

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Board.

My name is Maria Araiza-Troutner. The first time I spoke before you at your Tucson meeting on April 13th, I was the only resident of Cascabel in attendance to address the issue of preserving and protecting the San Pedro River Valley. This time, however, I am not the only voice from our community.

Today the community of Cascabel is being represented by well informed individuals who will state their opposition to the construction of an interstate highway through the Valley and its tributaries.

I am a member of the Cascabel Working Group. I am also the fourth generation of the Sanchez, Gamez and the Araiza families to reside in the San Pedro River Valley. And I want to express my appreciation to everyone who supports the opposition to this Bypass.

The Cascabel Working Group has gathered over 400 signatures from people signing on to the following message:

“ I URGE ADOT TO SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE AND THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE SAN PEDRO RIVER VALLEY BY REJECTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN I 10 BYPASS OR ANY OTHER HIGHWAY THROUGH THE SAN PEDRO RIVER VALLEY.

We are requesting these cards be entered into the record.

As State Transportation Board members, you have the power to either destroy an important and unique area of our state or you can write your positive legacy in Arizona history by discontinuing any further study and planning for the Bypass.

Decide in favor of stopping the study and you will grant a gift that will keep on giving to everyone in Arizona and to many others, for generations to come!

Thank you.