



2022

# **CAWCD**

CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# **BOARD**

*ELECTION*

*November 8, 2022*

# **VOTER EDUCATION GUIDE**

*Provided by:*

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association  
Arizona State University Kyl Center for Water Policy  
Arizona Hydrological Society

## WHAT IS THE CAWCD BOARD?

The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) is a multi-county water district spanning Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties. It is responsible for operating and maintaining the Central Arizona Project (CAP) - the 336-mile canal that delivers Colorado River water to municipal, tribal, industrial, and agricultural users.

The CAWCD Board is a 15-member, non-partisan board with ten elected from Maricopa County, four elected from Pima County, and one from Pinal County. Each board member serves a six-year, unpaid term. Five Board positions in Maricopa County are on this year's ballot.

The CAWCD Board of Directors' responsibilities include:

- Overseeing the operation and maintenance of the CAP canal and repaying the federal government for the construction of CAP.
- Setting the water rates charged to its customers for delivery of Colorado River water. These customers include the Valley cities and other water providers throughout the three-county service area.
- Levying up to 14 cents in property taxes in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties that help fund the cost of construction and operations of the CAP system.
- Establishing policies to protect the CAP system and the water it delivers.

## WHY IS THE CAWCD ELECTION IMPORTANT?

The Colorado River is a key water source for Maricopa County that CAP delivers to the Valley cities and other municipal water providers, tribes, industry, and agriculture. The CAWCD Board will be faced with operating and maintaining an aging CAP system while having less Colorado River water to deliver. This must be done while working to meet the needs of its customers, deal with rising energy costs to move water uphill along the 336-mile canal, and meet the replenishment obligations of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD).

The CAWCD Board will make important decisions impacting Arizona's water future. It is vital to have Board members who are active and engaged in all issues facing CAWCD and committed to the wise management of the CAP system.

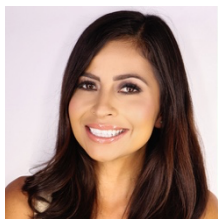
## HOW WILL THIS GUIDE HELP?

This Voter Education Guide is a joint effort by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA), the Arizona State University (ASU) Kyl Center for Water Policy, and the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS) to raise awareness about this critical election and the candidates.

- Each candidate was contacted via email a minimum of three times to respond to six questions to help inform the voters of Maricopa County about their positions.
- All candidate responses came directly from the candidates and have not been modified.
- This Guide is not an endorsement of any candidate.

## 2022 MARICOPA COUNTY CAWCD BOARD CANDIDATES

In this guide, you can review the candidates' responses in two ways. Scroll down to view them by questions to compare the candidates' answers. Or, if you wish to review each candidate's responses individually, click on their picture.



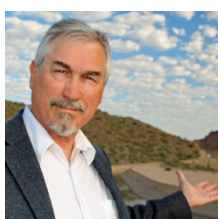
**Ylenia Aguilar**



**Alexandra Arboleda**



**Lisa Bullington**



**Alan Dulaney**



**Shelby Duplessis**



**Ben Graff**



**Jason Lundgren**



**Cory Mishkin**



**Amanda Monize**



**Donovan L. Neese**



**Jim Pederson**



**Karen Peters**



**Barbara A. Seago**



**Daniel Cirignani Wood**

*NOTE: Three candidates did not respond to our request.*

## WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THE CAWCD BOARD?

**YLENIA AGUILAR:** My interest in running for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board sparked as I began working in the renewable water technology space and noticed the challenges Arizonans are facing due to the irreversible water crisis. I felt compelled to do something about it, and that is why I decided to run. As the Business Development Manager for Arizona Communities with Source Global, a company that produces a hydropanel that creates water using sunlight and air, to provide safe, sustainable drinking water for water stressed communities, such as the Navajo Nation and the Colonias (unincorporated areas along the US-Mexico border not connected to public water systems), I have seen how aridification has disproportionately impacted our rural, tribal, and agricultural communities.

Although those of us who live in the metropolitan areas haven't experienced the direct impacts, we will soon do so, when reductions happen and water rates increase. We know that water is sacred and needed in order to survive in Arizona, whether it's access to clean drinking water or water to shower, we know having water is a privilege we take for granted. We need to conserve and protect our Colorado River. I have had the privilege of serving on a school board for the past 6 years. I manage and operate a budget to ensure the success of our families, students, and staff. Not only that, I opened and closed schools safely during the beginning of the pandemic. If Arizonans can trust me with their most valuable treasure, their children, they can trust me with the most valuable resource, our WATER.

**ALEXANDRA ARBOLEDA:** My interest in running for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) Board of Directors stems from my love of Arizona, its people, and the Colorado River. As an experienced attorney steeped in water policy and a leader on the CAWCD Board committed to listening to all stakeholders, I am uniquely qualified to help us achieve a more prosperous future while protecting Arizona's water supplies. My extensive background working on Arizona's water challenges allows me to develop innovative and collaborative solutions for water conservation, efficiency, reuse, and augmentation so that we can continue to thrive in this arid environment. Forging a

sustainable path forward that protects the Colorado River and balances water conservation with economic growth and fiscal responsibility is a top priority. I have the experience and expertise needed to confront our water challenges, the creativity to develop innovative solutions through collaboration and partnership, the humility and grace to engage in civil discourse while listening to diverse viewpoints, the commitment to work hard and serve the public as stewards of our Colorado River water, the judgment to know when to compromise, and the leadership qualities to make bold decisions and provide a vision for a sustainable future.



**ALAN DULANEY:** The Colorado River system, including the CAP, has reached a tipping point. The current megadrought has given us river flows far below those upon which the existing allocation system is based. Arizona, and Maricopa County in particular, could lose massive amounts of water delivered via the CAP canal, due to our junior status. We are already in a Tier 1 declared shortage, which will descend into a Tier 2a shortage in January 2023. Worse could follow. Serious economic repercussions may well result as Arizona's

sustainability is called into question. Expertise in water matters will be required to steer CAP through the coming years. The CAWCD Board needs members with an educational, regulatory and technical background in water, plus the experience to put such knowledge to practical use in making the hard decisions that must be made. Yet few of the Board members have the needed expertise in water issues. That is why I am running—to bring serious water expertise to decision-making at the Central Arizona Project. Expertise counts.

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**SHELBY DUPLESSIS:** My goal is to help Arizona continue to be a thriving community for families, residents, and businesses to live and work. As a longtime resident and a parent that cares deeply about the future of Maricopa County and our state, I bring an in-depth understanding of water challenges and possess the problem-solving skills for addressing the complex issues the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board (CAWCD) is responsible for and will face in the coming years. I will utilize my background and experience to engage with the many stakeholders and municipalities in the

Valley and Maricopa County to help determine and implement the best water management practices and conservation solutions. As a representative of the community, I'm committed to protecting Arizona's water future, our Central Arizona Project (CAP) water supply, and our quality of life. We also need to be cognizant of our farmers and work in tandem to continue to grow and supply the right crops, while looking at the water delivery methods and infrastructure, with a focus on best practices to prevent significant water loss with evaporation and runoff.

