



NEWS RELEASE

Three Top Officials to Lead Statewide Water Sustainability Effort

PHOENIX (Aug. 28, 2009) – Following Governor Jan Brewer’s commitment to collaboration on water resource issues, Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther, Arizona Corporation Commission Chairman Kris Mayes, and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Ben Grumbles will direct a statewide effort to boost water sustainability through increased conservation and recycling.

The formation of the blue-ribbon panel on water sustainability was announced Friday during a conference in Tucson about the state’s current and future water needs, sponsored by the Arizona Investment Council.

Gov. Jan Brewer, during an April Earth Day speech in Phoenix, highlighted water conservation and recycling as priorities for the state. She directed ADEQ and ADWR to work together and formulate a plan of action to achieve water sustainability.

The panel will have a number of tools at hand, involving technology, innovation, and collaboration to reduce water waste and inefficiency, recycle water, and restore watersheds.

Among the ideas being considered are:

- The importance of water efficient technologies and practices,
- The need to recognize the nexus of water and energy,
- Additional conservation incentives and
- The assistance of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona.

The three-agency group will look to identify and overcome obstacles to increased water sustainability. Of particular interest will be suggestions and concerns of cities, towns, and other water providers involved in implementing new strategies.

A key part of the multiagency collaboration will be a focus on water reuse. The blue-ribbon panel will provide advice on the technical, legal, and policy aspects of promoting recycling of wastewater, graywater, industrial process water, and stormwater.

“Clean and safe water supplies are the key to Arizona’s future. This new statewide collaboration for conservation is an important additional step toward sustainability,” Grumbles said.

"Arizona's water supplies are our lifeblood and this cooperative effort to boost recycling and conservation of water will help ensure our state's long-term prosperity," Mayes said.

“We look forward to working with our key stakeholders to help us chart a better path to securing Arizona's sustainable water future,” Guenther noted.