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Steven C. Mahaffy, ASBN. 022934 MAHAFFY LAW FIRM, P.C. PO Box 12959

Chandler, Arizona 85248

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

GERALD FREEMAN and JANICE FREEMAN, husband and wife,

Plaintiffs,

٧.

TOWN OF CAVE CREEK, a municipal corporation of the State of Arizona; and CAHAVA SPRINGS CORP, a corporation of the State of Minnesota; DONALD R. SORCHYCH and SHARI JO SORCHYCH, husband and wife;

Defendants.

CV 2012 - 092643 Case No.

COMPLAINT/APPLICATION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT (A.R.S. §12-1832); COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Plaintiffs Gerald and Janice Freeman, for their Complaint/Application for Declaratory

Judgment, and Complaint for Injunctive Relief and Application for Temporary Restraining Order,

allege as follows:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. Plaintiffs Gerald and Janice Freeman ("Freemans") are husband and wife whose primary residence is 4856 East Morning Star Road in Cave Creek, Maricopa County, Arizona and as such are dominant easement owners of an easement which traverses, in relevant part, property owned by defendant Cahava Springs, Corp. Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A" is a

copy of the Freemans and Sorchychs' predecessor in interest, special warranty deed which contains the easement description.

- 2. Defendant, Town of Cave Creek ("Town"); is an Arizona municipal corporation;
- 3. Defendant, Cahava Springs Corp., (hereinafter "Cahava") is a Minnesota corporation, which owns real property in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 4. Defendants Donald and Shari Jo Sorchych are husband and wife whose primary residence is 5000 East Morning Star Road in Cave Creek, Maricopa County, Arizona and as such are dominant easement owners of an easement which traverses, in relevant part, property owned by defendant Cahava Springs, Corp. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and jurisdiction over each of the parties.
 - 5. Venue is proper in this Court.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 6. The Freemans, Sorchychs and Cahava are neighboring landowners of multiple- acre, parcels in rural Cave Creek, Maricopa County, Arizona. Freemans and Sorchychs reside on their property and Cahava property sits vacant.
- 7. Freemans and Sorchychs are dominant tenements of an easement which is physically located upon the land of Cahava; thus, Cahava is a servient tenement regarding the easement.

 Freemans and Sorchychs use the easement, which is the gravamen of this declaratory judgment action, as exclusive means of ingress and egress to their respective homes.
- 8. Freemans have not given the Town permission to use the roadway easement. Upon information and belief, Sorchychs have not given Town permission to use the roadway easement, and as such, Sorchychs are joined to this lawsuit so they are bound by the ruling of this Court. If it

is subsequently learned that Sorchych has given or attempted or attempts to give permission to any third party, including the Town, to use the roadway easement, this Complaint will be amended accordingly.

- 10. The central characteristics of this rural, desert neighborhood are quiet and beauty. The mountains are close but the views are glorious; the desert plants are lush and plentiful, the rocks loom, the hawks soar, the homes are set a good distance apart; horses are a part of this rural landscape; however, what you notice first, is quiet.
- 11. The used portion of the roadway easement is approximately 8 feet in width, covered with compacted, decomposed granite. Some portions of the roadway easement are bordered by cliffs which are nearly 50 feet sheer drops, making it extremely dangerous when a car meets oncoming foot, horse, or vehicle traffic. The roadway is not passable by two cars simultaneously. In such a situation, one car is required to pull over into the drainage ditch to allow another to pass; however, if a car goes too far into the ditch, the decomposed granite collapses. The ditches are necessarily deep, and often times will require a bull-dozer or other powerful piece of equipment to remove the vehicle. Similarly, horses and cars cannot pass simultaneously. Again, one party necessarily has to leave the roadway so that the other may pass.
- 12. Freemans have paid for all roadway maintenance on the easement since 1991. Neither Cahava, nor Sorchych nor the Town have paid Freemans *anything* for roadway maintenance. (Freemans are currently in a lawsuit against Sorchych seeking contribution for roadway maintenance. *See Maricopa County case number CV 2005-051885*).
- 13. This roadway easement is the sole means of ingress and egress for Freemans and Sorchychs. Freemans and Sorchychs are the only consistent roadway easement users; all other uses are at the discretion of Freemans and Sorchychs. (There are other property owners in the area who are considered dominant tenants; however, those properties are vacant land).

