Executive Order 2014-10

The Governor's Council on Water Supply Sustainability

WHEREAS, through careful planning and leadership, Arizona has been successful in managing its water resources for more than a century, providing a robust and secure water supply for a strong and expanding economy; and

WHEREAS, previous generations of Arizonans have committed to planning, financing and constructing the infrastructure needed to deliver water resources from which all Arizonans benefit today; and

WHEREAS, these commitments brought together the public and private sectors as well as leaders from across the political spectrum to solve historic water challenges; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arizona have created innovative water management structures like the highly acclaimed 1980 Groundwater Management Act, which includes mandatory water conservation requirements, 100-year renewable water supply requirements for new development, underground storage and recovery and the Arizona Water Banking Authority; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona and the Colorado River system are experiencing a long-term drought, which will challenge currently developed water supplies and may trigger shortages within the next few years that could limit Arizona's economic growth potential; and

WHEREAS, at my direction, the Arizona Department of Water Resources assessed the current water supply options to meet the full growth potential for the State and released its findings, Arizona's Next Century: A Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability (Strategic Vision), in January 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Vision concluded that local and regional efforts such as continued conservation, water reuse and forest management will mitigate potential supply impacts, these efforts alone will not resolve anticipated impacts to the State's water supply; and

WHEREAS, in order for Arizona to reach its full economic potential, we must build upon the successes of the last century of wise water management, planning and infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Vision identified key priorities and action items to maintain sustainable water supplies for Arizona into its next century.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona do hereby establish and order as follows:

1) The Governor's Council on Water Supply Sustainability (Council) is established.

2) The Council shall consist of 15 to 25 members appointed by the Governor.

3) The Arizona Department of Water Resources shall provide staffing and technical support to the Council.

4) The Council shall prepare and submit to the Governor an initial report by December 31, 2014 and a final report by December 31, 2015 that identifies the priorities for implementation of the action items and strategic priorities identified in the Strategic Vision to develop a secure and sustainable water supply for Arizona's next century. The Plan shall include:

   - Recommendations on water supply augmentation;
   - Recommendations on water supply infrastructure needs;
   - Identification of potential partnerships for water supply augmentation and infrastructure needs including the federal government, political subdivisions of this state and other states, private parties, and international parties;
   - Identification of potential funding and financing solutions;
   - Recommendations on legal procedural changes; and
   - Timetables for implementation.

5) The Co-Chairs may form an executive committee or sub-committees as necessary.

6) This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Janice K. Brewer

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this fourth day of November in the Year Two Thousand Fourteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Ninth.

ATTEST: Ken Bennett

Secretary of State