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October 20, 2014

BY:

Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission
1700 West Washington Street, Room B-54
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Verde River Navigability

Dear Commissioners,

We have been informed of the ongoing hearings intended to determine the navigability of various Arizona streams and rivers. We do not have knowledge of whether the Verde River was navigable at the time of statehood. However, it has been navigable for as long as we have been kayaking in Arizona. According to friends who have been paddling much longer than we have (around 50 years or longer), it has always been navigable. We hope the Verde River will continue to be an accessible waterway for recreational boating and fishing, particularly because there are so few navigable rivers with consistent flows in Arizona.

The Verde River is among the top three destinations for beginner and intermediate paddlers who live in, or are visiting the area. It has features for advanced paddlers to enjoy, and it is a popular destination for new kayakers to learn. We know the Verde River to support whitewater kayaks, inflatable kayaks, standup paddle boards, canoes, and rafts. The Verde River is unique in that it can be enjoyed on single-day trips, and also multi-day trips.

Paddling and fishing the Verde River allows the public to experience the wilderness in ways that could not otherwise be done. We have already introduced our 6-month-old daughter to rafting and kayaking, and we look forward to passing on our memories at the Verde River and creating new ones with her for the next generation.

Respectfully,

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