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**BEFORE THE
ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE**
Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

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Case No. 171

NOTICE OF FILING TESTIMONY
SUMMARY OF CHRISTINA MCVIE ON
BEHALF OF CHRISTINA MCVIE,
POTENTIAL PARTY/INTERVENOR

RECEIVED
AZ CORP COMMISSION
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2015 OCT 13 PM 2 07

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LLC, IN)
CONFORMANCE WITH THE)
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED)
STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL)
COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE)
SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION)
PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE)
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW 500 KV)
TRANSMISSION LINES AND)
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES ORIGINATING)
AT A NEW SUBSTATION (SUNZIA EAST))
IN LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO,)
AND TERMINATING AT THE PINAL)
CENTRAL SUBSTATION IN PINAL)
COUNTY, ARIZONA. THE ARIZONA)
PORTION OF THE PROJECT IS LOCATED)
WITHIN GRAHAM, GREENLEE,)
COCHISE, PINAL, AND PIMA COUNTIES.)

TESTIMONY SUMMARY

OF CHRISTINA MCVIE

ON BEHALF OF HERSELF

AS A POTENTIAL PARTY/INTERVENOR

I am a retired Registered Nurse. I have lived most of my life in Arizona, moving from California to Tucson with my family in 1951. I have resided at 4420 West Cortaro Farms Road, Tucson, Arizona, 85742 since 1987. I have volunteered for various science-based environmental organizations who operate in southeastern Arizona since 1997. I began by co-founding an organization named Desert Watch. I have received no compensation for my volunteer activities.

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1 Initially, I worked to help establish the Ironwood Forest National Monument, which was
2 designated in 2000. In March of 1999, I became a member of Pima County's Sonoran Desert
3 Conservation Plan (SDCP) Steering Committee and served as such until the submission of the
4 Steering Committee's Report to the Pima County Board of Supervisors, which was accepted in
5 June of 2003. The SDCP was created to form the scientific basis of the environmental
6 component of the state-mandated Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Pima County's pending
7 Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSCP) under the federal Endangered Species Act. In
8 2003, I served on the Steering Committee's Ad Hoc sub-committee that developed
9 recommendations for the full Steering Committee's final report. In 2004, I served on the Pima
10 County Conservation Bond Committee, developing recommendations for acquisition priorities
11 for Pima County's mitigation under the pending MSCP and publicly supported the successful
12 2004 \$174.3 million dollar bond for Open Space. I served on Pima County's Multi-species
13 Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Committee from March – December 2005, focusing
14 on more detailed recommendations regarding permit duration, mitigation ratios, a monitoring
15 program for science-based adaptive management and other details of the implementation
16 strategy.

17 Pima County subsequently acquired multiple properties extending into the San Pedro
18 River Valley in northeastern Pima County under the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and
19 Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, to conserve open space and mitigate development
20 impacts, and SunZia has now been routed directly across them.

21 In 2006, I publicly supported the Pima County Regional Transportation Authority's
22 (RTA) successful sales tax funding mechanism for a balanced \$2.1 billion dollar 20-year
23 transportation plan that included \$45 million dollars for wildlife linkage infrastructure. I have
24

1 served on the Pima Association of Government's Environmental Planning Advisory Committee
2 since 2007, the RTA Wildlife Linkages Working Group since its inception, the Arizona
3 Department of Transportation's State Route 77 Wildlife Linkages Technical Advisory
4 Committee since 2010, and was invited this year to serve on the Department of Interior's Desert
5 Landscape Conservation Cooperative Landscape Conservation Planning and Design Committee.

6 In 1997, I began to volunteer with the Tucson Audubon Society (TAS) which hosts
7 public environmental educational programs, including Riparian Institutes, some of which have
8 been located along the lower San Pedro River near Dudleyville. I took the opportunity to learn
9 more about southeast Arizona's natural wonders, which deepened my appreciation for the San
10 Pedro Valley and its rich biological resources.

