

## **Candidate Positions on the Future of the San Pedro River**

### **To Candidate...**

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request that you describe your position on issues and actions that will impact the future of the San Pedro River. We are in a time when major changes are occurring in our area, e.g., border wall construction, groundwater overdraft, and further development of housing and agriculture. Debate is ongoing over exactly what should be done and how to mitigate the impact of actions now underway. We would like to know where you and other candidates for office stand on these issues.

The Friends of the San Pedro River (FSPR), founded in 1987, is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the river through advocacy, education, and interpretation. Our intent is to publish the responses we receive to these questions to our members and through media outlets to the public. The goal is to provide information for voters this fall as they consider which candidates they will support.

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area is federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It was set aside by Congressional act in 1968 to protect the gallery forest along the river, scarce aquatic and other native habitats, wildlife corridors, and cultural history sites. Recent developments threaten those values – groundwater pumping, encroachment, and barriers to wildlife movement.

### **Here are our questions:**

1. How do you envision the upper San Pedro River (from the border to St. David) ten years from now? This entails recreational

opportunities, wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, and natural and cultural resource protection.]

**If groundwater pumping continues at the present rate and the structure being built on the riverbed moves forward, as well as the dismantling of Environmental Protection laws, I foresee a barren landscape with little wildlife and the loss of an irreplaceable national treasure.**

2. What measures do you favor to avoid aquifer depletion that otherwise would degrade the river's surface flow and the wildlife habitat that relies on that flow and underlying groundwater?

**I believe it is the responsibility of state and local elected officials, as caretakers of the San Pedro Area, to propose and pass legislation that will properly regulate and measure the pumping of groundwater across the state, and limit the industrial and agricultural use of this finite resource.**

3. There is widespread concern that the border wall project has been conducted with inadequate public engagement, analysis of alternatives, and environmental impact assessment. Moreover, there are concerns that it will disrupt wildlife corridors and dispersal of large fauna including jaguars, ocelots, puma, bears, and deer. Will you speak out for greater Congressional oversight, public input, transparency, and accountability on the part of the federal government before it embarks on such projects?

**I will, absolutely, be an opposing voice to the border wall project, as well as any similar projects that would adversely affect the fragile habitats of the San Pedro Riparian Conservation Area.**

**Kim Beach-Moschetti**

**Please respond to the Friends of the San Pedro River at [fspr@sanpedroriver.org](mailto:fspr@sanpedroriver.org) by 31 August 2020.**