October 14, 2014

I am writing to express my profound concerns about the proposed damming and diversion of the Gila River in southwest New Mexico.

The proposed dam project is estimated to cost over $1 billion and would generate little or no usable water for New Mexico farmers and cities. The cost of financing, operation and maintenance would increase water bills for users.

Scientific models have proven that there is little or no water available for diversion and that evaporation and seepage rates further reduce deliverable water.

The dam would damage or destroy recreational opportunities that the SW New Mexico economy depends on. Planners and the ISC have not considered the environmental destruction the proposed damming and diversion of the wild Gila River would have on habitat and species.

Viable alternatives have been proposed that could save up to 15,000 acre feet of water per year. Federal funds are available for these alternatives. These projects would not require additional funding from New Mexico taxpayers.

I have included a fact sheet for you to look over.

I ask you to oppose the destruction of New Mexico’s wild Gila River in favor of conservation alternatives that make sense for SW New Mexico.

Sincerely,