- 14. In addition to the property Cahava owns over which the easement traverses, Cahava owns approximately 1000 acres which were to be developed by Cahava. Because of the downturn in the economy/market Cahava's development plans were shelved. Some time ago, Cahava gave 80 acres to the Town; on March 19, 2012 Cahava gave 130 acres to the Town and the Town "paid" Cahava's delinquent county taxes in the amount of \$170,000. Apparently, Cahava gave Town the property as an "open space initiative."
- 15. Recently, Cahava also gave the Town permission to use Cahava's property to create a "bridle path." The Town has created several bridle paths throughout rural Cave Creek which are pathways used for horse-back riding, pedestrians and bicycles. These bridle paths are heavily used and require significant maintenance and upkeep.
- 16. Cahava, as a servient tenement, has recently entered into a "license agreement" with the Town ostensibly for the purpose of allowing Town to enter Cahava property to "survey" the location of the bridle path; however, the Town has used the roadway easement without Freemans' permission. The Town's use has unreasonably interfered with Freemans' use.
- 17. Freemans have not and will not give or grant the Town permission to use their roadway easement as part of the bridle path.
- 18. As the servient tenement, Cahava has no legal ability to give permission to a third party, including the Town, to use Freemans' easement; nevertheless, Cahava continues to insist that it can give permission to the Town to use the existing easement for use by the public as a bridle path.
- 19. Cahava, as the servient tenement, has recently given the Town permission to use Freemans' roadway easement to be a part of the bridle path and the Town is using the easement.
- 20. Town employee Bambi Muller informed the Freemans that the Town intends to use the Freemans' easement for purposes of a so-called "bridle path." Ms. Muller further informed

Mr. Freeman that Cahava, the servient tenement, gave the Town verbal permission to "do whatever they wanted" on the land of Cahava. The Town intends to use the easement as a bridle path as a connection from the east side of Cave Creek to the west side of Cave Creek.

- 20. Upon learning the intentions of the Town, and after seeing unauthorized users on the easement, Freemans caused a Notice of Trespass to be served upon the Town, which satisfies the notice requirements of A.R.S.§13-1502, Criminal Trespass. That Notice stated that the Town was
 - "... EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED from entering upon the easement of Gerald and Janice Freeman (a diagram showing the physical location of the easement is attached) (the express grant of easement is contained in the Freeman's deed which is publically available at the office of the Maricopa County Recorder)." A copy of the Notice of Trespass is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "B."
- 22. Thereafter, Cahava granted the Town a license for 90 days, ostensibly to "survey;" however, the Town has marked the bridle path which markings lay directly on the easement. The obvious intent of the Town is to use the easement, of which Freemans are the dominant tenement, without any permission whatsoever from Freemans. The 90 day license was a ruse to get around the Notice of Trespass which was served upon the Town.
- 23. Cahava does not have the legal authority to give permission to anyone to use the Freemans' easement as Freemans are the dominant tenement and Cahava is the servient tenement.
- 24. Cahava, as the holder of the servient estate has a duty to not interfere unreasonably with the Freemans' use and enjoyment of their easement. Further, an appurtenant easement may not be used for the benefit of property other than the dominant estate.
- 25. Interference with an easement is a form of trespass; consequently, Freemans are entitled to equitable relief against trespassers who interfere with their enjoyment of the servitude.

26. Additionally, an easement holder, as the owner of a property interest, is entitled to protection from acts of third parties, such as the Town and the public, that interfere with their enjoyment of the easement.

