



Friends of Carefree,

Yes it has been a long while, and although I'm not quite ready to resume the regular distribution of the CFM Newsletter, I do want to pass on some information regarding the water company struggles between the town of Carefree and our neighboring town of Cave Creek. You may have already seen a letter related to this topic in the October 21st edition of The Sonoran News. I did not want to steal that thunder before their print edition was published, but I will follow up now.

A CFM subscriber has asked me to share some information with you regarding a petition, and I am happy to do so. *From my perspective*, this entire water *project* has been cloaked in far too much secrecy. The timing of the project announcement in June of 2018 most certainly helped the struggling reelection campaign of the mayor. Subsequently, Carefree refused to disclose any information I had requested in a Public Records Request, hiding behind an attorney's favorite trump card (no current political pun intended), '**confidentiality**'. We, the customers, pay the freight for the water company but are not permitted to see cost estimates and the related expenses to date, including legal fees. We needed to be kept in the dark, and apparently that is still the case. The veil of secrecy is pulled back a wee bit when it serves the town's purpose, but never far enough to allow Carefree water customers to see what should have been disclosed many months ago, and what may be coming at them.

To obtain updated information regarding Carefree's lawsuit against Cave Creek, I searched Court filings and discovered that a second lawsuit had been filed, this one against Carefree by a third party. The documents show that trial is to begin in January. The Carefree vs. Cave Creek legal action entered Arbitration on Monday, October 26th. Time will tell how all these legal battles shake out.

To date, 80% of Carefree residents and businesses who currently comprise 100% of Carefree Water Company customers have had no voice in this matter. The voices emanate almost exclusively from those who will directly benefit from the project moving forward, and of course the mayor's team (several will benefit). **That has changed.** A group of concerned Carefree residents, who identify themselves as ***Carefree Citizens for Affordable and Sustainable Water***, have begun alerting Carefree Water customers to the impact of this project absent any substantive information from the Water Company or the Town Council. They started a petition to communicate to the Carefree Town Council that, while they agree everyone deserves clean water, there are other options to achieve that without incurring huge expenses, raising our water rates, or destroying protected Sonoran Desert.

If you have not already done so, read their [letter](#) in The Sonoran News for informative background material. The petition is worthy of your consideration and can be found here:

[Carefree - Affordable and Sustainable Water](#)

Thanks for your time.

John

P.S. For those suspecting, **No**, I have not been involved but I am certainly getting more curious and interested!

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

Notice: In addition to reporting *facts*, this Newsletter may contain the author's perspective on topics or events affecting Carefree residents. That perspective may not be popular with the mayor, council members, staff, town attorney, a certain blogger, or even some members of the public. As I have stated many times over the past years, I try to identify those items which are *my* perspective of events by enclosing such material in *[brackets]*. If we lived in a perfect world, we would need but one newspaper.

God Bless America.

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Carefree, what life should be!

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