



**Arizona Water Policy**  
**Management Innovations in an Urbanizing, Arid Region**  
Bonnie G. Colby and Katharine L. Jacobs, editors

"*Arizona Water Policy* is a brilliant introduction to water conflicts, politics and economics in a desert state renowned for little water and much innovation. This book has important lessons for coping with looming water shortages in virtually every river basin and nation worldwide."

-Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of the Interior

The central challenge for Arizona and many arid and semi-arid regions in the world is ensuring a sustainable water supply in the face of competing demands and rapid population growth. *Arizona Water Policy* highlights the innovative approaches that the state has developed for managing its water needs.

Arizona has burgeoning urban areas, large agricultural regions, water-dependent habitats for endangered fish and wildlife, and a growing demand for water-based recreation. As one of the seven states in the Colorado River Basin, Arizona must cooperate, and sometimes compete, with other state, tribal, and federal governments in securing its water needs—a process that is complicated by a multi-year drought and climate-related variability in water supply. *Arizona Water Policy* addresses these issues from academic and policy perspectives that include economics, climatology, law, and hydrology. The book explores Arizona’s water management and extracts lessons that are important worldwide.

**Bonnie G. Colby** is Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Hydrology and Water Resources at the University of Arizona; specializing in the economics of water right negotiations and transactions, dry-year reliability and water policy.

**Katharine L. Jacobs** is the Executive Director of the Arizona Water Institute, a consortium of Arizona's three universities. She is also Deputy Director of the SAHRA NSF Center at the University of Arizona, and has more than 20 years of experience in water management with the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Her recent research includes the use of scientific information in policy and decision-making.

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The Central Arizona Project (CAP) is a 336 mi (541 km) diversion canal in Arizona in the United States. The aqueduct diverts water from the Colorado River to the Bill Williams Wildlife Refuge south portion of Lake Havasu near Parker into central and southern Arizona. CAP is managed and operated by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD). It was shepherded through Congress by Carl Hayden. The Arizona Water Use program collects and estimates annual water withdrawals for the categories of irrigation, municipal, mining, thermoelectric-power, and drainage uses. The data for these categories are compiled for the Arizona Department of Water Resources groundwater basins outside of Active Management Areas. Water-withdrawal data provide important information on how water demand affects the State's water resources. But when it comes to water, Arizona has often been at the cutting edge of legal and policy reform. An arid climate, surging population and declining groundwater tables drove Arizona to be creative. Innovation 1: Slow groundwater use. The 1980 Arizona Groundwater Management Act banned the drilling of new wells in areas of the state suffering the greatest water table declines and required developers and municipalities to show that they have an "assured water supply" before they receive permits to break ground for new projects.