

# Cottonwood Ditch Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 445  
Cottonwood, Arizona 86326

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May 1, 2014

## Hand Delivered

Mr. Wade Noble, Chair  
Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission  
1700 W. Washington, Room B-54  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Verde River Navigability Hearing  
May 1, 2014 – Prescott

Dear Mr. Noble:

On behalf of the Cottonwood Ditch Association (CDA), I am writing this letter to state our strong objection to the Verde River being designated as a “navigable” stream. The Verde River has **never** been navigable where ships and/or boats were used for commerce.

The Cottonwood Ditch Association (CDA) is a local Irrigation Association that has a Diversion Dam on the Verde River to divert water for irrigation purposes. We provide irrigation water to over 325 Shareholders in our Association.

My father, Pete Groseta Jr. and my grandfather, Peter Groseta, Sr. both served as Officers and Ditch bosses of CDA. Both of them have said that during the summertime you could “tip toe across the river hardly getting wet”. Our family has been in the Verde Valley since the turn of the last century (1900’s) prior to Arizona’s Statehood, and the Verde River **never** has had enough water in it to float boats, ships or ferries for commerce purposes. There was not enough water back then and certainly not now to do that. In fact, to help provide a satisfactory recreational experience for canoers and kayakers today, some Verde Valley Irrigation Companies turn water back into the River so that they can float down the Verde, without picking up and carrying their canoes over rocks and sand bars. That in itself confirms the lack of any amount of water to designate the Verde as navigable.

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Enclosed, please find copies of two (2) graphs from the USGS that shows the Verde River daily flows (discharge) in cubic feet per second (CFS) at Paulden and Clarkdale. The Paulden USGS gauge was installed in 1964 and the graph shows flows for 1964 to 2012. The Clarkdale USGS gauge was installed in 1915 and shows flows through 2012. You can observe that there was not enough water at either gauge on the Verde River for ships or boats to run on the River for commerce purposes.

Also enclosed, is a bar graph that shows the Verde River base flow at the USGS Clarkdale gauge vs. annual precipitation at Jerome from 1897-2012. This graph shows that the base flow of the Verde at the Clarkdale gauge is in direct correlation with the amount of precipitation that was received in Jerome and the Black Hills. It shows that the annual mean 7 day flow CFS did not have an adequate water flow for ships or boats.

In closing, we respectfully ask that the Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission based on evidence that it has received, designate the Verde River as **non-navigable**. We want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit our comments regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,



Andy Groseta  
President

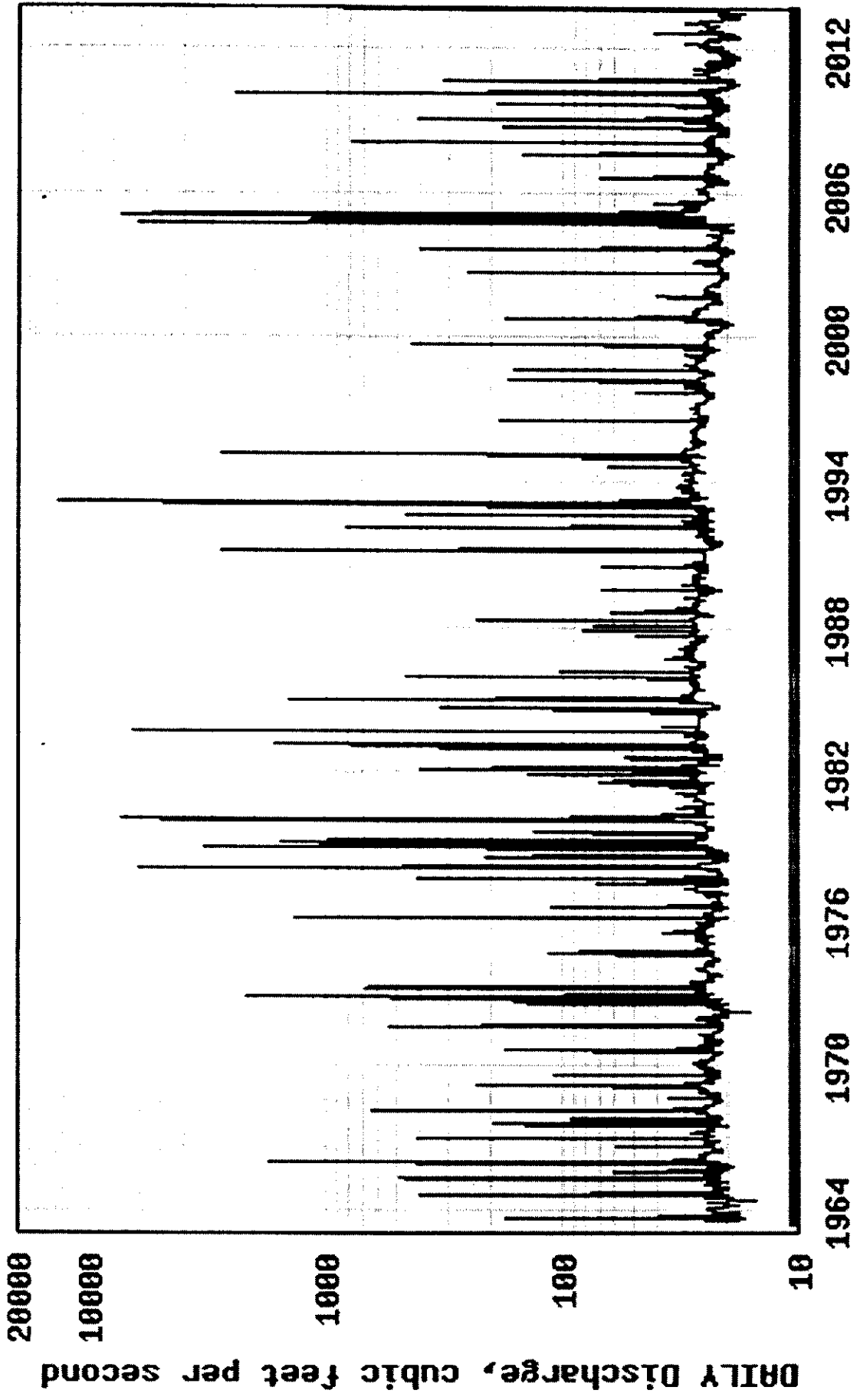
cc: CDA Board Members  
John Ryan, VP  
Bill Wade, Sec/Treas.  
Wayne Wright, Member  
David Mongini, Member

