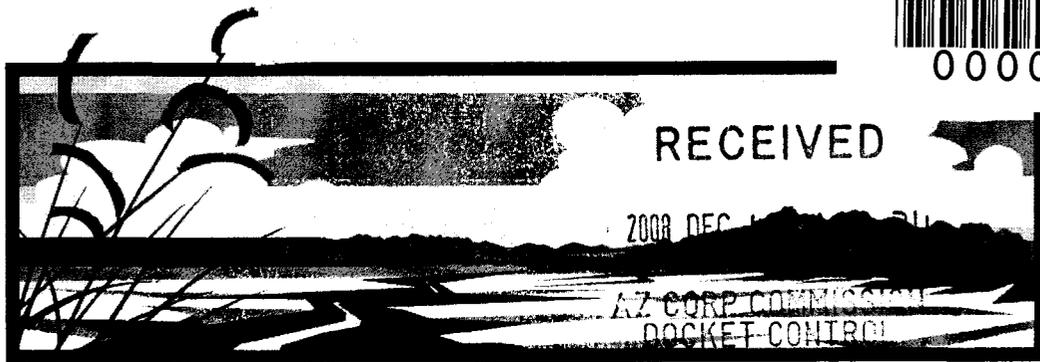




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# CIENEGA WATERSHED

## Partnership

P.O. Box 903 • Vail, Arizona • 85641

ORIGINAL

December 15, 2008

Mike Gleason, Chairman  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2996

Gary Pierce, Commissioner  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2996

Paul Newman, Commissioner  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
111 South Langley Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85710

E-01575A-08-0328

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

DEC 19 2008

RE: 69kV Power Line to Sonoita

DOCKETED BY *MM*

Gentlemen,

Thank you for the time you and the rest of the commission dedicate in behalf of Arizona communities. With Arizona growing as it is, the task of weighing all the ramifications of new power lines is a daunting one.

The Cienega Watershed Partnership (CWP) is a 501(c)(3) organization founded to represent the interests of two multi-stakeholder groups in order to help resource stewardship initiatives for the Cienega Watershed. This is the landscape that runs from Saguaro National Park and the Rincon Wilderness to the Canelo Hills south of Sonoita, and from the crown of the Santa Rita Mountains east to the crown of the Whetstone Mountains. Our mission is "facilitating cooperative actions that will steward the natural and cultural resources of the Cienega Watershed while enabling sustainable human use."

The Cienega Creek Watershed is critical for wildlife movement, has a rich cultural history, and is one of Arizona's last and most intact native grasslands. The Creek itself is a primary source of recharge for Tucson's precious groundwater.

The Board of the Cienega Watershed Partnership is deeply concerned about how this unique area will be affected by the 69kV power line to Sonoita. We feel that the unintended consequences are grave, including negative impacts on wildlife, the watershed, the riparian corridor, the viewshed, and the community. Certainly, the current route is not consistent with the character of the area as described in the approved Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan.

We urge you to halt construction activities on this power line until all aspects of the project have been thoroughly considered and the community has been given an opportunity for public comment. We believe that, after proper deliberation and consultation with the community, a solution can be found that is mutually beneficial to all.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Martie Maierhauser, Chairman

c: Creden W. Huber  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative