
A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.



In the February 1, 2019 CSA Weekly Update:

- [Legislators Pass; Governor Signs DCP](#)
- [Tax Conformity Passes, But Governor Vetoes](#)
- [Congressman Gosar Introduces Bullhead City Land Swap Legislation](#)
- [ACMA Winter Conference](#)
- [Legislative Session Snapshot](#)
- [CSA Legislative Update](#)
- [Next Week: Committee Agendas](#)
- [NACo Webinar: What's Next for WOTUS and the Federal Clean Water Act?](#)

Legislators Pass; Governor Signs DCP

Last night Governor Ducey signed the drought contingency plan, joined by legislators and key stakeholders who helped get the deal completed. Lawmakers have been working in earnest to secure a deal by a deadline imposed by the commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

"Today is historic for Arizona," said Governor Ducey. "The Drought Contingency Plan is the most significant water legislation passed in nearly 40 years - and it was done by putting party labels aside and putting Arizona first. But make no mistake: today marks an important step, but not the last step, needed to protect our water supply. As Arizona transitions to a drier future, we must continue to promote a culture of conservation - one that enables the unbeatable quality of life and boundless opportunity we enjoy. My thanks to President Fann, Speaker Bowers, Leaders Bradley and Fernandez, Director Buschatzke and General Manager Ted Cooke, as well as the many stakeholders and everyone who worked together to get this deal done. I look forward to building on this bipartisan success to ensure Arizona remains a leader in water conservation policies and that we can truly secure Arizona's water future for generations to come."



Earlier in the day [SJR1001 Colorado river drought contingency plan](#) (Fann) passed the Senate 29 to 1 and the House 60 to 0; [SB1227 Colorado River drought contingency amendment](#) (Fann) passed the Senate 27 to 3 and the House 59 to 0, with one member excused. For more on the Governor's signing ceremony and comments please [click here](#).

[Top](#)

Tax Conformity Passes, But Governor Vetoes

A tax conformity plan, expedited through the Legislature this week, was vetoed by Governor Ducey this afternoon. [SB 1143 conformity; internal revenue code; rates](#) conformed the Arizona tax code to the Internal Revenue Code for Tax Year 2018, but also lowered the tax rates in each bracket by .11% in an attempt to offset any increased revenues. This tax rate decrease would have only applied for one year, with the Legislature intending to look more closely at the issue over the coming year and plan some more concrete conformity in 2020.

This approach went against the wishes of Governor Ducey, who has made clear his intention to place the excess revenues in the state Rainy Day Fund. Shortly after the Governor vetoed the bill, he expressed his concerns with the Legislation, including a lack of reliable data to support the proposed offset and his discomfort with passing any bill with a fiscal impact outside of budget discussions. In his veto letter, the Governor once again called for conformity in the manner he had previously requested, "Let's conform, secure Arizona's future by investing in our rainy day fund, and let's get to work on a fiscally conservative balanced budget."

With the veto of SB 1143, the question of tax conformity is left up in the air, as the Legislature will have to start from square one. Governor Ducey's veto letter may be found [here](#).

[Top](#)

Congressman Gosar Introduces Bullhead City Land Swap Legislation

Congressman Paul Gosar (AZ-04), along with five other Arizona Representatives, introduced H.R. 755, the [Black Mountain Range and Bullhead City Land Exchange Act of 2019](#) this week, proposing a land swap between Bullhead City and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Specifically, it authorizes Bullhead City to donate the 1,100 acre region known as the Black Mountain Range to BLM in exchange for 345.2 acres of land in Bullhead City.

"This bipartisan land exchange is good for Bullhead City, good for BLM, good for local species, good for tourism and good for families." Congressman Gosar stated. "I am thrilled to see strong support from both sides of the aisle for this legislation and appreciate Senator McSally taking the lead in the Senate. I applaud Mayor Brady, Council Member Clark and City Manager Cotter for bringing this common sense bill to our attention. Improving recreational opportunities along the Colorado River will have lasting benefits for future generations."

Arizona Senators Martha McSally and Kyrsten Sinema have introduced a companion resolution, [S. 243](#) in the Senate.

[Top](#)

ACMA Winter Conference



This week CSA attended the Arizona City/County Management Association (ACMA) Winter Conference in Sedona, AZ.

Facilitated discussions during the conference covered a variety of topics including ethics for city and county managers, building a talent pipeline for the future, creating effective wellness programs for employees, and leadership and motivation.

Today, CSA Executive Director Craig Sullivan participated in a panel with Ken Strobeck, Executive Director of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, to provide an update to ACMA members on legislative issues, including an overview of the 2019 legislative session, and some of the current challenges and opportunities that local governments in Arizona are facing.

The ACMA was established in 1954. It is a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to increasing the knowledge and ability of city, town, and county managers, as well as other local government administrators. They also strive to strengthen the quality of local government in the State of Arizona through professional management, education, training, and the mutual exchange of information. For more information on the Arizona City/County Management Association, please click [here](#).

[Top](#)

Legislative Session Snapshot

The 54th Legislature, First Regular Session marks its 19th day of the legislative session today. As of today 976 bills and 89 memorials/resolutions have been introduced.

The Senate bill introduction deadline is next Monday, February 4th at 5:00 P.M. and the House Bill request deadline is next Friday, February 8th at 5:00 P.M.

To view more important dates for the legislative session, please click on the following links:

- [Senate deadlines](#)
- [House deadlines](#)

[Top](#)

CSA Legislative Update

The status of CSA's legislative agenda package is as follows:

- 1) CSA Legislative Budget Priorities
 - [SB 1140 county contributions; committed youth; repeal](#) (Leach), Passed the Senate Appropriations committee with a unanimous vote this week, currently awaiting Rules.
 - [SB 2429 appropriations; EORP contributions; counties](#) (Thorpe), assigned to House Government and Appropriations committees
- 2) [HB 2143 Water Basin Advisory Councils](#) (Cobb), pending committee assignment
- 3) [HB 2316 junk vehicles; removal; counties](#) (Campbell), pending committee assignment
- 4) [HB 2277 indigent defense funds](#) (Biasiucci), assigned to House Judiciary and Appropriations committees
- 5) [SB 1084 funeral; last illness; expenses; lien](#) (Borrelli), Passed the Senate Judiciary committee with a unanimous vote this week, currently awaiting Rules.
- 6) Rural Transient Lodging Tax

[Top](#)

Next Week: Committee Agendas

- The full schedule for the House and Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearings can be found [here](#).

Monday

- The [Senate Rules Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 4th, at 1:00 pm in Senate Caucus Room 1
- The [House Education Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 4th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 1
- The [House Regulatory Affairs Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 4th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 5
- The [House Military & Veterans Affairs Committee](#) on Monday, February 4th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 3
- The [Senate Government Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 4th, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 3
- The [Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee](#) will meet on Monday, February 4th, at 2:00pm in Senate Hearing Room 1

Tuesday

- The [House Commerce Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 5th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 3
- The [House Elections Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 5th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 5th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 5th, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 109
- The [Senate Education Committee](#) will meet on Tuesday, February 5th, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 1

Wednesday

- The [House Judiciary Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 10:00 am in House Hearing Room 3
- The [House Technology Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 5
- The [Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 109
- The [House Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 1:30 pm in House Hearing Room 1
- The [House Federal Relations Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House State & International Affairs Committee](#) will not meet with the permission of the Speaker
- The [House Transportation Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 2:00 pm in House Hearing Room 3
- The [Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee](#) will meet on Wednesday, February 6th, at 2:00 pm in Senate Hearing Room 109

Thursday

- The [House Government Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 1
- The [House Health & Human Services Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 4
- The [House Land & Agriculture Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 9:00 am in House Hearing Room 3
- The Senate Commerce Committee will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 1
- The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 109
- The [Senate Water and Agriculture Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 9:00 am in Senate Hearing Room 3

[Top](#)

NACo Webinar: What's Next for WOTUS and the Federal Clean Water Act?

On February 4, NACo will host a webinar with the State and Local Legal Center on the proposed update to the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps.). During the webinar, participants will hear from Samuel Brown, a former EPA attorney and currently a partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, who will provide a summary of the proposed regulation and the potential implications on state and local governments. This webinar will provide participants an opportunity to better understand the proposed WOTUS rule ahead of the forthcoming public comment period.

The webinar is scheduled for Monday, February 4 at 1:00 PM Eastern Time. To register for the webinar, please click [here](#).

[Top](#)



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