



## Proposed Budget Funds Wrong Priorities



June 10, 2022

Hi everyone!

Thud! That is the sound of the latest budget proposal floated by the GOP majority in the Arizona Legislature. This week [the Republicans leaked some spreadsheets on a budget on which Governor Ducey and GOP leadership agreed](#), but not one for which they have the votes. It is a \$16.8 billion budget, yet it does not fund education adequately and does not contain funding for environmental programs such as the Arizona Heritage Fund. It does, quite sadly, include \$544 million for border "security," and \$1 billion over three years for water infrastructure, aka desalination. There are no hearings scheduled to discuss this or any other budget so far, however.

There is also no agreement on the governor's proposed water authority, the one they are including \$1 billion for in the budget. The Senate Republicans have offered up an alternative to the massive bureaucracy proposed by Governor Ducey and the House, but they are still far from any kind of agreement. Nowhere in the mix is anything to better regulate and limit groundwater pumping, protect rivers, or really move our state in a more sustainable direction.

**Please continue to tell your legislators that any water plan should prioritize conservation and better limit groundwater pumping, protect rivers, and recognize the connection between ground and surface water, among other things. You can find your legislators' email addresses and phone numbers [here](#).**

This week, Joe Dana with 12 News did a great piece on how little the Arizona Legislature is

doing to address climate change -- out of 275 bills that it has passed, only one deals with climate change. He highlights how ridiculous the conversation is at the legislature as legislators continue to deny the problem despite the fact that we are experiencing significant impacts -- bigger wild fires, extreme and prolonged drought, more extreme heat days, and more. You can watch and listen to the piece [here](#).

Just down the street from the Arizona Legislature, there was a bit of good news as this week [the Arizona Corporation Commission denied Salt River Project's request](#) for a rehearing on its certificate of environmental compatibility for expansion -- adding 16 gas-fired units -- of the Coolidge Generating Station. Thanks to all of the residents of Randolph for fighting the good fight on this and to Commissioner Sandra Kennedy, Commissioner Jim O'Connor, and Commissioner Anna Tovar for staying strong and saying no to SRP and to the environmental injustice associated with this siting. Listen to Commissioner Kennedy explain her vote by going [here](#) and then advancing it to 1:31:44. She nails it! Thank you to everyone who commented against this proposed gas plant expansion. It makes/made a difference!

Stay tuned as we continue to monitor the budget, water, and some remaining bills that could harm voting rights.

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

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

Thank you so much!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

---



---

## Act Now on "Good Neighbor" Plan

---

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering a safeguard known as the Cross State Air Pollution Rule or "Good Neighbor Plan," a measure that will reduce harmful air pollution from both power plants and industrial facilities through the deployment of existing technologies.

If implemented, this public health safeguard will also protect countless Americans who are unknowingly subjected to dangerous pollution from plants and facilities in upwind states.

This proposal updates a system that has successfully cleaned up some of the worst air pollution in the eastern U.S. for a decade. It's past time that fossil fuel power plants and industrial facilities that are polluting communities, sometimes hundreds of miles away, comply with air quality standards.

What's more, if this standard goes into effect with comprehensive geographic coverage, it will save lives and save money. It will provide up to \$18 billion in annual benefits for the U.S. by 2026 and prevent up to 1,000 premature deaths, 2,000 hospital and emergency room visits, and 1.3 million cases of aggravated asthma.

Please submit a public comment to the EPA in support of this safeguard, and urge the Biden administration to finalize it quickly. The deadline to comment is June 21st.

---

[Send a Comment here](#)

---

6/11/22, 9:00 AM

Sierra Club Mail - Sierra Club 2022 Legislative Update #20



---

Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter