



Town of Prescott Valley

Office of the Mayor

7501 E. Civic Circle
Prescott Valley
Arizona 86314

August 19, 2008

Mayor Jack D. Wilson
City of Prescott
P.O. Box 2059
Prescott, AZ 86302

Dear Mayor Wilson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the request for federal funding to study the Verde River.

The intent of the letter has merit. However, to write it on behalf of the Verde River Basin Partnership (VRBP) remains questionable. There are several reasons for our concern.

First of all, it will be necessary to get the approval of our Council. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is August 28, however, until the committee working with the VRBP has concluded their meetings we question whether any action is in order.

Also, we have several concerns about the VRBP. It lacks composition of elected officials who, by the authority of their office, are designated stewards of public assets. The VRBP leadership has approached the Yavapai County Water Advisory Council about becoming a subcommittee in which the intent seems to be to gain public structure and stewardship. This has not been finalized.

Should the VRBP be reorganized as a publicly run entity, meaning by the stewardship of those elected by the citizens, and have public scrutiny and accountability; its viability would certainly be enhanced.

It has also been mentioned that the Yavapai County Water Advisory Council has submitted a proposal to Senator Kyl and Senator McCain to consider funding through that agency. Accordingly, it may be that any other request would be redundant.

The above concerns are mine only. Under the scrutiny of the open meeting law it is my position to not consult with the council except in public meeting. (Certain exceptions allow for executive sessions.)

Thank you again. We will be in touch.

Sincerely,

Harvey C. Skoog, Mayor
Town of Prescott Valley

cc: Governor Janet Napolitano
Herb Guenther, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Senator Tom O'Halleran
Representative Lucy Mason
Representative Andy Tobin