

# MOHAVE VALLEY IRRIGATION & DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Approved:  
01/04/18

## MEETING MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 07, 2017 AT THE OFFICES OF THE MOHAVE VALLEY IRRIGATION & DRAINAGE DISTRICT 1460 E. Commercial Street, Mohave Valley, AZ 86440

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman, Charles B. Sherrill, Jr., called the meeting to order at 4:19pm. Chairman, Charles B. Sherrill, Jr., announced that due to the amount of public present, he would like to modify the Agenda to move the last item (4E) to now be the first item on the Agenda (4A) and be done before any other discussion items.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Perry Muscelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL.

Present: Charles B. Sherrill, Jr., Chairman/Director Division III  
Vince Vasquez, Director Division II  
Clay Vanderslice, Director at Large  
Perry Muscelli, Treasurer/Director at Large  
John Kai, Jr., Director Division I  
Michael J. Pearce, District Counsel  
Mark R. Clark, CCM, Manager  
Kerri Hatz, Administrative Assistant

Absent: None

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATION.** Possible action to withdraw from, or move, any item on the Agenda, including the removal of an item from the Consent Agenda. John Kai Jr., made a motion to move item 4E (Presentation by CAGRDR) be moved to beginning of the meeting, Perry Muscelli seconded the motion. All in favor motion passed.

### 4. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. **Presentation to the Board by Perri Benemelis from Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR).** Discussion only. Perri Benemelis was asked to come up and give the presentation and Charles B. Sherrill, Jr., announced the Vince Vasquez with WPI has a conflict of interest with this item and has to recuse himself. Vince Vasquez left the room. Perri introduced herself as the manager of the water supply program for the Central Arizona Ground Water Replenishment District. She explained what CAGRDR does, why there is a water supply program and talked about the purchase agreement that their board approved for the purchase of land in this district. Additionally she talked about a rotational fallowing program pilot that was done with



another irrigation district, the Yuma Mesa Irrigation District in the Yuma area. This pilot program wrapped up in 2016 and that is the concept that they are interested in seeing if they can implement in conjunction with the irrigation district here. CAGRD is a division of Central Arizona Project, it was created by Arizona Legislature in 1993 and has a different function than CAP, and that is the responsibility of replenishing groundwater that is pumped by their members. CAGRD is financially separate from the rest of CAP and has a different function. Perri referenced the CAP Canal that runs from the Colorado River 336 miles to Tucson and the board they report to is the same board as the CAP but are different in nature. The CAP board also sets rates and taxes for CAP for the CAP service area and is responsible for operation of the canal and delivery of water within their service area. CAGRD is only responsible for replenishment services to its members. Its members pay all of the costs of the CAGRD, including the cost of acquiring water supplies to replenish water. There are about one (1) million people who are covered by CAGRD membership, all of the communities in the Tucson area including the city of Tucson are CAGRD members. There are a number of cities in the Phoenix area that are members as well as individual developments on the West side of the Phoenix/Metro area that are also members of CAGRD. Perri continued to explain their obligations come to them when the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) approves a certificate of assured water supply that relies on CAGRD membership. They have no ability to reject anyone who wants to be a CAGRD member. If they go through the process and are issued a certificate of assured water supply from ADWR, that obligation associated with replenishing ground water that is pumped for that development comes to them. Every ten (10) years they prepare a plan of operation that looks largely at what their existing water supplies are, and what potential water supplies are available to acquire to meet their functions and also project what their demand will be in the next ten (10) years, the next twenty (20) years and the next one hundred (100) years based on enrollment in the program. That is not speculative, that is actual enrollment in the program which will develop during the term of the plan of operation. The last one was done in 2015, there is a stakeholder process for that, and it took about one (1) year to complete, in which they take comment from folks, there was comment from Mohave County Water Authority (MCWA) submitted, one of the entities out here in Mohave County when we were putting together the most recent plan of operation. That document then goes to the ADWR and they determine if it is sufficient or not and if it is, the that is the plan that we operate on for the next ten (10) years unless something substantive changes from what was reported in that plan of operation. Membership in the CAGRD is relatively expensive, all of their members pay the costs for the program including the cost of acquisition of water. In addition to paying their water bill, members who are covered by



