

2024

**CAWCD**

CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**BOARD**

*ELECTION*

*November 5, 2024*

**VOTER  
EDUCATION  
GUIDE**

*Provided by:*

*Arizona Municipal Water Users Association  
Arizona State University Kyl Center for Water Policy  
Arizona Hydrological Society*

## WHAT IS THE CAWCD BOARD?

The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) operates and maintains the Central Arizona Project (CAP), a 336-mile canal that delivers Colorado River water to municipal, tribal, industrial, and agricultural users. It is a multi-county water district spanning Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties.

The CAWCD's governing body is a 15-member, nonpartisan board. Ten members are elected from Maricopa County, four from Pima County, and one from Pinal County. Each board member serves a six-year, unpaid term. Five Board positions representing Maricopa County are on this year's ballot.

The CAWCD Board of Directors' responsibilities include:

- Overseeing the operation and maintenance of the CAP canal and repaying the federal government for the construction of CAP.
- Setting the water rates charged to its customers for delivery of Colorado River water. These customers include the Valley cities and other water providers throughout the three-county service area.
- Levying up to 14 cents in property taxes in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties that help fund the cost of construction and operations of the CAP system.
- Establishing policies to protect the CAP system and the water it delivers.

## WHY IS THE CAWCD ELECTION IMPORTANT?

The Colorado River is a key water source for Maricopa County that CAP delivers to the Valley cities and other municipal water providers, tribes, industry, and agriculture. The CAWCD Board will be faced with operating and maintaining an aging CAP system while having less Colorado River water to deliver. This must be done while working to meet the needs of its customers, deal with rising energy costs to move water uphill along the 336-mile canal and meet the replenishment obligations of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR).

The CAWCD Board will make important decisions impacting Arizona's water future. It is vital to have Board members who are active and engaged in all issues facing CAWCD and committed to the wise management of the CAP system.

## HOW WILL THIS GUIDE HELP?

This Voter Education Guide is a joint effort by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA), the Arizona State University (ASU) Kyl Center for Water Policy, and the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS) to raise awareness about this critical non-partisan election and the candidates.

## 2024 MARICOPA COUNTY CAWCD BOARD CANDIDATES

We surveyed each candidate and asked them four questions. All candidate responses came directly from the candidates and have not been modified. This Guide is not an endorsement of any candidate.

There are two ways to review the candidates' responses.

1. Scroll down to view the questions and compare the candidates' answers.
2. To individually review each candidate's responses, click on their picture.



**Lisa Atkins**



**Brian Biesemeyer**



**Rudy Fischer**



**Terry Goddard**



**Heather Macre**



**April Pinger**

As a reminder, there are **FIVE** positions open on the CAWCD Board. These **SIX** candidates representing Maricopa County will appear on your ballot.

## **QUESTION 1:**

### **Why are you running for the CAWCD Board?**

#### **LISA ATKINS:**

I have served on the CAWCD Board for 21 years. I am running again because I am dedicated to protecting Central and Southern Arizona's water supply despite 25 years of drought and climate change.

#### **BRIAN BIESEMEYER:**

The CAP and access to the Colorado River are critical to Arizona. I want to use my professional water experience to help find water solutions that protect our families, our economy and our way of life.

#### **RUDY FISCHER:**

I have a long record of public service; having served on non-profit, HOA, and municipal boards; as well as eight years on a city council and five on a water agency board. In those roles I was involved with the completion of both municipal and regional water projects, and have written on water matters – including about the Colorado River Basin. As board chair of a water agency I negotiated approval for a recycled water project similar to Scottsdale Water. As a result, I have gone through the process of getting the needed city, regional, county, state, and federal approvals to take a complex project from concept to completion. Currently I am on the 2,000 home Troon North Association board and Scottsdale's Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee. I have also completed the Scottsdale 101 and Scottsdale Water Academy programs and about a dozen CAP University sessions. I attend or watch many of the CAP meetings and understand the history and issues the agency faces. In addition, I have attended meetings of AMWUA, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Governor's Water Policy Council. I have been to several WaterReuse conferences; presenting at one of them, and recently went to the 2024 Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona Annual Water Conference. The next six to twelve years may actually not be a fun time to be on the board, but I think it will be an important time for the agency and Maricopa County, and I hope to be able to help.

#### **TERRY GODDARD:**

The renewable water from the Colorado River that the CAP delivers to Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties has been critical to the growth of the economy of central Arizona. Maintaining that water resource is critical to our future. Today, that precious water supply is threatened by long term drought and increasing demand for water in the Colorado Basin. The renegotiation of the 2007 Guidelines between the other Basin states and the Federal Government is a critical time for our future access to Colorado River water. As President of the CAP Board, I have been helping with the efforts to be sure Arizona makes the strongest possible case in these negotiations. I am also encouraging and coordinating Arizona groups and our Congressional delegation in support of Arizona's position. My combination of experience (lawyer, mayor and attorney general) has uniquely prepared me to meet the challenges Arizona faces in the water arena today. This is a 'do or die' moment for our State. I would like to continue to serve on this critical mission when our future is literally on the line.