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**BEN GRAFF:** I am one of only two current members of the CAWCD Board running for reelection and I am seeking my second term to continue the essential work I have been a part of for the last six years. During my first term, I helped to negotiate and implement the Drought Contingency Plan ("DCP") and co-chaired a task force focused on increasing the outreach to our customers and the accessibility to and involvement with the Board's processes and public meetings. I also had the unique opportunity

to work on diversifying our energy portfolio to include renewable energy resources, after the closure of the Navajo Generating Station. I never doubted Arizona's Colorado River water supply was the most pressing challenge facing Arizona's future and my experience on the Board has further cemented my dedication toward working with our tribal, municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users to identify and implement the solutions needed to secure and stabilize our water supply.

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**JASON LUNDGREN:** No responses were received from this candidate.

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**CORY MISHKIN:** I believe we are all called to a life of public service and have lived according to that. As an Arizona native who's life has been shaped around real estate and agriculture I know how important water is to our way of life in this

desert. Without continuing the efforts of those who have gone before us to ensure that all Arizonans have the water they need we will start down a dangerous path that will lead to central Arizona becoming less and less productive and prosperous.

**AMANDA MONIZE:** The CAWCD Board of Directors is not a well-known position but is arguably one of the most impactful on our daily lives. Ensuring the delivery of water through the CAP canal system is only one of the responsibilities of the Board. The greater duty falls on the Board's ability to

levy taxes and set rates for said water delivery. I am running for this important position to provide accountable management and pragmatic leadership for Arizona's economic and environmental future.

**DONOVAN NEESE:** The short version is that I am concerned for the future of our state. The current status of our reservoirs has driven me to take action, especially

knowing that my experience in the water industry could help our state to develop a measured response to this crisis.

**JIM PEDERSON:** No responses were received from this candidate.

**KAREN PETERS:** These are challenging times for the Colorado River and the 40 million people across the West who depend on it. CAWCD has a central role in finding and implementing solutions. I'm stepping up to contribute – my experience and expertise in

Arizona water, energy, and environmental issues, together with my track record of listening, asking the right questions, and building consensus are needed right now. If elected, I would hit the ground running.

**BARBARA A. SEAGO:** No responses were received from this candidate.

**DANIEL CIRIGNANI WOOD:** I first noticed the severity of Arizona's drought during Covid lockdown. The whole thing took a grip on me because the subject was so important but at the time everyone was ignoring it, meanwhile the social temperature was getting so high, with everyone hating on everyone else and becoming divided over what increasingly trivial things. I have been a supply chain professional most of my career including a long stint as a Business Analyst at Intel and several years when I taught full-time in the

W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State. The deeper I studied the drought issue, the more I brought to bear my own professional skills to understand it and I began building models just like we do in supply chain to assess paths through the problem. What I discovered is that this is a supply problem, and it responds to supply solutions just like any private sector supply problem. The better I understood the issue the more I felt moved to step up and do something about it, that's about when I remembered, Central Arizona Project.

## WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT?

**YLENIA AGUILAR:** Responding to impacts of drought and climate change. Scientists believe that it is climate change, not just a drought, that is the root cause of declining flows in the Colorado River system. The declining water volume is the result of the hotter and drier conditions caused by climate change known as aridification, meaning a dryness that is permanent. Planning accordingly for the future of the Colorado River will be critical, and having leaders who understand what is at stake will make a difference. Although the Colorado River Basin is in a period of drought, the best way to describe the new transition is by using the term aridification in order to implement and support policies and practices suitable for the future of the Colorado River. Already in place, Resilience to Drought opportunities such as recycling and reuse of reclaimed water. We need to foster additional innovative practices and work on short-term solutions while pursuing long-term solutions. We should also enhance water conservation and create supplies that will last for future generations. Representing Arizona in multi-state and international negotiations. The U.S. and

Mexico share the Colorado River, and require binational collaboration. The “Binational Study of Water Desalination Opportunities in the Sea of Cortez,” represents a collaboration where the US & Mexico worked together to come up with solutions to protect the Colorado River and augment the shared water supply. CAWCD’s role was in assisting in the procurement of consultants to implement the binational project. The study was conducted from 2018 to 2020, it resulted in the identification of some seawater desalination opportunities along the Sonoran coast of the Sea of Cortez, it will benefit both countries, while taking into consideration the ecological impact of the region. As a native of Mexico and a Naturalized American Citizen, who is bilingual and biliterate in both Spanish and English, my Bi-National identity can be an asset as I can represent Arizona in international negotiations which will include the permitting with Mexico for desalination, it is estimated that it will take up 6-10 years to obtain the permit from Mexico.

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**ALEXANDRA ARBOLEDA:** The most important thing that the CAWCD Board does, in my estimation, is to ensure reliable, resilient, sustainable water supplies for Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima Counties. This responsibility involves: 1) ensuring that our infrastructure, including our canal and pumping plants, is well-maintained and that we have enough money in reserves for unexpected repairs, 2) ensuring that we

have sufficient water supplies to meet our customers’ needs and sustain the long-term viability of the CAP, and 3) ensuring that we have access to a diversified, reliable energy portfolio that maximizes our ability to move water at off-peak times when energy rates are lowest. The biggest challenge that CAP faces in meeting its responsibilities is the over allocation of Colorado River water and the reduced availability of water due to

climate change and drought. We are in the longest drought in history with record low water levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell. We must take bold decisive action now to reduce water use and develop durable solutions for the future sustainability of the basin. In response to drought and dire projections, the Board oversaw the successful completion of the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), which engaged California, Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico to leave 1.4 million acre-feet in Lake Mead with a phased in approach that included voluntary storage in Lake Mead, compensated conservation, and mitigation for those who agreed to take the steepest cuts earlier. For the first time, California agreed to participate in voluntary reductions at lower Lake Mead elevations, despite holding a senior priority which, if read literally, could mean that Arizona can

be cut to zero before California faces any reductions. The DCP also contained a process to re-engage if Lake Mead elevations were projected to reach a Tier 3, requiring additional conservation. Arizona was able to achieve over 800,000 acre-feet of storage in 2022 (AZ's total allocation is 2.8 MAF of which CAP is entitled to 1.6MAF), due in large part to collaborative partnerships with Arizona Tribes and municipalities to store more water in Lake Mead. However, the Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner declared recently that the basin states and Mexico must further reduce use to stabilize the system. Arizona is taking the position that evaporation and system losses must be equitably shared among all the states and Mexico. The success of these negotiations is essential to the long-term viability of CAP.

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**LISA BULLINGTON:** The biggest challenge facing the CAP is balancing all of the disparate interests of the stakeholders within the framework of the limited water supply and the current shortages. Another challenge for the Board is making the tough decisions regarding raising water rates and/or taxes when there are financial

challenges due to decreased revenue and the need for capital projects as infrastructure ages. Finally, I think a third challenge for the Board is negotiating with the other basin states to protect Arizona's allocation but to also protect the health and safety of our residents.

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**ALAN DULANEY:** We are very close to system collapse on the Colorado River, and we got there much quicker than anyone anticipated. This crisis demands immediate attention as the top priority. The CAWCD Board must work with ADWR to resolve the challenge of declining water levels in Lakes Mead and Powell, starting with Lake Powell. The Bureau of Reclamation has already made clear that their focus will be on saving the Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure. If Reclamation sees water levels dropping too close to 3490 ft, they will shut down the

penstocks that transmit water to the generators at the base of Glen Canyon Dam. Hydroelectric power generation will cease, but more importantly, the movement of water from Lake Powell to Lake Mead will largely stop, too. Lake Mead will begin to drop faster. In short order, water levels will also reach the point (950 ft) at which hydroelectric generation must cease. Then, little water will flow down from Hoover Dam to Lake Havasu, where the CAP intakes are positioned; no water will be pumped to Maricopa County. This scenario of falling



dominos must be stopped before it starts. Lake Powell must be saved first. If the worst happens and the CAP canal goes dry, the second priority for the Board will be to preserve the canal infrastructure, lest it deteriorate. Operation, maintenance, and repair must continue even if only the smallest amount of water enters the canal. Furthermore, as pumps are turned on across the three-county service area, subsidence will eventually resume, but not always at the same rate everywhere. Differential settling may cause cracking and buckling of the canal at different locations. And when the water returns, the canal will be in no shape to facilitate flow, unless the Board sees to it that OM&R efforts

continue. Finally, the Board must pay careful attention to financial health of CAWCD. The non-Federal portion of the construction loan debt will require annual payments through 2045. Much of that money comes from delivery fees. CAWCD income will be severely curtailed if no delivery charges can be assessed, due to lack of water. It is not clear that city councils will continue to pay capital charges for a resource that has effectively disappeared. Some may yield up their allocations. That would be a grave mistake, and the Board must act to keep all subcontractors involved and committed. Starting now.

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**SHELBY DUPLESSIS:** 1. Planning and allocation of water is a major challenge. Some of our cities in the county are more reliant on CAP water than others. We must think of initiatives and practices to conserve and sustain our water supply for the good of all municipalities and communities, so we don't overextend in certain areas and leave others at risk. 2. Long-term drought. Arizona is currently in its 27th year of a long-term drought. And yet, we are using less water per household today than we did in 1957. There are things we are doing now that are working to help conserve our water resources. We need to continue to look at good practices for conserving our water, to protect against being vulnerable. Each city and utility impose its own practices – but through collaboration we can look at what is working in what area of the county and use it for others. We have a diversified water portfolio, that is not just reliant on rain levels, but we must consider factors such as farming and agriculture, use of reclaimed water and how we can help industries innovate to avoid excess water

waste. 3. Increasing maintenance costs and water cuts. Firstly, it will be important to manage the budgets for maintaining our existing systems and to understand and identify where we can instill smart conservation practices. I will utilize my engineering and infrastructure background, knowledge, and experience to provide checks and balances and help find ways to reduce costs where possible without compromising the integrity and reliability of our CAP delivery system. Over the course of my career, I have always been one to think out of the box and work collaboratively to find solutions. I will continue to do the same here by looking at other potential sources of water and ways to move that water. Getting creative while managing these costs will require everyone to work collaboratively together. I will work closely with the board to utilize a combination of both property taxes and water rates to ensure we are equitable and fair while ensuring delivery of our most precious resource, water.

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**BEN GRAFF:** 1. Negotiations with California, Nevada, Mexico, & the Upper Basin States to Conserve Colorado River Water. The Board, in coordination with the Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR"), is among the prominent voices protecting Arizona's water and assuring that Arizona does not take a disproportionate cut to our water supply. In recent months, our Board authorized a compromise which was presented to the federal government along with our counterparts in Nevada, to cut approximately 2 million acre feet from the system, to respond to the Reclamation Commissioner's decree to cut 2-4 million acre feet. California did not participate in this proposal. An enormous challenge will be for the Basin States, in coordination with the federal government, to propose a viable plan that achieves the 2-4 million acre feet water reduction identified by the Reclamation Commissioner. Moving forward, the Board will continue to play a key role in bringing Nevada, California, Mexico, and all of the Basin States to the table to find effective means of water conservation to protect the Colorado River systems. 2. Striking the Balance Between Water Rate Setting and Use of Property

Taxes. While CAP can build in the rising/changing costs to pump water through the CAP system into the water rates, there will be times, including the June 2022 rate setting process approved by the Board, in which a combination of funding from property taxes and increased water rates is appropriate to offset water rates and address unpredictable increases. The challenge facing the Board is to find a means of addressing the inevitability of price increases for Colorado River Water, with the need of these increases to be predicable and absorbable by our customers. The Board understands our customers can accommodate moderate rate increases, as long as such increases are predicable and published in time for the Cities to include in their own rate setting processes. However, if there is a major gap, or unpredictable increase, then property taxes can be used to offset the gap and mitigate the unpredictable factors. However, as with all good policy discussions, the current and future Board members will not all agree on this approach and finding a compromise and path forward may prove to be challenging.

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**CORY MISHKIN:** I believe one of our greatest challenges is avoiding a myopic approach to our current drought. While we have significant challenges ahead we need to make sure we are not neglecting the future for the benefit of today. We will also need to focus on how to balance protecting

the infrastructure of the CAP as water transit fees decrease due to volumes decreasing, with that of the property tax payers whose land is used to pay back the Federal Government and maintain the system.

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**AMANDA MONIZE:** The CAP system is facing economic challenges with decreased revenue and an expanding list of capital projects to maintain infrastructure.

Additionally, the CAWCD Board has financial obligations to repay the federal government for projects related to water supply, commercial power, construction costs, etc.

This debt is outlined in the CAP Repayment Obligations. Satisfying these financial obligations is not a simple task. It will involve setting rates that reflect the true cost of water and encourage efficient water usages. CAWCD Board is tasked with balancing financial obligations and developing reasonable rates at which it can maintain financial stability for unexpected costs. Another great challenge resides in Arizona's priority to the Colorado River system. Arizona has the lowest priority, taking the first cuts in allocations in times of

shortage, just as we are currently facing. As we work to conserve water and take cuts, the other Basin States do not have the same burdens. Arizona has shown its commitment to alleviating this crisis. In fact, CAP General Manager Ted Cooke recently stated, "Since 2014, Arizona has left more than 2.5 MAF, equating to approximately 37 feet of increased elevation in Lake Mead". It is time for the Colorado River Compact to be amended to reflect our efforts, resulting in an agreement where allocations and cuts are balanced among the Basin States

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**DONOVAN NEESE:** I believe that our biggest challenges are generation, drought and CAGR. The looming deficit generation is a huge problem for CAP. CAP is the largest energy user in Arizona and needs to maintain a diverse portfolio of generation. The looming deficit is going to increase the

cost of power in the very near future. The drought is obviously the largest issue on the horizon. Especially when you couple that Arizona's junior priority. Finally CAGR has very large obligations that are going to get more expensive to guarantee.

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**KAREN PETERS:** First and foremost, the rapid decline of Colorado River supplies. For the Central Arizona Project, this decline presents a number of interconnected challenges. For example, less CAP water flowing through the CAP canal directly affects the rates CAP charges its customers, as the per-unit cost of water delivered must, in part, cover both capital and operation and maintenance costs. Less CAP water flowing through the CAP system potentially has operational impacts as well, because there is a level below which the system simply won't function. Less access to Colorado River water is an enormous stressor for CAWCD in its role to secure water supplies to fulfill the current and future replenishment obligation of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District. One of the other big

challenges has little to nothing to do with declining Colorado River supplies – it's the system itself. Construction of the Central Arizona Project began in 1973 and was completed in 1993. Simply put, it's getting old. Planning for, paying for, and implementing rehabilitation and replacement of this aging infrastructure becomes more challenging every year. In addition, running the CAP requires more electricity than any other power user in the state. Its original primary energy supply, the coal-fired Navajo Generating Station, shut down in 2019, requiring a huge pivot to open-market supplies. Needless to say, this has been a major shift that exposes customers to greater rate volatility and little ability to address concerns around power redundancy and transitioning to less carbon-intensive supplies.

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**DANIEL CIRIGNANI WOOD:** 1) State leaders believe their own PR, 2) drought predation and 3) anachronistic water laws. State water leaders have sold themselves on the idea that we are smarter than other desert communities and that we don't have to cover our canals and reservoirs. CAP even publishes white papers promoting this nonsense. Arizona's experts use their privileged position to prevent Arizonans from thinking about our most promising source of water supply: Preventing evaporative water loss. By ruling out our best opportunity they have exposed Arizonans to drought predation. There are people and companies with expensive water to sell – they have heard of a prosperous place called Arizona and they are grateful for state leaders who do their work for them. They offer for sale long-lead-time, high-cost, low-yield water. Desalinization is a good idea? Really? It may take 14 years, cost \$3-6 billion and cannot produce more than 615 acre-feet/day for a state that uses 19000 acre-feet per day. It will be in Mexico. How did Nordstream work out for Germany? Lastly – old laws: 100% of Israeli farms and 48% of Californian farms are on drip irrigation – compare to 5% in Arizona. Territorial water laws are to thank for this.

### WHAT UNIQUE SKILLS OR PERSPECTIVES WOULD YOU BRING TO THE CAWCD BOARD TO HELP ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

**YLENIA AGUILAR:** I have had the privilege of serving on a school board for the past 6 years. Similarly to CAWCD, School Board Members manage and operate a budget, create programs, implement projects, and pass policy. As a school board member, it is done to ensure the safety and success of the students, staff, and community I serve. Not only that, I opened and closed schools safely during the beginning of the pandemic. If Arizonans can trust me with their most valuable treasure, their children, they can trust me with the most valuable resource, our WATER. As a native of Mexico and a Naturalized American Citizen, who is

bilingual and biliterate in both Spanish and English, my Bi-National identity can be an asset as I can represent Arizona in international negotiations which will include the permitting with Mexico for desalination, it is estimated that it will take up 6-10 years to obtain the permit from Mexico. In my professional role, I have built and fostered relationships with basin states leaders, and tribal leaders. As well as their community members. I have also traveled the state extensively and understand the geography of our state and how each area is impacted by aridification.

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**ALEXANDRA ARBOLEDA:** Specializing in the areas of water and natural resources law, I have worked for two decades as an attorney in Arizona. The depth and breadth of my experience with water and natural resource issues gives me a unique understanding of Arizona's water

challenges as well as the insight to develop innovative and collaborative solutions. My primary focus is on finding creative solutions to complex problems involving water issues so that my clients can continue to thrive and also be good water stewards. Elected to the CAWCD Board in

2016, I have six years of experience and serve in leadership positions, including s Secretary of Board, Chair of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD) and Underground Storage Committee, and Secretary and Commissioner on the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA). During my term, I also participated in two civic leadership

programs: 1) Flinn Brown Civic Leadership Academy, where I heard from and engaged with many Arizona community leaders to better understand the diverse and complex challenges faced by the State, and 2) the Public Leadership Credential Program at Harvard Kennedy School, where I developed skills and strategies to be a more effective leader, decision-maker, and policy-maker.

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**LISA BULLINGTON:** My interest and education in water law has come through my work as a real estate attorney. The skill set that makes me qualified for this position is that I am reasonable, moderate, a good negotiator and am well suited to work through the conflicts that will arise on the

Board. I am happy to learn though that the Board is collaborative and filled with intelligent people who are passionate about their charge. I will be an asset to the group and will thrive within the collaborative framework.

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**ALAN DULANEY:** Expertise counts. I will bring to the CAWCD Board of Directors the technical, regulatory, and customer service viewpoint that the Board so badly needs. Trained as a hydrogeologist, I was the Water Policy Administrator for the City of Peoria for over a decade. Working for Peoria gave me a thorough understanding of the concerns of municipal water providers. Leveraging my previous nine years' experience at the Department of Water Resources brought several successes to Peoria, including withdrawal from the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District. Peoria is the only

major city to have withdrawn, thus avoiding huge fees that I saw coming years ago. I also led Peoria's effort in 2010 to renew its Designation of Assured Water Supply, increasing the volume by over one third. Through the Arizona Power Authority, I secured 691 kilowatts of capacity and 1.5+ million kilowatt-hours of usage in the Federal re-allocation of hydroelectrical power from Hoover Dam. Utilizing my hydrogeological knowledge in design and location, new Peoria wells and underground storage facilities were optimized. I will be the municipal voice on the Board. And cities are where the people live.

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**SHELBY DUPLESSIS:** I hold a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from ASU and have my State of Arizona Professional Engineer license, as well as my LEED certification. For the past seven years I have served as President of Land Development at Empire Group of Companies, based in Scottsdale, and prior to that worked as a civil engineer at a large reputable firm in the valley for eighteen years. My knowledge

in civil and infrastructure design, capital improvement, public works, and private development bring a unique set of skills and perspective to my candidacy. I recognize that different sections of the community have different needs, they all need to be addressed by someone who is able to understand their interests and bridge the gaps between them.



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**BEN GRAFF:** In 2016, the Maricopa County voters elected me to the CAWCD Board. My six years of experience on the Board sets me apart from candidates who have not previously served on the Board or faced the water challenges in our state head-on. In the past six years, I have been part of a Board unique in its place in history which has: (1) helped to negotiate and approve the Drought Contingency Plan; (2) been the first Board to serve during not only a Tier 1,

but also a Tier 2a shortage declaration due to the drastically lowering levels of water at Lake Mead; (3) negotiated with California, Nevada, Mexico, and the Upper Basin States to identify a means of making significant, and likely permanent cuts, of Colorado River water from the system; and (4) tangibly and effectively improved our customer and stakeholder outreach and participation to ensure more inclusive and open process.

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**CORY MISHKIN:** As a real estate agent each day I represent my clients with a fiduciary obligation to put their interests first. And small business operator, I know what it means to keep a balanced budget and ensure your obligations are met. I have spent my whole life around parts of the economy that depend on water. Which

gives me a firsthand understanding of how we need to protect all stake holders to ensure everyone has the water they need to be successful in our society and economy. CAP is a \$100 Billion economic engine to Central Arizona. Without good management of CAP, we will all suffer.

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**AMANDA MONIZE:** Communication is a key component of being an effective leader, especially in times of great adversity. My entire profession is predicated on being able to communicate in a knowledgeable and sincere manner. This is important to be able to work cooperatively and efficiently. Whether it is working with colleagues,

stakeholders, and other community members, the transfer of information allows us to make informed decisions based on facts and reason. While on the CAWCD Board, communication will be essential to serving our customers and overcoming our most pressing challenges.

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**DONOVAN NEESE:** I am a registered civil engineer with over 20 years in the water industry. As the manager of a water district – water and power issues are my everyday job. I also have a Master’s degree in Business Administration. I am a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Colorado River Water Users Association, the Water Reuse Association and the United States Committee on Irrigation and

Drainage. I also sit on the board of the Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association and am the Vice President of the Agri-business and Water Council of Arizona. I have accrued many years of leadership skills helping organizations through solid fiscal management. I also have experience navigating through complex contract litigation, negotiation and mediation.

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**KAREN PETERS:** I am an Arizona lawyer, city administrator, and former lobbyist, and

have worked on challenging water issues in the state for over 30 years. I’ve worked with

a wide range of Arizona stakeholders to craft legislation and regulations, and work directly with professionals who run water and wastewater utilities. I've engaged with leaders and staff at every level of government to advocate for policies and funding. My experience includes rate setting processes, so I also bring that unique but very relevant perspective to the CAWCD Board. I've advised and worked with electric utilities, and my past legal

practice included representation of power plant developers at the Arizona Corporation Commission. In recent years I have worked extensively on sustainability and climate action. I've managed big budgets and large organizations and am familiar with complex infrastructure. While none of these skills or perspectives might be unique on its own, I believe that my combination of skills and perspectives is quite unique and would be valuable to the CAWCD Board.

**DANIEL CIRIGNANI WOOD:** The drought is a supply problem, I am an experienced supply professional well-attested by my peers. How can you tell a candidate is not a supply professional? The candidate talks about urban water savings when only 26% of Arizona water use is urban; desalinization when it is the highest-cost, longest-lead-time, lowest-yield source which hands our prosperous state's most vulnerable resource dependency – water, to a narco-state; they skip the source of supply most obvious to professionals: yields, and instead concoct grand plans to bring water from a thousand miles away. Professionals talk about yields, bottlenecks, supply and demand modulated by capacities, capacity

containers, etc. – and they know the rules associated with how we make the best of these. As a supply professional I will bring this background to the board: Supply Chain Management Business Analyst – Intel Corporation and Altera – 16 Years > 20 Supply Chain Solution Implementations – Design through Delivery Lecturer – W.P. Carey School of Business – Arizona State University – 2+ Years Author: Applications and Modeling for Supply Chain Management – with SAP Labs (Palo Alto, CA) for John Wiley and Sons Master of Science – Decision and Information Systems Principal Solution Architect – Locally Headquartered Battery Electric Vehicle Manufacturer

**CAP'S LONG-TERM CONTRACT HOLDERS – PRIMARILY URBAN WATER PROVIDERS, TRIBAL NATIONS, AND INDUSTRIAL USERS – ARE FACING SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGES IN THE COMING YEARS. HOW WILL YOU WORK ON BEHALF OF THE NEEDS OF THESE CUSTOMERS?**

**YLENIA AGUILAR:** CAWCD had done a great job at being proactive towards the future water shortages and reductions. CAWCD had anticipated and planned for this, and in order to address the cuts, Arizona has a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). It is the implementation plan to help partially mitigate the cuts. Reductions to tribal and

municipal communities and industrial users will be fully mitigated with substitute water supplies or financial compensation. The reductions to agricultural users will be partially mitigated with substitute water supplies and monetary compensation for infrastructure and efficiency updates and improvements.

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**ALEXANDRA ARBOLEDA:** I am dedicated to serving the needs of long-term contract holders as they adapt to reduced water supplies in the coming years. Most importantly I will continue to work to protect the reliability, certainty, and resiliency of their CAP water supply. This involves complex negotiations with the United States, the seven basin states, and Mexico, as well as complex negotiations with water users within Arizona to achieve the reductions in use necessary to stabilize the system. One of the direct impacts to CAP customers from shortages is the increasing cost of CAP water. Since 2020, the CAWCD

Board has allocated 78.6 million dollars towards rates to assist its customers with transitional rate stabilization. Generally, I think property taxes can be used for fixed costs, but operation and maintenance costs should be paid through rates. With the substantial increase in costs due to shortage, system conservation, and energy price variability, I have supported the use of property tax money to help stabilize rates so that our customers have time to gradually respond. I will continue to work with CAP customers to help them adapt to the increasing cost of water.

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**LISA BULLINGTON:** I will work hard to equally support all of the long-term contract holders. I think communicating with the groups is extremely valuable. The Board needs to negotiate on their behalf and to work with them to come up with strategic solutions to help them not only survive, but be innovative when faced with

water shortages. I also think it is important to be transparent and keep the stakeholders informed so they understand any potential impacts that may be forthcoming. By being a good communicator we will keep the stakeholders engaged and this is important during this critical time.

