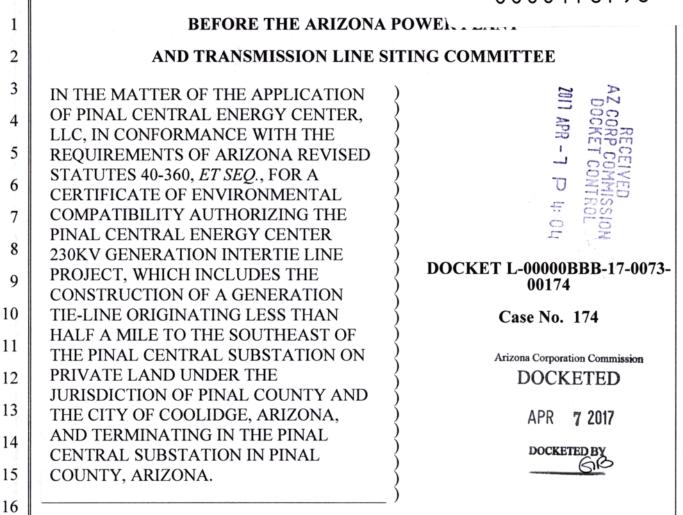
ORIGINAL





APPLICANT PINAL CENTRAL ENERGY CENTER, LLC'S RESPONSE TO LYNDA WILLIAMS' MEMORANDUM OF LAW NUMBER TWO RE: DEED FOR 50' x 50' EASEMENT

19 Pursuant to the Order Amending Procedural Order of March 23, 2017, dated April 20 4, 2017, Pinal Central Energy Center, LLC ("Applicant") provides its response to the 21 Memorandum of Law Number Two Re: Deed for 50' x 50' Easement submitted by Lynda 22 Williams ("Ms. Williams"). In her Memorandum, Ms. Williams asks "whether this 23 Committee has jurisdiction to consider whether the fact that the Applicant has no legal 24 access over her property to the west fields, where Applicant proposes to construct a 230kV gen-tie line, should result in denial of the CEC."¹ Ms. Williams then asserts that "the 25 Committee must find it has jurisdiction to consider the lack of access issue and, on that 26

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¹ Williams Memorandum of Law No. 2 at 2, lines 4-6.

ground alone, that it may deny the CEC requested by Applicant."² However, Ms. 1 2 Williams' Memorandum misstates key facts, as discussed herein, and ignores the fact that 3 Applicant has access to an Easement (as discussed below) across Mr. Williams' property 4 that will provide access to Applicants Gen-Tie Project, as hereinafter defined. For these 5 reasons, Ms. Williams' arguments as set forth in her Memorandum should be rejected. 6 There is simply no basis or jurisdiction for the Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting 7 Committee ("Siting Committee") to reject Applicant's application ("Application") in this 8 docket based on an erroneous claim of a lack of legal access.

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INTRODUCTION

10 In this docket, Applicant is requesting a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC") for a 0.40-mile 230 kilovolt ("kV") alternating current generation transmission 11 12 tie-in line ("Gen-Tie") and associated substation facilities ("Project Substation") 13 (collectively, the "Gen-Tie Project") in order to connect Applicant's planned 20 megawatt ("MW") alternating current solar photovoltaic ("PV") plant and connected 10 14 15 MW/40MWh advanced energy storage (i.e., battery) system (collectively, the "Solar 16 Facility") to the electric grid at the Pinal Central Substation. Ms. Williams asserts that 17 Applicant lacks legal access across her property to the site of the proposed Project 18 Substation and Gen-Tie and that Applicant lacks legal access across her property to 19 connect the Solar Facility to the Project Substation. However, Ms. Williams' assertions 20regarding access are not relevant in this proceeding and she misstates key facts regarding 21 Applicant's access.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

A. <u>Applicant's Planned Solar Facility is Not Subject to this</u> <u>Proceeding</u>.

On April 3, 2017, Applicant filed its Memorandum on the Siting Committee's Jurisdiction to Consider Impacts or Circumstances Pertaining to Applicant's Planned 20 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic and Batter Storage Facility. Applicant's Memorandum laid

28 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Id.* at 2, lines 4-6.

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out the legal arguments why the Siting Committee has no jurisdiction over the planned
 Solar Facility and why the Siting Committee may not consider facts, circumstances, and/or
 impacts pertaining solely to the Solar Facility which are not otherwise related to the Gen Tie Project. Applicant's April 3, 2017 Memorandum is incorporated herein by this
 reference.

6 The focus of this proceeding is solely on the Gen-Tie Project; there is no 7 requirement that Applicant obtain a CEC for the Solar Facility. Pursuant to an executed 8 option agreement, Applicant has control of the property where the Project Substation and 9 Gen-Tie will be constructed, and Applicant has legal access to that property via an 10 Easement (as discussed below) granted by Ms. Williams in favor of the current owners of 11 the property. At the time Applicant acquires the optioned property, it will acquire—via 12 assignment-the Easement. Thus, there is no issue regarding Applicant's legal access to 13 the site of the Project Substation or the Gen-Tie.

Ms. Williams' assertion that Applicant lacks legal access across her property to connect the planned Solar Facility to the Project Substation is not material to the Gen-Tie Project and is outside the scope of this proceeding. Applicant would note also that it has options other than crossing Ms. Williams' property for connecting the Solar Facility and the Project Substation.

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B. <u>Ms. Williams Misstates Key Facts</u>.

Attached as Exhibit "A" to Williams's Memorandum is a copy of a Warranty Deed
("Warranty Deed") dated March 29, 2005, by which Marvin W. Wuertz and Kathleen P.
Wuertz, as Trustees of the Marvin and Kathleen Wuertz Trust dated March 9, 2001,
conveyed to Frank C. Williams and Lynda Williams certain real property. In that Warranty
Deed, the Wuertz's as grantors reserved unto to themselves an easement ("Easement")
described broadly as follows:

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RESERVING UNTO THE GRANTOR(S), THEIR SUCCESSOR(S), HEIR(S) AND ASSIGNS(S) AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE NORTH 50.00 FEET OF THE WEST 50.00 FEET THEREOF.

The Easement connects two parcels of property currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wuertz (the "Wuertz Property"). Applicant has entered into an option agreement ("Option Agreement") to acquire the Wuertz Property which is benefitted by the Easement. Pursuant to the Option Agreement, Applicant has right to enter the Wuertz Property and to use the Easement. The Easement is referred to in Ms. Williams' Memorandum as the 50' x 50' easement.

10 There are several misstatements of fact in Ms. Williams' Memorandum. First, Ms. 11 Williams states that the Easement "is not any more than a courtesy ingress and egress 12 easement granted to Mr. Wuertz for farming purposes only."³ However, the plain language 13 of the Easement contained in the Warranty Deed includes no such limitations—either that 14 the Easement is a courtesy or that it is limited to farming purposes. Moreover, Applicant 15 can find no reference in the law to a courtesy ingress and egress easement.

Second, Ms. Williams states that "[t]he history of use would establishes [sic] that 16 the parties agreed to a limited use, (i.e. for farming), that there was no other use 17 contemplated by the parties....⁴ However, the agreement of the parties is reflected in the 18 plain and unambiguous language of the Warranty Deed, and there is no limitation of the 19 Easement to farming. Moreover, it is not clear how Ms. Williams could know that Mr. 20 and Mrs. Wuertz contemplated no use other than farming. The fact that Mr. and Mrs. 21 Wuertz have entered into the Option Agreement, granted access on their property to 22 Applicant, and allowed Applicant to use the Easement as their guest/invitee shows that the 23 Wuertz's themselves do not view the Easement as limited to farming. 24

There is an interesting fact that was omitted from Ms. Williams' Memorandum. It
 appears that Ms. Williams previously granted a non-exclusive "High Voltage Easement"

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³ Williams Memorandum of Law No. 2 at 2, lines 8-11.

