Central Arizona Water Clearinghouse

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What Can We Do? Solutions to Arizona’s Water Challenges
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Background & Motivation

Municipal water portfolios are managed independently, each with different sizes, sources, reliability, and risks.

What if we could reduce overall water risk through collaborative water exchanges?
Our Vision

What?
Reduce regional water risk by unlocking opportunities for more collaborative water exchanges.

How?
Develop a digital, up-to-date tool (Central Arizona Water Clearinghouse) that:
- Provides water supply and demand information
- Captures infrastructure, capacity, and interconnections
- Identifies paired needs and potential collaborators
Challenges of Water Exchanges

Knowledge gaps
- Teams lack expertise (and overall confidence) in water transactions

Time / staff capacity
- Teams are understaffed or regularly face “more pressing problems”

Relationship gaps
- Exchanges require relationships and trust, which are not built overnight

Especially for smaller water providers
Challenges for a Clearinghouse

Constrained data availability
- Publicly available water data are incomplete with a slow and irregular update schedule

Complex geophysical relationships
- Complexity and variety of exchange arrangements potentially difficult for a computer algorithm to fully capture

Varying degrees of stakeholder comfort
- Skepticism and concerns about entrusting an electronic tool with making potential matches
Key Takeaways

#1 Expanding transactions is more about building social capital than technology

Building relationships, trust, and familiarity were more important to expanding water transactions than building technology.
Key Takeaways

#2 Data confidentiality concerns are real, though addressable

When stakeholders see the value to participating, and appropriate safeguards are in place, they’re willing to share their data.
#3 Collaboration expands the solution toolbox

By bringing more people, brainpower, and water management portfolios to the table, more options are available than by working alone. Importantly, collaboration also fills knowledge gaps.
If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.

—African Proverb
Thank you!

Join our collaborative to create a Central Arizona Water Clearinghouse!
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