- 28. The actions of the Cahava and Town and its stated intent of using the easement for a "bridle path" will unreasonably interfere with the Freemans' use and enjoyment of the easement; will make it much more difficult and more expensive to maintain and repair the easement; will greatly increase the risk of liability; and is an unlawful taking.
- 29. Pursuant to Arizona Law, Freemans are entitled to injunctive relief and any and all other remedies available at law or in equity.
- 30. Freemans, as persons who are successors in interest of their Grantor, seek determination from this Court of a question of the law in Arizona, as follows:
- That the holder of a servient estate has a duty to not interfere unreasonably with the use and enjoyment of the easement.
- That actions which make it more difficult to use an easement, actions that interfere with the ability to maintain and repair the use and enjoyment of the easement, or that increase the risks attendant to exercise of rights created by the easement are prohibited.
- That the holder of an easement is entitled to use the servient estate in a manner that is reasonably necessary for the convenient enjoyment of the servitude.
- That the easement is an appurtenant easement and that an appurtenant easement may not be used for the benefit of property other than the dominant estate.
- That the Town's use of the private easement for public purposes is a taking.

COUNT I (Declaratory Judgment, A.R.S. §12-1832)

- 1. Plaintiffs reallege all previous allegations in this Complaint and incorporate them herein by this reference.
- 2. There exists a real and justiciable controversy between Freemans, Sorchychs, Cahava and the Town, regarding whether or not Cahava and the Town may use the Freemans' exclusive easement and whether or not Defendant Cahava and/or Defendant Sorchych may give permission to third parties, such as the Town and the public, to use the Freemans' exclusive easement.
- 3. The Freemans have a definite interest, as successors in interest of the Grantor, in their right to the enjoyment and use without interference from Cahava, the Town, the public, Sorchychs,, and all other persons from using the easement for any purpose.
- 4. Cahava has denied the Freemans of their right to exclusive use their driveway which is located upon the exclusive easement.

COUNT TWO Writ Of Injunction - A.R.S. §12-1801

- 1. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.
- 2. Defendants' behavior is reasonably expected to continue to occur based upon the past conduct and because the Town has announced, as reported by the Arizona Republic, that Cahava will gift the easement to Town for the bridle path.
- 3. Based on Defendants' conduct, a substantial, material and actual injury to Freemans exists.

 This Court should enjoin Defendants, and all of them, temporarily, preliminarily and permanently from further harming Freemans by trespassing upon their exclusive easement and from continuing construction of the bridle path.

COUNT THREE Private Nuisance

1. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

- 2. Defendants have the duty to not interfere with Plaintiffs' private right of the use and enjoyment of their easement;
- 3. By their actions aforesaid, Defendants have adversely affected Plaintiffs in the use and enjoyment of their easement. As such Defendants have breached their duty to Plaintiffs.
- 4. By their actions aforesaid, defendants have damaged Plaintiffs in an amount to be proved at trial.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Declaratory Judgment

- 1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-1832, the Freemans seek a determination and declaration of the law in Arizona, and their rights under the Special Warranty Deed with the easement reservation, a declaratory judgment from this Court declaring that:
- a) That the holder of a servient estate has a duty to not interfere unreasonably with the use and enjoyment of the easement.
- b) That actions which make it more difficult to use an easement, actions that interfere with the ability to maintain and repair the use and enjoyment of the easement, or that increase the risks attendant to exercise of rights created by the easement are prohibited.
- c) That the holder of an easement is entitled to use the servient estate in a manner that is reasonably necessary for the convenient enjoyment of the servitude.
- d) That the easement is an appurtenant easement and that an appurtenant easement may not be used for the benefit of property other than the dominant estate.
- e) That the Town's use of the private easement for public purposes is a taking.
 - 2. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-1838, if this Complaint/ Application be deemed sufficient, the Court should, on reasonable notice, require Defendants to appear and show cause why further, supplemental relief should not be granted forthwith, in the interests of justice.

3. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-1840, Freemans seek an award of costs incurred in the prosecution of this action as this Court may determine are equitable and just.

4. Freemans also seek:

- A. Compensatory damages according to proof;
- B. Injunctive relief, temporary and permanent, as prayed;
- C. Punitive damages, against those defendants for which it is available, as Defendants' conduct was/is gross, wanton, willful, and malicious;
- D. Costs and attorneys' fees;
- E. Pre- and post-judgment interest;
- F. Any other relief needed to provide Freemans with a complete remedy including the following:

Injunctive Relief -Temporary and Permanent

A. Temporary Restraining Order.

That the Court issue an immediate Temporary Restraining Order, without the requirement to deliver notice to the Defendants prior to effect, preventing the Defendants, and each of them and their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with them and each of them from entering upon and/or from trespassing upon the easement, and specifically to Cahava from granting any third party, including Town, from entering upon and/or using, and/or constructing a bridle path upon the easement and specifically to Town from entering upon the easement or allowing or encouraging any person on behalf of Town to enter upon the easement or constructing a bridle path upon the easement.

B. Records Preservation and Expedited Discovery

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That the Court Issue an Order requiring Defendants to preserve any and all records related to the subject matter of this request that are in their custody, possession or subject to their control, and to respond to discovery on an expedited basis.

C. Preliminary Injunction

That the Court issue a preliminary injunction, upon notice preventing the Defendants, and each of them and their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with them and each of them from entering upon and/or from trespassing upon the easement, and specifically to Cahava from granting any third party, including the Town, from entering upon and/or using, and/or constructing a bridle path upon the easement and specifically to Town from entering upon the easement or allowing or encouraging any person on behalf of Town to enter upon the easement or constructing a bridle path upon the easement.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of April, 2012.

MAHAFFY LAW EIRM, P.C.

Steven C. Mahaffy

Mahaffy Law Firm, PC

P. O. Box 12959

Chandler, Arizona 85248

Phone: (480) 659-7180

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

VERIFICATION

I, Gerald Freeman, Plaintiff herein, do state under the penalty of perjury that I have read the above Complaint, that I know the contents thereof, and that it is true of my own knowledge, except the matters stated therein on information and belief, and that as to those matters, I believe the Complaint to be true.

Dated this 13 day of April, 2012.

Gerald Freeman, Plaintiff

COMPLAINT/APPLICATION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT (A.R.S. §12-1832); COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF ANDAPPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

EXHIBIT "A"

Unofficial Document

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201-771606 V3	SPECIAL		
	WARRANTY DEED		
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hereafter called the Grantor, whether on as his sole and separ	ne or more than one, conveys to ALAN SIMBERLO rate property	fF, a married e	
the following and array			
the following real property situated in Mappurtenant thereto, to wit:	laricopa County, Arizona, together with all	rights and privileges	
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	daty, arizona; d described herein all the coal and oth	ner minerals	
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pursuant to the provision (39 Stat., 862).	lons and limitations of the Act of Dece	ember 29, 1961	
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egress, utilities and	water lines over the South 33 feet of		
described property.			
		_	
Trust disclosure at	ttached and by reference made a p	part hereto.	
Subject to current taxes and other assessing	nents, reservations in patents and all easements, right	ts of way, encumbra	
tions, covenants, conditions, restrictions, on least to the acts of the Grantor bergin	obligations, and liabilities as may appear of record, G BARKER ENTERPRISES, L	irantor warrants the	
	oa Limited Partnership		
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STATE OF ARIZONA) DAT	TE JU 20'83-12 00 FFF 70	, 3	
) ss County of Maricopa)	BILL HENRY, COUNTY RECORDER	R,	
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Kay F. Smi	ithwho acknowledged themselves to he Y	ice President	
and Assista	ant Trust Officer of FIRST INT sociation, and as such officers being authorized s	ERSTATE BANK C	
	ssociation, and as such officers being authorized serein contained, by signing the name of the associa		
IN WITNESS WHEREOF	I hereto set my hand and official seal.		
•	Glarin XI. Cook	/	
My commission expires: December 5, 1985	Notary Public		
receiver of 1700	Margia Laging		

