



OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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ORIGINAL

E-01575A-11-0223

April 17, 2013

Re: ACC Docket item E-0157A-11-0223

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of the Sierra Vista Area Chamber and its Board of Directors I am writing to request the Arizona Corporation Commission approve the inclusion of on demand hot water pumps in the Demand Side Management program submitted by Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative.

As Cochise County's largest business organization, representing 617 member businesses, the Chamber is acutely aware of the need to reduce water use in our community to allow for a healthy and viable economy. We strongly believe that both the energy and water saving benefits of on demand hot water pumps will help to meet that goal.

Sierra Vista is home to Fort Huachuca, which employs thousands of workers and is responsible for the creation of many more thousands of jobs beyond its gates. This military installation annually contributes around \$2.4 billion to Cochise County's economy. However, the fort is federally mandated to help protect the nearby San Pedro River, a critical habitat for the Huachuca Water Umbel, through mitigating its water use. Studies have demonstrated that water pumping may impact the flow of the river, and if the river's existence is threatened, then so is Fort Huachuca's. The fort cannot do this alone and must rely on the local community to also do its part.

A large effort involving community leaders and organizations is underway to help educate local people about the importance of water mitigation. This process, led by The Cochise Water Project, includes encouraging the use of on demand hot water pumps to save both energy and water. The initiative includes a rebate program to offset the cost of pumps for area residents. This program, along with the many initiatives that have already been put in place, is making a real difference in the effort to reduce water use, which in turn will help safeguard our economic engine and an entity that is vital to national security.

Again, the Chamber respectfully requests that on demand pumps be approved as part of SSVEC's submitted Demand Side Management program.

Sincerely,

ARC *Baillie*

Amanda Baillie
Executive Director

Arizona Corporation Commission
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