

# Political Hurdles & Major Policy Issues

Future Water Supplies for Central Arizona

By

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# What did last visionaries think about?

- Copper
- Cattle
- Cotton
- Citrus
- Colorado River
- California



We will not do things the same way, because our concerns and needs are not the same



# What do today's visionaries need to think about?

- Conjunctive Mgmt
- Climate change
- Power
- NEPA
- Highest & Best Use
- Balanced Use (allocation)
- International relations (Mexico)



# What Drives Us?

- Response to Growth
- Legal framework
- Availability
- Reliability
- Water quality
- Constructability
  - Implementation
  - ROW
  - Cost
- Social Acceptance of Use
- Exchangeability
- Uses

# What Drives “Them”?

- Relatively lower housing prices
- Good economic outlook
- Air Conditioning
- Open Space – Boating - Fishing
- Intel/Motorola – Town Lakes – Aerospace
- Golf & Resorts
- Market reflects values, visions, & desires (not needs)

# What do we know?

- Growth will continue
  - Doubling population in 30 years
- Water is available for millions more people
- Less elasticity when a drought happens
- Tension exists outside the water arena
  - Transportation
  - Air Quality
  - Public Lands
  - Education
- Doing “nothing” is not a viable alternative

# What is our role?

Simply respond to demand  
that “other people” determine

OR

Provide input and advice





# Major Policy Issues

- Predicting development patterns & populations
  - Bring water in (Expand in historical pattern)
  - Go to water (Metroplex not important)
  - Go to where there is no infrastructure
  - Economy impacts – We do have some control

# Major Policy Issues

- Why are we conserving?
  - Every water provider's reason and method for conserving is different because of its water portfolio, community goals, and finances.
  - Can you achieve conservation through market methods?
    - like SO2 credits
    - Get paid for saving

# Major Policy Issues

- CAGR D
  - Should it be just a bridge or a permanent supply
  - Has become the “means”, not the “bridge”
  - Should CAGR D be expanded and strengthened, OR should it be limited?
  - How should the governance issue be dealt with?

# Major Policy Issues

- Address the disconnect between adequacy and growth
- Address the loop holes
  - Exempt wells
  - Lot splits

# Major Policy Issues

- Bringing in new supplies
  - Are we going to build a lot of individual projects
  - Consolidate the projects into one plan and effort
  - High competition
  - NEPA
  - Use Federal dollars?
    - one Congress, many entities
  - Avoid Federal dollars?

# Major Policy Issues

- Allocation of water
  - Balance projected market forces with public policy interests
    - M&I (growth = \$\$\$)
    - Agriculture (might be good in post-911 era to keep some)
    - Environment & Recreation (quality of life)
- Can there be Statewide vision for the fate of mainstem Colorado River water?
  - Way of life
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party impacts
  - Do we allow market forces

# Major Policy Issues

- Regional or statewide water collaboration
  - Are existing tensions productive?
  - Should the environment have a water right?
  - Financing ability
  - Plan for climatic variability
  - MUST examine the trade-offs

# Political Hurdles

- How do we devise a system that can serve all the state's water needs?
  - Municipal
  - Agricultural
  - Environmental
- Are our water management institutions equipped for the challenges we face?
- Do new institutions need to be established?
- Can a common vision be established for Arizona?



As you move through  
today's exercises, consider  
these public policy issues