CAGRD are also responsible for paying fees and assessments to the CAGRD on an annual basis. Right now, that's a little over \$700.00 an acre foot of water. CAGRD has to go out and negotiate an agreement with a willing seller in order to acquire new water supplies. You have already probably read some of the reporting on this particular transaction. To date, CAGRD has approved over twenty (20) water acquisitions from a variety of sources, most have been local sources. They have acquired CAP subcontracting entitlements from entities that have not been able to use their entitlements. That went through a regulatory process also with ADWR and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in order to have those rights assigned to the CAGRD. We recently obtained recommendation from the ADWR to allocate just under twenty thousand (20,000) acre feet of lower priority, non-Indian agricultural priority CAP water, to CAGRD. Unfortunately that has been tied up in an environmental compliance process that has run about four (4) years now, so we are not sure entirely when that will be wrapped up and when we will be able to contract for that water supply. We have been successful in acquiring long term storage credits, we acquired a hundreds of thousands (100,000s) of acre feet of long term storage credits, but those are not a renewable supply, once they are used they are extinguished. This is not a supply we can look to in the future to meet our statutory obligations. Another supply of water included in our plan of operation, was ground water from one of the basins outside of the service area for CAP, where state law allows importation into the active management areas. There are only four (4) ground water basins where that is permitted under state law and that has not really been tested yet. There is a project that's being developed at this time to bring water into the Phoenix active management area from the Harquahala Ground Water Basin. But that has not been completed yet, so there is a question as to whether or not that is a feasible water supply and in our planning process that is something we would pursue at a later point in time. The regulatory process is really unknown at this time. Our plans of operation also have included the acquisition of mainstream Colorado River Water supplies. That was analyzed in our 2004 plan of operation and it was also included as a supply we would look to in our 2015 plan of operation. We have been really focused on that and that's what really caught our interests when we were aware that Water Asset Management or Water Property Investors was interested in selling their farm land within MVIDD. There are water rights associated with that. In October the CAP board approved the purchase and sale agreement for land and water in MVIDD, and if you are not aware of the statistics with that, we're looking about twenty-two hundred (2,200) acres of farm land, about fourteen thousand acre feet (14,000) of diversion based water rights, and that's comprised of about twenty-five hundred (2,500) acre feet of Present Perfected Rights (PPR) and about eleven thousand five-hundred (11,500) acre feet of 4<sup>th</sup> priority water rights. We are in the



process of due diligence on the land purchase right now, we have a closing date that is planned in mid-February, February 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>. If we complete the due diligence, and don't identify any particular issues with that, the plan is to close on that property at that time. The concept for CAGR is one to create a rotational fallowing program in conjunction with the district here. We have done that before, we just had a pilot program that concluded in 2016 with the Yuma Mesa Irrigation District and in that instance we developed the program in conjunction with the district's board of directors and implemented that in 2014. We had voluntary enrollment in the program so any growers who were interested in participating and met the criteria which included having a farming history, so it could not be anyone who had not farmed in the area, it could not be new lands in the area. If they had farming history and met certain criteria that was developed by the district, they were able to participate in that program. It was about fifteen hundred (1,500) acres in size, the growers participating in the program could substitute different acres in the program each year if they wanted to rotate it around. It provided a reliable revenue stream for them to build into their business plans for a known period of time. It was also very controversial at the time we implemented that. We had public meetings with elected officials and with the board and other members of the town that were interested in what we were up to. From our perspective we wanted to see how to go about doing something like that. We focused a lot of time on what kind of agreements we would need to have with the growers, what agreements we would need to have with the district, how we would go about substituting acres in the program if that is what the growers wanted to do. The principal there was the quantify of the water savings. The results were published in BOR's accounting for 2014, 2015 and 2016. With the pilot program CAGR did not take possession of the water. It was retained behind Lake Mead as part of the water supply retained for the last few years to try and avoid shortage operations. Perri stated that they did not observe any adverse impact in the economy in the Yuma area that resulted from that pilot program. That was due to working with the district, sizing the program appropriately and having appropriate criteria for enrollment in the program. This is the concept we have for MVIDD. It doesn't permanently take land out of production, we want to maintain the water rights, we want to maintain the agricultural production and it would be our goal to actually grow something that would be beneficial to the economy of the area. Farmers are business people also, they have to make a profit growing their crops and if they can do that more reliably because they have an alternative in the fallowing program of this type, then they are more profitable and we think that benefits the community and the county. That is what our experience has been in the Yuma Mesa project. That was a three (3) year pilot program. Someone asked from the floor if they renewed it, Perri replied they did not renew it. They wanted to renew it on a year to