**HEATHER MACRE:**

Before running initially in 2012, I represented clients before the CAWCD Board and was disappointed with the lack of transparency. I also saw that the CAWCD Board was saving money by putting the canal system into deferred maintenance and cutting conservation funding. They refused to say the words “climate change,” let alone discuss it. This was unacceptable to me. Knowing that I had a background that matched the position, I decided to run. When I won my seat in 2012, I went to work immediately. To increase transparency, I led the effort to have all meetings live-streamed and to allow public comment in a timely fashion. I also chaired the Communications Task Force which launched the statewide, award-winning “Protect Lake Mead” campaign to focus on conservation efforts. Finally, I co-chaired the Power Task Force, which planned a diversified and innovative portfolio of energy sources including renewable. When I was re-elected in 2018, I continued this work, creating CAP University, a free program that allows the public to attend live and taped webinars to learn more about CAP. I worked on a customer service task force to help improve stakeholder relations. I also worked hard to craft and pass the Drought Contingency Plan at both the state and federal level. I am proud of all I have accomplished, but I am running for re-election as there is a lot more work to be done.

**APRIL PINGER:**

I want to represent the constituents of Maricopa; the tax payers and the voters, to the best of my ability. I want to make sure the needs of the farmers are heard. This is best done by financial accountability of CAP.

## **QUESTION 2:**

**What are the three biggest challenges facing the Central Arizona Project and what unique skills and perspectives would you bring to the CAWCD Board to help address these challenges?**

### **LISA ATKINS:**

1. Severe prolonged drought and climate change
2. Increasing division among Colorado River water users
3. Our junior position of our water supply and what that could mean

### **BRIAN BIESEMEYER:**

- (1) The prolonged drought on the Colorado River
- (2) Recovering stored water. Arizona and the CAP have stored billions of gallons of water underground to be recovered in shortage. Now is the time!
- (3) The cost of water. As cost rise for the CAP, those costs are ultimately passed on to homeowners and businesses. The CAP needs to double its efforts to remain efficient.

I will use my 30 years in the water industry to challenge CAP staff and the board to bring new and innovative ideas to the table.

### **RUDY FISCHER:**

(1) Meeting the needs of Arizona businesses, cities, tribes and agriculture with a lower allocation of water, (2) maintaining the water levels in Lake Mead at a time of lowered flow into the Colorado River Basin, (3) using the water which is available to meet customer needs long-term, and (4) figuring out what modifications we may need to make to maintain a system which is handling less water than it was built for. The reason I added that last one is that I was on the board of a wastewater agency when our area went through water restrictions due to a long running drought. The lowered use of water affected our sewage system. CAP needs to think about what it will do to keep going in this new environment. I take a long-term view of things. What made the CAP successful in the past may no longer work as well, and it will take new thinking and cooperation with other basin states and Arizona agencies to meet our future needs. I want to apply my experience to working with the other board members and ensure the Central Arizona Project continues to meet Arizona's needs for decades to come. Conservation and recycling are going to be more important in our future, as will working with other agencies such as SRP to share resources, Agriculture to Urban groundwater conversion, and working with cities to maximize their use of existing water available. These are all items I will push for.

## **TERRY GODDARD:**

Protecting Central Arizona's share of Colorado River water supplies. The outcome of the negotiations over the new Guidelines for managing the shortage on the Colorado River is at a critical point. Arizona needs to focus on protecting our supply of Colorado River water. This must be a massive legal, political and public relations effort. As a former city official, attorney general and lawyer with over 14 years' experience on CAP issues, I have unique skills and experience to help the Arizona water team meet this challenge. 2. Finding alternative water supplies in the face of shortage on the Colorado. This has been an ongoing mission for CAP that today is even more urgent. Recent cutbacks and the elimination of 'excess water' from the Colorado River makes finding alternatives more urgent. The CAP needs ingenuity, political skill and innovative financing to do the job. My long experience in water matters can be particularly effective working with Interior, city and Tribal officials and members of Congress. 3. Maintaining and improving an aging infrastructure while reliably delivering renewable water to our customers. CAP is first and foremost a system for reliable water delivery to its customers. Now that the system is over 40, age is having an impact. Plus, flash flooding has led to serious washouts. I have spent many hours touring the system and supporting the maintenance that keeps CAP at the very top for reliable performance. I led the Board's recent stepped-up commitment to critical infrastructure maintenance.

## **HEATHER MACRE:**

First, we must address climate change and the declining flows of the Colorado River. We need to explore more effluent recycling as well as other augmentation methods. This must be balanced with the health of the River and the needs of the natural environment. We need to find a way to meet our obligations while maintaining sustainability within the system. Second, we need to implement a 7-state sharing agreement in which all of the states take responsibility for the West's water future. CAP, along with the other Lower Basin States, has proposed such a plan and we need to continue to push for implementation as the Upper Basin Plan will negatively impact Arizona's growth and economy. Third, we need legislative changes to make the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District more stable. This likely means examining water usage more closely and working towards a legislative fix in terms of admission. We also need to update the 1980 Groundwater Management Act more broadly. We cannot let groundwater policy undermine the hard work we are doing on the River. I have twelve years of experience. There is a steep learning curve when you join the Board, and I have proven myself as a thought leader in the area. I am also an attorney, with a background in water policy, so I understand the intricacies of the Law of the River and know how to listen and synthesize ideas while remaining focused on the goal even in the face of opposition.

**APRIL PINGER:**

Well, clearly the biggest challenge for CAP right now is managing less water. Next would be negotiations with the other states, particularly (at the moment) the upper basin states. Finally, a challenge that has not been addressed is to figure out how to get our stored water back out of the ground.

CAP staff does a great job managing less water and getting the best possible electric rates. The board doesn't have direct involvement, other than to approve agreements. If those became less than ideal it would be my job to speak up.

Although the CAWCD board members are not directly involved with negotiations, we can build relationships with those in other states who can influence those negotiations. I have had the opportunity to meet with water districts in southwestern Colorado, northern Colorado and Imperial irrigation district. My goal has been first to understand their unique needs and perspectives, then to help them understand the needs of Arizona. In these discussions they see we are trying to be fair and we are only asking for fairness in return. I believe in win-win, and I approach these relationships with that attitude.

As an engineer I have worked in several flow related industries. I understand fluid dynamics, pumps and valves and can help the board as a whole understand the technical direction and ideas presented by CAP staff.



### **QUESTION 3:**

**Arizona will most likely receive less than its full apportionment of Colorado River water after 2026. The exact amount is currently unknown, but the reduction to the Central Arizona Project will be greater and more permanent than previously experienced. How should CAP protect the water supply needs of CAP's customers – urban water providers, Tribal nations, and industrial users – in response to this change?**

#### **LISA ATKINS:**

We are all in this together. CAWCD and Central and Southern Arizona water users have been preparing to maintain water security. We have put millions of acre-feet of water underground for the future. We have invested in conservation so that our uses are more efficient as a way of life. The CAP Board and leadership are fighting in negotiations to make sure our future water supply is stable and predictable.

#### **BRIAN BIESEMEYER:**

CAP needs to envision itself differently and understand its customers better.

1. Understanding its customer's strengths and weaknesses, enables CAP to negotiate more comprehensively to protect Arizona's share of Colorado River water.
2. CAP needs to evolve from having one source of water, the Colorado River, to an organization capable of transporting groundwater and other water sources.

#### **RUDY FISCHER:**

There aren't many ways to change the water supply in the Colorado River Basin (though there may be some), but there are multiple things we can do to mitigate shortages. I support the Salt River Project's expansion of the Bartlett Dam to use more water stored there as a source for both use and replenishment in future years. Both agencies supply most of the water used in the Phoenix metro area and should work closely together. The CSIF to transfer water from the CAP canal to SRP's works, and we should accelerate the project making it possible to do the reverse. We should also work with the Governor's Water Policy Committee which has been looking at changing existing water supplies from Ag to Urban uses. Queen Creek was able to obtain over 2,000 acre feet this way. Also, the CAP and cities should help farmers install more efficient irrigation systems, with cities able to keep water saved. Also, while I agree that we should treat the Colorado River Basin on a whole of basin approach, we may want to adopt the Upper Basin states' approach to allocating water on a percentage basis, with each recipient cutting back based on the overall amount available (even if only ICS/Assigned Water). Also, while I realize that making changes to water law are difficult, we do have the attention of the federal government right now via the Interior Department. Maybe laws that were developed based on an 1860's understanding of water don't work anymore.

**TERRY GODDARD:**

I do not agree with the defeatist premise of this question. CAP has already taken the lion's share of cuts, losing one third of its total volume. I intend to keep making a strong case against further cuts. The shortage in the Colorado Basin cannot fall on Central Arizona alone. It is time for the rest of Arizona and the other Colorado Basin states to help meet the challenge of shortage. CAP's Tribal and City customers have strong legal, equitable, political and economic defenses to further reductions. I will help to lead the opposition to CAP's customers suffering additional cuts. Along with ADWR, CAP must continue to find workable answers to the Colorado Basin shortage challenges and present the strongest possible case for Central Arizona's water rights. That's what CAP staff did providing the research leading to the Lower Basin Alternative. I will make sure that CAP is prepared for this fight with legal talent, research and expert witnesses should we be forced to litigate. CAP must also aggressively seek sources of non-Colorado River water to augment the current supply.

**HEATHER MACRE:**

CAP is already voluntarily leaving approximately 500,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead to stabilize the system. We are fighting to get the Lower Basin Shortage Sharing Guidelines passed, which will ensure that while there are cuts, the cuts do not disproportionately impact Arizona. CAP has been fortunate to work with many municipal and tribal authorities to implement innovative water exchanges. We are also looking forward to the increased use of wheeling, i.e., moving non-CAP waters via the CAP canal. This will create a new and innovative way to move water to places of greater need. CAP is also working on, and will continue to pursue, ways to recover water that has been strategically stored underground. While this is not a permanent solution, it may be helpful in times of extreme shortage. Going forward, we will all need to learn to do more with less. We are already working with customers to improve water recycling efforts and increase the use of water-smart building codes and landscaping protocols. We are also looking into new technologies – working with NASA to review satellite data concerning hydrological needs, importing ideas from the Middle East, researching desalination of both ocean water and brackish groundwater. We also need to be open to new ideas that may come from the community, hence my focus on collaboration and transparency. Arizona has always risen to the challenge and I firmly believe we will continue to do so.

