Ron and Renell Stewart
5264 S. Equestrian Ave.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
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LEGAL
DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES

Docket Supervisor
Arizona Department of Water Resources, Legal Division
3550 North Central Ave., 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85012

RE: Designation of Adequate Water Supply, Pueblo del Sol Water Company (DWR No. 40-700705.0000)

Dear Sirs:

We have lived and worked in Sierra Vista for almost 30 years. We are very concerned that approval of the water required for the new Tributes subdivision will fundamentally alter this area by reducing the water supply needed for the flow of the San Pedro, thus resulting in the loss of the riparian area at some point in the future. This would be a disaster for our area: lost revenue from eco-tourism; substantial risk of closure of Fort Huachuca; and, selfishly, loss of a primary locale for outdoor recreation for us and all residents of this area.

In our time living here, we have experienced for ourselves the gradual reduction in the flow of the San Pedro, likely partly due to drought but also inevitably due to increased human usage as the city grew. At the same time, the creation of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and its subsequent ascension to being globally known bird habitat has created a destination for eco-tourists bringing a much needed boost to the economy of Cochise County. Further diminution of the flow will inevitably result in destruction of the San Pedro as habitat as well as a continued, "renewable" source of revenue and jobs in this area.

We do not believe that the rationale for allowing this increased water usage is credible. As we understand it, the argument is that water from a waste treatment plant will be sent into a recharge basin and this will negate the use of water to support over 6,000 new homes. At this point, there is no reliable evidence that recent efforts to recharge are even working. It seems to us that at the least these methods should be proven before using them as the basis for approving what is a risky plan that may cause severe damage to an already taxed riverine area.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Stewart Renell Stewart

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