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**ALAN DULANEY:** For years, CAP water has been stored underground. The Arizona Water Bank has stored some 3.76 maf to firm up subcontracts for CAP water. It is time to recover that stored water and put it to use. It may tide the three-county service area over the coming period of curtailment, until a new understanding of how much water will be available from the canal is reached. The Board must coordinate with cities and tribes on recovery methods, which will require Board members who are knowledgeable on wells, credits, and municipal viewpoints. Demand management is often seen as synonymous

with conservation, but in truth, the two are not the same. Demand management is on a higher plane, reserved for hard times. Optimizing a watering schedule for grass is conservation; deciding not to have a lawn at all is demand management. Water conservation is the way of life for desert dwellers, where every drop is precious even in normal times. Demand management is the set of harsh decisions that determine who will thrive and who must wither away. Again, the Board will need members who understand tribal and municipal concerns to negotiate such decisions.

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**SHELBY DUPLESSIS:** It is the duty of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District

Board (CAWCD) to manage the water we are receiving from the Colorado River and

to look at how we are using Arizona's water supply to adapt to guard against future water shortages. The most important thing the board does is strategically work in tandem with all stakeholders to manage the transportation of water to communities and maintain the infrastructure. Collaboration is key to ensure the proper allocation, care, and maintenance of the systems. If elected, I want to create a plan that invests in affordable and sustainable water usage for Maricopa County and Arizona as a whole. We need to develop new Colorado River

guidelines and implement and refine them. It's a long-term effort that involves augmentation, conservation, reuse, and recovery. CAP canal is Arizona's secret asset. When combined with SRP, irrigation districts and Tribal and city water systems, it provides the flexibility to respond to changing water conditions. Our CAP 'River' can move water throughout Central Arizona and literally up hill. It gives Arizona unique resiliency in facing the coming water shortage

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**BEN GRAFF:** I believe my work as the co-chair of CAWCD's Customer Service Task Force speaks to my commitment and ability to work on behalf of our diverse customer base. When I first ran for this office and won my election in 2016, I took the time to listen to our customers, and meet with the organizations which represent our customers, such as the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association ("AMWUA"). What I learned, and committed myself to address, was that our cities, tribes, industrial users, and agricultural users did not believe their

voices were being heard, or that final decisions by the Board were incorporating public/customer comments and input. In the past six years, we have drastically improved this process to ensure that the Board does not take final action on items without the direct input of and participation from effected customers and stakeholders. I will continue to work on behalf of our customers, tax payers, and other interested parties as we make the monumental decisions ahead of us to protect and stabilize Arizona's water supply.

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**CORY MISHKIN:** We will need to work together to innovate and ensure our water system limits waste and makes wise decisions on how to address inefficacies.

The primary job of CAP is to ensure stakeholders have the water they are entitled to. It is the job of CAP to do that in as cost effect manner as possible.

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**AMANDA MONIZE:** CAP has a duty to uphold contracts and obligations to its users. In doing so, the CAWCD Board must work within the confines of Arizona Revised Statutes, Policies, and Regulations. As

conditions change regarding water availability and economic stressors, adaptations will need to be made to limit the impact on users whenever financially and environmentally feasible.

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**DONOVAN NEESE:** CAP, just like any organization, has room for improvement and would benefit from a lean government audit. These audits create quicker responses and more efficient operations.

Reducing loss and waste results in more resources for contractors. CAP must also continue to support projects that create storage, both above ground and below.

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**KAREN PETERS:** First I would sit down with the contract holders to talk about their needs. It's essential that CAWCD listen and fully understand its customers' challenges and priorities so that it can collaborate to help address them. I expect that there is a wide variety of needs, but also that there

are common themes among the challenges they face. As a service provider, CAWCD should be creative and flexible, looking for ways to leverage the CAP infrastructure to help effect transactions and movement of water.

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**DANIEL CIRIGNANI WOOD:** By using supply chain expertise to increase Arizona's water supply through yields. Here is how. Agriculture consumes 1.4 to 1.7 trillion gallons of water annually. We will follow Israel's example and cut this in half using drip irrigation – delivering 680-700 billion gallons of water conservation in 24 months. A \$7 per month, 2-year surcharge on water bills will provide \$400 million for vouchers to provide for farmers to convert to drip. \$400 million for 700 billion gallons of water savings – nothing packs more punch. When we dismiss the nonsense CAP publishes about why it shouldn't cover CAP and Lake

Pleasant we discover that covering water sources yields the most new water. Covering CAP and Lake Pleasant at 90% efficiency will yield 19.3 billion gallons of water savings per year, 53 million gallons per day. Covering Lake Mead – with canopies, hexashield, tarps, concrete, fiberglass – whatever it takes, will yield 176 billion gallons of water savings per year, 482 million gallons per day. We have the money. Arizona water leaders tell us desalinization in Mexico will cost \$6 billion or a canal from the Mississippi will cost \$8 billion. No need: team up with Nevada and stop evaporation on Lake Mead.

### THE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM IS SEVERELY DEPLETED AFTER YEARS OF OVERUSE AND ARIDIFICATION IN THE WATERSHED. HOW SHOULD ARIZONA NEGOTIATE WITH THE OTHER BASIN STATES TO STABILIZE THE RIVER IN LIGHT OF CAP'S JUNIOR PRIORITY?

**YLENIA AGUILAR:** Arizona should continue to collaborate with the Basin States and Mexico. All Basin States and users of Colorado River water need to work together

to come up with long-lasting, enforceable reductions to protect our fragile water supply.

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**ALEXANDRA ARBOLEDA:** Because of CAP's junior priority, Arizona has planned well for times of shortage by storing water underground and implementing water reuse and conservation measures. However, climate change and significantly reduced inflows to the Colorado River, even in times of average snowpack, has

accelerated the effects of an over-allocated system. It is essential that CAP and CAWCD take all actions necessary to protect the health and safety interests at the tap in its service area. However, it is critical that CAP and Arizona engage with the other states with integrity, trust, and mutual respect. As a problem solver who believes in practical



solutions, I intentionally develop relationships with all different stakeholders in the basin. I listen with an open mind to the perspectives of cities, farmers, tribes, governments, and non-profit organizations. Understanding all the nuances of the different viewpoints helps me to find common pathways towards a sustainable future. In the Colorado River basin, we all share a common destiny. The challenges we face to reduce water use, while daunting, are not insurmountable. We have the tools to solve our challenges now, and I hope to

have a chance to help craft a solution. We can implement technical solutions now: increased efficiencies, water conservation, water reuse, and desalination. Adaptive solutions are more difficult because they involve reductions in consumption to existing users and difficult trade-offs. This requires a deep understanding of water uses in the basin to negotiate, but ultimately we can't achieve a sustainable future without equitable reductions in use by all users.

