

## **Workshop on Water and Growth:**

### *Future Water Supplies for Central Arizona*

*Sponsored by the ASU Global Institute of Sustainability and the Sustainability Partnership  
Phoenix, Arizona – June 21, 2006*

#### **Comment Cards – Summary of Responses**

The responses below are from the Comment Cards submitted during both days of the Conference; this short summary is the “Most Important Issue” facing Arizona regarding water. The Comment Cards asked, “What do you believe is the most important issue which needs to be addressed regarding Arizona water?” and “What, if any, important water & growth issue has not been brought up during the conference?” They also gave space for additional comments. The number in parentheses is the number of responses concerning the given topic. Verbatim Comment Card responses are given in the table below.

- Growth & Adequate Supply Concerns (28)
  - Wildcat Subs, Finite Supply, More Authority, Rural Management Needs
- Protect Environment / Ecosystems (12)
- Affordability / Equity / Distribution (5)
- CAGR (no limit, no direct use) (4)
- Importation & Allocation of CO River (3)
- Ag to Urban & Loss of Farmland (2)
- Legislator education and leadership (2)
- Public education (2)
- Link water to other issues (1)
- Link water quality & quantity (1)
- Salinity and salts imported into central Arizona (1)
- Water use in rural Arizona (1)
- CA dependence on Co River (1)
- Need new water supplies (1)
- Drought (1)
- Surface water / groundwater connection (1)
- Bridge communication gaps (1)
- Depletion by upstream users in Salt/Verde (1)
- Why use potable supply to flush toilet (1)
- Bob McCain's Retirement (1)

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#### Verbatim Comments from Comment Cards

Affiliation	Most important issue which needs to be addressed regarding Arizona water?	Important water & growth issue that has not been brought up during the conference?	Additional Comments?
Planner	Unrestricted growth	As quality of life goes down in Phoenix (growth induced), Phoenix residents move to rural areas who don't have CAP or CAGR	
Consultant	Hard-link growth to sustainable water use. Learn from other countries (Holland, Spain, Portugal)	Water quality: Colorado River TDS exceeds (secondary) drinking water standard. Salinity will soon play a major role	
Municipal Water Provider	Adequate water supply for growth	Ability to use public lands for public water supply	
Community activist; Supporter of future health of the San Pedro River	Legally connecting groundwater and surface water	How can endless growth, at whatever annual rate, be considered when the resource is limited/finite?	
Municipal water provider; farmer; lawyer; planner; developer/builder	Assured water supply is a fiction. A) Unregulated wells B) cumulative impacts C) Wildcat developments D) Warming effects	Not specific enough on solutions – state and municipal policies that work. Building codes, etc.; 3 Council members here from (???) found the morning non-specific.	It's good policy to have moderator ask some questions – but I believe it was overdone in this format. Should allow written questions at least – collect and see if there are common themes or issues the audience is concerned about. Good choice of knowledgeable speakers and topics, great turnout – nice to see so many sponsors!
Farmer, water provider	Source of additional water; water harvesting; capture all rain water from rooftops		
Economic and community development	Uniform water codes statewide (entire state should be an AMA); wildcat subdivisions – local jurisdictions and authority		
Municipal water provider		The 1980 GMA needs some serious tweaking	

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Interested citizen		See other side [additional comments]	Yeah water is your "thing," and it is probably the key issue for the Southwest, but, talking about water and not talking about lifestyle, open space, air quality, is to effectively compartmentalize the most important aspect of growth – i.e., growth cuts across all resource and lifestyle related issues. From my perspective, what we really need is a conference on Growth. Period. I'd be happy to partner with you on such a conference.
Review of development	Reducing California dependence on Colorado River and Tahoe Basin water. Bank treated wastewater in groundwater dependent areas.	Legal requirements and funding for storage and treatment of rainwater in rural areas. This combined with WW discharge (point source) may result in higher average year round river flows	You should deal with statewide integration of stormwater conservation and slowing of runoff with water resource generation.
Researcher		GROWTH – How many people; where; what will it look like	Unfortunately, much of today's discussion is more-of-the-same. The issue of growth – projections, where and how much – were not addressed. How does a water manager become aware of this? How well do urban Planners engage with water manager? There needs to be a presentation and discussion on growth. However, I did not hear a discussion based on the facts and reality of growth in AZ or anyplace else.
Lawyer for tribe with reserved but unquantified water use rights. White Mountain Apache Tribe	Client tribe's view is that Salt River Supplies must factor in upstream depletion by tribe – currently – Salt River Supply is overstated because it does not factor in potential depletion by upstream WMA tribe.		

