

From: Ducky
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Subject: Re: Purchase and Sale Agreement for CAWCD to Acquire Water Rights and Land in Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, Mohave County, Arizona
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2017 12:36:41 PM

I write to advise you that I am opposed to the proposed Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) land and water purchase to move Colorado River water, prudently set aside for rural Arizona Colorado River mainstream users, to central Arizona for replenishment.

As you may recall, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors passed two resolutions opposing the permanent transfer of any Colorado River Water Rights and Allocations to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District for use in the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District – first as to the Quartzsite transfer and second as to the WPI-WAN transfer in the Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District.

Here is why I oppose this purchase and transfer of our water: First, as a matter of public policy, 4th Priority Colorado River water allocated to the users on the mainstream of the River, such as Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District (“MVIDD”) in this case, should not be transferred away from mainstream of the River. This is part of the water that the State of Arizona requested be reserved for municipal and industrial uses along the River. Except for that small reservation of 4th Priority Colorado River water to the users on the mainstream, CAWCD received all of Arizona’s Colorado River entitlement remaining at the time that CAWCD and the United States entered into their initial agreement in 1972. That water was allocated long ago as part of the division of water for the mainstream users and water for the central Arizona users. Moving it to central Arizona defeats the purpose for which it was reserved: to provide water for municipal and industrial users along the Colorado River.

Second, also as a matter of public policy, I do not support and will oppose by all means a three-county conservation district using its superior taxing power to provide \$34 million in funds to buy and divert water from a rural Arizona county. Mohave County has no elected representation on the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board, and it appears three urban counties with a larger tax base are set to divert waters from rural counties.

Thank you for your consideration

Justin Watson

Mohave Valley, AZ