



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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C. H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

March 12, 2008

Steve Owens, Director
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Status of Outstanding Waters of the State of Arizona Designation for Davidson Canyon

Dear Mr. Owens:

In February of 2005 Pima County, in partnership with the Pima Association of Governments, nominated Davidson Canyon for designation as an Outstanding Waters of the State of Arizona. This nomination was based on the fact that Davidson Canyon is a rare, perennial, low-elevation desert stream with native fish and frogs, unique riparian habitat, and spectacular geology. The water quality has been found to be excellent. Furthermore, it contributes a significant portion of the flow in Cienega Creek, already a Unique Waters of the State, and in turn contributes a significant amount of water to the Tucson Basin. Because of the importance of Davidson Canyon, the County spent over \$8 million of voter-approved bond funds and Federal Transportation Enhancement funds to purchase a ranch that contains a portion of the Canyon. The County continues to seek conservation opportunities along the remaining unprotected stretch of the Canyon, between the ranch and the Coronado National Forest.

It is my understanding that Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) staff is supportive of this designation and the designation is currently being processed within a larger water quality rule making process, which will need approval by ADEQ, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council and the Environmental Protection Agency. It has been three years since the nomination and I have heard differing reports on where this is in the process, and the timeline for this process. I would greatly appreciate an update from you.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry".

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator - Public Works
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator