



## COVID at the Capitol



Hi everyone!

I hope you are staying well during this latest spike in COVID and rounding out year two of this pandemic. While legislators continue to test positive for COVID, quite sadly there are no mask requirements and many unmasked faces at the Capitol. To make matters worse, they will not be allowing remote testimony on bills this session. Clearly they are hoping to shut out a good chunk of the public.

Still, you can sign in on the [Request to Speak System](#) and voice your support or opposition for legislation there, and call and email your legislators. **We encourage you to sign in on [Request to Speak](#) in opposition to the following bills: HB2055, HB2101, and SB1147. You might also consider supporting HB2126.** See the details on the bills below under "Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week."

If you need help with Request to Speak, let me know. I am trying to minimize time at the Capitol indoors, but will try to get your account validated.

The Governor released his budget today. It includes \$1 billion for desalination in the Sea of Cortez and other water augmentation. Still no consideration of what is sustainable and certainly no mention or funding to address the climate crisis.

To view bills we are tracking [go here](#). Note, it will not be updated until later this weekend.

Thank you for caring and for taking action!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



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## Coming Up at the Arizona Legislature this Week.

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### Monday, January 17th

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - Celebrate with Service!**

Join us at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area for a morning of service to celebrate the life of Dr. King. See details and [RSVP here](#).

### Tuesday, January 18th

#### **Joint Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM in House Hearing Room 1**

- Presentation on the Executive Budget

#### **Joint House Committee on Land Agriculture, & Rural Affairs and Committee on Commerce at 11:00 AM in HHR1**

- Presentation on Arizona wines

#### **House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM in House Hearing Room 1**

- [HB2054 water quality appeals board; continuation](#) (Griffin) continues the water quality appeals board through 2030. We think this board could use some improvements to better serve the public, but we do not have a position on this bill. **NO POSITION**
- [HB2055 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transportation](#) (Griffin: Bowers) allows private water companies to import water from the Harquahala Valley and into the active management areas (AMAs) for development. Currently only cities can. We

oppose allowing more entities to help deplete these areas to feed development in the AMAs. **OPPOSE**

- [HB2057 water supply development fund; revisions](#) (Griffin: Bowers) makes conforming changes to the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority and Water Supply Development Revolving Fund that reflect the increase in the grant amounts from \$100,000 to \$250,000. **NO POSITION**.
- [HB2101 electric energy; reliability; public policy](#) (Griffin: Abraham, Blackman, et al.) repeals provisions in the law that create parameters for retail competition of electricity, but also includes broad language that could block community choice aggregation for electricity and interfere with resource planning at the Arizona Corporation Commission. This significant of an issue should have had a stakeholder process and should not be rushed through as they are attempting to do. We are opposed to the bill as it is currently drafted. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2126 hazardous waste program fees](#) (Griffin: Burges) repeals the prohibition on the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) increasing permit fees for hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities and fees for generating and disposing of hazardous waste. This is good because these fees are currently artificially low. **SUPPORT**

### Wednesday, January 19th

#### **House Committee on Transportation at 1:30 PM in HHR1**

- [HB2038 state lake improvement fund](#) (Biasiucci) allows these dollars to be used for search and rescue, plus makes other changes to the fund. **MONITOR**

#### **Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, & Water at 2:00 PM in Senate Hearing Room 109**

- Presentation on AZ Wines
- [SB1146 fire suppression; assistance; private landowners](#) (Kerr) requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Management to prioritize funding for private landowners for emergency repairs related to fires and fire suppression. **NO POSITION**
- [SB1147 Harquahala non-expansion area; groundwater transportation](#) (Kerr) is the same as HB2055. **OPPOSE**

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

- Presentation on Tier 2 Infrastructure

### Thursday, January 20th

#### **Senate Committee on Judiciary at 9:00 AM in SHR1**

- [SB1092 product liability; civil action; limitation](#) (Leach) limits product liability actions against the seller of the products. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1157 asbestos claims; required information; liability](#) (Leach) includes additional requirements from plaintiffs in asbestos claims. We are evaluating this, but it seems like a bad one.

#### **Senate Committee on Transportation and Technology at 10:00 AM in SHR109**

- Presentation on Pinal County Transportation Excise Tax

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## **Environmental Day at the Capitol February 9, 2022**

Join Sierra Club and more than 20 other organizations at Environmental Day at the Capitol 2022 (our lobby day) on February 9th. This year's theme is **Act Now! There's a climate crisis.**

We are still planning to do a hybrid event with both in-person and outdoors and virtual

activities, but that may change based on where we are at with COVID. Indicate your preference for how you will participate when you register.

**Environmental Day at the Capitol**  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2022**  
**8:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

To register for Environmental Day at the Capitol, [use this link](#) or the button below. Thank you!

Leading up to Environmental Day, we will have informational Zooms, Briefings, and Volunteer Lobby Workshops. The following have been scheduled or recorded. Please register to receive Zoom links.

- Watch the [Water 101 - Focus on Groundwater webinar here](#).
- Jan 13, Noon - [What Mexican Gray Wolves Need To Thrive - Your Comments Needed](#)
- Jan 19, Noon - [Environmental Justice and Intersectionality](#)
- Jan 20, 6:30PM - [What's up with the AZ Legislature and how can I get involved?](#)
- Jan 21, Noon - [Act Now! There's a Climate Crisis.](#)
- Jan 27, Noon – [Sustaining Arizona's Heritage Fund](#)
- Jan 27, 6:30PM - [Learn How to Be a Volunteer Lobbyist!](#)
- January 28, Noon - [Sustaining Flows in Rivers and Streams](#)

