



JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

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VIEWPOINT: 2015

Everyone has heard the hype surrounding December 21, 2012, supposedly predicted by the ancient Mayans as the end of the world. In truth, 2012 merely marks the end of the 13th Baktun in the Long Count calendar (the Mayans had three: Long Count, Short Count, and lunar cycle). Then a new Long Count cycle would start. Mayan priests used their calendars for divination, to peer into the future, and predict what would happen.

We do that in the water world, too. And when I look at the calendar, the year 2015 is beginning to loom large as several trends converge, mostly affecting the Central Arizona Project (CAP).

Drought: We all know that a couple of years of normal precipitation can occur in the midst

of a long-term drought. By 2015 we should know if the drought is over, or if it is long-term and we have seen those years of normal precipitation. Continued drought clearly would have adverse impacts. A return to normal patterns of precipitation would be very welcome.

Shortage: Assuming current levels of snowfall in the Rockies, by 2015 shortages will likely have been declared on the Colorado River. Water levels in Lake Mead are only eight feet away from triggering such a declaration in April 2011, but creative water accounting, releases from Lake Powell, and forbearance by some parties may push back the declaration date by two or three years. But not forever. Excess water will disappear first from the CAP canal, potentially by 2015, then agricultural water allocations will be reduced.

ADD Water: The new “next bucket” program should be ready for launch in 2015, depending on legislative action and successful negotiations with potential water rights sellers. But many uncertainties still swirl around this program, and what will happen during a declared shortage is one of them.

CAGRDR Plan of Operation: In 2015 the current Plan of Operation for the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR) must be replaced by a new Plan, and ADWR must approve the new Plan. CAGRDR is expected to be one of the biggest customers for ADD Water. Without assurances that the current gap between replenishment obligations and supply can be closed, ADWR approval may not occur. Without an approved Plan, CAGRDR cannot act as guarantor for subdivisions without sufficient (or any) replenishable water supplies. Certificates of Assured Water Supply could no longer be issued, and the Designations of Assured Water Supply for several cities would come to an abrupt end. The effect on any re-nascent homebuilding industry could be severe.

Electrical power: By 2015 the Environmental Protection Agency will have issued new rules governing emissions from coal-fired power plants, specifically including Navajo Generating Station (NGS). Costs to comply with the most stringent set of new standards have been estimated at \$2 billion for NGS alone, which would not be economically sustainable. By 2015 the NGS partners will be making the decision to comply or close the plant. If NGS shuts down, the power needed to move water in the CAP canal will have to be purchased off the Western grid at much higher prices.

Wells: Well-drilling activity has been down a couple of years now, and may not have recovered by 2015. Rigs have left the state, and closure or consolidation among drilling firms is possible. Decreased budgets have caused many providers to defer needed well maintenance, which should begin to have an impact by 2015. When the need suddenly arises, our well infrastructure may not be ready to meet it.

Water Demand: For the last several decades water planning in Arizona has focused on residential growth; the march of subdivisions across the desert represented all the growth foreseen in water demand. But now other demands are stirring in the shadows. Electrical power generation will need massive amounts of water, and Arizona looks like a great place to locate new plants (especially to California). The resurgence in mining likely will be long-term, and large amounts of water will be needed. Even agriculture begins to look profitable again and thus expandable when commodity prices are extrapolated into the future. By 2015 the demands of other sectors added to municipal growth—which will return at about that time—may well cause an unanticipated spike in water demand for Arizona and the Southwest as a whole. Such a spike will be a sharp reminder of just how limited our water supplies truly are.

I don't see the end of the world in 2015. But I do foresee the convergence of many trends now gathering speed, and the threads seem to intertwine about that time. Your predictions of the future are as equally valid as mine. After all, we have the benefit of science and advanced technological tools; all the Mayans had was the Long Count. One thing is certain: the water world will be a very interesting place by 2015—and hydrologists will be very valuable people.

Alan Dulaney,

AHS Corporate Board President, 2010

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GOVERNMENT GOINGS-ON

Looking ahead at the legislative agenda on the state and federal levels, very little legislation directly affecting water resources or water quality has been proposed. This doesn't mean that something won't show up in January as sessions get underway. But right now it looks like the Arizona Legislature will be focusing on the budget and the state's current fiscal crisis. This will leave little time for water issues. In the U.S. Congress, cap-and-trade legislation appears to be dead. It is difficult to see how anything initiated in one chamber could get past the other, so any major environmental law-making doesn't seem likely this year. If something surfaces, of course, it will appear here.

