



City of Scottsdale

3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Note: the original version of this document
inadvertently omitted the date.
This letter was signed May 16, 2023.**

Dear Governor Hobbs,

Please accept our request that you veto HB2441, standpipe service; continuation; emergency. The City of Scottsdale is sensitive to the water issues Rio Verde Foothills (RVF) residents are facing and has been hopeful for a non-legislative solution to water provisions during establishment of long-term services to the area.

Unfortunately, this bill forces Scottsdale to violate its State required Drought Management Plan, while risking the wellbeing and interests of Scottsdale residents and businesses. For the following reasons, we believe this legislation that specifically unfairly targets Scottsdale is bad policy and sets a precedence which will deter other municipalities from providing water outside their boundaries in the future:

- It forces Scottsdale to provide utility service to an unincorporated area outside its boundaries without requiring a governmental intermediary, and to contract with water haulers and RVF residents. The residents of RVF have the ability to create a water district but have not chosen to do so. The City has shown a willingness to provide assistance through Maricopa County (the local governing body for RVF) via an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) but Maricopa County has chosen not to assist their residents through an IGA.
- The residents of RVF have been warned for years that the City would no longer be providing water.
- The set fee of \$20.00 per gallon may not be reasonable. EPCOR has stated its prices could range from \$20-\$40 per 1000 gallons.
- Self-hauling is not regulated and may allow provision of water to other parties without proper sanitation, thus risking health and safety.
- There is no mechanism in place that recognizes the loss of recycled water return flows from water hauling, a key part of Scottsdale's water planning efforts.
- Amending Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan to allow for standpipe services to residents outside its boundaries and to contract with private entities is in direct conflict with effective and sensible drought management. It also penalizes Scottsdale for trying to manage the drought facing all of Arizona.
- The bill does not protect the interests of Scottsdale Water customers who have contributed to building and maintaining the City's water system.
- Scottsdale will be required to provide no less than 150 acre-feet of water annually from its own supply if an additional source cannot be procured.
- The RVF community is currently receiving water from other sources.

Additionally, this legislation does not address the root cause of wildcat subdivisions and acting in concert. Until the statutory loophole which allows for excessive development of unincorporated areas without a 100 year assured water supply is closed, measures like this only assist in promoting such activities; thus, subverting statewide drought management efforts and encouraging poor water policy.



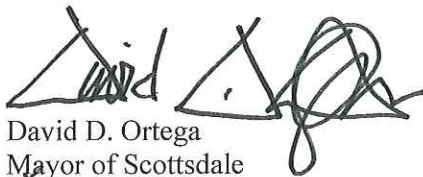
City of Scottsdale

3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

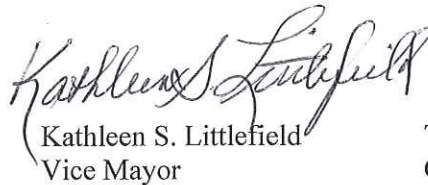
The City of Scottsdale understands the needs of RVF residents to obtain safe and affordable water and is ready and willing to be a participant of a sensible solution while protecting Scottsdale residents and resources. We respectfully ask that you veto HB2441 and continue to work with stakeholders toward a logical resolution.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Mayor David D. Ortega and Members of the Scottsdale City Council



David D. Ortega
Mayor of Scottsdale



Kathleen S. Littlefield
Vice Mayor



Tammy Caputi
Councilwoman



Tom Durham
Councilmember



Barry Graham
Councilmember



Betty Janik
Councilwoman



Solange Whitehead
Councilwoman