

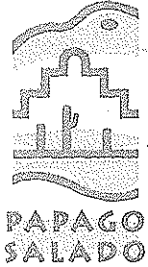
April 7, 2003

Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission
1700 West Washington Street, Room 404
Phoenix, AZ 85007

received
4-9-03

Postmarked 4/7/03 gmm

Re: Lower Salt River



I attended the public hearing this morning concerning the navigability of the Lower Salt River between Granite Reef Dam and the confluence with the Gila River. Please accept this letter as testimony from the Papago Salado Association, Inc. for these proceedings. The Papago Salado Association, Inc. is non-profit organization incorporated in 1992 to protect, preserve and enhance the historic, cultural, natural and recreational resources of the region of the metropolitan area where the three cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Scottsdale meet. The bed of the Lower Salt River is one of natural feature of the Papago Salado region. On behalf of the many stakeholders represented by the Association, I urge that the Commission determine the Lower Salt River to be non-navigable. An important component of the work of the Papago Salado Association is educating the public about the prehistory and history of the region and its evolution over time. Working with the Association's member cultural heritage attractions we have developed numerous print pieces, educational programs, lesson plans, displays, tours and videos that describe the region's features. The Lower Salt River has never been reported as a navigable waterway in the materials that we have prepared nor am I aware of any archival information that has been identified to support such a contention.

On a personal note, I have worked professionally in the field of historic preservation in Arizona since 1989. In the course of my work for the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Mesa, I have extensively researched the history of the Valley and documented the influences that have shaped the development of the built environment and the associated buildings and structures. Additionally, I have performed Section 106 contract work for ADOT, specifically researching and studying aspects of the development of the local transportation network. With this background and experience, I also have not encountered any reports, studies, histories or archival materials that document the Lower Salt River as anything but a non-navigable watercourse that challenged the permanent settlement of the Valley.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. I hope it will assist you in your determination of non-navigability for the Lower Salt River.

Sincerely,
Deborah Edge Abels
Executive Director

Maricopa County, Lower Salt River
03-005-NAV
4/7/03
Evidence Item No. 045

PAPAGO
SALADO
ASSOCIATION,
INC.

P.O. BOX 60874
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
85082-0874
602-392-9965
1-800-216-3597

ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CITY OF PHOENIX
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
CITY OF TEMPE

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN
HALL OF FLAME
PAPAGO PARK CENTER, INC.
PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM

RIO SALADO ADVISORY COMMISSION
SALT RIVER PROJECT
TEMPE ARTS CENTER
THE PHOENIX ZOO