



Maricopa County

Board of Supervisors

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August 6, 2012

Mr. Ray Suazo
State Director, Arizona State Office
Bureau of Land Management
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Re: Sun Valley to Morgan transmission line Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft RMP Amendment by the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Mr. Suazo,

We write today to urge the Bureau of Land Management to support the Proposed Action in its Environmental Impact Study of the Sun Valley to Morgan transmission line project, to be constructed by the Arizona Public Service Company.

As you may know, the County has been following this transmission line case closely since its inception, from the review and approval of the proposed line by the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee and the Arizona Corporation Commission to the current Environmental Impact Statement assessment being conducted by the BLM.

We are aware that many interested homeowners, groups, and governmental agencies have been involved in this process, and that much work, including by the BLM, has gone in to ensuring that the route ultimately chosen for the Sun Valley to Morgan transmission line balances the interests of all of those who are impacted.

As an interested and affected stakeholder, the County believes that the route determined for the Sun Valley to Morgan line should attempt to minimize impacts to Lake Pleasant Regional Park, and in particular, the primary ingress and egress from the Lake, Castle Hot Springs Road. Lake Pleasant Regional Park is a significant tourism and recreation amenity for our county's residents, with thousands of people using the Park each year.

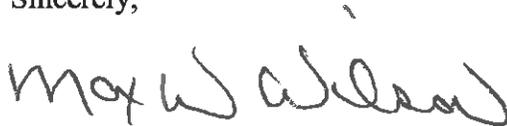
Maricopa County both acknowledges the scenic views afforded to those using State Route 74 and acknowledges the importance of renewable energy transmission by allowing above ground electric transmission lines for 69kV or greater along SR74. The actual placement of the transmission of the line, consistent with the Proposed Action and the ACC decision will allow visual impacts to be minimized and mitigated.

More specifically, we have reviewed the Proposed Action, and the BLM's Alternatives, which were released by the BLM in February, and believe that the Proposed Action strikes the appropriate balance and sufficiently avoids Lake Pleasant Park and Castle Hot Springs Road. The Proposed Action or ACC-certificated corridor would cross Route 74 to the west of Castle Hot Springs Road, and does not have the transmission line crossing Castle Hot Springs Road itself at any location.

Accordingly, the Proposed Action addresses our principal concerns with this matter. We believe that by selecting the Proposed Action as its Preferred Alternative, the BLM can simultaneously protect the interests of the County and its residents in having the full enjoyment and use of Lake Pleasant Regional Park, while also facilitating a transmission line that has undergone extensive state regulatory reviews and is needed for electric reliability and renewable energy.

For these reasons, we urge the BLM to adopt the Proposed Action in the ongoing EIS process.

Sincerely,



Chairman Max Wilson



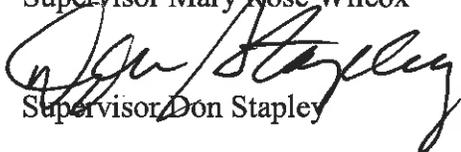
Supervisor Andy Kunasek



Supervisor Fulton Brock



Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox



Supervisor Don Stapley