

**From:** [Raj Rajendran](#)  
**To:** [Sharon Scantlebury](#)  
**Subject:** INA support  
**Date:** Sunday, July 19, 2015 4:54:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [ina\\_support07172015.pdf](#)

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Ms. Scantlebury,

On Friday, after talking to you I sent by postal mail my support for the INA.

Since I mailed it from NJ, it might be a couple of days before it reaches you.

Since you might begin consolidating the responses on Monday, I thought it prudent to send you an electronic copy. Please find attached the electronic copy of my support for INA.

Thanks,  
Raj  
URS Orchards LLC  
732-278-8362

July 17th, 2015

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

RE: Need for INA in San Simon Valley Sub-Basin

Dear Sir:

I am a small farm owner in East York Road, South Bowie. I am one of the initial farmers in south Bowie area. I bought a vacant land (160 acres) three years ago (in 2012). During that time only cows were enjoying the ranch land. Not a sight of farm land around me. Properties stayed on the market for years before any sale. No one was interested in farming in that area. So this made it feasible for a small farmer like me.

I have been working toward starting my family farming business in 2012 with all my savings; I started building berm, brush the irrigation well and did the flow test, clearing the land, setup irrigation lines, plant trees etc since 2012.

When the Californian drought hit, people start looking alternative place to farm.

As soon as INA petition was filed, the world woke up overnight and people bought properties around me, the day before the freezing date (March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015) and began clearing the land with big bull dozers etc., I knew some big money corporations were moving into the area and will squish small farmers like me.

Closer to my property, about 1000 acres of land has been cleared since the petition has been filed. And about 2500 acres of land are under contract and waiting for an INA result. Huge amount of land acquisition/clearing/drilling is also happening in other parts of San Simon valley.

Some of the under contract properties in South Bowie are

[http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/York-Dr\\_Bowie\\_AZ\\_85605\\_M21072-74241?row=5](http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/York-Dr_Bowie_AZ_85605_M21072-74241?row=5)

[http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/York-Rd\\_Bowie\\_AZ\\_85605\\_M12174-65365?row=6](http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/York-Rd_Bowie_AZ_85605_M12174-65365?row=6)

<http://www.landwatch.com/Cochise-County-Arizona-Land-for-sale/pid/314872577>

My property is located 200' higher elevation than other farms closer to I-10. That means, the static water is deeper (about 465' or so) and more pumping cost. Static water has been dropped approx. 20' within last 8 years. Please check my irrigation well information from the following ADWR web site link.

<https://gisweb.azwater.gov/gwsi/Detail.aspx?SiteID=321356109234401>

and captured the following water levels by pressing 'water levels' tab.

11/1/1974	360	REPORTED
6/25/1986	434.4	ADWR CALIBRATED ELECTRIC SOUNDER OR NON-ADWR ELECTRIC TAPE
2/11/1987	435.5	ADWR CALIBRATED ELECTRIC SOUNDER OR NON-ADWR ELECTRIC TAPE
1/14/1997	444.9	ADWR CALIBRATED ELECTRIC SOUNDER OR NON-ADWR ELECTRIC TAPE
1/30/2007	447.3	ADWR CALIBRATED ELECTRIC SOUNDER OR NON-ADWR ELECTRIC TAPE
2/26/2015	466.2	ADWR CALIBRATED ELECTRIC SOUNDER OR NON-ADWR ELECTRIC TAPE

I am concerned about the current water level decline rate. I will be first person to see starving trees for water in South Bowie if more wells drilled and pumped by other farms in San Simon valley since my farm is located in higher elevation. I am not seeing the water level sustaining from the past ADWR water level logs. Who will be responsible if small farmers like me run out of water? During the INA hearing period, I was in the process of understanding what the concerns were about. But within a month, I saw around me rigorous land acquisition and land clearing. South Bowie is expanding at a ferocious rate and the water impact of that will be huge. All studies we have seen so far does not account for the projected pumping levels if these land were all to be opened up. I see no small farmers buying a 100 acre property. Every pending contract seems to be in 1000s of acres. If this continuous onto to deed, state and federal land, I am sure we will not have enough drinking water for us and cows then irrigation. We need an INA control to sustain agriculture for the future generation.

Thank you Sir,

  
July 17, 2015

URS Orchards - Parcel #:30401015 (sec 9 14 29), 160 acres