



Protect Our Water and Our Democracy



March 12, 2022

Hi everyone!

This week, the Governor shared a draft of his bill to establish the Arizona Water Augmentation Authority. It's terrible! The purpose is to seek water from other states or countries, including via desalination. It is really more of the same to continue unsustainable water policies and growth practices. In addition to that, the structure of the authority is undemocratic and gives the usual suspects all the power relative to water. We have developed a brief information sheet on the bill. Just email me and I will send it along to you. The bill will likely be considered in the next two weeks.

The Arizona Legislature continues to move along bad public policy daily. Even though the number of bills to make it more difficult to register to vote, to register people to vote, and to actually vote has been whittled down and the Senate has rejected a few, there are still far too many out there advancing through the process.

One such bill is [HB2492 voter registration; verification; citizenship](#) (Hoffman: Blackman, Carter, et al.), which passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee along party lines. This bill requires people who register to vote with a passport, birth certificate, naturalization certificate, or a tribal ID to submit additional documents proving residency. It includes new restrictions for federal-only voters, including that they may not vote by mail. It requires those who have previously registered to vote to provide additional identification. As if the bill itself was not bad enough, during the vote explanations in committee, the committee chair actually interrupted the only two people of color on the committee in the middle of explaining their votes. It was

pretty outrageous. **Call your senator and ask them to oppose HB2492!**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

There was some good news this week. SB1629 failed on the Senate Floor 13-15-2. [SB1629 registration; verification; images; audits; boxes](#) (Borrelli: Barto, Fann, Gowan, et. al), creates unnecessary, difficult hurdles for nonprofits and volunteers who register citizens to vote. There was a motion for reconsideration of the bill, so that means they can bring it back for another vote at any time. Keep those calls coming. **Tell your senators to oppose SB1629.**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

[HB2101 electric energy; reliability; public policy](#) (Griffin: Abraham, Blackman, et al.) also failed on Senate Third Read 14-3-3, but will also be back as there was a motion for reconsideration. HB2101 repeals provisions in the law that create parameters for retail competition of electricity. We are opposed to the bill as we have concerns about how it will affect community choice aggregation of electricity overall and rooftop solar in Salt River Project (SRP) territory. **Tell your senator to please vote No on HB2101. We could use some extra calls to Senators Alston, Gabaldon, and Rios.**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

Also, this week, the Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee advanced both HB2055 and HB2411.

[HB2055 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transportation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) allows private water companies such as EPCOR to import water from the Harquahala Valley and into the active management areas (AMAs) for development. Currently only cities can do that. This exacerbates making this area a groundwater depletion sacrifice zone. We also object to giving private water interests more control of water, something that is essential for life, as this bill allows.

[Find out more about HB2055 and take action here.](#)

[HB2411 coal combustion residuals program](#) (Griffin) authorizes the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to seek assumption of the coal ash program from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We are concerned that ADEQ is too cozy with the utilities and would not properly enforce this program, plus ADEQ is already not properly implementing some of the federal programs it already has and did not previously ask for the funding it needed to do so. **Tell your senator to oppose this too!**

[You can find senators phone numbers here.](#)

If you have not signed up for the [Request to Speak System](#), please do! Civic Engagement Beyond Voting (CEBV) will sign you up. To get an account set up, just [go to this link](#). **This week, we encourage you to sign in on [Request to Speak](#) in opposition to the following bills: HB2170, HB2181, HB2236, HB2317, HB2617, HB2728, HB1377, and SB1594.**

Sign in to support SB1270 and SB1717. See the details on the bills below under "Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week."

To view bills we are tracking [go here](#).

To find your legislators' email addresses and phone numbers, [go here](#).

Thank you for taking action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week.

Monday, March 14th

Senate Committee on Government at 2:00 PM in SHR1

- [HB2067 county improvement districts; recreation; governance](#) (Blackman) allows a county board of supervisors of a county with a population of fewer than 125,000 people and that has a county improvement district providing recreational improvements to provide for a district to be governed by a separately elected board of directors.
MONITOR
- [HB2170 election mailings; third-party disclosures](#) (Kavanagh) requires any communication that includes an election document -- voter registration or early ballot form -- or a link to that form, to include a disclaimer "Not From a Government Agency." This is unnecessary is a way to try and discredit groups doing voter outreach.
OPPOSE
- [HB2236 voter registration; request required](#) (Hoffman: Barton, Blackman, et al) prohibits any automatic voter registration. This again is unnecessary and the opposite direction we should be moving with registration. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2494 voter registration events; posting](#) (Hoffman: Blackman, Carter, et al) requires the Secretary of State and county recorders to post a list of any voter registration events they attend on the website, and to include the location, the title and all organizations affiliated with the event. This is really unnecessary.
- [HB2617 voter registration; cancellations; causes](#) (Chaplik: Barton, Biasiucci, et al) requires county recorders to cancel people's voter registrations based on potentially unreliable sources, which could result in eligible voters being kicked off the rolls.
OPPOSE

House Committee on Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM in HHR3

- [SB1170 \(now: G&F; tags; permits; voter registration\)](#) (Gowan) includes provisions for Game and Fish to help people seeking hunting licenses to register to vote. **MONITOR**
- [SB1270 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) appropriates \$3 million for the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, which funds local and state parks, trails, historic preservation, and cultural resource protection. We would like to see this bumped up to \$10 million -- the amount it was originally allocated by voters. **SUPPORT**
- [SB1594 \(now: state lands; annexation; delegation; minerals\)](#) (Kerr) says that the rights to explore and develop mineral resources under state law continue without additional permits or approvals from local government authorities. Local government should be able to require certain things of mining operations. **OPPOSE**

Senate Committee on Transportation & Technology at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- [HB2586 electric charging providers](#) (Weninger) says that vehicle chargers are not public service corporations. This is unnecessary as the AZ Corporation Commission has already said this. **MONITOR**

Tuesday, March 15th**House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM in HHR1**

- [SB1717 \(now: mine inspector; abandoned mines; appropriation\)](#) (Gowan) appropriates \$1,122,000 and six full-time equivalent positions from the state General Fund to the State Mine Inspector to inventory and coordinate the closure of abandoned mines in Arizona. **SUPPORT**

Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- [HB2255 fireworks; permissible use; Diwali](#) (Biasiucci) prohibits cities and towns from limiting fireworks on and before Diwali, which is in late October. Do we really need more days and nights of fireworks? How about saying no fireworks on any holidays?
- [HB2317 appropriation; border fence construction](#) (Kavanagh: Chaplik, Griffin, et al.) appropriates \$150 million for border wall. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2538 water protection fund; appropriation](#) (Griffin) appropriates \$1 million for the Arizona Water Protection Fund, which used to be focused on riparian protection. **MONITOR**
- [HB2728 appropriations; ADOT; tier 2 studies](#) (Wilmeth) appropriates \$25 million for a tier 2 study of the environmentally harmful I-11 freeway in Maricopa County. **OPPOSE**

Wednesday, March 16th**House Committee on Government and Elections at 9:00 AM in HHR1**

- [SB1255 lieutenant governor; duties; ballot](#) (Mesnard: Bowie) establishes the Office of Lieutenant Governor and requires the Governor to appoint the Lieutenant Governor to serve as the Director of Department of Administration or any other position the Governor is authorized to make an appointment. **MONITOR**
- [SB1260 registrations; early voting; move notice](#) (Mesnard) makes it a felony to knowingly help someone to vote who is registered in another state, plus other provisions. **MONITOR**
- [SCR1024 lieutenant governor; joint ticket](#) (Mesnard: Bowie) refers to the ballot a measure to establish the Office of Lieutenant Governor, starting in 2027, and makes the Lieutenant Governor first in the line of succession for the Governor. **MONITOR**

House Committee on Appropriations at 1:30 PM in HHR1

- [SB1192 appropriation; Interstate 10; vehicle lanes](#) (Livingston: Barto, Borrelli, et al.) appropriates \$59,600,000 for an additional eastbound and westbound lane on Interstate 10 between State Route 85 and Citrus Road. **MONITOR**
- [SB1239 appropriation; widening; I-10](#) (Shope) appropriates \$400,000,000 to widen I-10 between Chandler and Casa Grande. **MONITOR**

- [SB1270 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) See above.
- [SB1717 \(now: mine inspector; abandoned mines; appropriation\)](#) (Gowan) See above.

Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in SHR109

- Presentations
 - “BWCDD Strategic Water Management Plan” Noel Carter – Manager, Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District
 - “Department of Forestry and Fire Management Update” David Tenney – Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Management
- Executive Nominee
ARIZONA POWER AUTHORITY COMMISSION - James R Sweeney
- [HB2037 \(now: counties; powers; water supply projects\)](#) (Cook: Carter) allows a county board of supervisors to enter agreements with federal, state and local governments for federal funding for projects that increase water supply and availability. Why not for water conversation? **MONITOR**
- HB2095 posting of notices; municipal websites (Griffin) will have a strike-everything amendment on Groundwater. It is not yet posted.
- [HB2181 \(now: game and fish; taking wolves\)](#) (Cook) forbids the Arizona Game and Fish Commission from prohibiting any person from killing a wolf that is actively threatening or attacking a person, livestock, or other domestic animal. Wolves rarely attack humans, anyone can kill a wolf or other animal if the animal is attacking them or they fear for their life, so that is not an issue and is absolutely unnecessary language, but the provisions on threatening or attacking livestock or other domestic animals can provide an invitation to those who would like to see wolves again exterminated in the wild. Not having clear guidance against killing wolves, can invite “baiting” of wolves with livestock or other animals. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2182 livestock assistance program; infrastructure projects](#) (Cook: Dunn, Finchem, et al) establishes the Livestock Operator Fire and Flood Assistance Grant Program for postfire or flooding infrastructure needs that don't qualify for other programs. This is yet another special subsidy for livestock interests. **MONITOR**
- [HB2334 state lands; lease provisions](#) (Cook) says that liability for any injury to an individual who is on or using state trust lands and to whom permission has been granted will be determined based on the recreational-use immunity statute or applicable state or federal law. **MONITOR**
- HB2389 rulemaking review; time frame (Dunn) will have a strike-everything amendment on River Water Transfer. It is not yet posted.
- [HB2580 wildfire management; delegation of authority](#) (Cook) requires the State Forester to maintain copies of all delegation agreements with the federal government. **MONITOR**
- [HB2588 state forester; legislative presentation; report](#) (Grantham) requires the state forester to give a presentation to the legislature in each legislative session. **MONITOR**
- [HCM2006 FEMA; wildfires; flooding; cost threshold](#) (Cook: Cano) urges the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to include costs resulting from flooding caused by wildfires in the cumulative cost threshold required for states to receive Fire Management Assistance Grant funding. **MONITOR**

House Committee on Transportation at 2:00 PM in HHR3

- [SB1320 intergovernmental public transportation authorities; formation](#) (Kerr) raises the population threshold that allows a county to establish an intergovernmental public transportation authority. **MONITOR**
- [SB1377 \(now: off-highway vehicles; fund; instruction; operation\)](#) (Kerr: Rogers) says that landowners and lessees do not have a duty to keep lands safe for entry and use by recreational users or to warn of or maintain lands and trails against unsafe conditions. Don't we all have a duty to try to address unsafe conditions? **OPPOSE**

Thursday, March 17th

Senate and House will be taking floor action.



Great horned owl photo by Jim Dublinski

