

NOTICE OF INITIATION OF DESIGNATION PROCEDURES / NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREA: SAN SIMON VALLEY SUB-BASIN

The Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“Director”), pursuant to Section 45-435 of the Arizona Revised Statutes (“A.R.S”), hereby gives notice of the filing of a petition to designate an irrigation non-expansion area within the boundaries of the San Simon Valley sub-basin of the Safford groundwater basin (“Proposed INA”). The area to be included in the Proposed INA is depicted in a map following this notice.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY – Pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-434, irrigation users may only irrigate those acres of land within the Proposed INA which were irrigated at any time during the five years preceding the first date of publication of this notice (March 18, 2015). This limitation on the acres which may be irrigated shall continue in effect until the Director makes a final determination on the Proposed INA. “Irrigate” is defined in A.R.S. § 45-402 and means to apply water to two or more acres of land to produce plants or parts of plants for sale or human consumption, or for use as feed for livestock, range livestock or poultry.

The Director may designate an area an irrigation non-expansion area if the Director determines (1) that there is insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for irrigation of the cultivated lands in the area at the current rate of withdrawal and (2) that the establishment of an active management area pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-412 is not necessary.

Designation of an irrigation non-expansion area imposes a prohibition on the irrigation of new acres within the irrigation non-expansion area, with certain limited exceptions, and creates monitoring and reporting requirements for most persons withdrawing groundwater from a non-exempt well within the irrigation non-expansion area. These limitations and requirements are designed to slow and/or mitigate groundwater depletion.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing shall be held so that the Department of Water Resources may present factual data in its possession in support of or in opposition to the Proposed INA and receive comments and evidence as to whether the Director should designate the Proposed INA as an irrigation non-expansion area. The hearing will be held at the following time and place:

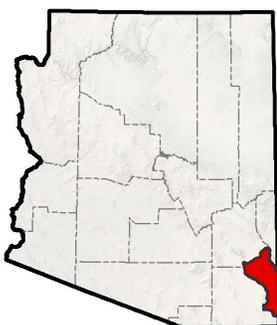
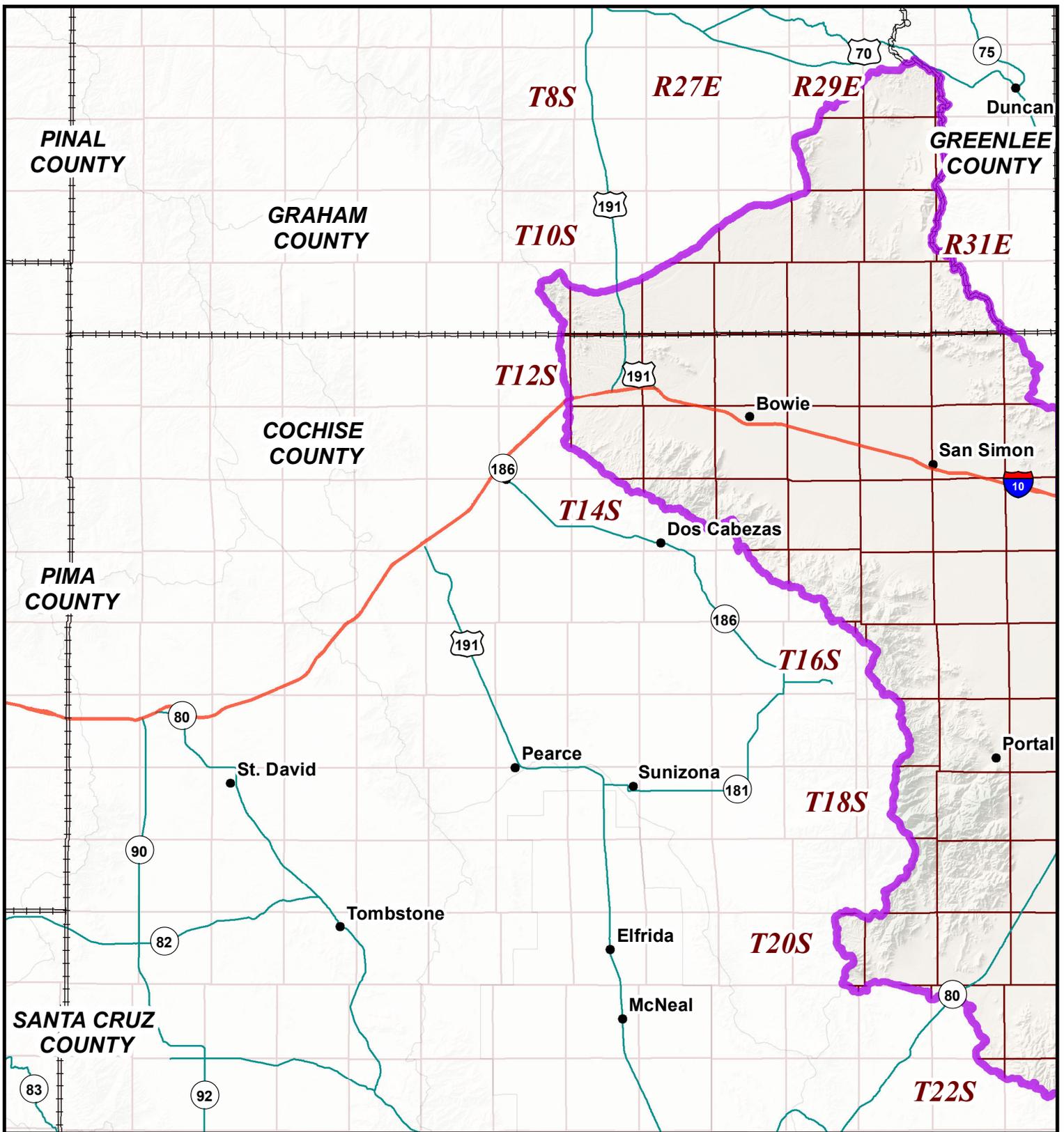
Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.
Bowie High School Auditorium
315 W. 5th St.
Bowie, AZ 85605

Any person may appear at the hearing, either in person or by representative, and submit oral or written comments and/or evidence for or against the Proposed INA. Written comments not submitted at the hearing described above may be submitted by mail postmarked no later than May 22, 2015, or via email, fax, or hand delivery until 5:00 P.M. on May 22, 2015 to:

Sharon Scantlebury
Docket Supervisor
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 771-8472 (phone)
(602) 771-8686 (fax)
sscantlebury@azwater.gov

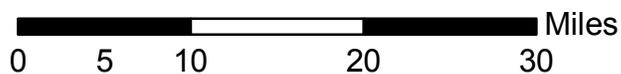
The petition to designate the Proposed INA as an irrigation non-expansion area is available online at <http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/SanSimonValley.htm>.

If, because of a disability, you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this hearing, please contact Sharon Scantlebury with the Arizona Department of Water Resources at (602)771-8472 or sscantlebury@azwater.gov. Please make such requests as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.



San Simon Valley Sub Basin

Proposed Irrigation Non-Expansion Area



-  San Simon Valley
-  County Line
-  Interstate 10
-  City / Town
-  Highway
-  Township