year basis and that was not long enough agreement to warrant that. Charles B. Sherrill Jr., asked the public not to ask questions at this time to just listen to the presentation. Perri continued to explain that the district has a farmer interested in selling their land to CAGRD and their board is interested in acquiring those lands in the district. They want to implement a rotational fallowing program but they also want to make it available to interested growers within the district. The farming conditions within MVIDD are pretty difficult with the alkalinity of the soil. Those constraints in this area also effect productivity of the farms here. A voluntary rotational fallowing program would improve productivity and profitability, that's what our experience has been at Yuma Mesa. One of the issues that has come up is that CAGRD is a government entity and exempt from paying taxes, local taxes, but it is our intent to work out some sort of an arrangement with the taxing authorities here, so that we are paying to support the services that will be supporting our land ownership within MVIDD. The most important point that I would like to make is that because the amount of water that we are interested in using for CAGRD replenishment is the forgone consumptive crop use that would be used by those crops on the land if they were being farmed here, if those lands were not being fallowed. That portion of the water is what we would like to use for replenishment purposes. Because it's consumptive use, it's a smaller volume than diversion volume, it does not affect the water supply of any other water users on the main stem. There is still return flow of water coming back to the river from other fields being farmed in the district, there is less water being diverted so there is water available for water users on the main stem as well. Because it is a relatively small program, even if the entire district is involved, there are no expected water quality impacts associated with this concept that we would like develop with the district.

Perri Benemelis took several questions from the members of the public for about 45 minutes. There were many members of the public that made comments objecting to any possible transaction regarding water leaving the area. The majority of the crowd left about 5:25pm. Mohave County Board of Supervisors handed in the attached exhibit "A" letters. Charles B. Sherrill, Jr., continued to the next agenda item and Vince Vasquez joined the meeting in progress.

**WAIVER MOTION.** Motion to waive the reading of full minutes and resolutions presented for approval or adoption. Charles B. Sherrill, Jr., read the waiver motion. John Kai, Jr., made a motion, Perry Muscelli seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.



1. **REPORTS.**

- A. Staff report on water use. Charles B. Sherrill, Jr. reported that Lake Powell was at 61% full, Lake Mead was at 39% full, Lake Mohave was at 83% full, Lake Havasu was at 89% full and total system contents were at 55% full.
- B. Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Water Supply Report. Chip stated he just read that report.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.** The items listed below will be considered as a group and acted upon by one motion with no separate discussion of said items, unless a Board Member requests an item or items be removed for separate discussion and action. Perry Muscelli made a motion to approve, John Kai, Jr. seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

- A. Approve the October 03, 2017 Executive Meeting Minutes.
- B. Approve the October 03, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.
- C. Ratify payment of expenses for October 2017.

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

- E. **Presentation to the Board by Perri Benemelis from Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD).** Discussion only.  
This item was moved to the beginning of the Regular Meeting.
- A. **Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017 Financial Review.** Discussion and possible action to approve the financial review. Chip asked if there were any questions from the board members on this financial review, there was not. John Kai, Jr., made a motion to approve, Clay Vanderslice seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- B. **Mohave County Annual 48-251 Report.** Discussion and possible action to approve the report. Staff member Kerri reported that this is the annual report that is required by the County and it encompasses our approved financial review from the previous item along with a list of our current farmers. Clay Vanderslice made a motion to approve, Perry Muscelli seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
- C. **WPI-TAC Farm AZ, LLC: T18N, R22W, Sec. 27: APN: 225-26-114; Application to transfer 74.7 acre feet of water from Contract 1993-01 Gem Land to existing contract 2017-02A WPI-TAC Farm AZ, LLC.** Discussion and possible action to approve the application. Chip



explained that WPI purchased Gem Land's property which has an existing water allocation contract. Gem Land's contract will transfer to WPI now that the purchase is complete, the taxes are paid, and all the documents have been supplied to the district. Clay Vanderslice made a motion to approve, John Kai, Jr., seconded the motion. Vince Vasquez abstained. All in favor, motion passed.