STATE OF ARIZONA	}			
COUNTY OF MARICOPA	}			
On this 15th	hday of	July	1983 . 6	efore me, the undersigned
Notary Public, personally as	present <u>Clyde J.</u>	Barker III.C	o-Trustee, Ger	nera) known to me to be
the person whose name is so	ubscribed to the withi	in instruments, and	acknowledged that	he
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December 5, 1985		NOTARY P	BLIC	
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Unofficial Document

Pursuant to Section 33-401 ARS, the beneficiaries and their addresses are:

Clyde J. Barker III 7211 W. Angela Avenue Peoria, AZ 85345

John A. Barker 7211 W. Angela Avenue Peoria, AZ 85345

James D. Barker 7211 W. Angela Avenue Peoria, AZ 85345

G. Sharon Anderson PO Box 481 Mormon Lake, AZ 86035

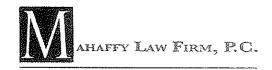
Unofficial Documen

Christine S. Anderson PO Box 481 Norcon Lake, AZ 86035

Curtis R. Anderson FO Box 481 Normon Lake, AZ 86035

COMPLAINT/APPLICATION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT (A.R.S. §12-1832); COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF ANDAPPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

EXHIBIT "B"



Priose 480 630-7180 fix B0-659-5614

March 2, 2012

Town of Cave Creek – Town Council c/o Marlene Pontrelli, via email only: Marlene Pontrelli@mwmf.com Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre & Friedlander 2901 N. Central Avenue, Suite 200 Phoenix, AZ 85012

Notice of Trespass

To: Town of Cave Creek, municipal entity, and all persons wherever situated; You are hereby <u>EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED</u> from entering upon the easement of Gerald and Janice Freeman (a diagram showing the physical location of the easement is attached)(the express grant of easement is contained in the Freeman's deed which is publically available at the office of the Maricopa County Recorder)

Dear Mayor of the Town of Cave Creek and its Council, (sent in care of your attorney, Marlene Pontrelli):

I write as attorney for Gerald and Janice Freeman and regarding their easement for ingress and egress which, in part, traverses property owned by Cahava Springs, Corp., (hereinafter "Cahava"). The purpose of this letter is to give Notice that the Town of Cave Creek and all persons are hereby expressly prohibited from entering upon the easement of Gerald and Janice Freeman.

This Notice satisfies the notice requirement of A.R.S.§13-1502, Criminal Trespass. From the date of this letter forward any Town of Cave Creek employee, representative, agent or anyone acting on your behalf will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authority for prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. I am informed that Town of Cave Creek employees have been traveling on the Freemans' easement while performing work on Cahava property for a bridle path which is planned. Any and all use of the Freemans' easement by the Town of Cave Creek *must stop immediately*.

Town of Cave Creek employee Bambi Muller, informed the Freemans that the Town intends to use the Freemans' easement for purposes of a so-called "bridle path." Ms. Muller further informed Mr. Freeman that Cahava, the servient tenement, gave the Town of Cave Creek verbal permission to "do whatever they wanted" on the land of Cahava.

Whether and what Cahava actually gave permission to do will be a matter for another day; however, what Cahava *did not do* is give permission to anyone to use the Freemans' easement. Cahava does not have the legal ability to give permission to anyone to use the Freemans' easement and more importantly, no one, not even Cahava, can create an easement without complying with the statute of frauds.

