



Welcome to Week 1 of the 2023 AZ Legislature Opening Day, State of the State, Water Briefings



Announcing Environmental Priorities photo courtesy of Ana Gorla

January 8, 2022

Hi all!

Happy New Year! Thanks for your interest in the Arizona Legislature and Governor. In this first legislative update of the year, we are including:

- Information on the 2023 Priorities for the Legislature and Governor
- The Governor's appointments to date
- What is happening at the Capitol
- Environmental Day and upcoming briefings and lobby training

Groups Release Environmental Priorities for AZ Legislature and Governor for 2023

On Tuesday, January 3rd, 42 environmental, climate, faith, and community groups released the 2023 Environmental Priorities for the Arizona Legislature and Governor. Priorities focus on critical areas and needed actions for Arizona on climate change, water, democracy, environmental justice, and land protection and restoration, among other issues.

[Read the news release and priorities here.](#)

[Watch the news conference here.](#)

Governor Hobbs makes several agency appointments

Department of Environmental Quality Director: Karen Peters, Deputy City Manager for the City of Phoenix. This will be a real improvement over the current director.

Department of Water Resources Director: Tom Buschatzke is the current director and unfortunately will be staying on. We really could use a change here, someone who understands the gravity of the impacts of climate change.

State Parks and Trails Director: The current parks director, Bob Broscheid will be staying on. He helped clean up a real mess left by the previous director, so this looks like a good decision.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Director: Ty Gray will stay on as this position is actually appointed by the AZ Game and Fish Commission.

Arizona Department of Transportation Director: Jennifer Toth is currently director of the Maricopa County Department of Transportation. It will be interesting to see how she moves the agency.

See below for what is coming up at the Capitol next week and details on Environmental Day at the Capitol.

If you have not signed up yet for the Request to Speak system to voice your position in support or opposition to bills, we encourage you to do so now as you will need to get the account activated at the Capitol. [Here is a link for signing up.](#) To learn more about how to use the Request to Speak System, you can sign up for one of the trainings sponsored by Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. [Here is their sign up link.](#)

Thank you for your continued interest and actions related to the Arizona Legislature.

For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Thank you and I hope to see you at the Capitol or online soon!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

Coming Up This Week at the AZ Legislature



Floor of the Arizona House courtesy of Sandy Bahr

Monday, January 9th

- Governor Hobbs's State of the State Address, House Floor at 2:00 PM. You can view House proceedings live [here](#).

Tuesday, January 10th

House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in House Hearing Room #3

- Presentations:
 - "Arizona Department of Water Resources roles and responsibilities", Tom Buschatzke, Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources
 - "Overview of the Central Arizona Project", Brenda Burman, General Manager of the Central Arizona Project
 - "Overview of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority", Chuck Podolak, Executive Director of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority

Wednesday, January 11th

Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day at the Capitol

Environmental Day at the Capitol and Briefings



Environmental Day at the Capitol photo by Gary Beverly

Mark your calendar and sign up for the following events. **Note the change in date for Environmental Day at the Capitol 2023.** You can RSVP and add it to your calendar by using the button/link below.

Environmental Day at the Capitol
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM (meetings with legislators, as can be scheduled)
11:30 AM Registration
Noon Program, Tabling, News Conference, and Opportunities for Action
4:00 PM Wrap up
[RSVP Here](#)

For new participants, Environmental Day at the Capitol is our annual lobby day. We do this in collaboration with twenty plus other organizations. We will have information tables, speakers, and will be setting up appointments with legislators. You need not have any experience or be an expert and will have a team leader to help you with the legislative meetings.

Join us for a Legislative Session Overview focused on Water, Climate, and Democracy on January 18th. [RSVP here](#).

We will also conduct a volunteer lobby training on January 26th. [RSVP here](#).

Look for additional issues briefings in the coming weeks as well.

