NEWS RELEASE

Sustainability Panel to hold initial meeting January 8

The Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability will hold its first meeting January 8 at the Arizona Department of Water Resources in Phoenix.

Gov. Jan Brewer announced formation of the group August 28. Its charge is to improve statewide water sustainability in a variety of ways, including increased recycling and conservation.

Three top Arizona officials co-chair the panel: Herb Guenther, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources; Kris Mayes, chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission; and Benjamin H. Grumbles, director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

The panel will have a number of tools at hand, involving technology, innovation, and collaboration to reduce water waste and inefficiency, recycle water, and restore watersheds.

Among the ideas being considered are:

- The importance of water efficient technologies and practices,
- The need to recognize the nexus of water and energy,
- Additional conservation incentives;

The three-agency group will look to identify and overcome obstacles to increased water sustainability. Of particular interest will be suggestions and concerns of cities, towns, and other water providers involved in implementing new strategies in the use of reclaimed water.

A key part of the multi-agency collaboration will be a focus on water reuse. The blue-ribbon panel will provide advice on the technical, legal, and policy aspects of promoting recycling of wastewater, graywater, industrial process water, and stormwater.

The first meeting will be held at:

TIME: 1 to 3 p.m.
DATE: Friday, January 8, 2010
PLACE: Verde meeting rooms, 2nd floor
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 N. Central Ave.

For further information, please contact:

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