

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability

January 8, 2010 (Rev 12-03-09)

NOTE:

The purpose of this document is to provide a starting point for discussion and focus of the purpose of this Panel – it is for discussion only.

Purpose: To promote and advance statewide sustainability of water by increasing the reuse, recycling, and conservation of water in the State of Arizona in an effective (protective and results-oriented), efficient (cost effective, economical) and equitable (affordable, fair) manner.

Goals:

The Panel will be initially tasked with advising the Executive on the establishment and feasibility of, and actions required to achieve the following:

- Increase the statewide proportion of water use derived from reclaimed and recycled water by the municipal and industrial sector in Arizona to 40% by 2030;
- Reduce the energy needs for producing, delivering and treating water and recycled water in Arizona by a significant measurable percentage, as established after analysis by the panel, by 2030;
- Establish incentives to further promote and advance statewide conservation and recycling of water; and
- Establish methods to reduce the amount of water required to produce and transmit energy.

For purposes of these goals, the following terms apply:

“Reclaimed Water”: waste water from a sewage treatment plant that is treated to a quality suitable for purposes such as such as agriculture, landscape, golf course, park irrigation, industrial cooling, aquifer recharge or maintenance of wildlife areas.

“Recycled Water”: water withdrawn from an aquifer that has been recharged with reclaimed water as well as water from other sources (except the direct reuse of reclaimed water) that is used more than one time.

Structure:

Executive – Herb Guenther (ADWR), Ben Grumbles (ADEQ), and Kris Mayes (ACC)

Blue Ribbon Panel – Approximately 30 appointed members representing Legislative leadership, State Agencies, Local Governments, County Governments, Tribal Governments, Federal Government, Universities, Private Utilities, and NGOs (Environmental, Water Utility Assoc., Developer Groups, Golf Association, Electrical Utilities, etc.).

Conceptual Working Groups: (open membership to interested parties)

- Infrastructure/Retrofit – identify infrastructure needs and retrofitting of existing infrastructure (reclaimed water distribution system standards);
- Public Perception/Acceptance – focus on public education for acceptance of use of reclaimed and recycled waters (develop an approach to the management of emerging contaminants in recycled water);
- Appropriate End Use/Efficient Use (Conservation) - identify appropriate uses for water and requirements for efficient use (not waste) of the water supply;
- Economic/Funding – how to pay, who pays, etc.
- Regulations and Permitting – identify regulatory impediments and streamline the regulatory processes (revisions to rules, BADCT, standards, monitoring, end uses, permitting etc).

Staff:

Sandy Fabritz-Whitney – ADWR

Michael Fulton – ADEQ

Steve Olea - ACC

Timing: (Goal is to have recommendations for policy, rules or Legislation, if necessary, by 2011 Session)

Interim Report – June 2010

Final Report – November 2010