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Arizona Corporation Commission

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**Hualapai Aquifer Water Table  
Recovery Rates Have Been  
Outstripped for Over 30 Years.**

To the members,

In response to your call for public input regarding water issues in Mohave County, I submit the following:

I was a City of Kingman water system employee from 1974-78. I was hired as a pump technician by then assistant public works director Ed Covington. My duties included manual operation of city wells to adjust flows to the Castlerock booster station and regulate the booster station to control flows to the Kingman area reservoir tanks.

City of Kingman well #6 was a very large 300 h.p./600 gal. per minute well drilled and installed in '74-'75 and was the first to be equipped with a feature that no other city well had and that was an access port that allowed the water levels in the well to be checked at scheduled intervals. Readings were taken showing the following:

1. Total Draw-down - The level at which water stood when the pump was running.
2. Immediate Recovery Level - The level to which water returned within 30 minutes of pump shut-off.
3. Full Recovery Level - The level to which water returned after 24 hours of pump shut-off.

The testing was done with a battery charged probe on the end of a measured and marked wire that was lowered into the well - very cumbersome and difficult and done infrequently. However, I was present at 2 tests one year apart that showed a full recovery level drop of between 1 and 1.5 feet. I recall the stated level drop was 1.4 feet.

This was at a time when the city was pumping far less water (about 2 million gallons a day) with about 1/3 of the pumps it currently uses and was showing draw-down of the Hualapai aquifer even then. In other words, **the aquifer recovery rate then was not sufficient to maintain the usage then (30 years ago).**

That drop was one of the motivating factors (plus the city's encroachment) in relocating the Kingman sewage processing facility from its location on Beverly Ave. to its current location just a few hundred yards from well #6.

I realize there are a lot of factors, most of which are not quantified, such as horizontal percolation data, that make a true rendering of the water picture for the future very difficult, but two things are certain. We are in one of the worst droughts this state has ever seen and the city may already be at the "funnel effect" level (where water flows into

our usage area from possibly miles away). As other developers drill more wells in the aquifer, dramatic drops in well levels will start to occur, the whole basin will subside as Phoenix did in far less than a hundred years and there will be this giant empty soda glass and straw sound in Kingman. There will be no Central Arizona Project to bail us out.

I believe the Corporation Commission should use its powers of subpoena or discovery to avail itself of the data that already exists regarding draw-down of Mohave County aquifers. **The City of Kingman has at least a 30 year record showing nearly a sixty foot drop in water levels and those levels will be increasing yearly.** There should be records available from the former Duval Copper Mine near Kingman which pumped the Golden Valley (Sacramento) aquifer and Mohave County itself should have some short term data available from its Yucca pumps.

With draw-down data and gallons pumped data one could at least draw an acre-feet per vertical foot correlation that would be helpful. **However, it is patently clear that the aquifer recharge rates have already been outstripped by the current pumping activity,** especially in the Hualapai aquifer.

This leaves the ACC in a position of being unable to fulfill its commitments of adequate, reliable and dependable water service to the future residents of Kingman much less to any future communities yet to be built in Mohave County. Plus, the ACC should not jeopardize, or I should say shorten Kingman's existence by giving its birthright to a speculating developer. I cannot for the life of me, understand why, when we're heading for a brick wall, there are those pushing the accelerator pedal to the floor - just greed, I guess.

Respectfully submitted,



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