



## A New Year and a New Legislative Session



Announcing our 2024 Arizona Legislative Priorities.

January 5, 2024

Hi all!

On Monday, the Arizona Legislature will start its 2024 session, kicking off with the State of the State address from Governor Hobbs. On Tuesday, legislators will start hearing bills in committees. See below for details on that.

This week, we prepared for the legislative session by announcing our priorities for the Arizona Legislature and Governor at the Capitol. The focus of the priorities is water, but we also

include climate and clean energy, democracy, environmental justice, and more. You can read the [priorities here](#) and watch the [livestream of our news conference here](#).

Also, don't forget to sign up for Environmental Day at the Capitol on January 25th from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Sign up now so you get all of the important preparation information leading up to the day. You can come for all or part of the day.

You will hear from some great speakers, learn about what advocates from around the state are working on, and meet with legislators.

**Environmental Day at the Capitol**

**Thursday, January 25th**

**8:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Wesley Bolin Plaza**

**Phoenix**

[RSVP for Environmental Day at the Capitol here.](#)

To prepare for Environmental Day, we will be learning more about groundwater at this webinar:

- **January 9th at 6:00 PM - Arizona Groundwater and the Arizona Groundwater Management Act.** [RSVP to get the Zoom link](#)

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RSVP for Environmental Day Here

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This week, please sign in on the [Request to Speak system](#) to oppose HB2016, HB2027, and HB2099.

**For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).**

Many thanks for taking action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

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## Coming Up This Week at the AZ Legislature



Historic Capitol courtesy of Sandy Bahr

## Monday, January 8th

**First Day of the 2024 Legislative Session.**

**Governor Hobbs's State of the State address at 2:00 PM. You can view it live [here](#).**

## Tuesday, January 9th

**House Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee at 2:00 PM in House Hearing Room (HHR) 1**

**[View a livestream of the committee here.](#)**

Presentations:

- "Overview of the Central Arizona Project," Brenda Burman, General Manager of the Central Arizona Project
- "Overview of the Salt River Project," Kyle Tilghman, Director of Water Strategy and Bill McClellan, Manager of Resource Development
- "Overview of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority," Chuck Podolak, Executive Director of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority
- [HB2016 grandfathered right; subsequent AMA; extension](#) (Griffin) is an emergency measure, meaning it will become law immediately if the Governor signs it. The bill extends the deadline for a person to claim a grandfathered right to withdraw or receive and use groundwater in the Douglas active management area (AMA). This will further delay getting this AMA on track to limiting groundwater pumping. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2027 subsequent AMAs; assured water supply](#) (Griffin) exempts proposed subdivisions from the requirements of an ordinance that has been adopted by either a municipality or a county if the proposed subdivision is included within the boundaries of a subsequent active management area (AMA). This would affect counties such as Cochise and Yuma and would give subdivisions an automatic assured water supply if there was an adequate water supply. There is no good reason for this. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2099 active management area; groundwater right](#) (Griffin) allows a groundwater user located in an area previously designated as an irrigation non-expansion area (INA) that becomes designated as an AMA to receive a water duty (maximum amount of water per acre) based on the groundwater user's highest annual withdrawal since the INA was established. This will maximize rather than minimize groundwater pumping in this new AMA. It also has an emergency clause on it. **OPPOSE**

## Wednesday, January 10th

**House Government Committee of Reference at 10:00 AM in HHR3**

**[A livestream can be viewed here.](#)**

- Sunset Review of the Governor's Office of Tribal Relations (Note that all agencies have periodic sunset reviews and recommendations on whether or not to continue them.)

**Senate Military Affairs, Public Safety, and Border Security at 2:00 PM in Senate Hearing Room 2**

[Livestream of the meeting is here.](#)

Presentations relating to national security, primarily focused on China. It looks like a lot of conspiracy theory stuff.

**Thursday, January 11th**

**House & Senate Natural Resources. Energy, Water Committees of Reference at 9:00 AM in Senate Hearing Room 2**

[You can watch a livestream of the committee here.](#)

- Sunset Review of the AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management
- Sunset Review of the AZ Resource Advisory Council
- Sunset Review of the AZ Power Authority

At 10:00 AM - [Livestream is here.](#)

- Sunset Review of the AZ Cotton Research and Protection Council

At 11:00 AM - [Livestream is here.](#)

- Sunset Review of the AZ Historical Society
- Sunset Review of the Prescott Historical Society



Sycamore Creek photo by Gary Beverly

