



April 28th, 2009

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

We have been informed both sides of the legislative aisle are considering reducing the Department of Water Resources annual budget from \$24.1M to \$10M for this budget year. The personnel cuts from such a reduction would be draconian and cripple an organization from carrying out its most basic mandates. This is very disturbing short sightedness by an elected representative body especially in a state this is predominantly desert.

It was late last year when The Maguire Report was released within Arizona to much fanfare. It conclusively demonstrated the significant economic impact of the major military installations in Arizona. The report specifically noted Fort Huachuca as the dominant military installation in the state with an economic impact of more than \$2.7 billion annually.

Why is this important? A national news magazine and CNN identified Sierra Vista and Cochise County as demonstrating uncommon economic resilience during these uncertain economic times. The underlying reason is Fort Huachuca. That said, we still consider the water issue within the San Pedro River National Riparian Area and the congressional mandate for a sustainable water yield therein as the major threat to the Fort's future. The date for sustainable water yield is September 30, 2011. We believe that the ADWR is a key and essential partner in meeting this mandate and to the success of the Upper San Pedro Water District Organizing Board. As a past Chair of the Organizing Board, I can personally attest to the indispensable assistance of the ADWR.

While we do not believe the Department of Defense would close the Fort, it could certainly relocate units and missions from the Fort and do so without going through a BRAC process. I submit even the casual observer in Washington, DC would question the wisdom of reducing the mission and functions of DWR by the Arizona legislature knowing the sustainable yield mandate is quickly approaching.

We strongly urge you to resist these draconian cuts to ADWR and seek proportionality in these tough decisions and to ensure the State does its part to keep the economic engine of southern Arizona viable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence J. Porzouw".

Lawrence J. Porzouw
President

cf:

Senator Burns
Representative Adams