

TOWN *Of* **PARADISE VALLEY**



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Bien-Willner and Town Council Members

FROM: Jill Keimach, Town Manager

DATE: January 27, 2022

DEPARTMENT: Town Manager
Jill Keimach, 480.348.3533

AGENDA TITLE:

Informational Item on the Town of Paradise Valley Water Supplies by Senior Research Fellow of the Kyl Center for Water Policy, Kathleen Ferris.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

With several years of drought, record low water elevation levels in both Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and significant increases in population in large metropolitan areas, the Bureau of Reclamation declared the first-ever Colorado River Basin water shortage on August 16, 2021. This declaration may lead to mandatory federal water cuts in 2022 and consequently, several cities have begun to research and review their conservation policies and options. Including, for example, the City of Scottsdale on August 17th declared "Stage 1" of the city's Drought Management Plan which is their first voluntary step for resident water conservation.

Paradise Valley as an organization and water user has no direct influence over conservation efforts since it is not a water provider, like the cities of Scottsdale and Phoenix. It can, however, work to conserve water in a variety of ways, both for water conservation and fiscal prudence. The Town of Paradise Valley integrates water conservation measures in many areas of operations including landscape design and maintenance, facilities and water systems, public outreach and external contracts. Attachment B lists the Town's conservation efforts in more detail.

As a Council informational item, Paradise Valley resident Kathleen Ferris will present and discuss water supply generally in Arizona and specifically in Paradise Valley. Kathy Ferris has a long and impressive career in water management, beginning in 1977, at the age of 28, when Kathy was appointed Executive Director of the Arizona Groundwater Management Study Commission. Her work with the Commission and Governor Bruce Babbitt culminated in the passage of the pioneering 1980 Arizona Groundwater Management Act.

For over four decades Kathy has championed wise groundwater management in the desert. She has served as Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and

as Executive Director of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. Currently she is a lawyer in private practice and a Senior Research Fellow for the Kyl Center for Water Policy at ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy. She has co-authored with Kyl Center Director Sarah Porter several reports on major Arizona groundwater issues, including *The Elusive Concept of an Assured Water Supply--the Role of CAGRD and Replenishment*, and *The Myth of Safe-Yield--Pursuing the Goal of Safe-Yield Isn't Saving Our Groundwater*.

In 2015, along with Michael Schiffer, Kathy produced the documentary *Groundwater - to enact a law for the common good*.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

There is no budgetary impact with this informational item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information from Kathleen Ferris.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- A. Staff Report
- B. Current Town of Paradise Valley Water Conservation Efforts
- C. Presentation