

APPENDIX III – Arizona Stakeholder/Planning Efforts (2000-2010)

Water Resources Development Commission (2010)

In 2010, the Water Resources Development Commission was formed by HB 2661 for the purpose of assessing the current and future water needs of Arizona with greater focus on meeting the water needs in rural Arizona. The Director of the Department of Water Resources served as the Chairman of the Commission and was directed to select members to represent statewide water users and water use sectors to make up the Commission.

The WRDC was tasked to: (1) compile and consider the projected water needs of each county in Arizona in the next 25, 50 and 100 years; (2) identify and quantify the water supplies currently available in each county; (3) identify potential water supplies to meet additional demands in the same time frame, and the legal and technical issues associated with using them; (4) identify potential mechanisms for financing the acquisition, treatment and delivery of water supplies; and (5) make recommendations regarding further studies or necessary legislation required for implementation.

The Commission concluded that without proactive and localized water management strategies future water supply and demand imbalances may exist throughout the state, and, therefore, there is a need to acquire additional water supplies and develop infrastructure to access new and existing unused water supplies. The Commission recommended the formation of Regional Water Augmentation Authorities to assist communities in developing future water supplies and water infrastructure. Membership in the Regional Water Augmentation Authorities is proposed to be voluntary and may include Arizona cities, towns, private water utilities, other statutorily defined water providers, private entities, counties and State, Tribal and Federal entities. The Commission also identified current funding options available to the Regional Water Augmentation Authorities to meet the needs of their members.

Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability (2009)

In 2009, as part of Governor Jan Brewer's commitment to collaboration on water resource issues, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability (Panel) was tasked with initiating a statewide effort aimed at improving the long term sustainability of Arizona's water supplies through increased conservation and recycling. The Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission made co-chaired the Panel.

The Panel was formed to identify and overcome obstacles to increased water sustainability. The Panel was challenged to provide advice to ADWR, ADEQ, and the ACC on the technical, legal, and policy aspects of promoting recycling of wastewater, gray water, industrial process water, and storm water. The Panel focused on wastewater reuse through detailed examinations of water quality, regulatory impediments, infrastructure requirements and public perception challenges that could limit the increased use of this important water supply. The Panel membership was composed of 40 members representing large and small cities, counties, agriculture, industry, Indian Tribes, environmental interests, Arizona universities, legislative leaders, and other leaders in Arizona water issues.

On November 30, 2010, the Final Report of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability was released. The report contains 18 sets of recommendations to advance Arizona's water sustainability future. Recommendations were organized into five categories: Education/Outreach, Standards, Information Development & Research Agenda, Regulatory Improvements, and Incentives.

Statewide Water Advisory Group (2006)

In 2006, the Statewide Water Advisory Group (SWAG) was formed to identify and discuss programs needed to continue developing a reliable water supply for the future. The purpose of SWAG purpose was to advise the

Arizona Department of Water Resources regarding programs for water resources development and management necessary to provide a sustainable water supply in all parts of Arizona and generate suggestions and activities for ultimate consideration by the Legislature. SWAG membership was made up of 50 citizens and city and county government, environmental, agricultural, and resource groups.

The following legislation was initiated out of the SWAG:

- 1) Authority for County Board of Supervisors or municipalities to adopt water adequacy provisions that require new subdivisions that are located outside of AMAs to have a 100-year water supply
- 2) The creation of the Water Supply Development Revolving Fund and the Water Supply Development Fund Committee;
- 3) Provided for an initiative to be brought to the votes in a portion of the Upper San Pedro Groundwater Basin to establish the Upper San Pedro Water District to develop local authorities on water related issues, as they currently exist or may evolve over time; and
- 4) The expansion of well impact rules to apply to all wells statewide.

Governor's Drought Task Force (2003)

In 2003, the Governor's Drought Task Force was established to address drought issues facing all Arizonans. This group was tasked with developing: a short-term drought plan to respond and mitigate water shortages; a long-term drought mitigation and coordination plan for the state and to address various specified areas of concern; and the development and implementation of a statewide water conservation strategy.

An Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan was created to assist State leaders, planners, and resource managers, in preparing for and responding to current and future drought conditions in Arizona. The Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan consists of two components: Background and Impact Assessment defines drought in Arizona, provides an historical context of drought, and catalogues the historical impacts and sources of drought vulnerability of water use sectors and water supplies; and an Operational Drought Plan that identifies regional vulnerability to drought impacts, identifies drought response options, defines drought mitigation strategies, outlines monitoring activities and programs to alert water users and resource managers of the onset of drought, and provides an implementation plan to respond to drought events.

Governor's Water Management Commission (2000)

In 2000, the Governor's Water Management Commission was established with the purpose of evaluating the goals outlined in the 1980 Groundwater Management Code to assure that they remain achievable; study ways to reduce the use of mined groundwater and increase the use of renewable supplies; and to make recommendations regarding changes to statutes or rules to ensure that Arizona's management practices will help to achieve a long-term, reliable water supply.