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Planner	CAGRDR – unintended consequences of fringe developments and using water in developed areas instead of getting renewable resources to those areas	Stormwater harvesting as a water resource, when integrated on a community-wide basis	How can water managers and planners become involved in land use and development planning in a realistic way? Concern about privatization of water and wastewater management in unincorporated areas. Municipal control ensures some public process in decision making – this is happening in Arizona. Much of the discussion assumes that money is no object – this is not the case for vast numbers of Arizonans. If we look at our community holistically is this a good option for us?
Consultant/interested citizen	Supply vs. growth and long-term sustainability		1) Desalinization appears to be the trump card we are holding to address long-term shortage in CAP supplies. How will rising cost/shortage of fossil fuels affect feasibility of desalinization from an economic standpoint? 2) Considering over allocation of Colorado River, continuing /potential drought and issues facing CAGRDR (Increasing competition, decreasing supplies, etc.), to what extent are we living on borrowed time (i.e., water) with unlimited enrollment in CAGRDR?

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Federal (DOD) Water resources planner	Whether current growth and its resulting water demand can be supported without significant ongoing environmental deterioration.	See back of card [additional comments]	There was an almost complete lack of discussion regarding how human use of water and growth impact ecosystems dependent on that water. In fact, only one panelist represented the environmental perspective. The question of whether water will limit growth may not be the most germane. Perhaps it's better to ask whether continued growth will consume all water available for ecosystem function. (Think in terms of the dramatic loss of riparian ecosystems in our state).
Researcher	Allocation of Colorado River water	The effect of climate change on the sources of water for Arizona.	In the first 5 sessions today, the discussants were all white males with the exception of Mr. Kyitan. I think diversity plays an important role in creating new ideas and methods for thinking more broadly about a range of issues, and this diversity should include socioeconomic, gender and race diversity. Please try to include this in following conferences. In addition, citizen participation (minus the financial barriers) is desirable and should be solicited.
Interested citizen	Maintaining focus while faced with overwhelming complications	Immigration reform	
Editor, Clean Water Report, a newsletter about water treatment	How do you change the mindset regarding water use and growth?	Litigation plays a big role in keeping the status quo. Cities really don't have a way to restrict building because of litigation.	

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Representative to Upper San Pedro Partnership		No attempt was made to distinguish between water needs and water wants.	Who pays for the “new” water needed for the growth? Why should existing residents or federal dollars pay for growth? As long as the cost of growth can be externalized as much as it has been, people will not understand the cost of growth.
Environmentalist	Recognition that the water supply is finite	How much water should be reserved for nature?	Attaching a commodity value to water would help a lot. Although not everyone would react to this, most would. The base rate and amount need to be kept affordable, or course, but then the rates after that should be very steep.

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Water Resources Planner	Allocating water supplies for environmental benefits and output of ecosystem services.	The relationship between water and energy. Energy, not water, will be the ultimate limit to growth in Arizona. We're going to find ourselves hot, stranded, and thirsty.	Day 2 – recommend that attendees read a book titled <i>The Long Emergency</i> . Aside from assured water supplies, Phoenix and Tucson are dependent on cheap energy for transportation and air conditioning. As we head over the top of the oil depletion curve in the last part of the first decade of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century, a permanent energy crisis will ensue. In this environment, cross country trucking of 90% of the nation's winter lettuce from Yuma will come to an abrupt end. It will be essential to grow food where it will be consumed. Trucking in food supplies for eight million people so we can use our agricultural lands as a drought buffer is not an option – we just don't know it yet. Desalination and construction of water supply infrastructure for long distance transport will also not be feasible, due to energy constraints. A conference on the relationship between water and energy should be hosted by someone in the near future. High energy costs will result in incredible demand for evaporative cooling, yet we are eliminating them to save water. High lift groundwater pumps also require large amounts of energy.

