

## VISION 2050 WATER COMMITTEE

### **Mission statement:**

- Develop management strategies to enhance aquatic habitat, stream riparian areas and general open spaces to promote sustainable economic development, recreational, ambience and lifestyle opportunities as an integral part of a vibrant, creative and historic community (watershed approach).
- Develop a water resources management plan that will encourage aquifer conservation (assured water supply and safe yield programs)
- Utilize the natural features of the AMA watershed or sub-basins to provide sustainable water supplies for the Prescott metropolitan area through recharge facilities
- Capitalize on new and advanced technology in wastewater treatment for the use of artificial recharge to augment those supplies and
- Encourage best management practices to ensure the water quality of the surface waters and groundwater.

To achieve these objectives legal changes will be required to state water law and jurisdiction law in order for Prescott (and surrounding communities) to successfully maintain, restore and enjoy the natural resources within its boundaries. Further, formulation of water law must reflect sound engineering and hydrogeological principles rather than political or special interests in order to equitably allocate water resources for future generations. Educational efforts will be required to demonstrate that sustainability is the use of a resource that will not compromise or jeopardize any future generations' use and enjoyment.

### **Suggested Alternatives under consideration for prioritization:**

1. Rainwater catchment/recharge
  - a. Macro-scale recharge projects for stormwater recharge to maximize safe yield



15. Eminent domain

16. Water Improvement Districts/conservation districts

17. Ordinance and statutes:

- a. Land use considerations to reduce water consumption, enhance recharge, and promote habitat
- b. Re-structure rates and ordinances to allow for a wide variety of alternative water treatments and usage
- c. Update regional water rights and water quality regulations to achieve a fair and equitable management and distribution of water.

18. Smart growth vs. no growth. Does it have to come to this?

19. Eliminate exempt wells. Consider some form of compensation.

20. Noxious weed eradication (they consume more water than “native”)

21. Technological improvements leading to high-quality water treatment small-package units rather than large-scale mega-treatment plants with large and costly distribution systems.

**Any combination of the above should be considered using the following criteria:**

Generational equity in allocating water resources

Management of water resources on a regional scale

Maintains water availability to achieve safe yield and assured water supply

Maintains water quality

Regulatory compliance to Clean Water Act provisions and the Safe Drinking Water Act provisions for underground injection