

A MITIGATION PLAN



WHAT COULD IT INCLUDE?

JOHN ZAMBRANO
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NEED FOR A MITIGATION PLAN!



- **We will lose a continuous flowing river and a beautiful riparian area**
- **Plan can resolve expected lawsuits**
- **Municipalities measures are not formalized or founded in science**
- **A promise to do something after effects are observed is not acceptable**
- **Widespread call for a workable and scientific mitigation plan before importation**

MITIGATION PLAN BASIC DEFINITION



- **Series of action steps that will counteract the adverse effect that withdrawals of groundwater will have on baseflow reduction in the Upper Verde River.**
- **Can take the form of a Habitat Conservation Plan as administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

CONTENT 1

Critical River flow



- **River baseflow needed for an acceptable riparian area?**
- **Conservation Groups have focused on “no further flow reduction”**
- **Studies can be used to determine critical ecological flow**

CONTENT 2

Quantity of Water Needed?



- **Focus has been on legal availability and not on need**
- **Assessment of water needed for Safe Yield and Growth**

CONTENT 3

Reduce Quantity Needed for Safe Yield



- **More aggressive conservation measures.**
 1. **Ordinances**
 2. **Higher water rates for “abusive levels”**
- **Alternative Source- Rights on Granite Creek**
- **Enhanced Recharge of Precipitation in Prescott Region**

CONTENT 4

Reduce Quantity Needed for Growth



- **Satisfy demand for growth using less water**
- **Very strict conservation requirements on new developments in the Prescott Active Management Area**
- **As planned by Chino Valley**

Content 5

Return Effluent to Big Chino



- **Treat effluent and return to Big Chino aquifer as planned by Chino Valley**
- **Treatment should consider potential adverse effects on groundwater as a source of drinking water supply and on Verde River ecosystem**

Content 6

Enhanced Natural Recharge



- **Enhanced recharge of precipitation within the Big Chino**
- **Being studied by Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition**

Retire Current Water Uses in Big Chino



- **Current uses within the Big Chino can be permanently retired to offset importation quantities**
- **Current pumping on the Big Chino Water Ranch can cease to partially offset importation quantity**
- **Prescott has not committed to cease pumping on the Ranch. They may transport 3,400 AFY to Prescott for safe yield.**

Content 8

Alternative Sources



- **The Big Chino Pipeline is not a long-term solution**
- **A mitigation plan should tie into the Bureau of Reclamation Appraisal Study, which other speakers will describe**

Content 9

Monitoring for Effectiveness



- **Action steps require monitoring to show they are working**
- **Groundwater can be monitored to very roughly estimate effects on River flow**
- **Contingency plans need to be in place before pumping**