I remind you that Freemans are the dominant tenement and Cahava is the servient tenement as regards the easement at issue. In Arizona and throughout the nation, the rule is that the holder of the servient estate has a duty not to interfere unreasonably with the use and enjoyment of the easement. Similarly, actions that make it more difficult to use an easement, actions that interfere with the ability to maintain and repair improvements built for its enjoyment, or that increase the risks attendant on exercise of rights created by the easement are prohibited. The holder of an easement is entitled to use the servient estate in a manner that is reasonably necessary for the convenient enjoyment of the servitude. Further, an appurtenant easement may not be used for the benefit of property other than the dominant estate. See for example, Restatement of the Law, Third, Property (Servitudes) Sections 4.9:4.10 and 4.11 and comments thereunder.

Interference with an easement is a form of trespass; consequently, Freemans are entitled to equitable relief against trespassers who interfere with their enjoyment of the servitude. Since interference with an easement may cause a diminution in the value of the dominant estate, courts may award compensatory damages to the easement holder together with or in lieu of an injunction. If the interference is aggravated, or in reckless disregard of the dominant owners' rights, punitive damages may be allowed. Additionally an easement holder, as the owner of a property interest, is entitled to protection from acts of third parties that interfere with enjoyment of the easement. Such protection is available against third parties [Town of Cave Creek] to the same extent that it is available against the servient estate owner. See for example: The Law of Easements & Licenses in Land section 8:32 and 8:33. See also: Kao<u>v. Haldeman</u>, 728 A.2d 345 (Pa. 1999) (easement holder entitled to injunction against unauthorized intrusion on the roadway by third persons). Quite obviously, your actions and stated intent of using the easement for a "bridle path" will unreasonably interfere with the Freemans' use and enjoyment of the easement. It will also make it more difficult and more expensive to maintain and repair the easement and will increase risks. As such you are expressly prohibited from using the easement. Furthermore, given that your letter of December 2012, which requested gift deeds of a 33 foot easement, resulted in only one person, Donald Sorchych, gifting his property to you for purposes of the bridle path, your unilateral interference with the Freemans' easement appears to be in reckless disregard of the Freemans' rights.

If you do not immediately stop using the easement and provide me written assurances of such cessation before Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. then I will seek a temporary and permanent restraining order, damages, and attorney fees against the Town of Cave Creek, restraining The Town of Cave Creek from entering upon and continuing to damage the Freemans' casement. If I do not hear from you or your attorney by before

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., I will also assume that The Town of Cave Creek does not require notice prior to my obtaining an ex-parte temporary restraining order.

Very truly yours,

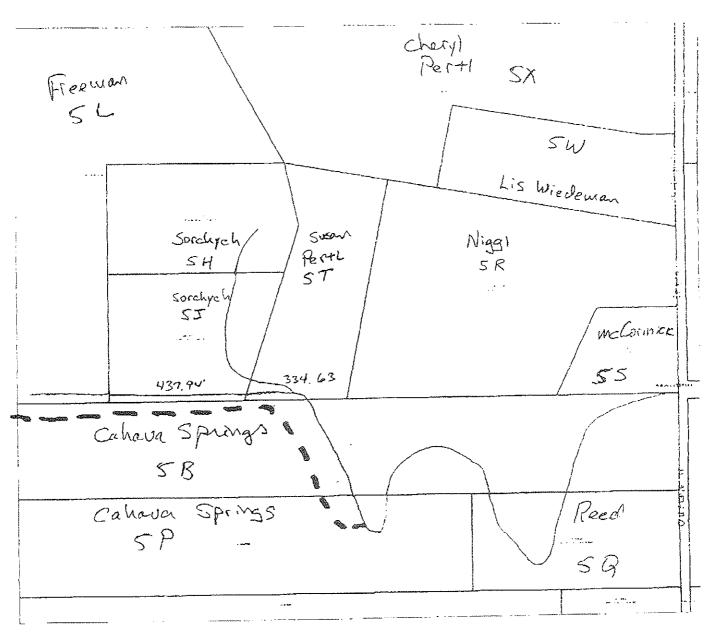
Mahaffy Law Firm, PC

Steven C. Muhaffy

Enclosure

c. Gerald and Janice Freeman Stephen Anderson, Esq. for Cahava *via* email only

County Parcels



Bridle Path"