

AZ Business Community Cheers Passage of Drought Contingency Plan

PHOENIX (January 31, 2019)—Arizona’s business community on Thursday hailed passage of the Drought Contingency Plan, which establishes a stewardship plan for the state’s Colorado River water supply that ensures greater certainty for water users and prevents increased federal intervention in the state’s water management strategy.

Adoption of the DCP was strongly supported by a broad swath of the business community throughout the plan’s negotiation. Valley Partnership, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, and the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry were all represented on the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Steering Committee, which brought together stakeholders from municipal, tribal, agricultural and business interests over several months to craft the legislative package that was adopted with bipartisan support on Thursday.

Prior to the vote, over 60 individual businesses and associations from across the state signed onto a [statement](#) of support for the plan’s adoption.

Cheryl Lombard, President and CEO, Valley Partnership

“Arizona is well-positioned to deal with a reduced water supply and continue to grow through smart, responsible development. We congratulate Gov. Doug Ducey, our state legislators and the many stakeholders from around the state who worked tirelessly to find a solution that put Arizonans first and on a path to long-term water security. The viability of Arizona’s real estate development industry is closely aligned with our future water security, which made adoption of the DCP an absolute necessity to ensure future responsible development in our region.”

Ted Maxwell, President and CEO, Southern Arizona Leadership Council

“I was proud to represent the Southern Arizona Leadership Council on the DCP Steering Committee, whose work was absolutely essential to reaching consensus over the water stewardship plan adopted by the Legislature that will ensure greater water security in the years to come. All of Arizona—urban and rural—is better off today thanks to the good work of Gov. Ducey, our Legislature, and water leaders from across the state for pursuing water policy that is in the best interest of Arizona. SALC congratulates and thanks the governor and Legislature for a job well done.”

Todd Sanders, President and CEO, Greater Phoenix Chamber

“The passage of the DCP marks a great day for Arizona. By working in a responsible, bipartisan way, Gov. Ducey and lawmakers have ensured that Arizona is positioned for a more secure future. Reaching agreement over the DCP wasn’t easy. Water policy is deeply complex and it affects all facets of life in Arizona, which makes this agreement all the more impressive. The Greater Phoenix Chamber applauds Gov. Ducey and the Legislature for their work to pass the DCP.”

Glenn Hamer, President and CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“Arizona’s business community cannot overstate how important adoption of the Drought Contingency Plan is for our state’s future. Gov. Ducey, the state Legislature, and water stakeholders from urban and rural communities, have sent a message loud and clear that Arizona is ready to thrive in the years to come and that our state’s leaders are willing partners in future multistate water stewardship

negotiations. This is a once-in-a-generation accomplishment and it take its place alongside the 1980 Groundwater Management Act in significance.”

Neil Giuliano, President and CEO, Greater Phoenix Leadership

“The passage of the DCP highlights Arizona leadership at its best. Our economy and quality of life are dependent on a sustainable water plan. GPL congratulates the many stakeholders who came together to ensure the vitality of our economy for future generations. The Arizona Legislature, Governor Ducey and Arizona business leaders working together with cities, counties, Native American communities and other stakeholders is an example of how future critical public policy issues can be moved forward.”

Congressional and administrative action is now required to fully implement the DCP. Arizona’s business community will continue to engage with the administration and the state’s congressional delegation to ensure the plan’s completion.

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