

## **APPENDIX J**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RECLAMATION'S RESPONSES**

**From:** "Darlene Andrew, Tohono O'odham Legislative Representative; Sif Oidak District" <dandrew@toua.net>  
**To:** <jwmcglothlen@lc.usbr.gov>  
**Date:** 7/18/2005 5:16:35 PM  
**Subject:** [Spam] San Xavier Cooperative Farm Rehabilitation, Draft Environmental Assessment

Mr. McGlothlen, first of all we thank you for your returned call, July 15, 2005. At this time we were attending a meeting in Tucson and therefore were not able to get back with you, until today, so on behalf of the Tohono O'odham Legislative Water Committee, thank you for accepting our comment per e-mail.

At a meeting held on July 07, along with Mr. John Petersen, Chief Hydrologist for the Tohono O'odham Nation, we jointly met to review Chapter 2, of the San Xavier Cooperative Farm Rehabilitation, Draft Environmental Assessment, that pertained to the water. We have come to the conclusion that this is a good plan, however our only concern is on the CAP water;

- 1) Will this get into the ground water?
- 2) Will this cause problems for the aquifers?
- 3) How would this be monitored?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this assessment.

Darlene Andrew,  
Tohono O'odham Nation - Water Committee Chairperson

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## **Response to Comments from Tohono O'odham Legislative Water Committee**

1. Page 32 of the draft EA noted that approximately 23 percent of the water applied to agricultural land in the form of flood irrigation percolates to the aquifer.
2. Percolation of CAP water into the aquifer will not significantly affect groundwater quality. Although localized increases in total dissolved solids and sulfate will occur, no exceedances of Arizona Aquifer Water Quality Standards or Federal primary drinking water standards in groundwater is expected (page 33 of the draft EA). Perching of shallow water above restrictive clay lenses could result in localized waterlogging, requiring the installation of agricultural drains (page 39 of the draft EA). Piezometers may be needed in the future to assess long-term water level trends, the potential for waterlogging, and the need for agricultural drains.
3. The District is preparing a comprehensive water resource management plan that will assist planners in developing strategies for reducing potential adverse impacts on groundwater quality. Included in this plan will be a groundwater quality monitoring requirement that the District will implement.