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State employee in interstate water compacts	That AZ is in a DESERT and it's not appropriate to highjack water from wetter basins or poorer states and nations.		My concern is that a certain issue was brought up <u>too</u> often. There wasn't a sustainable theme at this conference but a theme that AZ has money so it doesn't matter that it is water-poor. Does AZ really believe that because they have more money than other lower CO River Basin States, it's okay to lure them into water exchange deals?? This is not beneficial to the economy of the Southwest as a whole, not to even mention the environment! I don't intend to sound bitter, but it's important that the schoolyard bully at the very least confess its role in intimidating the other kids on the playground.
Conservation NGO	How to keep our remaining rivers flowing while providing sustainable water for communities.	Protection of environmentally sensitive areas; how to move beyond growth as an economic driver; cost of services studies show true cost of growth.	
University researcher	Keep population to range sustainable by existing water supplies.	Besides the Verde River, what steps are being taken to protect riparian systems and wetlands?	
Interested citizen	Our governing legislative branch continually puts down H2O bills that come before them. They need to listen to the people and remove their rigidity.	Arizona is an arid desert region. Its growth has overrun its environment – we need to curtail the growth and wildcat developments.	

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Researcher; faculty member	How much/what kind of growth can/should our water sustain? Any concern about affordable homes for those who can't pay \$200/month for cable TV?	1) Serious discussion of growth management; 2) Planning for border/Mexico region; 3) Focus on marginalized populations in AZ.	Great conference; appropriate and critical topic. However, conference reflects lack of diversity – on program and in audience. Need more gender/ethnic diversity (Not one woman made a substantive panel presentation –OK, one, at the end of conference) and move away from water “suits” all telling jokes to each other. Too much showcasing of developers, and not enough critique. Critical issues: 1) Include some focus on AZ-MX border water issues; 2) Marginal populations and access to water; 3) Does water conservation make sense in face of 3% annual population growth?
Municipal water provider – City of Surprise	Growth and infrastructure costs and innovations of conservation technology.	Statewide conservation restrictions; Legislative needs to address water issues.	One day, we should run a “MOCK” drill on what would happen if we <u>did</u> run out of water. 1) What would the response be? 2) How do we proceed? 3) Where will we get the replenishment? 4) Who will take responsibility? I think if we prepare our state for the “what ifs,” we are one step ahead of the other states.
Interested citizen	That the water supply will decrease while population will increase AND climate will change	Purposely avoided climate and related feedbacks: tsk, tsk.	I think it would be better to have the panel sessions interspersed with the group discussions. Some outrageous/interesting claims were made, but they're hard to process with no time to discuss with others.
Interested citizen/student	The perceived disconnect between water and growth – it's widely accepted, though fallacious, that the two are separate policy problems.	There was little or no talk of in-stream use of water (ecological systems) or actual discussion of what would happen in the event of a drought. All discussion assumed constant supply.	

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Municipal provider	CAP on GRD; Assured water in rural areas.	Providing better information to public about water resources.	
Interested citizen and county watershed committee member	Sustainable quality of life, including availability of water, both metropolitan <u>and</u> rural	Environment and habitat (watershed management)	It is my impression from today that water is principally viewed as a commodity in the state of AZ. I would ask why water is placed on an even "playing field" as commodities such as steel, "electricity," coal, produce, cotton, etc. For <u>all</u> of life, water is a necessity, without which it will collapse, sometimes quite abruptly. This is <u>not</u> the case for virtually all other commodities. I would suggest a new approach to our perception of this essential "commodity."
Consultant	Information on use and quantity of water use in rural AZ.	Financing of information studies.	
	Adequacy laws		How do we go about changing the adequacy laws and in such a manner as to be both prompt and successful? Are there interim measures to slow/stop development in areas not demonstrating adequacy?
Hydrogeologist/consultant	1) Educate the general public 2) educate the AZ legislature		1) Combine ADWR and ADEQ into one, new agency, ADWM: "Arizona Department of Water Management" (move some of current ADEQ authorities/responsibilities to ADHS (Arizona Department of Health) 2) Seek funding for ADWM specifically for data management. 3) Require hydrogeological assessments for each new well installed anywhere in Arizona. 4) Increase funding and staff for the AZ Water Institute.