⁴ Williams Memorandum of Law No. 2 at 2, lines 11-12.

across her property to Salt River Project ("SRP"). A copy of the High Voltage Easement
 dated May 2, 2008 is attached hereto as Attachment 1. The easement allows SRP:

[T]o construct, install, access, maintain, repair, reconstruct, replace, remove, and operate: a line or lines of poles, towers, or other supporting structures; conductors, cables, communication and signal lines; guys, anchorage, crossarms, braces, transformers, vaults, manholes, and pad-mounted equipment; underground conduits, conductors, pipes, and cables; fiber optic, microwave, and antennae for communication or data transmission purposes; and other appliances, appurtenances, and fixtures associated with the transmission and distribution of electricity and communications signals and other related purposes (collectively, "Facilities"), at such locations and elevations over, across, under, and upon the Easement Parcel as Grantee may now or in the future deem convenient or necessary, together with the right of vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress through and within the Easement Parcel and, at any intersection of the Easement Parcel and a public road or right of way, the unrestricted right of vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress to and from the Easement Parcel.

Ms. Williams asserts in her Memorandum that "[t]he frequency of the traffic and 13 14 the nature of the vehicles and the use they are serving will create much more intense use and negative impact upon the Williams Property." However, these stated concerns seem 15 at odds with the very expansive easement granted by Ms. Williams to SRP. The easement 16 granted to SRP over approximately 3.93 acres of Ms. Williams' property to install and 17 maintain high voltage power lines and related improvements has already made the servient 18 estate home to (i) power distribution infrastructure and (ii) vehicular traffic and the 19 presence of people and activity related to the installation, operation and maintenance of 20 21 that infrastructure, all in areas closer to their home than the Wuertz Easement. Moreover, there are simply no facts to support Ms. Williams' assertion that the frequency of the traffic 22 and nature of the vehicles associated with the Gen-Tie Project would create a more intense 23 use. Ms. Williams' arguments regarding the lack of legal access to the Gen-Tie Project 24 should be rejected. 25

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C. Ms. Williams Acknowledges the Validity of the Easement.

In her Memorandum, Ms. Williams acknowledges the validity of the easement,
stating "[a]lthough an easement for ingress and egress, appurtenant to the Wuertz

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properties north and west of the Williams Property, likely does exist, its scope is far too limited to accommodate a power line of any sort, nor does it accommodate [Applicant's] 3 industrial traffic." (emphasis added) Again, her argument regarding the lack of legal access to the Gen-Tie Project should be rejected.

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Legal Access Is Not a Precondition to Granting a CEC. D.

6 There is no requirement that an applicant for a CEC have legal access to the project. Thus, even if it could be shown that the Applicant does not currently have legal access for 8 the Gen-Tie Project, the Siting Committee can still grant a CEC. To recent examples of that very scenario are the CEC granted to Southline Transmission, L.L.C, in Docket L-10 00000AAA-16-0370-000173 and the CEC granted to SunZia Transmission, LLC, in Docket L-00000YY-15-0318-00171.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons discussed herein, Ms. Williams' arguments set forth in her 13 14 Memorandum should be rejected. There is simply no basis or jurisdiction for the Siting Committee to reject Applicant's Application in this case based on an erroneous claim of a lack of legal access.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this 7th day of April, 2017.

