The Role of Legislators in Determining the Management of Arizona’s Water

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Goal: Understand the role of legislators in the fate of AZ’s water

This project is aimed specifically at following the course of House Bill 2326 and Senate Bill 1478 through the legislative process. It becomes apparent when studying the process of passing a bill that legislation can actively and consistently transform the way water is handled in Arizona. With the involvement of competing interests, finances, tedious passing procedures, and the obvious physical details of water distribution and volume, the process is nothing short of complex.

House Bill 2326: Authority to purchase long-term storage credits

HB 2326 grants the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) the authority to purchase long-term storage credits. AWBA stores unused Colorado River water to secure water supplies for Arizona.

Senate Bill 1478: Authority to address noxious vegetation

SB 1478 establishes the Watershed Improvement Program for the purpose of selective control, reduction or removal of noxious brush and other vegetation and for the revegetation of land on which brush and vegetation has been controlled, reduced or removed.

Legislators Hold HB2326 in Committee

House First Reading of HB2326
Held
Chairwoman Barton justified her reasoning not to pass the bill stated, “I do not believe that passing this with an amendment or without an amendment is conducive to good negotiations.”

Concepts of HB2326 amended into SB1478

Committee Amendment
Purpose and logistics of HB2326 implemented into SB1478 and given a do pass as amended recommendation

Progression of SB1478 through Senate

First Reading of SB1478
Committee Amendment
“Increasing the amount of available surface water and groundwater through the selective control, reduction or removal of noxious brush and other vegetation that is detrimental to water conservation”

Griffin Floor Amendment
Changes the name of the program from Water Supply Enhancement Program to Watershed Improvement Program

“Democracy is the worst form of government, with the exception of all others.”
-Winston Churchill

Water law and water policy is vital to a desert region like Arizona where the decisions made regarding water policy effect a fragile environment and numerable aspects of future environmental stability.

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