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Researcher (fed. Government)	Environmental protection and quality of life issues are sacrificed as water resources are gobbled up by unmitigated growth.	Pro-growth say they are only servicing a demand (for more houses and golf courses and swimming pools) yet they are selling and attracting people to this state by promoting our natural resources -- problem results. (see #1)	
NGO Watershed management group	Sustainable use of water resources – this issue must include the environment, not just human needs	How is growth affecting water resources/riparian areas from an environmental perspective.	If there are “plenty” of water resources, why do we have dead rivers, and dying riparian areas and disappearing wetlands in AZ? The discussion on sustainability was very lacking. This issue needs more depth in discussion, and stakeholders should dialogue to devise a common definition for sustainable water resources.
Educator -- Ecologist	Bridging communication /knowledge gap between water managers, decision makers, public/ stakeholders - all of which appear to be H2O resource illiterate.	Maintaining the INTEGRITY of Watersheds (ecology)	Based on 7 years field experience/contact: 1) I would doubt that ½ of the participants in this conference can agree on what a watershed is and even fewer could communicate the concept of a watershed to a member of the general public and/or a stakeholder. 2) I would suggest most “elected officials” lack any qualification to make responsible decisions RE: watersheds, resources or management plans.
Consultant	The conversion of ag to urban land use and the future of ag and the irrigation districts.	The fate of local agriculture and the relationship between changing water use and quality of life. We are at the mercy of others for food and fiber – is it worth the growth.	Ag is the largest water [user] in the state, why not help them conserve?

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Educator	Supply and demand; quantity and quality distribution.	See back [additional comments]	For Day 2 discussion: Inhumane attitude of water buffaloes proponing waters economic equilibrium point: 1) water is a necessity of life; 2) do the poor just go without? For how long? 3) water for wage-earners!
Educator	Quantity and quality; supply and demand; planning	see back [additional comments]	For Day 2 discussion: The elephant in the living room everyone sees but no one talks about: Climate Change! 1) Extended drought 2) Higher ET; 3) Exotic invasive plants overtaking watersheds/riparian areas; 4) 100-400K+ acre wildfires; 5) shorter winters/longer summers; 6) Impact on growth (?)
Elected municipal public official	Environmental preservation	AZ Wildfires	
	Growth, i.e., sustainability; is there really enough to sustain growth <u>and</u> the economy?		
Have worked in/for 4 categories	Why we use potable water to flush toilets, carry industrial & human waste – composting toilets – John Todd living systems wetlands – all are better than sewers are.	The tension between development community and municipal authorities – companies do not want to play by the rules and look for authorities who will let them slide.	Very good conference – thank you all! Other issues: 1) Ag chemicals in groundwater; 2) mining chemicals in groundwater; 3) pharmaceutical in wastewater, effluent, pesticides, etc. reclaimed water; 4) elimination of buffalo grass (fires use lots of water); 5) encouragement of not just greywater use but permaculture principles in subdivisions, business complexes – permeable pavement, stormwater directed to trees.
Irrigation district, planner	Loss of agriculture due to growth.	Private property right vs. growth and loss of agriculture.	
ADWR Employee	Drought and other unforeseen outages – planning emergency outages	Wildcat subdivisions and outages: example – Desert Hills	

