

REFERENCE TITLE: support; water management policies

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HCR 2012

Introduced by
Representative Griffin

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR APPROPRIATE WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND POLICIES FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, Arizona has long been at the forefront among Western states
2 in developing and implementing pioneering, well-reasoned water management
3 policies; and

4 Whereas, through the efforts of many exemplary governmental, civic
5 and community leaders, Arizona has enacted numerous programs and supported
6 many projects, either through legislation or otherwise, that were designed
7 to secure Arizona's water supplies and to ensure the wise use and
8 stewardship of those supplies for the future, including:

9 1. The passage of legislation in 1971 to provide for the
10 establishment of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District to repay
11 the federal government for the Central Arizona Project. Arizona State
12 Representative Stan Turley and Arizona State Senator Ray Goetze, chairmen
13 of the House of Representatives and Senate natural resource committees,
14 respectively, participated in meetings with the federal government
15 regarding the potential structure and operation of the Central Arizona
16 Water Conservation District before enactment of this legislation.

17 2. The passage of legislation in 1980 to establish the Groundwater
18 Management Act and to create the Department of Water Resources. This
19 legislation was enacted after countless meetings and deliberations over at
20 least a three-year period.

21 3. The passage of legislation in 1986 to provide for the
22 underground storage of water for future uses, with additional provisions
23 enacted in 1994.

24 4. The passage of legislation in 1993 to create the Central Arizona
25 Groundwater Replenishment District as a mechanism to provide for
26 additional water supplies.

27 5. The passage of legislation in 1996 to create the Arizona Water
28 Banking Authority to help ensure full use of Arizona's share of the
29 Colorado River.

30 6. The passage of legislation in 2012 and 2017 to authorize Arizona
31 to participate in Minutes 319 and 323 to the 1944 Treaty with Mexico
32 regarding the use of Colorado River water; and

33 Whereas, due to these many proactive measures that Arizona has
34 already enacted and implemented, this state uses less water today than in
35 the 1950s, despite a population growth of nearly five hundred percent; and

36 Whereas, this state has more recently participated in and recognized
37 these additional landmarks in Arizona's water efforts:

38 1. The 2017 celebration by the Salt River Project of the 100 year
39 anniversary of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's transfer of
40 operational control of the Salt River Valley Reclamation Project to the
41 Salt River Valley Water Users' Association.

42 2. The 2018 celebration of the 50 year anniversary of the signing
43 of the Colorado River Basin Project Act, which authorized the construction
44 of the Central Arizona Project.

1 3. The signing of a system use agreement in 2017 between the
2 Central Arizona Water Conservation District and the United States Bureau
3 of Reclamation to allow Central Arizona Project infrastructure to be used
4 in more efficient and innovative ways, including the transport of
5 non-Central Arizona Project water through the system. These and other
6 similar innovative measures are crucial to the success of efforts to
7 manage risks from drought and shortages on the Colorado River.

8 4. The protection of Lake Mead by way of system conservation during
9 2012 to the present during a period of drought and despite the structural
10 deficit on the Colorado River. The Central Arizona Water Conservation
11 District's system conservation has provided for more than 700,000
12 acre-feet of water to be left in Lake Mead during that period, amounting
13 to approximately 10 feet in elevation of the lake, and helping to avert a
14 shortage, with nearly 150,000 acre-feet planned for additional
15 conservation during 2018. These conservation volumes achieved for Lake
16 Mead are similar to the amounts in the drought contingency plan being
17 negotiated among the Lower Basin States of the Colorado River. These
18 successful conservation efforts included the participation of many
19 parties, including representatives of tribes, cities, agricultural users,
20 nongovernmental organizations, water users on the Colorado River, the
21 United States and the State of Arizona; and

22 Whereas, this foundation of successful water policies and water
23 management has provided a basis and a blueprint for this state to achieve
24 more with respect to Arizona's current and future water challenges,
25 including:

26 1. The renegotiation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin
27 Shortages in advance of the Guidelines' expiration at the end of 2025.

28 2. The resolution of issues involving the expiration of
29 extinguishment credits in the Pinal Active Management Area.

30 3. The development of a desalination plan for brackish water as a
31 means to provide additional sources of water in this state.

32 4. The development of a fifth and sixth management plan under the
33 Groundwater Management Act for water users in the active management areas
34 of this state.

35 5. The approval for the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority to
36 administer three additional funds that total over 1.4 billion dollars for
37 water supply development and conservation projects.

38 6. The establishment of the on-farm irrigation efficiency pilot
39 program for providing grants and collecting data to reduce on-farm use of
40 water, including groundwater, surface water, central Arizona project water
41 and mainstream Colorado River water, to minimize or eliminate the use of
42 flood irrigation and fallowing.

43 7. The establishment of the direct potable reuse of treated
44 wastewater program.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
3 the Senate concurring:

4 That the Members of the Legislature continue this tradition of
5 leadership and support for appropriate water management practices and
6 policies that protect property and water rights and that provide for the
7 continued safety and prosperity of the State of Arizona.