



## **Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee**

### **Item No. 9**

**Subject: Recommendations to Rural Water Legislative Study Committee**

**From: TAC**

Background: The Arizona Legislature's Rural Water Legislative Study Committee will begin to examine Rural Arizona water issues. During discussion at the WAC meeting on August 24, 2005, the TAC was directed to compose a list of topics that this commission should examine. These topics are attached in a draft letter to the Study Committee. Board approval will be required if the WAC desires to send a letter to the Study Committee.

## YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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9/28/2005

Rural Water Legislative Study Committee  
c/o Chairman and Senator Jake Flake  
Senate  
1700 W. Washington  
Room 307  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Draft - Version 2

Dear Senator Flake and Honorable Study Committee Members

The Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) is an advisory committee to the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors and is made up of duly elected officials from the various governmental jurisdictions within Yavapai County, including the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the incorporated communities of Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Jerome, Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley, the unincorporated portions of Yavapai County, and the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Over the course of discussions, the WAC has identified a number of water resource issues that would require the assistance of the State Legislature for effecting positive change. It is our request that the Rural Water Legislative Study Committee will examine these issues and consider legislation or other means appropriate to making forward progress. The WAC would be happy to provide additional information on these topics or to assist the Committee in any fashion.

- Grant local platting authorities the ability to consider water availability when examining subdivision approval if the Department of Water Resources has issued a finding of inadequate water supply for the proposed development.
- Establish the authority, mechanisms and compensations that would create Conservation Easements on certain portions of State Trust Land that are important for water resource preservation. Specifically those lands identified in the Big Chino Subbasin and in the Verde Valley
- Provide funding mechanisms to create Conservation Easements on privately owned land.
- Address the issue of lot splits in lieu of platted subdivisions, specifically in locations where there is not adequate water supply to meet the demands associated with those splits.
- Closely examine the recommendations from the 85<sup>th</sup> Arizona Town Hall, including:
  - To avoid crisis management, Arizona must engage in long-term planning based on good science and data collection that should be made widely available throughout the state.

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Deleted: <#>Establish a state program of impact fees on new residential development to provide matching funds for water resources data collection, planning, acquisition and infrastructure to applicants demonstrating significant problems meeting current or projected residential water demands. ¶

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- ...the collection and dissemination of information about water supplies and demand is a statewide concern and must be improved, particularly in non-AMA areas.
- Non-AMA areas should have management tools specific to the needs of each region.
- While water shortages have prompted many communities to better manage their resources, it is imperative that communities plan for water shortages before they occur.
- New or amended legislation is required to empower counties and local entities to address water management issues.
- ADWR must play a central leadership and advocacy role. The Agency's statewide mission should be expanded and strengthened in the areas of policy development, planning and data collection.
- Dedicated and secure funding sources must be created to finance Arizona's critical water management, planning and infrastructure needs.

In closing, the WAC extends its appreciation to the Rural Water Study Committee for your consideration of these topics and for taking the time to work on an issue of such vast importance to Rural Arizona.

Sincerely,

**Jane Moore and Robert Roecker, WAC Co-chairmen**