**APRIL PINGER:**

First of all, don't be such a pessimist. There is no reliable data suggesting that the drought will be permanent. As I suggest to those whom I speak with on the topic, pray for rain and snow. That being said, we are in a drought and we need to be conservative with our water use. CAP staff and board are trying to protect the water supply needs by building relationships of understanding with others who rely on the Colorado River. Understanding and negotiating will be much preferable to litigating.

#### **QUESTION 4:**

**The CAWCD Board is responsible for overseeing the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR), which must acquire water supplies to replenish the aquifer in areas where existing housing and new growth primarily relies on local groundwater. What challenges does CAGRDR face and how would you address those challenges?**

#### **LISA ATKINS:**

The CAGRDR has been working for two years to prepare a 10 year plan that examines possible future growth, where that growth might occur, and how much replenishment might be necessary for that to occur consistent with the need for a 100 year water supply. In the last ten years, the CAGRDR has acquired a significant supply of water and reserves that make it very prepared to serve its members for the future.

#### **BRIAN BIESEMEYER:**

CAGRDR has become an important part of the water resource structure for Arizona and has helped support affordable housing. As such, its supplies must be secured and managed well. With reduced water supplies to Arizona, CAGRDR cannot grow unconstrained and needs limits to protect current and future homeowners. For sustainable groundwater recovery, CAGRDR recharge needs to be hydrologically linked to where pumping occurs.

#### **RUDY FISCHER:**

The CAGRDR is required to replenish groundwater for customers to the extent reasonably feasible. That makes a declining allocation of water a real problem. While the CAGRDR has met its goals, I feel those goals have been too modest in the past. At the same time, because of the restricted amounts of water which may be available in future, the new long-term goals in the 2025 Plan may not be achievable. As CAP customers have less water available they may be tempted to use a larger percentage of what is delivered and put less back into the aquifer. I think this will require a whole of agency effort to support the CAGRDR in achieving those goals. It is not CAP's job to tell cities what to do with the water allocated to them, but the CAP has a lot of expertise. It should use that to help customers manage both their use of water and their ability to meet future replenishment obligations. That's why I am supportive of Scottsdale Water and Phoenix's new program to augment its water supply by building a recycling plant. With less water coming into the system, we need to stretch what we do have. Since each acre foot of water recycled allows the CAP to leave its equivalent in Lake Mead, this could go far toward saving the Lower Basins' supply. We should also look at outdated practices such as Colorado's "free river condition" rule – and others - in the Basin to maximize authorized content.

**TERRY GODDARD:**

With the loss of Excess Water and serious reduction or elimination of the NIA water, the available supplies for CAGR D to provide reliable future ground water to its certificate holders have become much more difficult to find. I believe our recently issued 2025 10 Year Plan of Operation provides short-term security that is fully financed. That is a good place for CAGR D to start on the search for water supply augmentation. Without question, that effort will be expensive. Our challenge at CAP will be how to control costs in a tightening water market. For the past several years, I have led the Board in laying the groundwork for the search for non-Project water. Now the CAP Board must build on that foundation.

**HEATHER MACRE:**

As stated above, the CAGR D is facing challenges with a diminishing water supply and the increased costs associated with finding new sources of water. It needs legislative reform to allow CAP to control the amount of water that it is obligated to supply to users so that the CAGR D does not become over-allocated. CAP should also do more to educate homeowners within the CAGR D so that they can make informed choices. All of this can help bring reliability to the CAGR D. Likewise, we need to address the hydrologic disconnect between recharge and recovery. At times, water cannot be recharged at the area of impact, leading to the depletion of aquifers. This can lead to outcomes like groundwater decline, subsidence, fissuring, aquifer compaction, storage-capacity loss, and water-quality concerns. Finally, we need overall groundwater management updates that will necessarily include the CAGR D. We need to discuss and define new limits on groundwater pumping on a larger basis so as not to over rely on groundwater. We also need to focus on smart growth and density as both help save water while still allowing for a healthy and vibrant economy.

**APRIL PINGER:**

I touched on the challenges of the CAGR D in a previous question. In short, the water was put underground without a way to extract it. We put that water there for a time such as this. It's not an insurmountable problem, just one that needs to be addressed.



**LISA ATKINS**

**QUESTION 1:**

**Why are you running for the CAWCD Board?**

I have served on the CAWCD Board for 21 years. I am running again because I am dedicated to protecting Central and Southern Arizona's water supply despite 25 years of drought and climate change.

