishing need for goods and services. Citizens who have put their savings in the land and expected to use the proceeds as their retirement will become more of a burden to society. The list can go on and on.

We do understand water is a valuable resource and the use needs to be monitored, but we feel there can be a more equitable plan developed where every ones investment is considered and addressed. Thank you for your time in considering our opinion of this proposed action.

We do understand water is a valuable resource and the use needs to be monitored, but we feel there can be a more equitable plan developed where every ones investment is considered and addressed. Thank you for your time in considering our opinion of this proposed action.

Patricia is a 3rd generation life-long resident of San Simon and Robert has lived here for 50 years. They have raised a family in the valley and are landowners who the IWA will affect. We ask you make your decision with prayer and careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia J. Fickler

Robert C. Fickler

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