



KEEPING ARIZONA'S WATER GLASS FULL

Highlights of the 107th
Arizona Town Hall

November 15-18, 2015
Mesa, Arizona



Committee Chair Evelyn Casuga, Board Member Celeste Nunez and Board Chair Linda Elliott-Nelson display the social media hashtags #WATERWISE and #AzTownHallWater created specifically for the 107th Town Hall.

Arizonans need to make tough decisions about how to manage water resources among competing considerations, such as agricultural use, metropolitan use, rural needs, mining use, power use, environmental concerns, tourism and quality of life issues.

- from the 107th Arizona Town Hall Report of Recommendations

For over 50 years, Arizona Town Hall has engaged, educated and empowered Arizonans to create solutions to critical policy issues.

Each of the last five decades has seen an Arizona Town Hall on water. The Arizona Town Hall addressed water in 1965, 1977 1985, 1997 and 2004. This was the sixth time a Town Hall was convened to address this important topic. Because water issues in an arid state are never settled, there was consensus that Arizona's leaders and citizens must continue to develop and refine policies, practices and procedures needed for Arizona's quality of life, economic prosperity and environment.

Prior to the Town Hall, participants from throughout the state reviewed a background report developed by Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona. Meeting in facilitated small groups, the participants addressed a common set of discussion questions. Trained recorders captured points of consensus and the entire group gathered for a plenary session on the fourth day to adopt a report of the findings. Although not every Town Hall participant agrees with every conclusion and recommendation, their report reflects the overall consensus achieved by the 107th Arizona Town Hall.

This publication is a summary of the complete report that includes the background research and the report of recommendations. Complete Town Hall reports are published and made available to Arizona Town Hall members, elected officials including the Arizona Legislature, public libraries, and the general public. Download copies online at www.aztownhall.org or call 602-252-9600 to request a printed copy.

Key Points from the Background Report

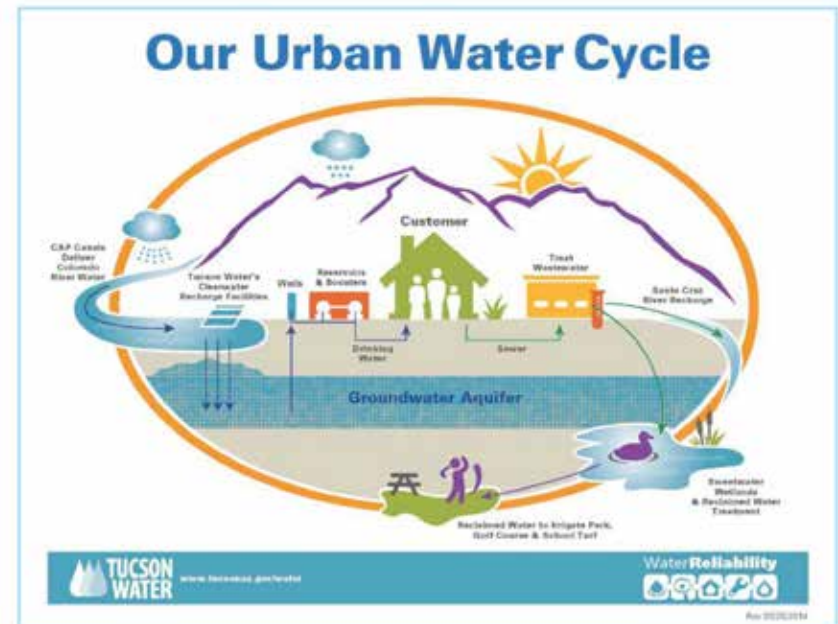
Read or download the complete background report at www.aztownhall.org.