**QUESTION 2:**

**What are the three biggest challenges facing the Central Arizona Project and what unique skills and perspectives would you bring to the CAWCD Board to help address these challenges?**

1. Severe prolonged drought and climate change
2. Increasing division among Colorado River water users
3. Our junior position of our water supply and what that could mean

**QUESTION 3:**

**Arizona will most likely receive less than its full apportionment of Colorado River water after 2026. The exact amount is currently unknown, but the reduction to the Central Arizona Project will be greater and more permanent than previously experienced. How should CAP protect the water supply needs of CAP's customers – urban water providers, Tribal nations, and industrial users – in response to this change?**

We are all in this together. CAWCD and Central and Southern Arizona water users have been preparing to maintain water security. We have put millions of acre-feet of water underground for the future. We have invested in conservation so that our uses are more efficient as a way of life. The CAP Board and leadership are fighting in negotiations to make sure our future water supply is stable and predictable.

**QUESTION 4:**

**The CAWCD Board is responsible for overseeing the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR), which must acquire water supplies to replenish the aquifer in areas where existing housing and new growth primarily relies on local groundwater. What challenges does CAGR face and how would you address those challenges?**

The CAGR has been working for two years to prepare a 10 year plan that examines possible future growth, where that growth might occur, and how much replenishment might be necessary for that to occur consistent with the need for a 100 year water supply. In the last ten years, the CAGR has acquired a significant supply of water and reserves that make it very prepared to serve its members for the future.



**BRIAN BIESEMEYER**

[www.brianbforcap.org](http://www.brianbforcap.org)

**QUESTION 1:**

**Why are you running for the CAWCD Board?**

The CAP and access to the Colorado River are critical to Arizona. I want to use my professional water experience to help find water solutions that protect our families, our economy and our way of life.

**QUESTION 2:**

**What are the three biggest challenges facing the Central Arizona Project and what unique skills and perspectives would you bring to the CAWCD Board to help address these challenges?**

- (1) The prolonged drought on the Colorado River
- (2) Recovering stored water. Arizona and the CAP have stored billions of gallons of water underground to be recovered in shortage. Now is the time!
- (3) The cost of water. As cost rise for the CAP, those costs are ultimately passed on to homeowners and businesses. The CAP needs to double its efforts to remain efficient.

I will use my 30 years in the water industry to challenge CAP staff and the board to bring new and innovative ideas to the table.

**QUESTION 3:**

**Arizona will most likely receive less than its full apportionment of Colorado River water after 2026. The exact amount is currently unknown, but the reduction to the Central Arizona Project will be greater and more permanent than previously experienced. How should CAP protect the water supply needs of CAP's customers – urban water providers, Tribal nations, and industrial users – in response to this change?**

CAP needs to envision itself differently and understand its customers better.

1. Understanding its customer's strengths and weaknesses, enables CAP to negotiate more comprehensively to protect Arizona's share of Colorado River water.
2. CAP needs to evolve from having one source of water, the Colorado River, to an organization capable of transporting groundwater and other water sources.

**QUESTION 4:**

**The CAWCD Board is responsible for overseeing the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR), which must acquire water supplies to replenish the aquifer in areas where existing housing and new growth primarily relies on local groundwater. What challenges does CAGR face and how would you address those challenges?**

CAGR has become an important part of the water resource structure for Arizona and has helped support affordable housing. As such, its supplies must be secured and managed well. With reduced water supplies to Arizona, CAGR cannot grow unconstrained and needs limits to protect current and future homeowners. For sustainable groundwater recovery, CAGR recharge needs to be hydrologically linked to where pumping occurs.





**RUDY FISCHER**  
[www.rudyfischer.com](http://www.rudyfischer.com)

**QUESTION 1:**

**Why are you running for the CAWCD Board?**

I have a long record of public service; having served on non-profit, HOA, and municipal boards; as well as eight years on a city council and five on a water agency board. In those roles I was involved with the completion of both municipal and regional water projects, and have written on water matters – including about the Colorado River Basin. As board chair of a water agency I negotiated approval for a recycled water project similar to Scottsdale Water. As a result, I have gone through the process of getting the needed city, regional, county, state, and federal approvals to take a complex project from concept to completion. Currently I am on the 2,000 home Troon North Association board and Scottsdale’s Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee. I have also completed the Scottsdale 101 and Scottsdale Water Academy programs and about a dozen CAP University sessions. I attend or watch many of the CAP meetings and understand the history and issues the agency faces. In addition, I have attended meetings of AMWUA, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Governor’s Water Policy Council. I have been to several WaterReuse conferences; presenting at one of them, and recently went to the 2024 Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona Annual Water Conference. The next six to twelve years may actually not be a fun time to be on the board, but I think it will be an important time for the agency and Maricopa County, and I hope to be able to help.

