

c:Linda



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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Greetings:

The Colorado River serves as the lifeblood of the American West providing drinking water to more than 25 million people and irrigation water to support 2 million acres of agricultural production. For years the focus of the Colorado has been on water quantity and indeed, I will continue to fight to secure our share of this critical resource. However, we can no longer focus on water quantity alone; we must address water quality as well if we are to truly meet the needs of the state.

There are several major issues currently threatening the quality of water in the Colorado River. Unfortunately, the problems tend to accumulate with movement downstream, and Arizona is the last State to divert flows from the Colorado before it crosses into Mexico. While many of the problems manifest themselves most severely in Arizona due to geographic location, the problems are, in fact, regional issues and cannot be tackled on solely a state level.

Effectively cleaning up the Colorado River will require a regional approach involving federal, state, tribal and local governments as well as other key stakeholders including agricultural, municipal, business and conservation sectors. Therefore, I have decided to name a stakeholders group, the Clean Colorado River Alliance (CCRA), to develop recommendations to address existing water quality problems.

I ask you to serve on this important stakeholders group and assist me in working with our fellow states towards solutions. A full list of people being asked to serve on the CCRA is attached.

I hope you will be able to personally participate on the CCRA, and I look forward to your advice on the Colorado River water pollutions issues.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano
Governor