

# **Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization**

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To Whom it May Concern;

Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO) is extremely concerned about the economic, environmental, water resource, cultural and energy sustainability of our region in central Arizona. We have examined the Town of Clarkdale's plans for a Sustainability Park and we feel that this concept is one way that our Verde Valley can achieve long-term economic vitality and at the same time improve our environmental health, our wise use of scarce water resources, and decrease our carbon footprint. The Clarkdale Sustainability Park is a concept whose time has come.

We want to encourage our legislative representatives and others interested in solving some of the earth's most pressing problems to support the Town of Clarkdale in this effort any way they can. We believe that by working together as a community, as outlined in the Clarkdale plan, can we take the steps necessary to bring lasting prosperity and environmental stewardship to our region.

Three sites have been identified for this project. The area surrounding Peck's Lake in Clarkdale, currently owned by Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold, has many unique attributes that make it the first choice for a facility of this type. The second site consists of 200-400 acres in Clarkdale's existing industrial area and the third site of approximately 500 acres is located just outside of Clarkdale's border between Salt River Materials Group – Phoenix Cement and Hanson Aggregates. Each site will be evaluated as part of a feasibility study that will examine many of the complex issues surrounding the development of the sustainability park.

We recognize that this project will require legislative support, financial backing, community engagement and regulatory cooperation for it to bring the benefits to the Verde Valley that it envisions. We are committed to providing our skills and expertise as the regional economic organization in support of this project, and we urge you to do the same. With your help, the Town of Clarkdale, the Verde Valley and the State of Arizona will have a brighter future!

Sincerely,

**Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer**

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Chairperson

*Partners for a sustainable community*