Executive Order 2008-19
April Designated As Water Awareness Month

WHEREAS, water is one of Arizona's most vital and precious resources; and

WHEREAS, Arizona is an arid state, water is scarce and population growth continues to increase our demand for water; and

WHEREAS, Arizona has few remaining perennially flowing rivers and is committed to protecting those that do remain, such as the San Pedro River, the Verde River, Fossil Creek, Oak Creek, the Little Colorado River, the Santa Maria River, the Bill Williams River, and Cienega Creek; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of Arizona and visitors should use water more efficiently; practicing a low water-use lifestyle is a way each individual and business can help ensure a long-term, sufficient water supply; and

WHEREAS, creating a culture of conservation will greatly reduce the impact of drought on our natural resources, economy, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, water education is a cornerstone to any comprehensive water conservation program, and greater awareness of water issues can be gained through community education, action and celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Governor Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby designate April as Water Awareness Month and order as follows:

1. The Arizona Department of Water Resources to:

    A. Work with cities and towns to provide them with the tools and resources necessary to give communities the ability to implement strong, effective water conservation programs;

    B. Develop a water conservation toolkit, including resources to reduce exterior water use in landscaped areas, for communities to assist them in building strong, effective conservation programs;

    C. Create a water wise community certification program in an effort to promote greater awareness of water issues through education, action and celebration.

2. Call upon citizens and businesses throughout Arizona to become more aware of their water-use habits and determine where they can reasonably reduce their water use;

3. Encourage all towns and cities to put into place programs that promote education, action and celebration of water as an essential resource in our lives and economy;

4. Call upon local and state governments and federal agencies to increase water conservation public awareness programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

GOVERNOR

DONE, at the Capitol in Phoenix this 8th day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Second.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE