



# Staff Report

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- Agenda Item:**      **WORKSESSION REGARDING WATER-** Discussion of several water topics, including current and long-term water supply status, long-term outlook for water adequacy in Clarkdale and future policy.
- Sponsored By:**      Doug Von Gausig, Mayor
- Staff Contact:**      Walt Good, Deputy Town Clerk
- Meeting Date:**      August 26, 2008
- Background:**      Mayor Von Gausig will lead a discussion on water issues that concern the Town of Clarkdale. Direction to staff is possible.
- Recommendation:**      This is a worksession and no action is required.

## Water Work Session

As our Mayor, and as the primary representative to all of the water discussions that will affect the future of our Town, I find I need a clear understanding of the Council's position on these important issues. Some of the questions and considerations revolve around future resource management, some around the environmental consequences of our actions, and some around economic development impacts of all the above.

I currently sit on the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee, and will be its co-chair beginning next January, I am the Chair of the Coordinating Committee of the Verde River Basin Partnership, and I represent Clarkdale on the board of the Northern Arizona Municipal Water User's Association (NAMWUA). I also meet with various other regional communities when regional water considerations demand.

Recognizing that these are complex and highly nuanced issues is important, and with that in mind, I do not expect to cover all of the items below in any depth in one meeting. The primary reason for tonight's discussion is to gain a better understanding of what the issues are, and begin the process of thinking about these things as they relate to other issues that will come before the council. The future of our Town is at stake, as is the future of the Verde River. Where we get our water and at what cost will impact almost every other decision we make.

The outline below is more a list of things to think about than an outline for tonight's meeting, and we should consider this just the first of many meetings on this topic that will lead to a better discussion of these things in the upcoming General Plant process.

This is a work session, and a discussion, and no action will be taken directly at this meeting.

### Questions and Considerations:

1. Can we "live within our means?"
  - a. What are our resources (our "means")?
  - b. How do we best and most equitably distribute those resources?
  - c. What price are our rate payers willing to pay?
2. What would happen if we stopped acquiring new resources?
  - a. Where would new development get water?
  - b. How will we monitor our resources?
  - c. What will happen as our resources become depleted?
3. What is our position regarding base flows in the Verde River headwaters?
4. How active do we want to be in that situation, and what steps are we willing to take to ensure that base flows are protected?
5. Augmentation of water supplies – several sources
  - a. Conservation – how much, how expensive, who conserves?
    - i. Water rate structures
      1. Fine-tune tiers

- 2. Possible very high tier rates above “X” gallons/month
    - ii. Conservation ordinances
    - iii. Education
    - iv. Subsidized conservation methods
      - 1. Low-water use appliance subsidy
      - 2. Others, like low-flow shower head giveaway, etc.
    - v. Operational steps we could take
    - vi. Motivational?
  - b. Current well redevelopment/remediation
  - c. Local augmentation
    - i. Develop additional wells in the area
    - ii. Importation of treated reclaimed water
    - iii. Indirect Potable reuse
    - iv. Direct Potable Reuse
    - v. Surface Water (Verde River, Bitter Creek)
    - vi. Reuse/Reclaimed
      - 1. Reclaimed Effluent
      - 2. Rainwater Harvesting
      - 3. “Gray” water
      - 4. Others?
  - d. Remote augmentation
    - i. Pipeline from Colorado River
      - 1. Rights
      - 2. Cost
      - 3. Political/regional cooperation required – may require a district?
    - ii. Regional aquifer development and importation
  - e. How do we pay for it?
    - i. Federal money?
    - ii. Bonding?
    - iii. Impact Fees?
    - iv. Increased rates?
    - v. Special district formation/taxation?
    - vi. State funding?
    - vii. Grants?
    - viii. Others?
6. SRP – what part do they play in our:
  - a. Future water resources
  - b. Verde River Issues
  - c. Local citizens’ “exempt” wells in Holocene alluvium/subflow zones
  - d. How do we balance the two?
  - e. Settlements
7. Other things to consider
  - a. Growth will continue at some rate
  - b. Climate change will negatively affect resources in the southwest

- c. Other water users in the watershed will continue to grow and develop using local resources (straws in the aquifer)
- d. Others in the region will augment – can we hold out? Should we hold out?
- e. Greater demand and less supply leads to an increase in price – probably a substantial increase
- f. Where is the cost/benefit balance between costs to augment and cost not to augment?
  - i. Lost economic opportunities
  - ii. Lower expenditures
  - iii. Sustainable use of the resource
- g. The laws of the State of Arizona need to be changed – how can we help?
  - i. Exempt wells proliferation
  - ii. Lot splits
  - iii. Regulation of water users in our service area
    - 1. Private wells
    - 2. Commercial wells
    - 3. Development supply wells
  - iv. Regional Water Districts
  - v. DWR Rulemaking for Adequate and Assured Water Supply determinations
  - vi. Others?