

CAPConnections

with Municipal Partners

2017 Federal and State Legislative Agendas

On December 1, the CAP Board of Directors approved CAP's federal and state legislative agendas for the upcoming year. CAP's Legislative Agendas guide the activities of legislative staff and consultants during the upcoming legislative sessions. The 53rd State Legislature's First Regular Session will begin on Monday, January 9, 2017, and the 115th Congress will convene on January 3, 2017.

Federal Agenda

Colorado River Sustainability Legislation



CAP Position: Continue to engage in legislative and funding solutions to promote Colorado River sustainability, including efforts to address the structural deficit and prolonged drought conditions such as the Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), in cooperation

with the State of Arizona, Arizona stakeholders, Basin States, federal agencies, Tribes, and other Colorado River water users.

Support legislation as needed to implement multistate agreements relating to the Colorado River, including the DCP.

Continue to promote CAP's Protect Lake Mead campaign to raise awareness and support for cooperative efforts that are aimed at improving water elevations in the reservoir.

Navajo Generating Station (NGS)

CAP Position: Continue efforts to engage elected officials, stakeholders, and governmental agencies regarding federal activities that affect the Navajo Generating Station.

Cybersecurity Threats and Legislation

CAP Position: Monitor legislative efforts to address cybersecurity and potential threats to critical infrastructure and vital computer systems.

Central Arizona Project Water Supply

CAP Position: Continue to collaborate with Federal, State, Tribal, and other stakeholders to mitigate potential impacts on the CAP water supply and support efforts to supplement and augment water supplies with desalination, weather modification, innovative conservation programs, and water reuse and recycling programs.

Support federal approval and finalization of the CAP System Use Agreement in collaboration with Arizona stakeholders.

Energy Legislation

CAP Position: Monitor legislative efforts that may impact CAP operations, including CAP's ability to secure affordable energy and ensure reliable transmission delivery.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Issues

CAP Position: Continue to support the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant or suitable alternatives to reduce system losses.

Support the activities of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, including efforts to secure adequate funding and improve water management.

Indian Water Rights Settlement Legislation

CAP Position: Continue to collaborate with Arizona Tribes and other stakeholders on issues related to resolving water rights claims.

Continue to support legislation necessary and appropriate to enact the Hualapai Tribe water rights settlement.

Federal Rulemaking

CAP Position: Continue to monitor federal rulemaking and implementation related to energy, emissions, water quality, and other issues that may affect CAP operations.

Water Quality

CAP Position: Monitor water quality issues impacting the Colorado River that may affect CAP operations.



State Agenda

Protect Lake Mead

CAP Position: Continue to support water conservation and similar efforts that protect the water elevation in Lake Mead and help to avoid Colorado River shortage, including implementation of the Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan, or DCP.

Support legislation as needed to implement multistate agreements relating to the Colorado River, including the DCP.

Continue to promote CAP's Protect Lake Mead campaign to raise awareness and support for cooperative efforts that are aimed at improving water elevations in the reservoir.

Arizona Water Resources

CAP Position: Continue to collaborate with various stakeholders on efforts to address in-state and interstate water resources.

Monitor legislative actions that directly impact CAP water supplies and operations.

Monitor legislative efforts that encourage in-state water conservation activities, including the use of residential rainwater harvesting systems.

Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Funding

CAP Position: Support the Arizona Game and Fish Department's efforts to collect and maintain revenues sufficient to continue its annual contribution toward the costs of the MSCP.

Monitor legislative and executive proposals that impact dedicated annual state funding of the MSCP.

Funding of State Water Agencies and Commissions

CAP Position: Support the efforts of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission to secure sufficient state General Fund appropriations in order to carry out statutory functions.

Monitor legislative actions that propose to use funds available to the Arizona Water Banking Commission for other purposes.

Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR)

CAP Position: Monitor any proposed CAGRDR-related legislation to ensure its operations are not adversely impacted.

Promote awareness of CAGRDR's statutory functions, operations, and funding to inform lawmakers of its critical contribution to Arizona's water management and economic development.

Federal Water Legislation Enacted

Prior to adjournment of the 114th Congress, federal lawmakers passed water legislation that included two of Arizona's drought priorities put forward by Team Arizona. S.612, the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act (WIIN), includes a \$50-million authorization for water conservation activities in the Colorado River Basin such as the Pilot System Conservation Program. It also directs the National Academy of the Sciences to conduct a one-year study on the effectiveness of salt cedar (tamarisk) removal efforts on increasing water supplies and improving riparian habitats of the Colorado River and its principal tributaries. There is also funding for desalination research and development (\$40 million) and \$20 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), a federal safe drinking water and wastewater infrastructure investment loan program.



**Season's Greetings and
Best Wishes for the New Year
from all of us at CAP!**

**CAP
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