

A Resolution of the Southern Arizona Water Users Association

Whereas the Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA) is comprised of 15 members, including the largest water providers in the Tucson region, wastewater reclamation entities, and agricultural water users;

Whereas SAWUA coordinates in the development of effective water resource policy and planning in an effort to preserve and enhance the quality and quantity of the region's water resources;

Whereas SAWUA members pursue and use, at their discretion and need, renewable water resources, to include Central Arizona Project (CAP), effluent and remediated water, to reduce dependency on groundwater per the 1980 Groundwater Management Act;

Whereas existing Intergovernmental Agreements give certain water providers access to effluent derived from water they supply;

Whereas the Colorado River Basin Project Act authorized construction and operation of the CAP to store and to deliver Colorado River water to Arizona for municipal and other uses;

Whereas certain Tucson area water providers have entered into subcontracts with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District to deliver their CAP water allocations through CAP facilities in accordance with State law;

Whereas competing interests for the use of renewable water supplies can threaten SAWUA members' access and use of those water supplies;

Whereas ongoing drought conditions threaten Colorado River supplies and SAWUA members continue to take proactive steps to address associated risks of a potential shortage declaration;

Whereas the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Regional Council is the nine-member governing body comprised of the Cities of Tucson and South Tucson, the Towns of Oro Valley, Sahuarita, and Marana, Pima County, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Arizona State Transportation Board; and

Whereas at its January 26, 2017 meeting, the PAG Regional Council approved Resolution Number 2017-1 "Supporting our Heritage of Desert Waters" recognizing the necessity of local water stakeholders to affect their individual control over use of their effluent, stormwater, and other surface water supplies to which they have a right, in order to best serve their water resource management goals.

Be it therefore resolved that SAWUA supports the PAG Heritage of Desert Waters resolution which advocates for the legal authority of the individual water providers to leverage their renewable water resources, as they see most appropriate, to meet the current and future needs of their respective service areas.

Adopted: February 15, 2017


John Kmiec, SAWUA President