



April 29, 2015

Dear Supporters of the Gila River Projects,

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of the *Gila River Projects, Restore the River* and the State of Arizona. As you know, as representatives of Avondale, Goodyear, Buckeye and Maricopa County, we have grave and growing concerns over public safety, economic and conservation issues regarding the expanded Lower Gila River floodplain.

Accordingly, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County is progressing with a study that identifies several remediation, levee and cost options to remedy the primary obstacle of removing and eradicating salt cedar trees. The final costs and phasing alternatives will be completed by fall of 2015, as we continue our public private planning efforts.

During our recent multi-jurisdictional tour of the affected area, we observed evidence of the harmful threats to our communities that are created by the salt cedar trees overgrowth -- including fire and flooding hazards. We are also studying the effects of saving up to 300 gallons of water per day, per salt cedar tree removed as part of a broader water conservation effort.

Your support is essential as we plan to work with you to:

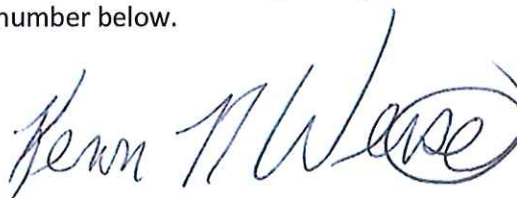
- 1) *Identify available Federal and State resources*
- 2) *Establish a public private working relationship with Buckeye/West Valley Land Owners to create solutions in problem areas*
- 3) *Garner the emergency funds to mitigate immediate flood risks and fire dangers*
- 4) *Expedite regulatory permitting from the Army Corps of Engineers or other federal agencies for river restoration activities, including the removal of salt cedars.*

We ask for your support as the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and other local and federal agencies join our efforts to ensure the Lower Gila River Floodplain, maintains a long-term, sustainable, safe and productive river for our constituents and our communities.


Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact Mayor Meck at the number below.

Sincerely,


Mayor Jackie A. Meck, City of Buckeye
(623) 349-6949


Mayor Kenn Weise, City of Avondale
(623)-333-1613


Mayor Georgia Lord, City of Goodyear
(623)-882-7776


Supervisor-District 4, Clint Hickman, Maricopa County
(602)-506-7642