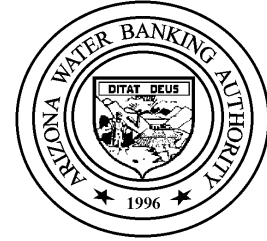


Arizona Water Banking Authority

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AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Rita P. Pearson, Chairman
Tom Griffin, Vice-Chairman
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EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Representative Gail Griffin
Senator Ken Bennett

January 31, 2000

The Honorable Brenda Burns, President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Jeff Groscost, Speaker
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear President Burns and Speaker Groscost:

The Arizona Water Banking Authority (Water Bank) was created by the Arizona Legislature in 1996 to purchase excess Colorado River water from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and store it underground in central Arizona for future use by our cities and towns. In its three years of active operation, the Water Bank has stored over 600,000 acre-feet of water for our future. The most limiting factor in the Water Bank's operations is not lack of funds or lack of water, but lack of good storage facilities in the central aquifers.

The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) is instrumental to the success of the Water Bank, both in its operation of the CAP and in its progressive role as an owner and operator of underground water storage facilities. To implement the public purpose of constructing these facilities, the Arizona Legislature passed the State Demonstration Projects Act, A.R.S. § 45-891.01 *et seq.* which makes state and local funds available for construction. CAWCD has used this fund in the past to sponsor facility construction, and currently has a project underway on the Agua Fria River. This year, CAWCD is seeking legislation (SB 1364) that would allow it limited eminent domain authority to implement the State Demonstration Project program. At the Water Bank meeting on January 26, 2000, we discussed the legislation proposed by CAWCD. Our Board voted unanimously to support it. We ask for your support as well.

We recognize that eminent domain is an authority that must be exercised with the utmost caution, but it is necessary at times when attempting to create large scale public works. The legislation offered by CAWCD is very narrow in its reach, and is designed to accomplish the limited goal of properly and fairly securing access to storage aquifers where we can bank our future water supplies. Because of the scale of the water storage facility projects and the large

The Honorable Brenda Burns
The Honorable Jeff Groscost
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capital investment required to secure clear title to the facility works, we believe this legislation is necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Rita P. Pearson
Chair

RPP:kd