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Municipal	GRD – aren't we all sharing the same water eventually? What are the checks and balances for "sustainable" development in the unincorporated areas?	What are population projections in the Phoenix and Tucson AMA's? What are population projections in non-AMA areas? Planners have (over)consistently underestimated population growth, particularly in Phoenix and Tucson. What type of models do we have to show population projections and 20 year drought and groundwater mining and heat island effects and unaccounted variables on our water resources?	
Bureaucrat (US Army Corps of Engineers)	As we define "sustainable growth" for water supply we need to ensure that human interests do not deplete other environmental interests.	If newer issue USACE has been discussing is the issue of growth and development near levees (many of which are not maintained). Insurance companies are beginning to require flood insurance for 500-year flood levels or are simply not recognizing "certified" levees. Steve Olson mentioned the possible change in weather patterns that may lead to more flooding. Therefore, our idea of controlling floodplains may impact growth negatively and will probably have to locally before we do something about it. Watch out McMikken Dam area!	A personal note, I notice that there was only one female panelist/"expert" versus 26 male panelists/keynote speakers.
UA-NEMO/USDA-ARS-SWRC Water Resources Research & Modeling	Managing growth and/or limiting growth so that our environmental resources are <u>not</u> damaged (e.g., San Pedro River ) and water resources are sustainable.	Why conserve water if it just means that more people can live here?	There appeared to be very little concern or understanding by many of the speakers of the relationship between water and environmental health. The quality of life, referred to many times, is largely linked to the quality of the environment (the natural environment, not the human-created environment).

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Interested citizen	Revision of AZ water law to control wildcat subdivisions, unregulated wells, definition of safe yield and resolution of surface water to underground water.		
Water Resources Program Manager USDA Forest Service – Southwestern Region AZ & NM	What is the sustainable amount, given development objectives?	What is the role of national forests in providing water for urban and rural areas?	1) Conference provided a good forum for the exchange of information. Now how do we get this information out to the general public? I would venture to say most people in attendance work in some water related field. Hence we were preaching to the choir.
State agency – Water resource planning	The “growth” issue and subsequent “water adequacy” issues.	Several panelists stated, “We don’t know where growth will occur,” what measure can be taken so that we know where growth will occur, and we can more properly plan, or better yet, direct growth.	One attendee in particular noted, that there were no women on any of the panels...
I teach water education/conservation to a number of school districts throughout the state.	Limit growth so as to protect water as well as Arizona’s other natural resources – wildlife, desert, forest, ag land and soil.	Does anyone know how de-salination will affect the ocean ecosystem?	I think it’s a disgrace not to limit growth in this fragile desert ecosystem. Do we need to put man’s footprint on every open square inch of land? Do we really need a supermarket, Walgreen’s & WalMart on every corner? Why have we only now started to speak of water conservation? Should this not be a priority in a desert community – and not just when we are in drought!!
	Continued explosive growth and tribal rights and collaboration on a nuts and bolts plan.	Why has the SRP not addressed the overpumpage in the Verde River and its affect on the East Valley and what are the plans to cope with it?	
Resident, Citizens Water Advocacy Group, Prescott AMA	Water Importation	Tie between groundwater and surface water (reverse 1980 decision)	Need more focus on rural AZ issues (alluded to but not really addressed)

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Recycle water & salts	What to do with the 2,000,000 tons of salts imported into Central Valley via river waters	Importation of salts with water	
			Need to address the public's and legislature's lack of knowledge on water issues
Federal Water Resource Planner	Acknowledgement of need for coordinating growth with water resource planning by development community and public	Would like to see some discussion of assumptions that economic development requires cheap natural resources, also how to better predict /manipulate population and economic growth to help water resource planning.	Would like to see representatives from economic development community and their perspective
Builder/developer, Chair of Community Water Commission	Dependence on CAP and the delivery of Basin H2O to AZ: over allocated/unsure supply/drought sensitive	Valley conservation programs are weak. Should encourage replacement of High water use fixtures. Reclaim water use – should be enhanced.	
City of Prescott	Fair statewide allocation including rural AZ	Rural issues	Day 2 Program should have provided a "hard copy" of the "Discussion Paper" instead of capsulized 2 page folder.  More emphasis on Rural vs. Central Arizona
Educator		Water is for everyone.	At the Water Summit last year at NAU, the Hopi tribe played an important role putting forth that water is a basic human necessity (a human right). Now, less than a year later, when they are not at the table, what they brought to the table is not even discussed. Water is not a simple commodity. Every human needs water whether they can pay for it or not. Let's not forget that.
Interested citizens group, Prescott, AZ	Trying to approach sustainability	Implications of lack of legislation and regulatory bodies' action leading to citizen initiatives or lawsuits.	

