

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

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LETTERS: Bulldozing of river reckless attack on nature

The center is not suing to block any flood control, but we did file a notice saying we would move the matter to court if the law is not followed.

The current inaction from the Army Corps, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM and the dismissal of fines shows likely political interference from anti-environmental Bush appointees in Washington, D.C., not common sense.

Nevertheless, we are pleased that Mesquite, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM are moving toward a different course and are planning restoration and mitigation work to try to rebuild the river habitat that has been destroyed. We will be watching their progress.

Daniel R. Patterson Tucson, Ariz.

Michelle T. Harrington Phoenix

Mr. Patterson is an ecologist and the Desert Program director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Ms. Harrington is the organization's Rivers Program director.

We all pay for lawsuits

To the editor:

Thank you for your Sunday editorial regarding the Virgin River flood control in Mesquite and the actions taken to protect the life and property of the residents.

As you point out, the threat of a lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity is only one of multiple lawsuits against property owners and government agencies living with the Endangered Species Act. Interesting to note, the individuals and groups threatening lawsuits are not living with the land, but they are succeeding in controlling the land, private and public, through lawsuits.

Of course, the cost of the legal action is paid by the taxpayers. We can only hope that taxpayers will tire of the cost

and put pressure on the politicians to revise the Endangered Species Act. Your editorial may help to bring public attention to the legal costs imposed on all of us by a few.

Joyce Dunfee, Las Vegas