

SKY VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

For Homeowners, Property Owners and Residents
P. O. Box 1002, Thousand Palms, CA 92276-1002 760-671-0582

<http://skyvalleyhoa.org>

info@skyvalleyhoa.org



November 6, 2013

Mr. Peter Wiseman
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Aqueduct Road
Sky Valley, CA

Dear Mr. Wiseman:

The Sky Valley Homeowners Association has been asked by our residents to contact you concerning the status of *Aqueduct Road* in our community.

It is our understanding that the MWD obtained the right to develop Aqueduct Road from the US government, but that currently the MWD has abandoned use of this road. It is, however, still an important road to those who live on it, to residents of Belleview Road (a public road which is landlocked except by using Aqueduct), and to the US Postal Service (which drives Aqueduct to deliver mail to those living on Aqueduct or on its cross streets). Since abandoning the road, MWD has not maintained it and the old pavement has largely worn away, which makes travelling Aqueduct hazardous.

On March 11, 2002, representatives of the MWD met with Sky Valley residents and representatives from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and County Service Area 104, which administers the public roads around Aqueduct. The Sky Valley participants left that meeting with the understanding that the MWD would remove all paving materials from Aqueduct. To date, that has not happened. Because this is not a public road, the County cannot maintain it in any way. This has left the Sky Valley residents in an untenable situation.

In light of these circumstances, it appears that the most appropriate solution would be for the MWD to quitclaim all parts of the road back to the US government. On February 25, 1977, the MWD did quitclaim one central part of the road to the US government (see attached documents).

This quitclaim stated, “The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has determined that the above-described real property is not necessary or used for the purposes for which it was originally acquired.” It does not appear that the MWD either needs or uses the portions of the road not covered by this quitclaim. Thus, extending the quitclaim to the entire road will not interfere with any MWD interests. In fact, it would relieve the MWD of responsibility for what could become a substantial liability given the present condition of the road.

We would like to open a dialog with you to determine whether this can be done and how we can facilitate doing it. While doing so will not resolve all the issues concerning the road for its residents, it would mean that they would then be able to work with the US government in order to preserve and improve the road.

Please consider these points, and contact me concerning how we can proceed on this matter. You can reach me as per this letterhead, or directly by phone at 760-329-9999.

Sincerely,

Neil Ludlam, Secretary, SVHOA

cc: Susie Good, Postmaster, 92241
Mike Gialdini, Sky Valley Liaison, Supervisor John Benoit
Bill Brown, Administrator, County Service Area 104
Secretary, Sky Valley Community Council

Attached: Quitclaim deed (3 pp)
Deed Notary seal
Deed Map
Photo of conditions