



# Cochise County Engineering & Natural Resources

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JACKIE WATKINS, PE, PTOE  
Director

23 September 2019

Mr. Brandon Morrison  
Contracts Administrator  
Cochise County Procurement

Re: Sole Source justification for 3 Canyons Infrastructure Improvements contract

Dear Brandon,

This letter will lay out the reasoning for the justification of WEST Consultants as a sole source vendor for the 3 Canyons Infrastructure Improvements contract that will be on the Flood Control District consent agenda on 8 October 2019.

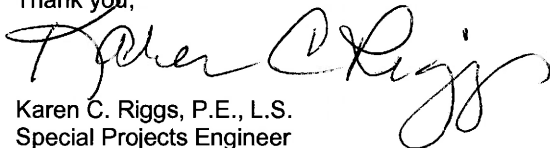
Mr. Ricardo Aguirre, P.E. of WEST is the only registered professional civil engineer in Arizona who is also an accredited professional in Holistic Management. He is the director of the Arizona Savory Hub, the accredited center for Holistic Management education in Arizona. With his former company, Holistic Engineering and Land Management (HELM), Mr. Aguirre directed the feasibility study for 3 Canyons, which included instruction in the basics of Holistic Management for Cochise County Engineers, and through that instruction, the collaborative generation of a basic plan for the holistic improvement of the 3 Canyons property, which is the basis for this infrastructure and monitoring improvements project.

There is no one remaining at HELM nor anyone besides Mr. Aguirre at WEST who has the unique combination of education, experience and skills to successfully complete this project. The plan and scope of work for this phase is a combination of holistic management decisions based on holistic contexts and preliminary baseline monitoring developed in the feasibility phase, and predictive floodplain modeling based on those decisions, goals and baseline modeling. The outcome of this phase will be the installation of fence, watering and handling facilities, monitoring design and equipment installation. This is a unique blending of engineering and the holistic management decision model.

The unique outcome will be both adaptive management (absolutely necessary in natural systems) and data-based monitoring of results. The goal is to manage the grazing on the 3 Canyons property holistically, test different land treatments and monitor all the results to show what effects each has on rainfall infiltration, reducing storm runoff (and therefore runoff borne sediment and e-coli), and native grassland ecosystem improvement.

Mr. Aguirre, as an employee of WEST Consultants is the only person qualified to continue this project using the holistic management model, which is at the heart of the project and measuring its utility is a required part of the project.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.  
Thank you,



Karen C. Riggs, P.E., L.S.  
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