The action in government this year probably will be with the agencies. At the state level, both ADWR and ADEQ will be scrambling to function without enough money. What will happen at EPA is unknown, but they are taking a more aggressive stance under the current Administration. As more is learned, more will be reported.

Alan Dulaney,

AHS Corporate Board President, 2010

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AHS CORPORATE BOARD UPDATE

The AHS Corporate Board will meet for the 2011 first quarter meeting in Tucson at the offices of Montgomery & Associates, 1550 East Prince Road. New corporate board officers will be elected – the agenda will be post on the AHS web site when available.

All AHS members are welcome and encouraged to attend corporate board meetings – please RSVP to [Alan Dulaney](#) or [Christie O'Day](#) if you are interested.

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AHS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

It's the new year and it's time to renew your AHS membership if you were not able to attend this year's annual symposium! Membership was included for both full registration and a one day registration fees. Membership dues can to be renewed online at:

http://www.azhydrosoc.org/join_ahs.html

Or by mail to:

Arizona Hydrological Society

**P.O. Box 1882
Higley, AZ 85236**

Thank you for your continued support of the Arizona Hydrological Society!

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PHOENIX CHAPTER NEWS

The next Phoenix chapter dinner meeting will be **January 11th**, 2011, at the SunUp Brewery near downtown Phoenix. This is our annual kick-off planning meeting so please join us to share your ideas and help us set a course for 2011! As an added enticement dinner is on us!

Location:	SunUp Brewery 322 E. Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ 85012
Event:	<i>Annual Chapter planning meeting</i>
Chapter Board Meeting:	4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Happy Hour & Dinner:	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Program:	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Cost:	Free!!

RSVP with Kirk Creswick at kcreswick@eecphx.com or 602-248-7702.

Hope to see you there!

Officer Elections

Please welcome and thank the Phoenix Chapter officers for 2011 – we appreciate your service!

President: **Keith Ross**, Atwell, LLC

†

Vice President: **Tom Walker**, Fleet-Fisher Engineering, Inc

Treasurer: **Kirk Creswick**, Engineering and Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Secretary: **Angela Bond**, Salt River Project

Phoenix Chapter Board Member: **Rich Siegel**, Salt River Project

Phoenix Chapter Corporate Board Member (2011-2012): **Mike Hulst**, Engineering and Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Future Event Calendar (see also calendar on www.azhydrosoc.org)

- January 2011 Kick-off meeting – Join the Phoenix chapter annual planning meeting and help shape the direction of your society!
- February 2011: *Monitoring in the Ahupuaa*, Michael S. Tomlinson, UHM Oceanography
- March 2011 and beyond – Anyone with a suggestion for a monthly meeting topic please contact [Tom Walker](#), Phoenix Chapter Vice President.

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TUCSON CHAPTER NEWS

January 2011 Meeting Announcement

Location and Topic to be announced. Contact [Damian Gosch](#) or [Greg Hess](#) for details.

WRRC EVENT: JANUARY 19 BROWN BAG - STATISTICAL RISK BENCHMARKING IN ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

WRRC Event:	<i>Statistical Risk Benchmarking in Environmental Risk Assessment</i>
Speaker:	Walter Piegorsch , Professor and Chair, Graduate Interdisciplinary Program (GIDP) in Statistics, University of Arizona
Location:	WRRC, Sol Resnick Meeting Room, 350 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ
Program:	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Event Summary

Risk benchmarking is a statistical method used by risk assessors to set exposure limits for environmental contaminants. Originally described for toxicological endpoints, the approach has moved into broader areas. This talk explores some of these, including a novel application to urban terrorism vulnerability. Discussion will involve how the benchmark paradigm may further translate with other environmental, water-related data.

This presentation will be provided in conjunction with the U of A Statistics GIDP Colloquium.

Officer Elections

Please welcome and thank the Tucson Chapter officers for 2011 – we appreciate your service!

President: **Damien Gosch**, U of A Department of Hydrology

Vice-President **Greg Hess**, Clear Creek Associates

Treasurer: **Dan Guido**, Montgomery & Associates.

Secretary: **Shane Clark**, U of A Watershed Hydrology and Management

Tucson Chapter Corporate Board Member (2011-2012): **Brittney Bates**, Montgomery & Associates

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FLAGSTAFF CHAPTER NEWS

Next Flagstaff Chapter meeting will be a 2011 Symposium Planning Meeting - **January 19th – 6:00 pm** – location TBA! Please check the [Flagstaff Chapter](#) web page or contact [Brad Hill](#) for details.

The Flagstaff Chapter is currently focusing on planning for the AHS 2011 Symposium. The symposium will be held again at the High Country Conference Resort at the north end the NAU campus. If anyone would like to participate in the planning stages, the “small but mighty” Flagstaff Chapter would love to hear from you. Please contact [Brad Hill](#) or [Erin Young](#).

The 2011 Jahns Lecturer, **Bill Haneberg**, will be speaking at NAU the first week of February. Bill is a Cincinnati-based consulting geologist specializing in engineering geology, physical hydrogeology, applied structural geology, computational geology, and the use of geologic information to support planning and policy decisions. His talk is titled: **Livin’ La Vida LiDAR**

Please visit the Flagstaff Chapter website for more information.

Please welcome and thank the Flagstaff Chapter officers for 2011 – we appreciate your service!

President: **Brad Hill**, City of Flagstaff

†

Vice President: **Paul Whitefield**, National Park Service

Treasurer: **Dana Downs-Heimes**, CH2M Hill

Secretary: **John Cochran**, Peabody Investments Corporation

Flagstaff Chapter Board Member: **Erin Young**, Fluid Solutions

Flagstaff Chapter Corporate Board Member (2011-2012): **Charlie Ester**, Salt River Project

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HYDRO-NEWS

ARIZONA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATIONS: TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

Special Lunchtime Brown Bag Talk

Orogenic Gold Deposits--Geology, Exploration Criteria, and Global Metallogeny

Richard Goldfarb

U.S. Geological Survey, Denver

Tuesday, January 4, 12:10 PM

Environment and Natural Resources Building, Room 353

University of Arizona

Abstract

Orogenic gold deposits are the only important type of gold deposit for which many economically important examples are preserved throughout the geological record. These gold deposits are hosted by a variety of mafic igneous, felsic igneous, and sedimentary rocks in Precambrian cratons and late Neoproterozoic-Phanerozoic fold belts. A diversity of structures, from shear zones to fold hinges, are recognized controls for the ores, which possess highly variable gold grades. Syn-gold intrusions generally occur at, or within a few kilometers of, the deposits, but there are notable exceptions. Lower greenschist to lower amphibolite metamorphic conditions, having been reached within a few million to tens of millions years prior to ore formation, represent peak P-T conditions in the country rocks for almost all deposits. However, orogenic gold deposits in eastern Asia and Sonora, Mexico, in extremely high-grade metamorphic terranes, provide globally unique examples where important deposits post-date metamorphism of their host rocks by billions of years. Ore fluids are predominantly reduced, low salinity, CO₂-rich systems.

Gold production correlates with the addition of new oceanic lithosphere on to older craton margins.. Ages of the productive orogenic gold deposits cluster between ca. 2.8-2.55 Ga, 2.1-1.75 Ga, and 650-35 Ma, which are within the well-defined times of lithospheric growth at continental margins. It is the orogen-scale processes during these times that likely determine gold endowment. Delineation of tectonomagmatic provinces of these ages provides a first-order control as to the most permissive ground for discovery of orogenic gold deposits; it is improbable that crustal blocks of other ages will provide significant targets. Major lithospheric instabilities appear to provide the engine for initiation of giant deposit formation. In the Phanerozoic, such instabilities have been shown to be important sources of heat via (a) thickening of slices of oceanic terranes by accretionary thrusting during stepping back of the margin, (b) subduction of a spreading ridge bringing hot asthenosphere into contact with shallow crustal rocks, or (c) rollback or delamination of subducted oceanic lithosphere to enlarge the overlying mantle wedge. In the Precambrian, the hotter Earth was responsible for the abundance of short-lived mantle plumes that added

greenstone-rich terranes to the thin lithosphere along the edge of older continental blocks. Development of the underlying buoyant subcontinental mantle lithosphere, a residue of the massive plume-induced melting in the upper mantle to consequently form extensive Archean and Paleoproterozoic granitoid terranes, was critical for long-term stabilization of gold-rich, mid-crustal. Trace element studies have long suggested that gold and related elements are released during prograde metamorphic events, but lithospheric-scale relationships in northern China suggest that some gold provinces definitely require deeper and larger fluid and/or metal source regions such as subducted, refrigerated oceanic slabs.

And Associated Dinner talk:

Arizona Geological Society

Supercontinent History and Global Metallogeny

Richard Goldfarb

U.S. Geological Survey

Sheraton Four Points Hotel Conference Center

1900 East Speedway (SE corner of Campbell and Speedway), Tucson

Lecture at 8:00 PM

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

Reservations are required for the dinner. Admission to the talk only is free. Please also note that although there is limited surface parking around the hotel, there is ample parking in the garage beneath the hotel.

SCHEDULE: CASH BAR @ 6:00 PM, DINNER @ 7:00 PM, TALK @ 8:00 PM. WITH RESERVATION: MEMBER = \$24.00, GUEST = \$27.00, STUDENT = \$10.00 If you do not have a reservation, an extra \$3.00 will be charged. Also, without reservations you may not get dinner. To make dinner reservations please call the AGS answering machine at (520) 663-5295 or reserve online at <http://www.arizonageologicalsoc.org/meeting-information/dinner-reservations> by 5:00 P.M. on the Friday before the meeting. Leave name, number of attendees, and whether a vegetarian or low-salt meal is required. This number can also be used for field-trip reservations and leaving messages for Society officers. Please cancel your reservation via the answering machine if you find that you will be unable to attend.

Abstract

The temporal pattern of ore deposits on a constantly evolving Earth reflects the complex interplay between the evolving global tectonic regime, episodic mantle plume events, overall changes in global heat flow, atmospheric and oceanic redox states, and even singular impact and glaciation events. Within this framework, a particular ore deposit type will tend to have a time-bound nature. It is now well established that the temporal patterns of many types of mineral deposits reflect the formation or break-up of supercontinents, and the preservation potential of deposits formed during these periods. Approximate time periods for such formation and break-up, respectively, include 2800-2500 and 2450-2100 Ma for Kenorland, 2100-1800 and 1600-1300 Ma for Nuna/Columbia, 1300-1100 and 850-600 Ma for Rodinia, and 600-300 Ma and 200-60 Ma for Gondwanaland-Pangea. Today, a new supercontinent, Amasia, has begun to form during the past 250 m.y., thus overlapping Pangea break-up. Many of the formation-preservation patterns are themselves controlled by progressive cooling of Earth, the change from a mantle-plume buoyancy

style to subduction-dominated tectonics, a decreasing buoyancy of the subcontinental lithospheric mantle, and depth of ore formation. In general, orogenic Au, volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS), epithermal Au-Ag, and porphyry Cu±Au and Mo porphyry deposits form in active margins during periods of supercontinent assembly. Numerous other ore deposit types show an association with supercontinent formation, but develop inland of the active margin. These include many of the MVT Pb-Zn deposits and unconformity-type U deposits. The Tertiary Carlin-type deposits within the deformed shelf sequences along the North American craton margin also appear to have formed during the ongoing growth of Amasia. Those ores associated with periods of supercontinent breakup or attempted breakup are more difficult to define. They probably include diamond, Bushveld-type Ni-Cu-PGE, IOCG, and clastic-dominated (CD) Pb-Zn (or SEDEX) deposits in intracontinental areas of failed rifting, and other CD Pb-Zn deposits in areas of actual breakup. In all cases, however, these temporal/spatial distributions are ultimately controlled by the secular character of Earth history.

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ARIZONA DROUGHT PROMPTS UNUSUAL COLORADO RIVER WATER PROPOSAL

Give up some water now to avoid cuts later

by **Shaun McKinnon** - Dec. 26, 2010 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Arizona may leave part of its annual share of Colorado River water in Lake Mead next year, taking a calculated gamble that giving up some water now will help it avoid deeper losses later.

Under a plan now being considered, water officials would pass up billions of gallons that they could take from the river in 2011, hoping to keep the drought-stricken reservoir full enough to avoid triggering automatic cutbacks. Any cutbacks could deny Arizona and Nevada even more water in 2012.

The sacrifice would be relatively small - 80,000 acre-feet out of Arizona's annual share of 2.8 million acre-feet - and it would barely be missed. Officials would take all of it from a portion of the water set aside for underground water storage, leaving consumers, cities and farmers unaffected.