- D. Los Lagos Golf Club; T18N, R22W, Sec. 01; APN(s): 225-71-388, 225-71-389A, 225-71-390B, 225-71-391C, 225-71-392A, 225-71-394, 225-71-395A. Application to transfer 550 acre feet of water from Los Lagos L.P. contract 1992-03.** Discussion and possible action to approve the application. Chip explained that Los Lagos has sold their golf course to another individual and the amenity water allocation contract would transfer over to the new owners. Los Lagos 1992-03 contract was for 650 acre feet of water but the new owners are requesting only 550 acre feet of water to transfer over. A member of the public asked who the new owner is, staff member Kerri replied it is Greg Sekura Inc., an Arizona Corporation. Perry Muscelli made a motion to approve, Vince Vasquez seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

- 5. PUBLIC INPUT.** Chip asked if any members of the public had any questions, several individuals addressed questions to Vince Vasquez and the board members.
- 6. ADJOURNEMENT.** John Kai, Jr. made a motion to adjourn, Clay Vanderslice seconded the motion. All in favor, meeting adjourn at 6:11pm.

**EXHIBIT "A"**

See attached



# MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

P.O. Box 7000  
Website – [www.mohavecounty.us](http://www.mohavecounty.us)

700 West Beale Street

Kingman, Arizona 86402-7000  
TDD - (928) 753-0726

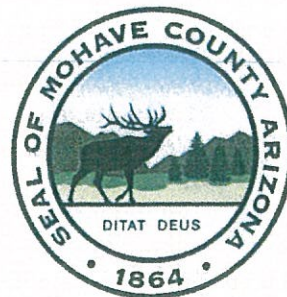
District 1  
Gary Watson  
(928) 753-0722

District 2  
Hildy Angius  
(928) 758-0713

District 3  
Buster D. Johnson  
(928) 453-0724

District 4  
Jean Bishop  
(928) 753-8618

District 5  
(928) 758-0739



County Administrator/County Engineer  
Michael P. Hendrix, P.E.  
(928) 753-0729

Clerk of the Board  
Ginny Anderson  
(928) 753-0731

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Lisa A. Atkins  
President, Board of Directors  
Central Arizona Water Conservation District  
23636 North 7th Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85024

RE: Agenda Item 14, September 7, 2017, Purchase and Sale Agreement to Acquire Water Rights and Land in Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, Mohave County, Arizona

Dear President Atkins:

I write to open a dialogue with you regarding Agenda Item 14 from your September 7, 2017 Board meeting. We appreciate that you and the Board postponed consideration of this item, and I want to urge you, and your fellow Board Members, to give serious consideration to the proposed land purchase to the extent that its purpose is to move water prudently set aside for rural Arizona Colorado River mainstream users to Central Arizona.

As you may recall, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution earlier this summer opposing the permanent transfer of any Colorado River Water Rights and Allocations designated to the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona, to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) for use in the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District.

Now the Mohave County Board of Supervisors must consider Agenda Item 14 and a contract in which the Central Arizona Water Conservation District proposes to purchase land and water rights in Mohave Valley, in Mohave County, and then transfer water to Central Arizona.

I write to advise you that Mohave County opposes such a contract and I wanted to share with you our rationale before you meet again on this matter. We view this proposed contract, and its transfer of any Colorado River Water, or any allocations to such water, from Mohave County to Central Arizona, as part of a continual attack on the water rights and economy of rural Arizona. It is that important to us. Here is why:

First, as a matter of public policy, 4<sup>th</sup> Priority Colorado River water allocated to the users on the mainstream of the River, such as Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District ("MVIDD") in this case, should not be transferred away from mainstream of the River. This is part of the water that the State of Arizona requested be reserved for municipal and industrial uses along the River. Except for that small reservation of 4<sup>th</sup> Priority Colorado River water to the users on the mainstream, CAWCD received all of Arizona's Colorado River entitlement remaining at the time that CAWCD and the United States entered into their initial agreement in 1972. That water was allocated long ago as part of the division of water for the mainstream users and water for the Central Arizona users. Moving it defeats the purpose for which it was reserved: to provide water for municipal and industrial users along the River.



