

EASTERN ARIZONA COUNTIES ORGANIZATION

Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Navajo

Ron Christensen, Chairman
Terry Bingham, Vice Chairman
Eddie Koury, Secretary/Treasurer

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TRANSMITTED VIA FACSIMILE AND E-MAIL

Attn: Jay Brashear, Chairperson
and Commissioners
Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission
1700 West Washington, #404
Phoenix, AZ 85007
azansac@aol.com

February 11, 1998

Dear Chairman Brashear and Commissioners:

97 - 005 - 002 / Little Colorado River 001
97 - 006 - 002 / Puerco River 001

It has come to our attention that the Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission (ANSAC) has placed on its agenda for consideration the following items at its Bisbee meeting:

- Initial classification of the Little Colorado River
- Initial classification of the Puerco River
- Initial classification of the Upper Salt River.

We find it extremely disturbing that official ANSAC actions and discussions on water courses so vital to the economy, recreation, agriculture, and way of life of Apache, Navajo, and Gila Counties are being conducted outside of these Counties in extreme Southern Arizona.

One of the continuing frustrations of Counties in dealing with State and Federal issues is that public hearings are held in their areas after initial decisions have already been made in meetings held outside, and in this case several hours away, from their areas. This puts an extreme hardship on citizens, water and irrigation districts, municipalities, etc., that may otherwise provide meaningful input if the meetings for initial classification were held within the impacted Counties.

We respectfully request that initial classification for the Little Colorado, Puerco, and Upper Salt Rivers be removed from the February 18th Bisbee meeting agenda, and that the initial classification discussion and action take place in impacted Counties.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely:

[Signature on File]

Ron Christensen, Chairman
Eastern Arizona Counties Organization

cc: Speaker Groscost, Senate President Burns, Senator Jack Brown, Representative Jake Flake, ECO Board Members

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