

Salt River

THE STATE



OF ARIZONA

ORIGINAL

GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

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10 February 1997



Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission
1700 West Washington St., Room 404
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Navigability of the Salt River from Granite Reef Dam to the
Confluence with the Gila River


Dear Sir/Madam:

I received notice of your 18 February meeting regarding
navigability of the Salt River, and wanted to share some of my
experiences regarding this issue.

In spring 1996, coworkers and I navigated the Salt River in
inflatable kayaks from 91st Avenue to the confluence with the
Gila River (3 miles) in order to conduct surveys for Yuma Clapper
Rails and then Willow Flycatchers. We paddled this 3 mile
section of the river on 13 May, again on 5-6 June, and we
repeated the two miles from 91st to 107th Avenues a third time on
25 June 1996. We had no difficulties navigating this stretch of
the Salt River during our three trips in Spring 1996. I believe
this portion of the river is navigable most of the time because
of water released from the waste-water treatment plant east of
91st Avenue.

In spring 1992, prior to working for Game & Fish, a friend and I
paddled a hard kayak and an inflatable kayak from just below
Granite Reef Dam to the Gilbert Road bridge (6 miles). Although
this portion of the Salt River is typically dry because all the
water is diverted into canals, when water is released in adequate
volume the river is navigable.

Sincerely,


William P. Burger
Nongame Specialist, Region VI

Maricopa County, Lower Salt River
03-005-NAV

4/7/03

Evidence Item No. 019

Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission
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WPB:wpb

cc: Kelly Neal
Tom Hildebrandt
Russ Haughey

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