cc: ANSAC Commissioners  
Jim Henness, Vice Chair  
Bill Allen, Member  
Jim Horton, Member

George Mehnert, Director ANSAC  
Fred Breedlove, Attorney AMSAC

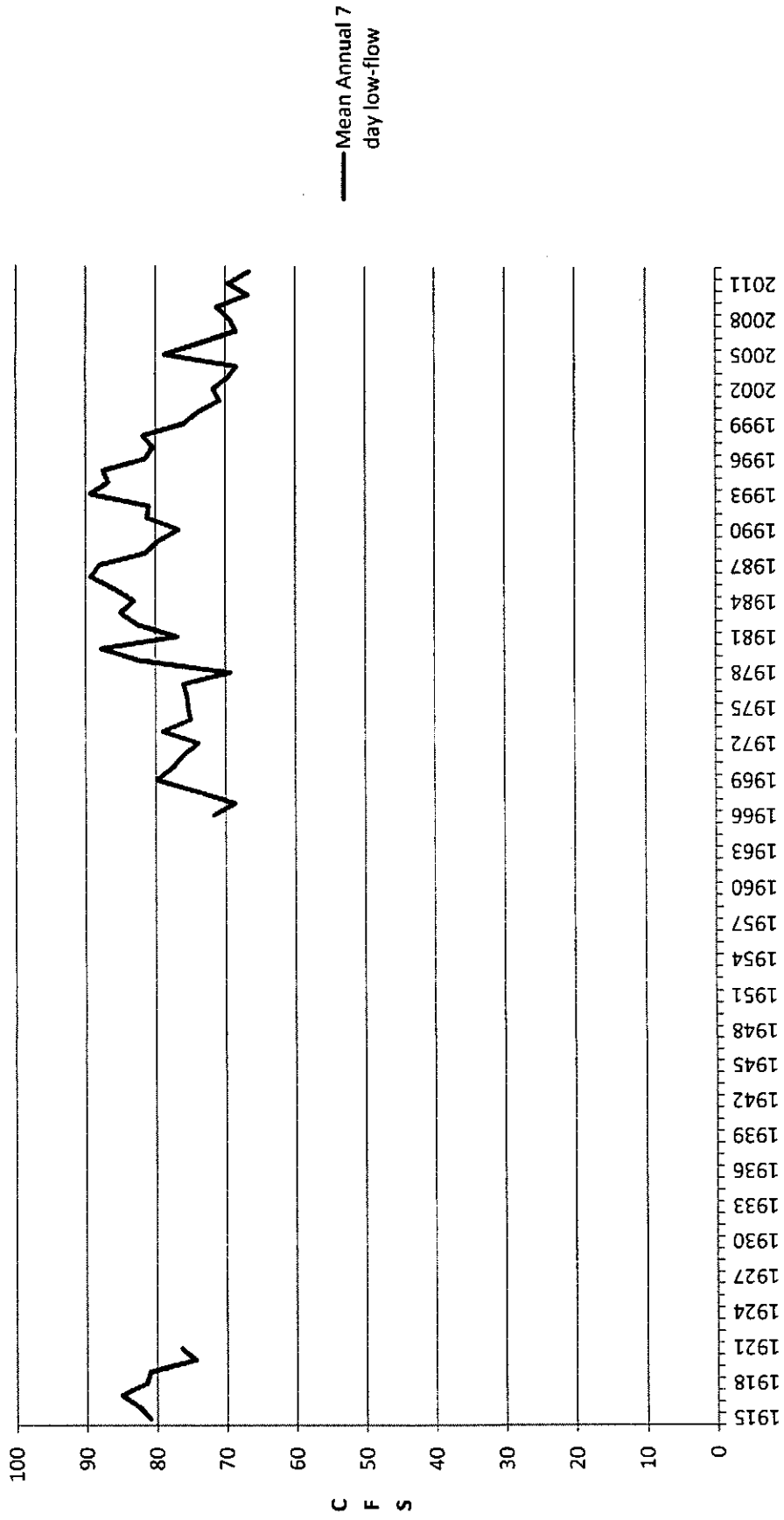
Encl: USGS – Graphs (3)  
Paulden Gauge (CFS) – Verde River  
Clarkdale Gauge (CFS) – Verde River  
Verde Base Flow vs. Annual PPT

USGS 09503700 VERDE RIVER NEAR PAULDEN, AZ



— Daily mean discharge      — Period of approved data  
— Estimated daily mean discharge      — Period of provisional data

# Verde Mean Annual 7 Day low-flow at Clarkdale Gage 1915 - 2012



# Verde Base Flow at Clarkdale Gage vs Annual Precipitation at Jerome Precip Gage 1897 - 2012