**QUESTION 2:**

**What are the three biggest challenges facing the Central Arizona Project and what unique skills and perspectives would you bring to the CAWCD Board to help address these challenges?**

(1) Meeting the needs of Arizona businesses, cities, tribes and agriculture with a lower allocation of water, (2) maintaining the water levels in Lake Mead at a time of lowered flow into the Colorado River Basin, (3) using the water which is available to meet customer needs long-term, and (4) figuring out what modifications we may need to make to maintain a system which is handling less water than it was built for. The reason I added that last one is that I was on the

board of a wastewater agency when our area went through water restrictions due to a long running drought. The lowered use of water affected our sewage system. CAP needs to think about what it will do to keep going in this new environment. I take a long-term view of things. What made the CAP successful in the past may no longer work as well, and it will take new thinking and cooperation with other basin states and Arizona agencies to meet our future needs. I want to apply my experience to working with the other board members and ensure the Central Arizona Project continues to meet Arizona's needs for decades to come. Conservation and recycling are going to be more important in our future, as will working with other agencies such as SRP to share resources, Agriculture to Urban groundwater conversion, and working with cities to maximize their use of existing water available. These are all items I will push for.

**QUESTION 3:**

**Arizona will most likely receive less than its full apportionment of Colorado River water after 2026. The exact amount is currently unknown, but the reduction to the Central Arizona Project will be greater and more permanent than previously experienced. How should CAP protect the water supply needs of CAP's customers – urban water providers, Tribal nations, and industrial users – in response to this change?**

There aren't many ways to change the water supply in the Colorado River Basin (though there may be some), but there are multiple things we can do to mitigate shortages. I support the Salt River Project's expansion of the Bartlett Dam to use more water stored there as a source for both use and replenishment in future years. Both agencies supply most of the water used in the Phoenix metro area and should work closely together. The CSIF to transfer water from the CAP canal to SRP's works, and we should accelerate the project making it possible to do the reverse. We should also work with the Governor's Water Policy Committee which has been looking at changing existing water supplies from Ag to Urban uses. Queen Creek was able to obtain over 2,000 acre feet this way. Also, the CAP and cities should help farmers install more efficient irrigation systems, with cities able to keep water saved. Also, while I agree that we should treat the Colorado River Basin on a whole of basin approach, we may want to adopt the Upper Basin states' approach to allocating water on a percentage basis, with each recipient cutting back based on the overall amount available (even if only ICS/Assigned Water). Also, while I realize that making changes to water law are difficult, we do have the attention of the federal government right now via the Interior Department. Maybe laws that were developed based on an 1860's understanding of water don't work anymore.

**QUESTION 4:**

**The CAWCD Board is responsible for overseeing the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR), which must acquire water supplies to replenish the aquifer in areas where existing housing and new growth primarily relies on local groundwater. What challenges does CAGR face and how would you address those challenges?**

The CAGR is required to replenish groundwater for customers to the extent reasonably feasible. That makes a declining allocation of water a real problem. While the CAGR has met

its goals, I feel those goals have been too modest in the past. At the same time, because of the restricted amounts of water which may be available in future, the new long-term goals in the 2025 Plan may not be achievable. As CAP customers have less water available they may be tempted to use a larger percentage of what is delivered and put less back into the aquifer. I think this will require a whole of agency effort to support the CAGR in achieving those goals. It is not CAP's job to tell cities what to do with the water allocated to them, but the CAP has a lot of expertise. It should use that to help customers manage both their use of water and their ability to meet future replenishment obligations. That's why I am supportive of Scottsdale Water and Phoenix's new program to augment its water supply by building a recycling plant. With less water coming into the system, we need to stretch what we do have. Since each acre foot of water recycled allows the CAP to leave its equivalent in Lake Mead, this could go far toward saving the Lower Basins' supply. We should also look at outdated practices such as Colorado's "free river condition" rule – and others - in the Basin to maximize authorized content.



**TERRY GODDARD**

**QUESTION 1:**

**Why are you running for the CAWCD Board?**

The renewable water from the Colorado River that the CAP delivers to Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties has been critical to the growth of the economy of central Arizona. Maintaining that water resource is critical to our future. Today, that precious water supply is threatened by long term drought and increasing demand for water in the Colorado Basin. The renegotiation of the 2007 Guidelines between the other Basin states and the Federal Government is a critical time for our future access to Colorado River water. As President of the CAP Board, I have been helping with the efforts to be sure Arizona makes the strongest possible case in these negotiations. I am also encouraging and coordinating Arizona groups and our Congressional delegation in support of Arizona's position. My combination of experience (lawyer, mayor and attorney general) has uniquely prepared me to meet the challenges Arizona faces in the water arena today. This is a 'do or die' moment for our State. I would like to continue to serve on this critical mission when our future is literally on the line.

**QUESTION 2:**

**What are the three biggest challenges facing the Central Arizona Project and what unique skills and perspectives would you bring to the CAWCD Board to help address these challenges?**

Protecting Central Arizona's share of Colorado River water supplies. The outcome of the negotiations over the new Guidelines for managing the shortage on the Colorado River is at a critical point. Arizona needs to focus on protecting our supply of Colorado River water. This must be a massive legal, political and public relations effort. As a former city official, attorney general and lawyer with over 14 years' experience on CAP issues, I have unique skills and experience to help the Arizona water team meet this challenge. 2. Finding alternative water supplies in the face of shortage on the Colorado. This has been an ongoing mission for CAP that today is even more urgent. Recent cutbacks and the elimination of 'excess water' from the Colorado River makes finding alternatives more urgent. The CAP needs ingenuity, political skill

and innovative financing to do the job. My long experience in water matters can be particularly effective working with Interior, city and Tribal officials and members of Congress. 3. Maintaining and improving an aging infrastructure while reliably delivering renewable water to our customers. CAP is first and foremost a system for reliable water delivery to its customers. Now that the system is over 40, age is having an impact. Plus, flash flooding has led to serious washouts. I have spent many hours touring the system and supporting the maintenance that keeps CAP at the very top for reliable performance. I led the Board's recent stepped-up commitment to critical infrastructure maintenance.