THE HISTORY OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN ARIZONA

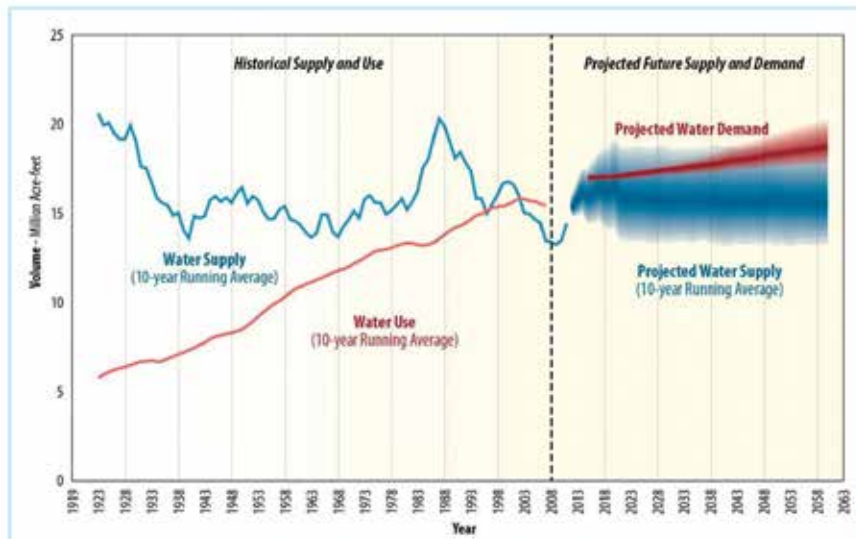
Arizona has a long history of water management. In past centuries, Native people practiced sustainable forms of agriculture and built canals to deliver water to support their civilizations.

In the 20th century, new settlers erected dams to capture and store surface water for farming and municipal uses. State leaders also took steps to protect Arizona's rights to Colorado River water, constructed the Central Arizona Project, and enacted laws to manage groundwater supplies. Because of these proactive efforts, Arizona's most populated areas do not currently face a water crisis. Some rural areas, however, are seeing more immediate problems, such as groundwater depletion and competition for limited water supplies.

Statewide, Arizona may need to identify and develop additional water supplies to meet projected water demands over the next 25 to 100 years. Meanwhile, persistent drought and climate changes are affecting the resiliency of our water supplies.



Urban Water Cycle. Source: Developed for Tucson Water Department by Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations.



Historic Supply and Use and Projected Future Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand. Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (2012).

ARIZONA'S WATER SUPPLIES

Arizona's water supplies consist of surface water, groundwater and reclaimed water. Surface water is water flowing in Arizona rivers, streams and other natural channels. Groundwater is water held under the earth's surface. Reclaimed water is wastewater that has been collected in a sanitary sewer from homes and business and treated at a wastewater treatment plant for subsequent reuse.

Surface water and reclaimed water may be stored underground for later use. This water is then known as stored water. Surface water is generally considered to be a renewable water supply because it is replenished by snow and rain. Reclaimed water is also renewable because wastewater is fairly constant and tends to grow as population increases. Most groundwater is non-renewable because it was stored underground during past geologic ages and is often utilized more quickly than it is replenished.

Special thanks to:



Report of Recommendations

The 107th Arizona Town Hall gathered on November 15-18, 2015, to develop recommendations for Arizona's future water needs. Below is a summary of the recommendations for action.

Read or download the complete report of recommendations at www.aztownhall.org.

MOVE FORWARD WITH ARIZONA'S STRATEGIC VISION FOR WATER SUPPLY SUSTAINABILITY

- Implement the strategic vision at the tribal, state, county and local levels, and keep it updated.
- Support Governor Doug Ducey's new water initiative.
- Make efforts to promote local water planning.
- Fund the Water Resources Development Fund (WRDF).
- Address the structural deficit of the Colorado River in collaboration with other basin states.

CREATE AND FUND MECHANISMS TO FINANCE WATER SUPPLY AND NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

- Establish proper financing to carry out Arizona's long-term water strategy.
- Give preference to the use of existing state agencies to be charged with financing the implementation of the long-term water plan.
- Provide sufficient capitalization to the WRDF to meet its statutorily defined mission.
- Make the case to our Congressional delegation that federal funding is necessary to meet water infrastructure needs, especially for rural and tribal communities.
- Public-private partnerships are key to a diversification in funding as well as private dollars from investors, foundations and green market funds.
- Ensure that Arizona does not leave federal grants or matching funds on the table.