The Honorable Lisa A. Atkins  
September 18, 2017  
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Second, also as a matter of public policy, we do not support and will oppose by all means a three-county conservation district using its superior taxing power to provide \$34 million in funds to buy and divert water from a rural Arizona county. Mohave County has no elected representation on the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board, and it appears three urban counties with a larger tax base are set to divert waters from rural counties.

Third, the "farmers," who purport to sell and divert the water to CAWCD, true address is 509 Madison Avenue, Suite 205, New York, NY, 10022 according to Arizona Corporation Commission records. The sellers appear to have truthfully named their company "Water Property Investor, LP" because they are New York financial interests speculating in the value of water in Arizona. We note that the assessed valuation of the seven properties combined is about \$440,000 and, yet, the purchase price is \$34 million. We fear that your Board of Directors is about to trade Mohave County's economic future for \$34 million, and we believe that is wrong. Water is an essential element for the economic development of Mohave County and without this water you seek, that region of Mohave County will be stripped of its economic development potential.

Fourth, the purported sale will remove 2,215 acres of farmland from the tax rolls of Mohave County and an assessed valuation of \$440,000, and place the acres in the ownership of a three-county conservation district that has no obligation to pay Mohave County property taxes. After four Executive Sessions starting in December of 2015 and apparently 21 months of negotiation in which Mohave County was not even notified (let alone invited to participate), your Board is now willing to at least consider our Mohave County tax base. At the very end of Slide # 8 of the CAWCD September 7, 2017, posted Action Brief, CAWCD advised it will "Meet with Mohave County and other local jurisdictions to evaluate options to minimize impact of CAWCD land ownership."

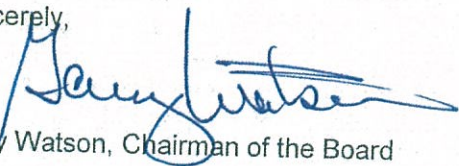
Of course, we are willing to meet to discuss the impact of your proposed purchase to our tax base. However, it is the transfer of water to Central Arizona that we oppose, and we will continue to oppose it throughout the administrative and judicial process should your Board approve this contract.

Finally, as a matter of law, present perfected water rights cannot be severed and moved to Central Arizona.

We urge you and your Board to carefully consider the proposed land purchase and all of its historic ramifications, and to consider that its purpose is to move water prudently set aside for rural Arizona Colorado River mainstream users to central Arizona. After your Board's thorough consideration, I hope you will conclude this contract should not go forward. Mohave County should not have to turn to the open market, compete with your Board's superior taxing power, and buy its own water back.

I look forward to working with you, and I would be pleased to journey to Phoenix to meet with you personally to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Gary Watson, Chairman of the Board

cc: CAWCD Board of Directors  
Mohave County Board of Supervisors



RESOLUTION NO. 2017-084

A RESOLUTION OF THE MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING THE PERMANENT TRANSFER OF ANY COLORADO RIVER WATER RIGHTS/ALLOCATIONS DESIGNATED TO THE TOWN OF QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA, TO THE CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR USE IN THE CENTRAL ARIZONA GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OR ANY OTHER ENTITY

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mohave County recognizes that water is one of our most precious resources that is in jeopardy of being depleted if not managed adequately; and

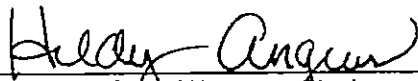
WHEREAS, both Mohave and La Paz Counties have previously received disaster drought designations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture which serves to intensify our level of concern; and

WHEREAS, continual raids of water rights/allocations from smaller river communities to benefit metropolitan areas sets a bad precedent and places the water supplies of rural jurisdictions at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Mohave does hereby oppose the permanent transfer of any Colorado River Water Rights/Allocations designated to the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona, to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District for use in the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District or any other entity.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2017.

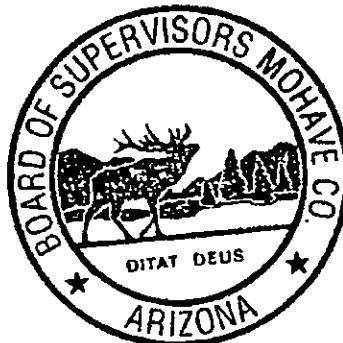
MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Gary Watson, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Ginny Anderson, Clerk of the Board