**QUESTION 3:**

**Arizona will most likely receive less than its full apportionment of Colorado River water after 2026. The exact amount is currently unknown, but the reduction to the Central Arizona Project will be greater and more permanent than previously experienced. How should CAP protect the water supply needs of CAP's customers – urban water providers, Tribal nations, and industrial users – in response to this change?**

I do not agree with the defeatist premise of this question. CAP has already taken the lion's share of cuts, losing one third of its total volume. I intend to keep making a strong case against further cuts. The shortage in the Colorado Basin cannot fall on Central Arizona alone. It is time for the rest of Arizona and the other Colorado Basin states to help meet the challenge of shortage. CAP's Tribal and City customers have strong legal, equitable, political and economic defenses to further reductions. I will help to lead the opposition to CAP's customers suffering additional cuts. Along with ADWR, CAP must continue to find workable answers to the Colorado Basin shortage challenges and present the strongest possible case for Central Arizona's water rights. That's what CAP staff did providing the research leading to the Lower Basin Alternative. I will make sure that CAP is prepared for this fight with legal talent, research and expert witnesses should we be forced to litigate. CAP must also aggressively seek sources of non-Colorado River water to augment the current supply.

**QUESTION 4:**

**The CAWCD Board is responsible for overseeing the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR), which must acquire water supplies to replenish the aquifer in areas where existing housing and new growth primarily relies on local groundwater. What challenges does CAGR face and how would you address those challenges?**

With the loss of Excess Water and serious reduction or elimination of the NIA water, the available supplies for CAGR to provide reliable future ground water to its certificate holders have become much more difficult to find. I believe our recently issued 2025 10 Year Plan of Operation provides short-term security that is fully financed. That is a good place for CAGR to start on the search for water supply augmentation. Without question, that effort will be expensive. Our challenge at CAP will be how to control costs in a tightening water market. For the past several years, I have led the Board in laying the groundwork for the search for non-Project water. Now the CAP Board must build on that foundation.



**HEATHER MACRE**

[www.heathermacre4cawcd.com](http://www.heathermacre4cawcd.com)

**QUESTION 1:**

**Why are you running for the CAWCD Board?**

Before running initially in 2012, I represented clients before the CAWCD Board and was disappointed with the lack of transparency. I also saw that the CAWCD Board was saving money by putting the canal system into deferred maintenance and cutting conservation funding. They refused to say the words “climate change,” let alone discuss it. This was unacceptable to me. Knowing that I had a background that matched the position, I decided to run. When I won my seat in 2012, I went to work immediately. To increase transparency, I led the effort to have all meetings live-streamed and to allow public comment in a timely fashion. I also chaired the Communications Task Force which launched the statewide, award-winning “Protect Lake Mead” campaign to focus on conservation efforts. Finally, I co-chaired the Power Task Force, which planned a diversified and innovative portfolio of energy sources including renewable. When I was re-elected in 2018, I continued this work, creating CAP University, a free program that allows the public to attend live and taped webinars to learn more about CAP. I worked on a customer service task force to help improve stakeholder relations. I also worked hard to craft and pass the Drought Contingency Plan at both the state and federal level. I am proud of all I have accomplished, but I am running for re-election as there is a lot more work to be done.

**QUESTION 2:**

**What are the three biggest challenges facing the Central Arizona Project and what unique skills and perspectives would you bring to the CAWCD Board to help address these challenges?**

First, we must address climate change and the declining flows of the Colorado River. We need to explore more effluent recycling as well as other augmentation methods. This must be balanced with the health of the River and the needs of the natural environment. We need to find a way to meet our obligations while maintaining sustainability within the system. Second, we need to implement a 7-state sharing agreement in which all of the states take responsibility for the West’s water future. CAP, along with the other Lower Basin States, has proposed such a plan and we need to continue to push for implementation as the Upper Basin Plan will

negatively impact Arizona's growth and economy. Third, we need legislative changes to make the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District more stable. This likely means examining water usage more closely and working towards a legislative fix in terms of admission. We also need to update the 1980 Groundwater Management Act more broadly. We cannot let groundwater policy undermine the hard work we are doing on the River. I have twelve years of experience. There is a steep learning curve when you join the Board, and I have proven myself as a thought leader in the area. I am also an attorney, with a background in water policy, so I understand the intricacies of the Law of the River and know how to listen and synthesize ideas while remaining focused on the goal even in the face of opposition.

