

**OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Prescott, Arizona

February 19, 1998

The Board of Supervisors met in special session on February 19, 1998.

Present: Bill Feldmeier, Chairman; Chip Davis, Vice-Chairman (via telephone); Gheral Brownlow, Member; Carolyn Dicus, Assistant Clerk.

Absent: Bev Staddon, Clerk, due to family illness.

Also present: Jim Holst, County Administrator.

ITEM NO. 1.

Meet with the Department of Water Resources to discuss current proposed legislation with the Prescott Active Management Area. **Department of Water Resources Assistant Director Jim Holway met with the Board to present current proposed legislation of SB1270/HB 2649 for groundwater mining occurring in the Prescott AMA. He spoke about a meeting that had taken place with Senator Springer on February 16, 1998 and about two upcoming meetings on February 23, 1998. Mr. Holway brought up four concepts from the meeting on the 16th where significant issues remain to be solved. These included the municipal providers bringing supplies to the district if the district has no water left; provisions to prevent any one entity from cornering the majority of the available water left; whether annual assessment of replenishment costs should be borne by new subdivisions and commercial hookups or by all municipal water users; and whether member lands could terminate their member status by receiving non-mined groundwater supplies directly from the municipal provider. He also spoke about the placement of a district board of directors from each entity such as two from Prescott, two from Prescott Valley, one from Chino Valley and two from the unincorporated area of the County. Supervisor Brownlow asked if an election would have to be held to vote in the positions. Mr. Holway answered that yes there would have to be an election in place for each district. He also said another proposal that they were looking at was putting an emergency clause on the bill as there is a high degree of concern that as soon as this gets off the ground, there should be an election on it in November. Supervisor Davis expressed concern about pulling water out of the Big Chino Basin and how it is affecting the Verde Valley. Mr. Holway responded that it is one area that needs to be studied more. He also spoke about items that were discussed but not decided upon such as annual assessment for cost of replenishing mined groundwater, termination of member status and seeking of non-mined groundwater supplies, reservation of certain portions of any residential water commitment and the issuance of contracts for limited percentage of available water supply in any given year. He discussed the different options for allocations of the Big Chino/district water. Mr. Holway also expressed that the meeting to take place on Monday was a critical meeting and that the County should attend. Chairman Feldmeier said that he had not received enough information on this issue to be making decisions of this kind. The issue of exempt wells was also presented. Mr. Holway said that the plan for exempt wells is that a thousand dollar up-front fee, or somewhere along that line, would be paid to the district before they could get their notice of intent so that the thousand dollars would help develop the needed infrastructure, but once paid that the property owner would have no ongoing obligation. Supervisor Feldmeier asked what would happen if the Mining Groundwater Declaration was put off for a year. Mr. Holway said the primary concern was if this issue wasn't out there, sometime in the middle of the year there**

would probably be a declaration. In terms of delaying beyond that, he said that he had been told by Prescott Valley that between now and July 1, 1998, they expect to subdivide 5,300 lots minimum and over the next couple of years, they expect subdivisions of 20,000 to 30,000 lots. He said the cost when they declare isn't the issue as much as the fact that there isn't a permanent mining right by the new ones. He said that, to date, the only way to ensure that is with a mandatory replenishment obligation. After discussing different options that could be presented at the meeting Monday with Senator Springer, Mr. Holway closed his presentation.

ITEM NO. 2

Consider appointment of new Personnel Director. After brief discussion, Motion was made by Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Brownlow to appoint Judy Dobbins as the new Personnel Director, at a starting salary of \$54,000. Approved by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

_____.Clerk _____Chairman