Political Hurdles & Major Policy Issues

Future Water Supplies for Central Arizona

By

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What did last visionaries think about?

- Copper
- Cattle
- Cotton
- Citrus
- Colorado River
- California
We will not do things the same way, because our concerns and needs are not the same.
What do today’s visionaries need to think about?

- Conjunctive Mgmt
- Climate change
- Power
- NEPA
- Highest & Best Use
- Balanced Use (allocation)
- International relations (Mexico)
What Drives Us?

- Response to Growth
- Legal framework
- Availability
- Reliability
- Water quality

- Constructability
  - Implementation
  - ROW
  - Cost
- Social Acceptance of Use
- Exchangeability
- Uses
What Drives “Them”?

- Relatively lower housing prices
- Good economic outlook
- Air Conditioning
- Open Space – Boating – Fishing
- Intel/Motorola – Town Lakes – Aerospace
- Golf & Resorts
- Market reflects values, visions, & desires (not needs)
What do we know?

• Growth will continue
  – Doubling population in 30 years
• Water is available for millions more people
• Less elasticity when a drought happens
• Tension exists outside the water arena
  – Transportation
  – Air Quality
  – Public Lands
  – Education
• Doing “nothing” is not a viable alternative
What is our role?

Simply respond to demand that “other people” determine

OR

Provide input and advice
Major Policy Issues

- Predicting development patterns & populations
  - Bring water in (Expand in historical pattern)
  - Go to water (Metroplex not important)
  - Go to where there is no infrastructure
  - Economy impacts - We do have some control
Major Policy Issues

• Why are we conserving?
  - Every water provider’s reason and method for conserving is different because of its water portfolio, community goals, and finances.
  - Can you achieve conservation through market methods?
    • like SO2 credits
    • Get paid for saving
Major Policy Issues

- CAGRD
  - Should it be just a bridge or a permanent supply
  - Has become the “means”, not the “bridge”
  - Should CAGRD be expanded and strengthened, OR should it be limited?
  - How should the governance issue be dealt with?
Major Policy Issues

- Address the disconnect between adequacy and growth
- Address the loop holes
  - Exempt wells
  - Lot splits
Major Policy Issues

• Bringing in new supplies
  – Are we going to build a lot of individual projects
  – Consolidate the projects into one plan and effort
  – High competition
  – NEPA
  – Use Federal dollars?
    • one Congress, many entities
  – Avoid Federal dollars?
Major Policy Issues

• **Allocation of water**
  - Balance projected market forces with public policy interests
    • M&I (growth = $$$)
    • Agriculture (might be good in post-911 era to keep some)
    • Environment & Recreation (quality of life)

• **Can there be Statewide vision for the fate of mainstem Colorado River water?**
  - Way of life
  - 3rd party impacts
  - Do we allow market forces
Major Policy Issues

• Regional or statewide water collaboration
  – Are existing tensions productive?
  – Should the environment have a water right?
  – Financing ability
  – Plan for climatic variability
  – MUST examine the trade-offs
Political Hurdles

• How do we devise a system that can serve all the state’s water needs?
  – Municipal
  – Agricultural
  – Environmental

• Are our water management institutions equipped for the challenges we face?

• Do new institutions need to be established?

• Can a common vision be established for Arizona?
As you move through today’s exercises, consider these public policy issues