

2013 State Legislative Agenda

The 51st State Legislature's First Regular Session began on Monday, January 14, 2013. The following list describes CAWCD's state legislative agenda for calendar year 2013 and will guide the activities of CAP legislative staff and consultants during the Session.

The Business Planning and Governmental Programs Team will come before the Public Policy Committee on a regular basis to seek guidance and direction on these and other proposed state agency rules and legislative bills and amendments that may arise during the year.

Arizona Department of Water Resources Funding

The Arizona Department of Water Resources administers and enforces Arizona's groundwater code and surface water rights laws. The CAP partners with ADWR on many levels and desires to see the Department remain viable through adequate funding.

CAP Position: *Monitor the Legislature's budgeting processes and agency rulemaking to ensure the Arizona Department of Water Resources' current level of funding is maintained.*

Water Resources Development Commission

The Water Resources Development Commission was formed in 2010 to assess the current and future water needs of Arizona and identify potential mechanisms for financing the acquisition, treatment and delivery of water supplies. The CAP General Manager, David Modeer, currently serves on this Commission.

CAP Position: *Participate in and monitor legislation related to the activities of the Water Resources Development Commission.*

Multi-Species Conservation Program Funding

State law provides for the collection of boater registration fees to support the Arizona Game and Fish Department's annual contribution to the costs of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

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CAP Position: *Support the Arizona Game and Fish Department's efforts to collect and maintain revenues sufficient to continue its annual contribution toward the costs of the MSCP.*

Arizona Water Protection Fund

The Arizona Legislature established the Arizona Water Protection Fund in 1994 with the purpose to provide monies for implementation of projects that will maintain, enhance and restore rivers, streams and associated riparian resources through a yearly competitive public grant process. In recent years, State funding of the Fund has diminished.

CAP Position: *Monitor the status of the Arizona Water Protection Fund and efforts to maintain sufficient levels of State funding.*

Modification of Groundwater Code and Underground Storage Statutes

The Arizona Department of Water Resources administers a system of permits for long-term storage credits and credit accounts and requires extensive monitoring and annual reporting of groundwater pumped and water stored. To create long-term storage credits, an entity must obtain necessary water storage permits, establish a long-term storage account with ADWR and deposit water (Central Arizona Project water or effluent) into the aquifer via an underground storage facility (USF) or a Groundwater Savings Facility (GSF). ADWR credits the volume of water deposited or stored in the USF or GSF to an entity's long-term storage account that exceeds the amount of mined groundwater pumped by the entity.

CAP Position: *Monitor proposed changes to the Arizona Groundwater Code and Underground Storage Statutes to ensure CAP operations are not negatively impacted.*

Hualapai Water Rights Settlement

The role of Indian reservations in Arizona water supply and management has become increasingly important. With approximately 28% of Arizona lands held in trust by the federal government on behalf of Native Americans, determination of Indian water rights and water use by Indian communities can have a significant impact on other State water users.

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CAP Position: *Monitor legislation necessary and appropriate to implement the Hualapai settlement.*

Arizona Power Authority

CAP Position: *Monitor proposed changes to the Arizona Power Authority's statutes and efforts to reallocate Hoover Power to ensure CAP's Hoover allocation is not changed.*

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding any of the issues contained in this report, please contact CAP Business Planning, 623-869-2150.