CROCKETT LAW GROUP PLLC

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Jeffrey W. Crockett, Esq. 2198 E. Camelback Road, Suite 305 Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Attorney for Pinal Central Energy Center, LLC

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| 1 | CERTIFICATION OF MAILING |
|------------------|--|
| 2 | ORIGINAL and 25 copies filed this 7th day of April, 2017, with: |
| 3 4 5 6 | Docket Control Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007 |
| 7 | COPY of the foregoing hand-delivered this 7th day of April, 2017, to: |
| 8 9 10 | Chairman Thomas Chenal Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE 1275 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007 |
| 11 12 | Andy Kvesic, General Counsel and Director of the Legal Division ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION |
| 13 14 | 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007 |
| 15 16 17 | Elijah O. Abinah, Acting Director Utilities Division ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007 |
| 18 19 | COPY of the foregoing sent via e-mail and First Class U.S. Mail this 7th day of April, 2017, to: |
| 20 21 | Lawrence V. Robertson, Jr., Esq. Of Counsel to MUNGER CHADWICK, PLC 210 W. Continental Road, Suite 216A |
| 22 23 | Green Valley, Arizona 85622 E-mail: <u>tubaclawyer@aol.com</u> |
| 24 | Attorney for Potential Intervenor SunZia Transmission, LLC |
| 25 26 | Tom C. Wray, Project Manager SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT 3610 N. 44 th Street, Suite 250 |
| 26 27 | 3610 N. 44 th Street, Suite 250 Phoenix, Arizona 85018 E-mail: <u>twray@southwesternpower.com</u> |
| 28 | |
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| 1 | Gilberto V. Figueroa, Esq. |
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| 2 | Attorney at Law P.O. Box 10248 |
| 3 | Casa Grande, Arizona 85130 |
| 4 | E-mail: <u>gvfigueroa@yahoo.com</u> |
| 5 | Attorney for Potential Intervenor Lynda Williams |
| | Rodney Q. Jarvis, Esq. |
| 6 | EARL, CURLEY & LAGARDE, P.C. 3101 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1000 |
| 7 | Phoenix, Arizona 85012 |
| 8 | E-mail: <u>rjarvis@ecllaw.com</u> Attorney for Potential Intervenor Lynda Williams |
| 9 | Thorney for I olennar Interventor Lynaa ir intanis |
| 10 | COPY of the foregoing sent via First Class U.S. Mail this 7th day of April, 2017, to: |
| 11 | Douglas V. Fant, Esq. |
| 12 | LAW OFFICES OF DOUGLAS V. FANT 3655 W. Anthem Way, Suite 109 |
| 13 | Anthem, Arizona 85086 |
| 14 | Attorney for Potential Intervenor SunZia Transmission, LLC |
| 15 | COPY of the foregoing sent via e-mail this 7th day of April, 2017, to: |
| 16 | Marta T. Hetzer |
| 17 | COASH & COASH, INC. 1802 N. 7th Street |
| 18 | Phoenix, AZ 85006 |
| 19 | E-mail: mh@coashandcoash.com |
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ATTACHMENT 1

TRANSNATION TITLE INS. CO.



WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

Salt River Project Land Department/PAB350 PO Box 52025 Phoenix, AZ 85072

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PINAL COUNTY RECORDER LAURA DEAN-LYTLE 05/06/08 1417 DATE /TIME : FEE! \$17.00 PAGES : 8 FEE NUMBER: 2008-042952

1571659 111

DO NOT REMOVE THIS COVER SHEET. IT IS NOW PART OF THE RECORDED DOCUMENT.

DOCUMENT TO BE RECORDED:

High Voltage Easement

WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

SALT RIVER PROJECT Land Department/PAB350 PO Box 52025 Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2025

