

## Up this week, Attacks on Desert Washes & Democracy



January 20, 2023

Hi all!

This week, we had the opportunity to meet with Vice-President Kamala Harris while she was in town to participate in the groundbreaking for the Ten West Transmission Line to accommodate several solar projects west of Phoenix, so we are a little behind on bill reading, but will get caught up by next week. At the Legislature, we observed the dog and pony shows

of the utilities at the House Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee. Coming up on the agendas next week is a bill to leave desert washes with limited or no protection and several bills to feed the conspiracies around elections.

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.](#)

**Please consider signing in on Request to Speak to oppose SCR1002, HB2056, HB2143. and HB2442, and to support HB2171.**

To review bills we are tracking, [go to this link.](#)

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

Thank you for any actions you can take this week.

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

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### Monday, January 23rd

#### Senate Committee on Elections at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- Presentation - Election Mechanics - Shelby Busch, We the People AZ Alliance -- more rhetoric to undermine elections
- [SCR1002 constitutional amendments; sixty percent approval](#) (Kern) refers the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to require sixty percent approval for any proposed

constitutional amendment. This one, however, would just require fifty percent plus one. The legislature is trying to shut down ballot measures bit by bit. **OPPOSE.**

## Tuesday, January 24th

### House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in HHR1

- Presentation: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality - overview of roles and responsibilities
- [HB2026 appropriation; on-farm efficiency fund](#) (Dunn) appropriates \$30 million from the state General Fund to the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Fund for grants to farmers to buy and install approved water efficient irrigation systems that modify or replace flood irrigation. One concern about this program is it provides an incentive for continuing to grow the same thirsty crops as it requires that they grow crops that have been grown there historically. **MONITOR**
- [HB2056 dry washes; permit program exemption](#) (Diaz: Carbone, Dunn, et al.) says that "dry washes" on private property are exempt from the Clean Water Act and state permitting. This is a bad idea as desert washes provide important benefits to our rivers and streams, recharge groundwater, provide flood protection, and limit sediments downstream. Besides, state law cannot exempt waters from federal law. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2215 hazardous waste manifest resubmittals; fees](#) (Griffin) removes provisions related to the old form for filing a manifest relating to transportation of hazardous waste as there is now a federal e-manifest system. **MONITOR**
- [HB2216 hazardous air pollutants program](#) (Griffin) removes the requirement that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality have a hazardous air pollutant program and makes it permissive. Originally, this we intended to allow for some more stringent provisions, but the legislature has made it so the agency cannot adopt anything more stringent than the feds. We are looking at the implications of this. **MONITOR**
- [HB2438 board of supervisors; powers; water](#) (Griffin) authorizes a counties to participate in water reuse and recycling programs and regional wastewater recharge projects. This is probably okay, but we want to learn more about it. **MONITOR**
- [HB2442 temporary non-expansion area](#) (Griffin) allows for establishment of temporary non-expansion areas that would limit new irrigated agriculture, but that would expire after five years. We don't need temporary measures that create the illusion that we are really doing something to address the serious groundwater issues we have. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2443 navigable stream adjudication commission; extension](#) (Griffin) continues the Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission to July 1, 2028. This entity looks at ownership of stream beds. It's work is done, but they are keeping it around to address the potential outcome of litigation. **MONITOR**

## Wednesday, January 25th

### House Committee on Government at 9:00 AM in HHR3

- Presentation - Jen Marson, AZ Association of Counties
- [HB2044 municipal general plan; adoption](#) (Bliss) allows for smaller counties to adopt general plans at special as well as general elections. We need more information on why this is needed. I assume it is for Yavapai County. **MONITOR**
- [HB2143 rulemaking review; time frame](#) (Dunn: Carbonne) changes time frames relative to exempt rulemaking and the requirement that the report include provisions on how the agency published the exempt rule and took public comment. This would provide less transparency in rulemaking. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2171 Don Bolles memorial](#) (Longdon: Dunn, Alston, et al.) allows for establishment of a memorial to slain reporter, Don Bolles, in Wesley Bolin Plaza. This would help to highlight the important role of the media in our democracy. **SUPPORT**
- [HCR2004 legislators; minimum age of eighteen](#) (Gress: Aguilar, Austin, et al.) refers to the ballot a measure to change the minimum age to be a legislator from 25 to 18. This seems like a fine idea to get more young people engaged at the legislature.

### House Committee on Municipal Oversight & Elections at 2:00 PM in HHR4

- [HB2305 ballots; signature verification; observers](#) (McGarr: Biasiucci, Carter, et al) requires county recorders to allow representatives of the two largest parties to have observers for every stage of the signature verification process. So unnecessary.
- [HB2308 secretary of state; election; recusal](#) (Jones: Harris, McGarr, et al) limits the secretary of state from administering the election portion for which they are a candidate.
- [HB2319 elections; rule of construction](#) (Kolodin: Bliss, Carter, et al) says that competing interpretations of the law shall not be given equal weight and that the deference should for transparency.
- [HB2322 early ballots; signatures; guidelines; challenges](#) (Kolodin: Bliss, Chaplik, et al) says the secretary of state's 2020 guide is the minimum guide for signature verification.
- [HB2378 officials; political action committee prohibition](#) (Biasiucci: Parker J) prohibits elections officials from serving on any political committees.
- [HB2477 electoral college; support](#) (Montenegro) expresses support for the electoral college.

### **House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure at 2:00 PM in HHR3**

There are several transportation appropriation bills including for State Routes 238, 347, 303, and 60, as well a one for levee on the Little Colorado River. We are monitoring them.

### **Thursday, January 26th**

### **Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 9:00 AM in SHR2**

- Presentation Overview of the Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority - Chuck Podolak, Director
- [SB1002 appropriation; livestock loss board](#) (Kern) appropriates \$250,000 to this board to compensate livestock interests for livestock losses to wolves. What they really should do is say no one gets money from this board can sit on the board.

### **House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Fiscal Accountability at 10:30 AM in HHR3**

#### Presentations

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Forestry and Fire Management

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## **Environmental Day at the Capitol, Briefings, & Training**



Don't forget to sign up for Environmental Day at the Capitol and some of our briefings and workshops!

**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.](#)

- We will conduct a briefing webinar on Climate and Clean Energy in Arizona on January 23rd at 6:00 PM. [RSVP here.](#)
- We will also conduct a volunteer lobby training on January 26th at 6:30 PM. [RSVP here.](#)
- Join us for Water 101, an introduction to water issues in AZ on January 27th at 6:00 PM. [RSVP here.](#)
- On January 31st at 6:00 PM join our program on Environmental Justice. [RSVP here.](#)

Look for additional issues briefings on Democracy and Lands, Habitat, and Wildlife, plus a bill summary briefing before Environmental Day at the Capitol.