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**LISA BULLINGTON:** The reality is that regardless of Arizona's junior status reflected in the Drought Contingency Plan, Central Arizona cannot finance the growth and expansion of the western United States. We need strong leadership on this issue to insure that other Basin states take a

proportionate allotment of the shortages. We also need to have close communication with the agricultural community in Arizona and California because they are such big users of water and figure out a plan so they can continue to innovate and farm with less water.

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**ALAN DULANEY:** Dwindling water levels require demand management on a regional scale. In June 2022, Reclamation told the Basin states to come up with a plan to save the system an extra 2-4 maf by August, or else. They couldn't do it. Reclamation walked back its threat, but only temporarily. Colorado said it wouldn't reduce any usage until the Lower Basin states drastically cut their deliveries. Nevada has a new intake in Lake Mead, much lower than 950 ft, and won't be affected. The entire burden seemed to fall on Arizona, which in 2022 was shorted 21% of its allocation, even before June. All states

must recognize that flows in the Colorado River system are now 12.7 maf and falling, perhaps to only 9 maf. Demand must be balanced against this physical supply. Claims of senior rights are important, but cannot leave any state high and dry. Arizona cannot handle this responsibility alone. Allocations need to be based on a rolling average of total annual flows. All seven Basin states must agree that demand management is a necessity for everyone. If there is no agreement, years of litigation will result. The Board must support serious negotiations now.

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**SHELBY DUPLESSIS:** Although we are junior status, we need California and Nevada at the table and to step up to collaborate on solutions, which would include them both taking cuts too. Arizona should not be the only state to absorb the mandated cuts.

Arizona has been sustainable water stewards in our management practices and others should consider our leadership in water management. We need to look at other water sources to supplement the needs of our state's water demand and

diversify our water portfolio to have more control and options for the future.

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**BEN GRAFF:** Arizona must be strong and present in all negotiations and project the argument that the original priority system is not compatible with the drastic steps needed to address the current water crisis. We need to move forward operating under the understanding the federal government has the authority to put aside the priority system and make significant cuts to the Colorado River water system unilaterally. With that in mind, the carrot for Arizona, California, Nevada, and even the Upper

Basin States is that I am confident the states can still propose a joint and compromised plan that will be more equitable and beneficial to the individual states and Basin system than what the federal government will produce. That being said, if it becomes apparent the Basin States will not come to the table to strike a deal, Arizona needs to be willing to push the federal government to use its authority, rather than allow Lake Mead water levels to continue to drop toward Dead Pool.

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**CORY MISHKIN:** I believe we should begin to work with the Federal Government and our Congressional Delegation to negotiate a new Colorado River Compact that requires water allocation in percentage terms rather than fixed volume terms. It is our job to be good stewards of the river and maintain a

balanced system that is not overtaxed. Lake Mead and Powell are wonderful savings accounts, but we need to be proactive to ensure we build up our reserves and ensure we have enough water to supply clean and safe hydroelectric power.

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**AMANDA MONIZE:** There are several factors to consider in any potential negotiations to the Colorado River system allocations among the Basin States. The reality is we have a changing environment with reduced flow of Colorado River water. However, Arizona has substantially contributed to the conservation and sustainability of the Colorado River system. We need to leverage our incredible

conservation efforts in pursuit of elevating our priority level. As well as, seek financial compensation for our water contributions which have helped alleviate this water crisis. The migration of residents among the Basin States needs to be taken into account. Arizona's environmental, economic, and societal future, in part, is dependent upon our water allocations from the Colorado River system.

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**DONOVAN NEESE:** It is unfortunate that the problem got this far without intervention. Collaboration between the priority holders is critical to getting things corrected. Significant work has been undertaken already and more is needed. Proper research of all parties perspectives and goals is needed to effectuate any change. Leverage points might include the imminent

energy crisis in California and the past efforts. Arizona's efforts to date have not gotten their proper recognition. Showing our extraordinary and voluntary work to preserve the Colorado makes the other parties look negligent. When this is coupled with political pressure we can get everyone working just as hard.

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**KAREN PETERS:** The CAP's junior priority dictates that Arizona takes the first reductions in times of Colorado River shortage. We've already absorbed enormous cuts that are impacting Arizona's economy, while some Basin States continue to get their full allocations. Our neighbors must acknowledge reality – no one state can resolve this crisis and stabilize the River by itself. Overallocation, drought, and the impacts of climate change have overtaken the watershed, likely permanently. Every

sector, every state has to adapt, rapidly. But in order to do that effectively, equitably, and with minimal economic disruption, the Basin States have to work collectively, in close collaboration with tribal governments and the federal government. It may be best not to approach this problem on a state-by-state basis, but rather sector by sector, or otherwise. What we're doing isn't working – we shouldn't expect different results if we don't do it differently.

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**DANIEL CIRIGNANI WOOD:** Politically and economically California enjoys the upper hand in these negotiations - it is up to CAP to assure that Arizona takes serious steps to address water efficiency so that California does not also hold the moral upper hand as well. We must surpass California's commitment to drip irrigation and trade places by putting pressure on California to make a larger commitment to drip. Arizona can save 700 billion gallons per year with drip – California can save trillions! We all drink from the same spigot so their success will be ours. Nevada is more desperate for water than we. When we give up on the

expensive pipe dream of Baja California desal and get serious about water we already have, we can propose a partnership with our NW neighbor, set the engineers to work and turn Lake Mead into a Wonder of the Modern World with affordable evaporation dampening that can save more than 480 million gallons per day. Invite Utah too. They'll love us. We have to show we are serious. Focusing on urban water use is needed, but alone it isn't serious. Desalinization is not serious. We negotiate by being the partner our neighbors want and need.

**THE CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MEETING THE GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT (CAGRD). CAP IS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP THE CAGRD'S NEXT 10-YEAR PLAN OF OPERATION BY 2025. WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THIS PROCESS AS A CAWCD BOARD MEMBER AND WHAT ISSUES NEED TO BE CONSIDERED?**

**YLENIA AGUILAR:** CAWCD Board Members are responsible for overseeing the management and operation CAGRD, which is a department within CAWCD. The difference is finances are managed separately than CAWCD and members are

CAP contractors and subcontractors. It was created to ensure groundwater replenishment or recharge in each AMA's. Arizona prohibits the sale of subdivision lots that lack a 100 year assured water supply. The issues: Enrollment in CAGRD has grown

far beyond expectations, lack of sufficient water supplies for replenishment, pumping groundwater from great depths poses grave

consequences, disconnect between location of pumping and location of replenishment, and a financial model at risk.

