

Governor's Water Augmentation Council June 10, 2016 Meeting Summary

Time: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources

Chairman Tom Buschatzke called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. He expressed that the purpose of this third Governor's Water Augmentation Council meeting was to reach consensus and finalize the Annual Report for delivery to the Governor's Office by July 1st.

The meeting began with the clarification of future discussion topics for the next calendar year. Chairman Buschatzke requested that this agenda item be dealt with first in order to organize priorities for the next reporting period. Potential topics for next year were clarified by the Council with the following language:

1. Development of a communication plan for the State to accurately convey the status of its water supply resiliency and its efforts to maintain that status moving forward.
2. The potential for augmentation through re-use and the utilization of reclaimed and poor quality water to significantly reduce the future demand and supply imbalance.
3. Funding for augmentation infrastructure.
4. The potential for augmenting groundwater supplies through enhanced natural and constructed recharge and conservation to include possible incentives and infrastructure needs.
5. Identification of large-scale augmentation opportunities.

The Council then reviewed and approved the newly reorganized recommendations section into the following categories: 1) Recommendations regarding general tenets of the Council, 2) Recommendations regarding topics of focus for the Council discussions in Fiscal Year 2016-2017, 3) Recommendations regarding actions to be taken by the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

An assessment of a possible third tenet of the Council within the recommendations section was introduced by Dave Roberts representing Salt River Project. This conversation focused on securing water certainty for the State. The Council adopted the following language:

“Among other things, identify augmentation opportunities as a means to resolve water resource conflicts or improve water supply availability to ensure legal certainty for water users and investors.”

The remaining changes to the document included a short paragraph describing the formations of SRP, CAP, and the Arizona Water Banking Authority, as well as two paragraphs summarizing the May 13th and June 10th GWAC meetings. The changes were accepted as written and Chairman Buschatzke declared the first Annual Report of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council completed and thanked the participants for their attendance and input.

The next GWAC meeting will be held at the new ADWR office at 1110 West Washington St., Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007. The meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday August 5th.