**QUESTION 3:**

**Arizona will most likely receive less than its full apportionment of Colorado River water after 2026. The exact amount is currently unknown, but the reduction to the Central Arizona Project will be greater and more permanent than previously experienced. How should CAP protect the water supply needs of CAP's customers – urban water providers, Tribal nations, and industrial users – in response to this change?**

CAP is already voluntarily leaving approximately 500,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead to stabilize the system. We are fighting to get the Lower Basin Shortage Sharing Guidelines passed, which will ensure that while there are cuts, the cuts do not disproportionately impact Arizona. CAP has been fortunate to work with many municipal and tribal authorities to implement innovative water exchanges. We are also looking forward to the increased use of wheeling, i.e., moving non-CAP waters via the CAP canal. This will create a new and innovative way to move water to places of greater need. CAP is also working on, and will continue to pursue, ways to recover water that has been strategically stored underground. While this is not a permanent solution, it may be helpful in times of extreme shortage. Going forward, we will all need to learn to do more with less. We are already working with customers to improve water recycling efforts and increase the use of water-smart building codes and landscaping protocols. We are also looking into new technologies – working with NASA to review satellite data concerning hydrological needs, importing ideas from the Middle East, researching desalination of both ocean water and brackish groundwater. We also need to be open to new ideas that may come from the community, hence my focus on collaboration and transparency. Arizona has always risen to the challenge and I firmly believe we will continue to do so.

**QUESTION 4:**

**The CAWCD Board is responsible for overseeing the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR), which must acquire water supplies to replenish the aquifer in areas where existing housing and new growth primarily relies on local groundwater. What challenges does CAGR face and how would you address those challenges?**

As stated above, the CAGR is facing challenges with a diminishing water supply and the increased costs associated with finding new sources of water. It needs legislative reform to allow CAP to control the amount of water that it is obligated to supply to users so that the

CAGR D does not become over-allocated. CAP should also do more to educate homeowners within the CAGR D so that they can make informed choices. All of this can help bring reliability to the CAGR D. Likewise, we need to address the hydrologic disconnect between recharge and recovery. At times, water cannot be recharged at the area of impact, leading to the depletion of aquifers. This can lead to outcomes like groundwater decline, subsidence, fissuring, aquifer compaction, storage-capacity loss, and water-quality concerns. Finally, we need overall groundwater management updates that will necessarily include the CAGR D. We need to discuss and define new limits on groundwater pumping on a larger basis so as not to over rely on groundwater. We also need to focus on smart growth and density as both help save water while still allowing for a healthy and vibrant economy.





**APRIL PINGER**

**QUESTION 1:**

**Why are you running for the CAWCD Board?**

I want to represent the constituents of Maricopa; the tax payers and the voters, to the best of my ability. I want to make sure the needs of the farmers are heard. This is best done by financial accountability of CAP.

**QUESTION 2:**

**What are the three biggest challenges facing the Central Arizona Project and what unique skills and perspectives would you bring to the CAWCD Board to help address these challenges?**

Well, clearly the biggest challenge for CAP right now is managing less water. Next would be negotiations with the other states, particularly (at the moment) the upper basin states. Finally, a challenge that has not been addressed is to figure out how to get our stored water back out of the ground.

CAP staff does a great job managing less water and getting the best possible electric rates. The board doesn't have direct involvement, other than to approve agreements. If those became less than ideal it would be my job to speak up.

Although the CAWCD board members are not directly involved with negotiations, we can build relationships with those in other states who can influence those negotiations. I have had the opportunity to meet with water districts in southwestern Colorado, northern Colorado and Imperial irrigation district. My goal has been first to understand their unique needs and perspectives, then to help them understand the needs of Arizona. In these discussions they see we are trying to be fair and we are only asking for fairness in return. I believe in win-win, and I approach these relationships with that attitude.

As an engineer I have worked in several flow related industries. I understand fluid dynamics, pumps and valves and can help the board as a whole understand the technical direction and ideas presented by CAP staff.

**QUESTION 3:**

**Arizona will most likely receive less than its full apportionment of Colorado River water after 2026. The exact amount is currently unknown, but the reduction to the Central Arizona Project will be greater and more permanent than previously experienced. How should CAP protect the water supply needs of CAP's customers – urban water providers, Tribal nations, and industrial users – in response to this change?**

First of all, don't be such a pessimist. There is no reliable data suggesting that the drought will be permanent. As I suggest to those whom I speak with on the topic, pray for rain and snow. That being said, we are in a drought and we need to be conservative with our water use. CAP staff and board are trying to protect the water supply needs by building relationships of understanding with others who rely on the Colorado River. Understanding and negotiating will be much preferable to litigating.

**QUESTION 4:**

**The CAWCD Board is responsible for overseeing the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR), which must acquire water supplies to replenish the aquifer in areas where existing housing and new growth primarily relies on local groundwater. What challenges does CAGR face and how would you address those challenges?**

I touched on the challenges of the CAGR in a previous question. In short, the water was put underground without a way to extract it. We put that water there for a time such as this. It's not an insurmountable problem, just one that needs to be addressed.