Still, the attempt to prop up Lake Mead's supply underscores how times have changed for a state that worked so hard for so many years to take every drop of river water it could.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/12/26/20101226arizona-drought-colorado-river-water-proposal.html#ixzz19ifClkxc>

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COLORADO RIVER WATER DEAL AIDS U.S. AND MEXICO

by **Shaun McKinnon** - Dec. 21, 2010 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Mexico will leave part of its Colorado River allocation in Lake Mead for the next three years, slowing the decline of the drought-stricken reservoir and possibly delaying the onset of water rationing in Arizona and Nevada.

The arrangement, announced Monday by U.S. and Mexican officials, was devised to give farmers in the Mexicali region of northern Mexico time to repair damage from an April earthquake that disrupted water-delivery systems. Mexico lacks the means to store unused water in its own country.

But the more immediate benefits may be accrued north of the border, where water in Lake Mead is nearing a level that would trigger drought restrictions. Some projections suggest the reservoir could sink to that level by 2013 unless winter runoff increases or less water is released downstream.

The two-nation agreement also opens the door to discussions about how the countries can more efficiently manage the river.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/12/21/20101221colorado-river-water-mexico-united-states.html#ixzz19ifqigrE>

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SCOTTSDALE WATER PLAN FACES REVISIONS

Council rejected plan for Scottsdale to be paid to treat firm's surface water

by **Beth Duckett** - Dec. 24, 2010 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Scottsdale and Arizona American Water will return to the drawing board to address groundwater-supply issues in the northeast Valley.

After almost two years of talks, the City Council last week rejected a [deal](#) that supporters say would have curbed the region's reliance on non-renewable groundwater.

Scottsdale and Arizona American negotiated a "treat and transport" agreement that would have allowed the city to get paid for treating the private utility's allotment of surface water.

Backers say the deal is not dead, it just needs a makeover.

"The concerns seem to be the city wasn't getting enough for the contract," Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane said. "I would only imagine, if that's the case, the city is going to have to figure out if it is getting enough in [taxes](#) and costs."

Arizona American, the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, serves nearly 5,000 customers in Paradise Valley and Scottsdale through its Paradise Valley Water District.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/12/24/20101224scottsdale-water-plan-revisions.html#ixzz19igKzNGb>

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NEW YUMA RESERVOIR IS A WATER SAVER

Structure helps make the most of Colo. River runoff

by **Shaun McKinnon** - Nov. 26, 2010 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

GORDONS WELL, Calif. - Twenty-eight days after water filled the Warren H. Brock Reservoir for the first time, the project's builders got the news they wanted: It didn't leak.

So, they pulled the plug and let all the water out.

Emptying the reservoir, dug out of the sand dunes about 25 miles west of Yuma, was as much a part of the final construction test as filling it and watching for leaks. This reservoir was built to be in motion: Get the water in, wait a few days, get the water out.

The \$172 million project is an attempt to seal decades-old leaks in the Colorado River's water-delivery system by capturing the dribbles lost downstream to Mexico when farmers in Arizona and California don't take water they ordered, usually because rain filled the need.

That water can now be shunted into the reservoir and held until the farmers ask for it again. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation estimates the project could save as much as 70,000 acre-feet of water a year, water that can remain in Lake Mead as a hedge against drought.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2010/11/26/20101126yuma-reservoir-water.html#ixzz19ih17r2l>

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TEXAS, EPA FIGHT OVER REGULATIONS GROWS FIERCE

Associated Press | Posted: Thursday, December 30, 2010 5:39 pm

A longstanding tit-for-tat between Texas and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over how to regulate pollution has grown fierce in recent months, leaving industry frustrated and allowing some plants and refineries to spew more toxic waste into the air, streams and lakes than what is federally acceptable.

Both sides and conservation groups agree the battle has put the health of Texas residents and the environment at risk. But the back-and-forth over everything from who should issue permits to whether state agencies are properly cracking down on polluters shows no signs of slowing down.

The fight has gotten so ugly that the EPA took the unprecedented step this month of announcing it will directly issue greenhouse gas permits to Texas industries beginning in January after the state openly refused to comply with new federal regulations.

