

YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Draft - Version 4

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 and appointed 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 will require the assistance of the State Legislature for effecting positive change. It is our request that the Rural Water Legislative Study Committee examines these issues, outlined below, and considers legislation or other means appropriate to making forward progress. The WAC is available to provide additional information on these topics or to assist the Committee in any fashion. In this capacity and to clearly explain our concerns and potential solutions, the WAC respectfully requests an opportunity to present at a future Legislative Study Committee meeting. Our coordinator, John Rasmussen, will contact the appropriate Study Committee personnel in order to affirm the request and schedule the presentation.

- 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 85th 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.
 - 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 Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee 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,

Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee

Jane Moore, Town of Jerome, Co-chairman

Robert Roecker, City of Prescott, Co-chairman

Art Coates, County Representative District 1

Dick Ellis, City of Sedona

Billy Garner, Yavapai-Apache Tribe

Andy Groseta, County Representative District 3

Thomas M. Hintze Sr., Town of Dewey-Humboldt

Diane Joens, City of Cottonwood

Bob Kovacovich, Town of Camp Verde

Chris Moss, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

John Munderloh, Town of Prescott Valley

Virginia Reed, Town of Chino Valley

Doug Von Gausig, Town of Clarkdale

Tom Whitmer, ADWR

Jim Williams, County Representative District 2