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**ALEXANDRA ARBOLEDA:** I serve as Secretary of the Board and Chair of the CAGRD and Underground Storage Committee. We intend to follow a transparent process that includes many opportunities for stakeholder feedback and public comment to develop the Plan of Operation. Because future water supply is such a critical component of the 10-year Plan of Operation, we have set this issue to be discussed first. Guiding principals developed by my Committee include: 1) Actively participate in dialogues regarding the resilience and long-term role of the CAGRD, 2) Acquire a diversified, well-balanced portfolio including permanent wet water resources, 3) Improve or strengthen consultation with ADWR on water supplies and projected demand, and 4) Support

efforts to better quantify existing water supplies, assess water augmentation efforts, and to develop new water supplies. Elements that must be considered in the Plan of Operation include replenishment reserve activities, current and projected groundwater replenishment obligations, water resources for replenishment, projected groundwater replenishment obligations, water resources potentially available, and potential storage facilities that may be used. Ultimately, CAGRD must evaluate all of these elements to demonstrate to the Director of Water Resources that the CAGRD's plan is consistent with achieving the management goal for each active management area under the 1980 Groundwater Code.

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**LISA BULLINGTON:** My role as a Board member would be to review and insure that the 10-year plan is finished by 2025 and that there is enough water to meet the replenishment obligations of the member lands and member service agreements. The challenges are to figure out the long-term projections for replenishment obligations for the next decade and to continue to

acquire additional water supplies over the coming years. The Board must be strategic in collecting its fees to make sure all of the CAGRD costs are covered. An issue that may occur is for the CAGRD program to continue to evolve and innovate as more demands are made of its members due to water shortages.

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**ALAN DULANEY:** The CAWCD Board is also the Board of Directors for CAGRD. The dual roles can cause a conflict of interest. The Board must make clear that in any such conflict of interest, CAWCD will take priority over CAGRD. CAGRD exists to perform replenishment for subdivisions that use groundwater so that those subdivisions will have an assured water supply for 100 years. And CAGRD can't say "no" to a subdivision

membership application. But the location of replenishment (recharge) is often many miles distant from the subdivision, which is not a firm guarantee that groundwater will always be physically available. The Board must require that replenishable supplies be recharged in the area where groundwater will be pumped, to insure continuous water. The biggest issue: where will replenishable supplies come from? Excess Colorado River

water has long been a major source, but clearly will not be available in the future. Desalination, direct potable reuse, and reclaimed water may be sources, as long as the projected demand of a subdivision

matches the available supply. Finally, the Board must have the authority to deny Member Land applications when no water source can back up the replenishment obligation.

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**SHELBY DUPLESSIS:** For the upcoming 2025 Plan of Operation the CAWCD board we will work with CAP staff to review and understand the Central Arizona Project - Service Area Model (CAP-SAM) future simulation projections of enrollment and obligations required. The replenishment of ground water has been essential to our current and future water success in Arizona and replenishment within three years is a

rolling requirement. The excess water CAGRD has purchased and stored in Underground Storage Facilities (USFs) has helped tremendously to secure the water needed to maintain our assured water supply and will continue to do so in the future. Again, it takes all of us working together collaboratively to manage and protect our water as it is very complicated with many intricacies.

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**BEN GRAFF:** There is a common misconception that CAGRD is a "stand alone" district. It is not. The CAGRD is a department within CAWCD and is governed by the CAWCD Board. As a current and, if reelected, future Board member, I would continue to play a role in providing a mechanism for landowners and water providers to demonstrate an assured water supply and finding sources to replenish Arizona's ground water within our Active Management Areas. CAGRD will face long-term uncertainties related to the availability and costs of supplies for replenishment of ground water. In the near future, CAGRD will be seeking out new and available water

supplies to supplement the system. This could also lead to competition among the CAGRD and other entities seeking additional supplies for future use, including large industrial users and municipal and private water utilities. I believe the most complex issues will include: (1) a more drastic shift to and reliance upon groundwater within Arizona, which is an already stressed and limited supply of water; (2) the Board's charge to find and identify new sources of water to replenish the system; and (3) bringing various competing parties to the table to agree on alternative sources of replenishment.

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**CORY MISHKIN:** The CAGRD is one of the most meaningful compromises in Arizona water history. It is the only mechanism we have where one drop of water into the system benefits everyone. We need to make sure we work with the legislature to

ensure this mechanism continues to serve Central Arizona. And while there are modifications that can always be made, we need to ensure we do not do away with this solution.

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**AMANDA MONIZE:** CAGRD is managed by a committee of CAWCD Board members and chaired by the CAWCD Secretary of the

Board. Should I be appointed to this committee, the development of the next Plan of Operations will be the primary



responsibility of this position. Considerations for the Plan of Operations involves ensuring stakeholders achieve management goals of the Active Managements Areas (AMAs). These goals included meeting the next 100 years of replenishment obligations to its members (i.e., member lands and member service areas). The CAGR D determines rates, member obligations, water resources to be used for recharge, and the facilities,

operations and projects used to complete said replenishment obligations set forth in the Plan. Annual reports, regarding water providers serving member lands, determine use and replenishment obligations to be set. Additionally, CAGR D is responsible for reporting to the Director of Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to show they have met the replenishment obligations.

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**DONOVAN NEESE:** The replenishment obligations made by CAGR D is huge. As the basis of our system of managed aquifers these obligations affect the vast majority of Arizonans. I am concerned that CAGR D will not be able to keep up with the guarantees

it has made. More storage will clearly be needed in the very near future. I look forward to leading the effort update the Plan of Operations and considering options from a water professionals perspective.

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**KAREN PETERS:** CAGR D's next 10-year Plan of Operation must be submitted by the end of calendar year 2024, and state law spells out its required elements. The Plan is highly technical and requires very sophisticated analysis and modeling of future consumption, development, and hydrology. CAWCD Board Members' role is to ensure that staff is engaging the best and brightest experts to conduct this work, and to closely monitor progress. Board members also should engage with CAGR D stakeholders and encourage frequent, clear communication about the Plan and its impacts on them. Perhaps most

importantly, the Plan must identify the water resources and facilities it will have to meet CAGR D's replenishment obligation for 100 years. Board Members are responsible for approving those contracts and determining the revenues needed to pay for them. Overall, to position CAGR D for success, CAWCD Board Members can assist by fostering good working relationships with state lawmakers, the Governor's Office, tribal governments, agricultural districts, and municipal water providers serving enrolled member lands or service areas.

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**DANIEL CIRIGNANI WOOD:** Yield. Your readers should Google the phrase "central Arizona safe yield". We need to be sure we have revisited the science on safe yield, and we need to be sure we get safe yield right where it comes to groundwater. The book isn't closed on this one – there is hard work to do. Elect professionals to the board who I

can work with so we get safe yield on ground water right. CAP brings 40% of the Phoenix area's water – the rest is mostly ground water. If we don't get safe yield right, the entire Arizona experiment will fail. This isn't a job for people whose hearts are in the right place, or whose ambitions are in the wrong place. Vote carefully.