Read more: http://azdailysun.com/news/national/article_41fd9f2e-c296-5a98-ab70-c6de939ce010.html

WATERBLOGGED BY SHAUN MCKINNON, ARIZONA REPUBLIC

[Grumbles' final thoughts, Mayes' new job](#)

Benjamin Grumbles, director of the [Arizona Department of Environmental Quality](#), and **Kris Mayes**, chairwoman of the [Arizona Corporation Commission](#), are both leaving their jobs in the coming weeks. Grumbles says he wanted to return to the east coast; Mayes' term on the commission was up.

Grumbles' tenure at ADEQ was surprisingly brief, barely 18 months. Before coming to Arizona, he worked for the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#), where he was an assistant director for water quality. At ADEQ, he landed in the middle of a dispute with his old employers when the EPA decided **Maricopa County** was not adequately responding to particulate dust pollution.

He wrote some final thoughts [on his blog](#) at the ADEQ website and noted at least three priorities he thought Arizona should pursue:

Reducing emissions: Air quality must continue to improve, whether EPA tells us to do it or not. ... Alternative fuels and vehicles make sense if the supporting infrastructures and attitudes can develop to sustain the newer, [eco-friendly](#) options. ...

Reusing water: Arizona is positioned to be a leader in water/wastewater recycling, partly out of necessity and partly out of vision and previous action. ...

Recycling waste: State funds and new regulations are not in the cards anytime soon, but ADEQ is positioned to play an important, continuing role in boosting sustainable materials management. ...

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon/109164>

To read additional information about where Ben Grumbles is going, check out <http://www.cleanwateramericaalliance.org/>.

And for Karen Mays' career move click here, <http://sustainability.asu.edu/news/gios-news/kristin-mayes-chosen-to-head-new-program-on-law-and-sustainability>.

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[EPA honors Hualapai water manager](#)

The [Hualapai](#) tribe's water resources manager was one of 12 people recognized today by the U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency](#) for work to protect natural resources and the environment.

Alex Cabillo was described by the EPA as a "tireless advocate for tribal environmental efforts" who has helped the tribe create **Clean Water Act** programs that serve as a model for other tribes across the country.

From the EPA's award citation:

As one example, Mr. Cabillo oversaw the cleanup of an abandoned cistern, located near one of the tribe's drinking water wells, that contained a creosote-like substance. He worked with multiple federal agencies for more than two years to complete the cleanup, and successfully removed more than 10 tons of contaminated materials from the site.

Cabillo has participated in the EPA's national tribal operations committee and served on the [National Tribal Water Council](#).

You can find the full list of award winners [here](#). They were recognized Thursday in **Los Angeles** at an event celebrating the EPA's 40th anniversary.

Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 11:33 AM

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon/109162>

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[Water, environment under new management](#)

With the new Legislature in place, **Republican** leaders have handed out committee chair assignments and, in some cases, rearranged committee responsibilities.

Water, natural resources and environmental issues were shuffled among committees in both the state House and Senate and the chairmen and chairwomen are mostly new to the job. There are a few clues about the positions they bring to the committee room, but the state's budget crisis will probably shape the agenda as much as anything else.

Here's a look at the changes, the chairs and the challenges environmental groups may find when lawmakers go into session in January:

SENATE

The **Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Public Debt Committee** was eliminated. **Natural Resources** is now paired with **Transportation** and chaired by **Sen. John Nelson**. Water issues will be handled by the **Water and Rural Development Committee** and chaired by incoming **Sen. Gail Griffin**.

Nelson, who chaired the Natural Resources Etc. Committee last session, is a civil engineer long active in politics. He has earned 'F' grades from the [Sierra Club](#) in recent years for his voting record on environmental issues, but earned a 'C' as recently as 2006 and worked with the club this year on the narrowly defeated **Proposition 110**, which would have allowed state land exchanges to protect military bases or to better manage trust land. He earned a 37 percent score from the [League of Conservation Voters](#).

Monday, November 29, 2010 at 03:55 PM

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon/108175>

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For associated links and other timely water blogs on Shaun McKinnon's Arizona Republic site – **Waterblogged** visit <http://www.azcentral.com/members/Blog/ShawnMcKinnon>.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about the Arizona Hydrological Society, or to view current job listings and announcements, please visit our regularly updated web site at:

<http://www.azhydrosoc.org/>

Membership may be renewed by credit card through the AHS website or by mailing a check to the Arizona Hydrological Society, P.O. Box 1882, Higley, AZ 85236. Dues remain at \$45.00 year for regular membership and \$15.00 for students. Please remember that your 2011 membership was included in the 2010 Symposium registration fee!