HIGH VOLTAGE EASEMENT

Pinal County Parcel # 401-44-001L, 401-44-001E & 401-44-001K SRP file # 3

R/W #: 3113 Agt: RAP Job # NG1-630-203 W

C. Frank Williams, as his sole and separate property, as to Parcel # 1; Frank C. Williams and Lynda Williams, husband and wife as joint tenants with right of survivorship, as to Parcel # 2

hereinafter called Grantor ("Grantor"), for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other valuable consideration, the sufficiency and receipt of which are hereby acknowledged, does hereby grant and convey to SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT, an agricultural improvement district organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arizona, its employees, agents, contractors, co-owners, participants, licensees, and permittees, and its and their respective successors and assignees, whether in whole or in part (collectively, "Grantee"), a nonexclusive easement ("Easement") over, across, under, and upon the lands described below ("Easement Parcel") to construct, install, access, maintain, repair, reconstruct, replace, remove, and operate: a line or lines of poles, towers, or other supporting structures, conductors, cables, communication and signal lines; guys, anchorage, crossarms, braces, transformers, vaults, manholes, and pad-mounted equipment; underground conduits, conductors, pipes, and cables; fiber optic, microwave, and antennae for communication or data transmission purposes; and other appliances, appurtenances, and fixtures associated with the transmission and distribution of electricity and communication signals and other related purposes (collectively, "Facilities"), at such locations and elevations over, across, under, and upon the Easement Parcel as Grantee may now or in the future deem convenient or necessary, together with the right of vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress through and within the Easement Parcel and, at any intersection of the Easement Parcel and a public road or right of way, the unrestricted right of vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress to and from the Easement Parcel.

The lands over, across, under, and upon which this Easement is granted are situated in the County of Pinal, State of Arizona, and are more particularly described as:

Easement Parcel:

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

CAUTION: Facilities placed within the Easement Parcel may contain high voltage electrical equipment. Notice is given that the location of underground electrical conductors and other facilities must be verified as required by the Arizona Blue Stake Law, A.R.S. Sections 40-360.21-32, prior to any excavation. Notice is also given that any activity performed within the Easement Parcel shall comply with the Arizona Overhead Powerline Safety Law, A.R.S. Sections 40-360.41-45.

1. <u>Permitted Grantor Uses</u>. Grantor shall not construct any building within the Easement Parcel. Grantor shall not plant any trees, place any structure, drill any well, store materials of any kind, alter ground level by cut or fill, or permit residential uses within the Easement Parcel unless such activity or use does not unreasonably interfere with Grantee's Easement rights and privileges and such activity or use has first been approved in writing by Grantee pursuant to Paragraph 2 below.

2. <u>Use Approval Procedure</u>. Subject to the conditions stated below in 2(A) and 2(B), Grantor may use portions of the Easement Parcel for any purposes that do not unreasonably interfere with Grantee's Easement rights and privileges, including, as examples, cultivation, grazing, landscaping, parks, golf courses, storm water retention basins, cross fences, trail and bike paths, alleys, driveways, road crossings, vehicle parking or storing, irrigation ditches, pipelines, and public utilities.

(A) The use of the Easement Parcel by Grantor is conditioned upon the following:

(i) Grantor shall notify Grantee, in writing, of its intent to use the Easement Parcel;

(ii) Grantor shall provide Grantee with such drawings and narrative that Grantee requests for it to clearly understand the nature and scope of Grantor's proposed use; and

(iii) Grantee determines and notifies Grantor in writing that the proposed use, or modified use, does not unreasonably interfere with Grantee's ability to construct, install, access, maintain, repair, reconstruct, replace, remove, and operate the Facilities or any contemplated additional Facilities.

(B) Grantee's review and approval of Grantor's proposed uses shall be solely based on the criteria of Paragraph 2(A), subparts (i) through (iii).

3. <u>Fences</u>. Grantee, at its expense, may construct, modify, and maintain access openings, at such locations and of such dimensions as solely determined by Grantee, in all existing fences and walls across or within the Easement Parcel and may construct, maintain, and use gates in all existing walls and fences, provided that a multiple locking device accessible by both Grantor and Grantee shall be used on any locked gates. If Grantor constructs fences or walls across the Easement Parcel, Grantor shall, at its expense, provide Grantee with openings at locations and of such dimensions as solely determined by Grantee. Grantor, at its expense, may install gates across such openings and, if such gates are locked, shall make provisions for a multiple locking device for both Grantor and Grantee.