11 My husband and I have owned 40 acres of land in southern Pinal County, off of Park
12 Links Road north of the Tortolita Mountains, since 1998. I have addressed the Pinal County
13 Board of Supervisors and Planning and Zoning Commission regarding land use decisions since
14 1998 and, between 2007 – 2012, I was actively involved with the Pinal Partnership Open Space
15 and Trails Committee which assisted in providing a public forum to solicit input for the Arizona
16 Game and Fish Department's Pinal County Wildlife Linkages Assessment and the environmental
17 element of the state-mandated Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed route will
18 directly impact and fragment lands identified by Pinal County to be protected as open space,
19 trails and parks. I have publicly supported the creation, acquisition and expansion of Pima
20 County's Tortolita Mountain Park in Pinal County. The proposed SunZia alignment will
21 exacerbate fragmentation the Palo Verde Ranch which encompasses approximately 90 square
22 miles along the northern aspect of the Tortolita Mountains, directly impacting my neighbors near
23 Owl Head Buttes and Desert Peak and my enjoyment of the beauty and serenity of the area.

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1 Given my long-standing involvement with and commitment to the conservation of Pima,
2 Pinal, and Cochise Counties and the biodiversity of southeastern Arizona, including San Pedro
3 Valley lands, I have a strong personal interest in how this project will affect them.

4 I am testifying on behalf of myself as a potential Party/Intervenor regarding potential
5 ecological and environmental impacts to the state - especially to plants, and animals within
6 affected watersheds, including riparian and wetland habitats, which would likely result from the
7 construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed SunZia Transmission Line in Arizona.

8 The biodiversity of southeastern Arizona as a whole, and the lower San Pedro River
9 Valley, including wildlife linkages, are globally critical resources that provide crucial ecosystem
10 services and will be directly, indirectly and cumulatively adversely impacted by this proposal. I
11 will reference specific portions of

12 http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Landscape_Approach/reas/madrea.html ;

13 http://www.nfwf.org/skyisland/Documents/Sky_Island_Grass_Biz_Plan.pdf ; and

14 [http://azconservation.org/dl/Bodner_et_al_2013_Perspectives_on_Grassland_Valley_Landscape](http://azconservation.org/dl/Bodner_et_al_2013_Perspectives_on_Grassland_Valley_Landscape_s.pdf)
15 [s.pdf](http://azconservation.org/dl/Bodner_et_al_2013_Perspectives_on_Grassland_Valley_Landscape_s.pdf). I may reference some of Ms. Supplee's exhibits, though we will not duplicate testimony.

16 I will provide information regarding potential impacts to existing plans of local
17 governments such as Pinal and Pima Counties, current and future conservation and mitigation
18 measures, and potential impacts to private entities and other developments at or in the vicinity of
19 the proposed SunZia Transmission Line, including scenic, historic and archaeological sites. I
20 will also provide comments regarding potential adverse impacts to my property in Pinal County.

21 I will reference specific portions of

22 <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=52654> ;

23 <http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/one.aspx?pageId=35831> ;

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1 <http://pinalcountyz.gov/CommunityDevelopment/Planning/Pages/CompPlan.aspx> ; and

2 <http://pinalcountyz.gov/OpenSpaceTrails/Pages/home.aspx> .

3 I will reference the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Arizona Game and
4 Fish Department (AGFD) Arizona's Wildlife Linkages Assessment (2006) and the two riparian
5 (San Pedro River and San Simon River) and six terrestrial linkages (numbers 90, 84, 89, 88, 82,
6 and 79, from west to east) to be impacted by the preferred route in southeastern Arizona,
7 referencing <http://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/programs/wildlife-linkages> ;
8 <http://azdot.gov/docs/planning/figure-8-2-riparian-habitat-linkage-zones.pdf?sfvrsn=5> ;
9 <http://azdot.gov/docs/planning/figure-8-7-unique-waters.pdf?sfvrsn=7> ;
10 http://azdot.gov/docs/planning/figure_6_1_arizona_wildlife_linkages.pdf?sfvrsn=7 ; and
11 http://azdot.gov/docs/planning/section_vii_potential_linkage_zones.pdf?sfvrsn=5 .

12 I will introduce subsequent refinements to the wildlife linkage studies performed by
13 AGFD by Dr. Paul Beier of NAU, referencing
14 http://corridordesign.org/dl/linkages/reports/Galiuro-Pinaleno-DosCabezas_LinkageDesign.pdf ;
15 and http://corridordesign.org/dl/linkages/reports/Ironwood-Picacho_LinkageDesign.pdf . I will
16 not duplicate the testimony of Mr. Wilbor though we may share an exhibit.

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18
19
20 Respectfully submitted,

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