

Arizona Water Banking Authority Commission

PURPOSE: The Authority, acting through its Commission, shall: (1) administer the Arizona Water Banking Fund; (2) coordinate its staffing needs; (3) coordinate the storage of water and distribution and extinguishment of long-term storage credits; (4) coordinate for the purchase, delivery and storage of Colorado River water delivered through the Central Arizona Project (CAP); (5) coordinate and confer with statutorily specified entities on matters within their jurisdiction; (6) determine on an annual basis the quantity of Colorado River water to be stored and where that storage will occur; (7) account for, hold and distribute or extinguish long-term storage credits; and (8) comply with all aspects of Title 45, Chapter 3.1, Arizona Revised Statutes. The Authority, acting through its Commission, may: (1) apply for and hold water storage permits; (2) accrue, exchange, assign and lend long-term storage credits; (3) exchange Colorado River water; (4) make and execute all contracts necessary to (a) obtain for storage Colorado river water delivered through the CAP, (b) affiliate water storage permits held by the Authority with storage facility permits, (c) store Colorado river water at permitted storage facilities, (d) distribute long-term storage credits it has earned to make water available to municipal and industrial users, (e) store Colorado River water in Arizona on behalf of appropriately authorized agencies in California and Nevada, (f) cause a decrease in Arizona diversions from the Colorado River, and (g) distribute long-term storage credits earned by the Authority on behalf of agencies in California and Nevada to Colorado River water users in Arizona to use in place of Colorado River water that would have otherwise been used by those Arizona users. The Commission shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before July 1 of each year a report containing a complete account of its transactions and proceedings for the preceding calendar year.

MEMBERSHIP:

House The Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Speaker's designee, as a nonvoting ex-officio member:

Javan D. Mesnard

Senate One member of the Senate as a non-voting advisory member, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Gail Griffin

Other The President of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District or a representative designated by the President of CAWCD:

Ms. Lisa Atkins, Commissioner, Arizona State Land Department

The Director of the Department of Water Resources who shall serve as Chair:

Mr. Thomas Buschatzke, Director, Department of Water Resources

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One member representing an entity that holds a CAP municipal and industrial subcontract, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate:

Ms. Kathryn Sorensen (1/18/2021)

Notes: Commission members appointed by the Governor serve six-year terms beginning and ending on the third Monday in January, and are eligible for reimbursement for expenses from the Arizona Water Banking Fund. Members of the Commission are public officers and are subject to all provisions of law applicable to these officers. Members of the Commission are immune from liability for any action necessary to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

CONTACT: Kathi Knox, Senate Research Staff; Sharon Carpenter, House Research Staff

REPORT DATE: July 1, annually

EXPIRATION DATE: None

STATUTORY CITE: A.R.S. 45-2421; Laws 1996, Chapter 308; Laws 1997, Chapter 15, Sec. 18; Laws 1998, Chapter 47; Laws 1999, Chapter 16