

From: melissa owen
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 10:28 AM
To: District3
Cc: Linda Mayro
Subject: a letter of support to the BOS from Sierra Vista Ranch

Dear Supervisor Bronson,

I am writing this morning to you and to the entire Pima County Board of Supervisors to thank you for your help in opposing the Sierrita Gas Pipeline which Kinder Morgan Co. is proposing to construct in the Altar Valley where I live and through the Sierra Vista Ranch which my husband and I own and where we have lived and worked for the past eleven years.

Since 1995, I have worked and lived in this Valley both as a part-time employee and volunteer of the Buenos Aires NWR (I was the National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer of the Year in 2001). I have headed up the Adopt-a-Highway program along Highway 286 since 1997 and although I am no longer on the Board at the San Fernando School in Sasabe, I still volunteer there. Since purchasing the Sierra Vista Ranch in 2003, Troy and I have worked to protect and enrich our land with erosion control and rainwater harvesting projects sponsored by the Partners for Wildlife program and NRCS and we have worked cooperatively with the Arizona Fire District to initiate a prescribed burn program here on the ranch. We have always felt proud that Pima County was our partner in protecting this incredible ecosystem through the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Now, we face the prospect not only of having a 100 - 150 ft. utility right-of-way plowed through not just our valley, but our ranch. If we refuse to sell to Kinder Morgan, they will have our land condemned at it will be taken from us. As you all know, the pipeline will cause not only "direct and indirect, and short-term to permanent impacts on wildlife resources" but would encourage "unauthorized roads and trails, dispersed camping sites, illegal dumping and littering, U.S Border Patrol enforcement activities"...that...."contribute to habitat degradation and contamination". [a quote from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's own EIS] but will create a "superhighway for smugglers" in the words of Tucson Sector of US Border Patrol. Although BP agents have now been instructed not to discuss this project with anyone, an agent recently told me that "drugs are pouring through Sasabe right now". Could it be because, even though this project is not yet permitted in the U.S., construction has already begun just south of the border? I am sending a photograph of the right-of-way in Sonora and you can see that it runs directly up to the border fence. You can also see what we can expect on our land and the other private land Kinder Morgan will cross if this disastrous project is allowed to go forward. As Mr. Huckleberry has pointed out, no pipeline right-of-way has ever been successfully restored in southern Arizona and none of us expect this one will be either.

The bottom line is, I suppose, that Kinder Morgan is a company worth \$200+ billion and they will eventually triumph. This project will create no new permanent jobs, will benefit no one who lives in Pima County and in fact the major investors in the Sierrita Pipeline are from Mexico and Japan. And the legacy will be a permanent scar running through a pristine desert grassland which is home to eight endangered species including the jaguar. The taxpayers of Pima County will be cheated and our land will be stolen from us.

We don't have \$200 billion, but we will not cease working to stop this shameful project and we want to let the Board of Supervisors know how grateful we are to have your support. Pima County's stewardship of the land is a legacy to be proud of.

Thank you,

Melissa Owen
Troy McDaniel
Rancho Sierra Vista de Sasabe
P.O. Box 205



This is a photograph my husband and I took of the pipeline right-of-way just west of Sasabe. It runs directly up to the border fence. I currently live behind an 8-foot-tall chain link fence and must carry a gun when I go to work in my vineyard. What will life be like when this same 100-foot-wide "de facto road" runs within a quarter mile of my house?