

David versus Goliath Battle Unfolds as Local Man Fights to Protect San Pedro Watershed from Massive Transmission Line

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phoenix, AZ—An ordinary citizen from Mammoth, Arizona, Peter Else, has filed a lawsuit in an attempt to protect the San Pedro watershed from the devastating environmental effects of the SunZia powerline. Else contends this unnecessary powerline has been greenwashed under the guise of moving “renewable” energy from New Mexico to California. Else filed a complaint in Superior Court against the Arizona Corporation Commission (“ACC”) on April 25.

Else and others have fought the project for the past six years in an effort to protect Arizona's last remaining natural desert river watershed, the San Pedro Valley. Evidence presented in the review process for the project, at both the federal and state level, indicates that only a relatively small portion of the 515-mile proposed project in New Mexico and Arizona is economically feasible for construction and operation. That portion would facilitate the transmission of fossil-fuel-generated electricity for SunZia's main utility partner, the Salt River Project (“SRP”), instead of renewable energy. SRP supports this portion of the transmission line despite the fact that it would damage the same biologically-rich watershed that provides environmental mitigation credits for its prior development impacts in the Salt River watershed.

ACC Chairman Doug Little's dissent to the recent decision on SunZia supports Else's arguments, and can be found following the decision statement at this link:

<http://images.edocket.azcc.gov/docketpdf/0000168504.pdf>

Mr. Else's recent application to the ACC for a rehearing of their narrow 3-2 approval of the SunZia permit was denied and is available at this link:

<http://images.edocket.azcc.gov/docketpdf/0000168955.pdf>

“I am so sick and tired of government officials refusing to base their analyses on legitimate evidence submitted during a public process and, instead, covering for the underlying purposes of private corporations. I’ve engaged in the administrative process and fought this project for six years. I will do all I can to protect the San Pedro. At this point court action is the only option available.”

Peter Else, April 25, 2016

A copy of the complaint filed today in Superior Court is attached.

Those wishing to support legal action to protect the San Pedro watershed can donate at this link:

<http://cascabelworkinggroup.org/CWGdonate.html>