**Written Testimony of Mr. Gary Watson**

**Chairman of the Mohave County**

**Board of Supervisors**

**Before the Board of Directors of the**

**Central Arizona Water Conservation District**

**and the**

**Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District**

**October 5, 2017**

**Good afternoon Madame President and Board Members, for the record, I am Gary Watson, Chairman of the Mohave County Board of Supervisors and I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and thank you very much for your time. I represent District 1 in Mohave County and have been the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board numerous times since 2009. My family came to Mohave County in 1955 from Phoenix, and yes, I am one of those rare Arizona natives.**

**As to Item 5a on the Board's Agenda, I have journeyed to Tucson today to advise this Board that as a matter of public policy, Mohave County opposes the transfer of Fourth Priority Colorado River Water - that has already been allocated to communities along the river - away from the mainstream of the River for use in Central Arizona. It is the transfer of this water away from the mainstream of the River that Mohave County must oppose by all means, in all forums, and for as long as it takes.**

**Mohave County takes no position on the sale of lands, and takes no position on the use of water on the mainstream of the River for local use.**

**Mohave County opposes diversion of Fourth Priority water from the Colorado River Mainstream to Central Arizona, and opposes Item 5a to the extent the Board authorizes any transfer of Fourth Priority water to Central Arizona for replenishment purposes. In particular, the Memo on Item 5a recounts the purpose of the purchase to be: "(1) acquire secure rights to Colorado River water, and (2) implement a rotational fallowing program to generate a water supply for CAGRDR replenishment purposes."**



Second, also as a matter of public policy, we do not support a three-county conservation district, in which Mohave County and eleven other counties have no elected representation on the Board, using its superior buying power to provide \$34 million in funds to buy and divert water from rural counties. The water you seek to buy and transfer is the economic lifeblood of our Rural County in Mohave Valley. It is our very future and you seek to wheel it to three far wealthier counties for your own benefit. Our citizens demand that we protect their interests and oppose this action by all means.

The assessed valuation of the seven properties combined is about \$440,000 and yet the purchase price is \$34 million. We fear that the CAWCD is about to trade Mohave County's economic future for \$34 million and we think that is wrong.

Third, the purported sale will remove 2,215 acres of farmland from the tax rolls of Mohave County, and place the acres in the ownership of a three-county conservation district that has no obligation to pay Mohave County property taxes.

We have been asked why we use that level of about \$440,000 compared to your purchase price of \$34 million and not a higher Full Cash Value? Because this board is locking Mohave County into that lower \$440,000 assessed valuation in perpetuity – forever. When you take the water and place the purchased land in agricultural use forever, the economic growth potential of placing that land in light industrial uses, or residential uses, or even heavy industry like our steel plant in Kingman, Arizona, is gone forever. With any of those uses, our tax base and economy will sky rocket in value – but this CAWCD Board, which does not have any representation from Mohave County or vested interest in the well-being of its citizens, will have taken that opportunity for growth and locked us into an agriculture use with a negligible tax base forever. That is why we use the assessed valuation of about \$440,000.

And to pour salt in the wound, this CAWCD Board has never once reached out to us to even discuss whether you will pay some form of "in lieu" taxes to Mohave County. And surely, if we ever have that conversation, will this CAWCD Board be willing to pay taxes on the higher assessed valuation of light industrial or residential use, or even the Full Cash Value which our County Assessor valued this year at \$4.475 million? Surely this land, if left alone by CAWCD, will grow to one of these uses and bring far more economic vitality to Mohave County in the next 50 years than its current agricultural use.

Finally, according to your Action Brief posted prior to the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board has had four Executive Sessions starting in December 2015 to discuss this purchase. In 21 months of negotiation behind closed doors, Mohave County was never notified or given the opportunity to participate in the discussion. Is this how your board conducts business on a regular basis?



**We urge the Board to consider the historic ramifications of this proposed land purchase, and to consider that its purpose is to move water from Mohave County that was prudently set aside for rural Arizona Colorado River mainstream users to Central Arizona in 1968.**

**I hope that the Board will decide today that Item 5a, and this contract, should not move forward.**

**I ask you to hold this matter and not approve the contract. If you vote today, I ask you to vote NO, and to terminate any further consideration of this contract.**

**Thank you for your time and for the record I have attached as Exhibit 1 the Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District Resolution Number 90-01, approved and adopted on April 1, 2008, that prohibits the transfer of contracted water "outside of the District's external boundaries."**