



Central Arizona Water Clearinghouse

WRRC 2023 Annual Conference

What Can We Do? Solutions to Arizona's Water Challenges

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Funder



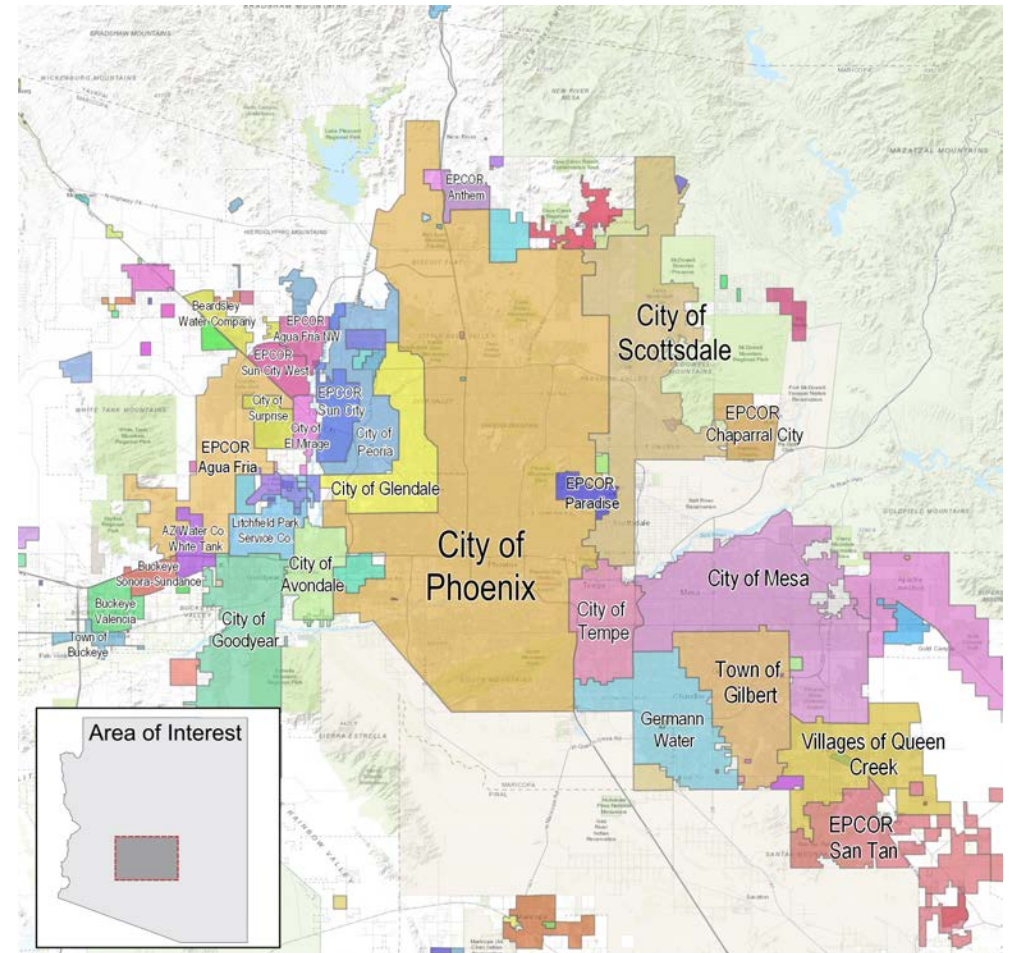
— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

WaterSMART Water Marketing Strategy Grant

Background & Motivation

Municipal water portfolios are managed independently, each with different sizes, sources, reliability, and risks.

What if we could reduce overall water risk through collaborative water exchanges?



Our Vision

What?

Reduce regional water risk by unlocking opportunities for more collaborative water exchanges.

How?

Develop a digital, up-to-date tool (Central Arizona Water Clearinghouse) that:




- Provides water supply and demand information
- Captures infrastructure, capacity, and interconnections
- Identifies paired needs and potential collaborators

Challenges of Water Exchanges

- ⊘ Knowledge gaps
 - Teams lack expertise (and overall confidence) in water transactions
- ⊘ Time / staff capacity
 - Teams are understaffed or regularly face “more pressing problems”
- ⊘ Relationship gaps
 - Exchanges require relationships and trust, which are not built overnight

Especially for smaller water providers

Challenges for a Clearinghouse

-  **Constrained data availability**
 - Publicly available water data are incomplete with a slow and irregular update schedule
-  **Complex geophysical relationships**
 - Complexity and variety of exchange arrangements potentially difficult for a computer algorithm to fully capture
-  **Varying degrees of stakeholder comfort**
 - Skepticism and concerns about entrusting an electronic tool with making potential matches

Key Takeaways

#1 Expanding transactions is more about building social capital than technology

Building relationships, trust, and familiarity were more important to expanding water transactions than building technology.

Key Takeaways

#2 Data confidentiality concerns are real, though addressable

When stakeholders see the value to participating, and appropriate safeguards are in place, they're willing to share their data.

Key Takeaways

#3 Collaboration expands the solution toolbox

By bringing more people, brainpower, and water management portfolios to the table, more options are available than by working alone. Importantly, collaboration also fills knowledge gaps.



If you want to go fast, go **alone**.
If you want to go far, go **together**.

—African Proverb



Thank you!

Join our collaborative to create a Central Arizona Water Clearinghouse!
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