APPROPRIATELY FUND AND STAFF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (ADWR)

- Provide stable and adequate funding of the ADWR to enable it to carry out its statutory responsibilities, including implementation of a long-term strategic water plan.
- Enable the ADWR to retain and hire highly skilled and knowledgeable professionals to carry out its obligations and serve as leaders on statewide water issues.
- Support the ADWR's mission, such as by protecting Arizona's Colorado River entitlement.
- Allow the ADWR to continue to develop innovative policies, practices and technologies to manage our water supply.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Educate the general public and our political leaders on water issues.
- Require water education in our public schools at the K-12 level.
- Have the ADWR develop a focused communication plan and lead statewide discussions among the community and water stakeholders through public forums and online media.
- Implement public education or service campaigns led by local water providers, taking into account cultural and regional demographics, and focusing on regional communities, schools, elected officials and our youth.
- Promote and incentivize conservation and inform the public about water use by residential communities and different economic sectors.
- Promote water as a valuable commodity to justify its value and stimulate creative funding mechanisms.



Tribal participant Sunny Dooley provides her perspectives during Wednesday's plenary session.

The factors likely to have the greatest influence in shaping Arizona's future use of water are land use and ownership, expected population growth, climate change, droughts, potential shortage declarations on the Colorado River, water pricing, lacking or deteriorating infrastructure, declining groundwater levels in some areas, legal and political challenges, tribal water settlements, and economic and agricultural vitality and sustainability.

- from the 107th Arizona Town Hall Report of Recommendations



Jim Dinkle and Betty Peterson take a selfie with Former U.S. Senator Jon Kyl, keynote speaker at the Sunday dinner program.

“We have enough water to meet today’s demand, but our population is projected to double in the next half century, and we will face a supply gap. Our generation must ensure these challenges do not become crises.”

- from Former U.S. Senator Jon Kyl’s keynote address

CONSERVATION AND AUGMENTATION

- Educate consumers about their water usage habits and strategies for conservation through billing statements and social media.
- Use tiered water rates and other financial tools to incentivize conservation.
- Develop more effective methods for financing investment in conservation technologies.
- Modernize building codes and initiate other policies as part of land use and development.
- Focus on increasing reclaimed water and grey water reuse, investing in additional water storage capacity, and increasing our capabilities to capture and utilize storm water runoff.
- Ensure that we improve the quality of our watersheds and other natural resources.
- Implement sustainable forest management programs at the state level and stop the diversion of forest restoration funding to fire suppression at the federal level.

LEGAL REFORM

- Streamline and simplify the general stream adjudication process as litigated in the Superior Court of Arizona.
- Expedite the settlement process for tribal water claims whenever possible, while preserving due process and community engagement.
- Revise some of the standards implemented by environmental regulatory agencies to be less cumbersome and restrictive.
- Allow new groundwater management frameworks to be established in groundwater basins outside the Active Management Areas (AMAs).

THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS

- Educate ourselves about our state’s water resources and challenges, including seeking out opportunities through institutions of higher education, K-12 schools, and other entities.
- Educate others, including elected officials, with a view towards raising public awareness and creating widespread understanding and support for Arizona’s water related strategic initiatives.
- Advocate for federal and state funding that will help ensure Arizona’s water security.
- Support funding for the ADWR and investment in sensible water infrastructure projects.
- Involve young people in conservation efforts from an early age.
- Promote Arizona’s historic and recent successes in water management and conservation.
- Use water responsibly in our daily lives.

Keynote speakers:

Jon Kyl, Of Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP, Former U.S. Senator

Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Robert Johnson, Executive Director of the National Water Resources Association

Special Presentations:

Alberto Rios, Arizona Poet Laureate
Valley Youth Theater

Winning water videos (in partnership with AZ Water Association)



Participants discussing the topic of water at the Future Leaders Town Hall held at the Arizona Western College San Luis Learning Center.

Future Leaders Town Halls:

- Mesa Community College
- Central Arizona College - Superstition Mountain Campus
- Cochise College - Douglas Campus
- Central Arizona College - Maricopa Campus
- Northern Arizona University
- Pima Community College - Community Campus
- Rio Vista Recreation Center, Peoria
- Central Arizona College - Signal Peak Campus
- Arizona Western College - Parker Learning Center
- Arizona Western College - Yuma Campus
- Arizona Western College - San Luis Learning Center
- Yavapai College - Verde Valley Campus
- Central Arizona College - Aravaipa Campus
- South Mountain Community College

Future Leaders Town Hall “Keeping Arizona’s Water Glass Full”

On October 21, 2015, the Arizona Town Hall, in partnership with Maricopa Community Colleges and other organizations, held a Future Leaders Town Hall that drew high school and college students from around the state. Following are some of the key points developed from the gatherings.