4. <u>Vegetation</u>. Grantee shall have the right (but not the obligation) to trim, cut, and clear away trees, brush, or other vegetation on the Easement Parcel whenever necessary in its judgment for its use, operation, maintenance of, and access to the Facilities or for safety or reliability reasons.

5. <u>Abandonment</u>. If Grantee records a document to formally abandon the Easement, all Grantee's rights in the Easement shall cease, except the right to remove any and all Facilities placed upon the Easement Parcel within a reasonable time subsequent to such abandonment.

6. <u>Running of Benefits and Burdens.</u> The covenants and agreements in this Easement shall run with and burden the land and shall extend and inure in favor and to the benefit of, and shall be binding on, Grantee and Grantor and their respective successors (including successors in ownership and estate), assigns, and lessees.

FRANK C. Williams AKA C. FRANK Williams and Lynda Williams IN WITNESS WHEREOF, A has caused its name to be executed by its duly authorized representative(s) this 200 day of May , 2008. By C. Faculturelin (Husband) Aparta Allinon (w. Fe) By Frank C. Williams 16 Synda h ellion Also Karon as

ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAPACITY CLAIMED BY SIGNER STATE OF ARIZONA INDIVIDUAL CORPORATION COUNTY OF PINAL) ss: LIMITED LIABILITY CORP. Title(s) of Corporate Officers(s): On this 2nd day of May, 2008, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared Corporate Seal is affixed FRANK C. W. Minns No Corporate Seal procured Also Kaving AS C. FRANK W. Minmy S PARTNER(s) Limited Rartnership General Partnership to me personally known LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY provided to me on the basis of or L ATTORNEY-IN-FACT satisfactory evidence EXECUTOR(s). to be the persons(s) whose name(s) is/are ADMINISTRATOR(s), subscribed to the within instrument and or TRUSTEE(s): acknowledged to me that he/she/they GUARDIAN(s) executed the same in his/her/their authorized or CONSERVATOR(s) capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their OTHER signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. NOTARY : SIGNER IS REPRESENTING: Sign in Ink) List name(s) of persons(s) or entity(ies): My Commission Expires: Budd Rodgers MARICOPA COUNTY Commission Expires SEAL: nber 12. 2010

Note: This instrument is exempt from the real estate transfer fee and affidavit of legal value required under A.R.S. Sections 11-1132 and 11-1133 pursuant to the exemptions set forth in A.R.S. Sections 11-1134(A)(2) and (A)(3).

ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAPACITY CLAIMED BY SIGNER INDIVIDUAL STATE OF ARIZONA CORPORATION COUNTY OF Paral) ss: LIMITED LIABILITY CORP. Title(s) of Corporate Officers(s): On this 2ard day of May , 2008 before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared Corporate Seal is affixed Londa Williams No Corporate Scal procured PARTNER(s)) Limited Rartnership General Partnership to me personally known LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY provided to me on the basis of or 4 ATTORNEY-IN-FACT satisfactory evidence EXECUTOR(s), to be the persons(s) whose name(s) is/are ADMINISTRATOR(s), subscribed to the within instrument and or TRUSTEE(s): acknowledged to me that he/she/they GUARDIAN(s) executed the same in his/her/their authorized or CONSERVATOR(s) capacity(ies), and that by his/hei/their OTHER signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. NOTARY : SIGNER IS REPRESENTING: List name(s) of persons(s) or entity(ies): My Commission Expires: Budd Rodgens KOTARY RUBLIC - ARIZONA MARICOPA COUNTY My Commission Expire SEAL: mber 12, 2010

Note: This instrument is exempt from the real estate transfer fee and affidavit of legal value required under A.R.S. Sections 11-1132 and 11-1133 pursuant to the exemptions set forth in A.R.S. Sections 11-1134(A)(2) and (A)(3).

