

2014 State Legislative Agenda

The 51st State Legislature's Second Regular Session will begin on Monday, January 13, 2014. The following list describes CAWCD's state legislative agenda for calendar year 2014 and will guide the activities of CAP legislative staff and consultants during the upcoming Session.

The Business Planning and Governmental Programs Team will come before the Public Policy Committee on a regular basis to seek guidance and direction on these and other proposed state agency rules and legislative bills and amendments that may arise during the coming year.

Arizona Department of Water Resources Funding

The Arizona Department of Water Resources administers and enforces Arizona's groundwater code and surface water rights laws. CAP partners with ADWR on many levels and desires to see the Department remain viable through adequate funding.

CAP Position: Monitor the Legislature's budgeting processes and agency rulemaking to ensure the Arizona Department of Water Resources' current level of funding is maintained.

Multi-Species Conservation Program Funding

State law provides for the collection of boater registration fees to support the Arizona Game and Fish Department's annual contribution to the costs of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

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.

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Arizona Water Protection Fund

The Arizona Legislature established the Arizona Water Protection Fund in 1994 to provide monies for implementation of projects that will maintain, enhance and restore rivers, streams and associated riparian resources through a yearly competitive public grant process. CAP holds a seat on the Water Protection Fund Commission.

CAP Position: Monitor the status of the Arizona Water Protection Fund and efforts to maintain sufficient levels of funding.

Hualapai Water Rights Settlement

The role of Indian reservations in Arizona water supply and management has become increasingly important. With approximately 28% of Arizona lands held in trust by the federal government on behalf of Native Americans, determination of Indian water rights and water use by Indian communities can have a significant impact on other water users within the State.

CAP Position: Monitor legislation necessary and appropriate to implement the Hualapai settlement.

Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR)

As part of the 1980 Groundwater Manage Act and other legislation enacted to protect Arizona's aquifers from severe depletion, development is allowed if a long-term, reliable water supply is demonstrated and if the developer or water provider joins CAGRDR to keep Arizona's groundwater replenished.

CAP Position: Actively participate and engage on any proposed legislation to the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District to ensure CAGRDR operations are not negatively impacted.

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Arizona Water Resources

Recent water supply studies produced by the Water Resources Development Commission and the Bureau of Reclamation identify numerous challenges facing Arizona.

CAP Position: Actively participate and engage on any new efforts to address in-state and interstate water resources.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Business Planning & Governmental Programs at 623-869-2150.