ROLE OF WATER IN OUR DAILY LIVES

- Water is essential to our existence.
- Water is used for everything from personal hygiene to cooking to producing energy.
- Much of our state is dependent on water for agricultural production.
- A continuous supply of clean drinking water must be provided.
- Our natural environment and outdoor recreation are supported by water.

ARIZONA’S UNIQUE WATER RESOURCES, STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

- The Colorado River, natural aquifers, dams, reservoirs and canals are unique resources.
- Effective utilization of groundwater and underground storage are strengths.
- Drought and limited rainfall present challenges in predicting the supply of surface water.
- The heat and desert environment result in dry conditions in many areas.
- Competing demands from other states for water resources like the Colorado River create challenges.

BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM

- Educate children about water conservation through a “Water Wise” program in schools.
- Use incentives and disincentives to encourage less and more efficient usage of water.
- Pursue technological advances for the treatment and reuse of water.
- Support the development of cost-effective desalinization projects.

- Encourage the installation of water-saving landscaping.

MESSAGES FOR ARIZONA’S ELECTED LEADERS

- Make the availability of clean drinking water for all a priority.
- Plan ahead for future water needs.
- Protect Arizona’s water rights nationally and regionally.
- Examine regulations re: water policy, consumption and conservation.
- Set an example individually and in the community for the efficient use of water.

COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

Participants committed to:

- Take shorter showers and turn off the running water when it is not needed.
- Educate members of our own household on water conservation.
- Talk to people when we see them wasting water and offer a better solution.
- Become more educated about water rights, particularly in our area.
- Start a water club or program in our community to educate others on water issues and usage.

Keynote speaker:
Kelly Mott Lacroix, Senior Research Analyst, WRRC’s Water Research & Planning Innovations for Dryland Systems (RAPIDS)



Stella Carr presents a proposed amendment at Wednesday's plenary session.

"Water rules kings."

"Water is the blood of the land."

"Water is the desert's medicine."

"We have rain but it's a dry rain."

- One-line poems on Water by Alberto Rios, Arizona Poet Laureate

Water Quick Links

Agnese Nelms Haury Program	haury.arizona.edu
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	www.azdeq.gov
Arizona Department of Water Resources	www.azwater.gov/azdwr/
Arizona Municipal Water Users Association	www.amwua.org
AZ Water Association	www.azwater.org
Central Arizona Project	www.cap-az.com
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona	www.itcaonline.com
Kyl Center for Water Policy	morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/projects/kyl-center-water-policy
The Nature Conservancy	www.nature.org
Salt River Project	www.srpnet.com
University of Arizona Water Network	water.arizona.edu
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	www.usbr.gov
Water Resources Research Center	wrrc.arizona.edu

How You Can Have An Impact

- Share your knowledge and the work of Town Hall participants with family, friends and coworkers.
- Use available resources, such as those referenced in the background report for the 107th Arizona Town Hall, to partner with existing organizations and create ideas that will ensure that we keep Arizona's water glass full. Download the background report at <http://www.aztownhall.org>.
- Keep up to date on relevant programs in your community and action you can take through the Arizona Town Hall (<http://www.aztownhall.org>).
- Arrange a program in your community. Arizona Town Hall can provide resources, speakers, and printed materials. Use social media and personal networks to share information.
- To join existing efforts to pursue recommendations from the 107th Arizona Town Hall, contact the Arizona Town Hall office.
- Vote in upcoming elections and educate yourself on the issues.
- **Be the change.** Model the behavior you expect from others.



We welcome your involvement,
questions, and perspectives.

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Town Hall recommendations are a valuable resource for policymakers because they do not represent the agenda of a particular group or political perspective. Instead, Arizona Town Hall reports contain the informed consensus of Arizonans from different political parties, professions, and geographic areas of the state. A private, non-profit civic organization, Arizona Town Hall serves as a catalyst for conversations and recommendations that create significant changes in Arizona's public policy. Countless local, state, and national leaders cite Arizona Town Hall as an important factor in educating people about complex issues, and fostering the development of civic and community leaders.

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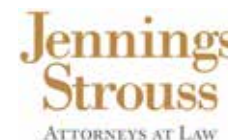
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Arizona Cotton Growers Association