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Citizens Water Advocacy Group	Control the obscene tragedy of the commons on water – develop legislative changes		<p>1. Rural AZ pays typically \$1000/AFA while SRP and CAP water is an order of magnitude cheaper.</p> <p>2. Water use in Phoenix is inconsistent with the desert climate; denial of a need to reduce usage in Phoenix to pander to more growth must change.</p> <p>3. SRP is unwilling to let rural Verde Valley communities buy water they send to Phoenix. The free market can't operate.</p> <p>4. Legislation that adjusts "Prior Appropriation" could "help" SRP cooperate with rural AZ needs.</p>
Irrigation District	Use/growth/areas of growth – depending on other countries for supplies and food if farming ceases.	GPCD allocations within state; differences between AMA's (areas)	
Director of the AZ Assoc. of Conservation Districts (Natural Resource Conservation Districts)	Sustaining conservation, taking development responsibility (state, country, muni), focused education on water conservation	Sustaining conservation education – young & old	AZ needs to develop a priority system/adjudication system for groundwater beneficial use; the use of G.W. must be prioritized with a monitoring system to regulate flows; does Arizona need to grow as exponentially as is expected – power and water will dictate the continued development; counties must be given the tools to evaluate development of the community and allow for accountability in the process (approval & denial of development)

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Builder/developer, chair of the Water Commission	Centralized overview of H2O; unification of regulation and supply; local control – central plan. Treat the state's water as a state resource.	Too little focus on non-AMA and rural growth in the state. Mostly valley issues	
Public interest organization – Non profit	Water management authority outside of AMAs to manage water for people and nature	How to make sure the AWI is and remains relevant	
Federal		Lack of common understanding	We spent more time explaining than discussing. It's hard to have a dialogue when all the parties don't have the same level of background information or worse, misinformation.
University researcher	Limiting growth and environmental sustainability	?	
Fed – Bureau of Reclamation	How do we provide for future demand w/o drying up the Verde? The San Pedro?	It is just assumed that our population will continue to grow at current (unsustainable) rates, at least until the quality of life discourages continued immigration. No discussion limiting or even shaping future population growth.	
Government – ADWR	Water supply and distribution		<p><u>Excellence</u> is the word that comes to mind with this conference. Very well run, excellent speakers and processes.</p> <p>Would have appreciated more advance notice of the paper from the website – I would like to have read the material in advance – would have helped.</p> <p><u>Thank you</u></p>
			<p>Water sustainability institute to link community watershed collaboratives to legislature as a think-tank or lobby group.</p> <p>Use ECR Institute as facilitators for pulling Verde groups together</p>

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City Councilman, Chair Stakeholder group	Local management authority; augment groundwater in rural AZ	Wed morning – Observation – objective of the morning focused on central Arizona – yet 50% (??) of the attendees were from the 12 other counties. Universal solutions?  8 people at the table – at least that many agendas	
Interested citizen	Local government ability to control growth.		Many rural area of Arizona are totally dependent on ground water resources which are basically a non-renewable commodity. Municipalities need legislative tools to limit growth. In the present climate developers control growth rather than communities being in control.
			The conference addressed the ?? of water supply for the metro area but in reality they have a water supply – CAP and SRP. They have 25-50-75-100 years to fine tune their available resources. But rural AZ does not have a water supply except ground water. Rural AZ will grow more rapidly than the metro area. Rural AZ needs the ability to control growth – lot splits, wildcat wells and development – we need a lot of help!!
			Water quantity modeling and financial modeling and assurance need to be in place.
NGO – Watershed Consortium	Legislative discussion concerning water issues – establishing rural mgmt authority concerning water issues	Sustainable ecosystems; defining the “carrying capacities” of our desert environment.	