ONCE A WEEK, DAVE SLOMAN LOADS JUGS IN HIS JEEP,

(—SOT—)

S / Dave Sloman, Resident

“This isn’t at all what I had in mind what my retirement would be.”

AND DRIVES 30 MINUTES FOR WATER.

LIKE THE REST OF HIS NEIGHBORS IN RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS,

(— SOT —)

“Paper plates, pee outside, shower at the gym…”

LIFE HAS GOTTEN WEIRD SINCE THE WATER WAS CUT OFF.

THE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY OF ABOUT SEVEN-HUNDRED HOMES HAS FOR DECADES HAD WATER TRUCKED IN FROM NEXT DOOR SCOTTSDALE.

BUT AT THE START OF THE YEAR, SCOTTSDALE TURNED OFF THE TAP.

(— SOT —)

S / John Hornewer, Water Hauler

“We are most definitely the first domino to fall in this chain reaction from the drought.”

FOR A LONG TIME, SCOTTSDALE WARNED THEM THE WATER WOULDN’T LAST.  AND WITH THE DROUGHT CRISIS IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN CAUSED EVERY COMMUNITY TO CONSERVE, THE CITY DECIDED IT’S DONE.

(— SOT —)

“They do not live in Scottsdale.”

SCOTTSDALE’S LOBBYIST AT A RECENT STATEHOUSE HEARING, ARGUING AGAINST A MEASURE TO REQUIRE THE CITY TO KEEP THE WATER COMING.

RIO VERDE RESIDENTS, PLEADING FOR LAWMAKERS TO PASS IT.

(— SOT —)

“We need water desperately.”

AND THE BILL’S SPONSOR, WITH A WARNING.

(— SOT —)

“If we don’t work together, we’re doomed.”

IN THE END, THEY DID NOT WORK TOGETHER — THE REPUBLICAN-BACKED BILL FAILING TO GET ANY DEMOCRATIC VOTES.

BACK IN JOHN HORNEWER’S TANKER, THE COMMUNITY’S LIFELINE TO WATER IS GETTING LONGER.

(— SOT —)

“Very Stressful.”

NEARBY CAREFREE, WHERE HE FILLED HIS TRUCK FOR A MONTH, RECENTLY CUT HIM OFF TOO.

THE NEAREST WATER IS NOW AN HOUR AWAY.

A CANADIAN UTILITY SAYS IT CAN HAVE A WELL WORKING FOR RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS IN THREE YEARS.

MANY RESIDENTS HERE ARE NOT SURE THEY’LL MAKE IT ANOTHER THREE MONTHS.

(— SOT —)

“We won’t survive the summer.”

IN RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS, ARIZONA, BRAD HICKS, REPORTING.