



Still No Budget and No Water Bill



June 17, 2022

Hi everyone!

With just 13 days until the deadline for passing a fiscal year 2023 budget, there is no budget and no budget agreement. The Arizona Legislature again adjourned early this week and did little while it was in session except debate a school voucher bill that is dead on arrival. We did hear rumblings that they are going to seriously do a budget next week, but nothing has been introduced. Word is that they will bump up spending on education, but keep the \$544 million for border "security" and \$1 billion over three years for water infrastructure. No word yet on the Arizona Heritage Fund.

There is still no big water bill, but we did see a rough draft of a bill from the Senate. We are reviewing it, but it looks like it needs a lot of work, but gone is the huge unaccountable water authority. It is still unclear if they will do anything about limiting groundwater pumping, but even if they decide to pass Rep. Cobb's rural management areas (RMA) bill, that bill will not even get us close to where we need to be with limiting groundwater pumping. The RMAs are voluntary and can be reversed, plus the bill precludes citizen initiated active management areas in areas that adopt RMAs.

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. Tell them to spend the bulk of the dollars on conservation. You can find your legislators' email addresses and phone numbers [here](#).

It's been a hot couple of weeks in most of our state and many people are experiencing significant stress, especially migrants, those who are unhoused, outdoor workers, and people with no access to cooling. Please look out for your neighbors and anyone else you see who looks like they might be in trouble with the heat. Our cities are getting hotter and there is more we need to do to mitigate that heat. Read more about what cities can do [here](#). Mitigating the heat island effect and limiting climate change are essential to addressing extreme heat issues and so much more.

Monday marks the first time that Juneteenth will be observed as a federal holiday. June 19th (Sunday) commemorates the day when slavery was effectively ended as slaves in Texas learned of the Emancipation Proclamation two years after it was signed. [Celebrate Juneteenth by taking action to advance equity and justice for Black Americans.](#)

We will have limited availability next week, but will do our best to keep up with the budget and water issues and will keep you informed.

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

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

If you have not yet sent in comments on the "Good Neighbor Plan" to address cross-state air pollution, please do so below. The comment deadline is June 21st!

Thank you for all that you do!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter



Help Reduce Harmful Air Pollution

Let's Demand The Good Neighbor Plan!

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](#)

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