

Annual Meeting & Water Conference



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& WATER
COUNCIL
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Friday, August 23, 2024

Salt River Project

PERA Training & Conference Center

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AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

From Ditchbank to Dinner Plate

Our Purpose

To maintain the integrity of Arizona's water supplies and the industries that rely on these essentials for the benefit of Arizona's economy.

Officers of the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona

President, Tom Davis YCWUA
Yuma County Water Users' Association

Vice-President, Donovan Neese RID
Roosevelt Irrigation District

Treasurer, Glen Vortherms MWD
Mesa Verde Water District



AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

The Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona (ABWC) is a not for profit trade association, whose membership represents the agricultural community from Ditchbank to Dinner Plate in Arizona. ABWC was established in 1978 to respond to proposed water legislation and to later serve as the State Affiliate to the National Water Resources Association. Its members are comprised of growers, ranchers, suppliers of equipment, cities, attorney groups, agricultural processors, financiers of agribusiness enterprises, trade associations, electrical, irrigation and drainage districts, and major state universities.

Our Mission

To represent irrigated agriculture and agribusiness by working to promote and protect water resources in the state of Arizona and to actively educate, support and promote all aspects of water, agriculture and agribusiness.

Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona Executive Officer

Interim Executive Director
Stephanie Knight-Dubien

Our Goals

Alert, educate and link its members on current issues important to water, agriculture and agribusiness including, but not limited to federal and state legislation that impacts Arizona's water, agriculture and agribusiness; federal and state water, power and land policies and regulations; groundwater management; changes in taxation proposals and policies; rural, state and regional economic development. Achieve a working consensus among its members on the best and most prudent course for

agriculture to pursue in conjunction with its position in Arizona's economy. Speak with one voice to generate further support within the industry and to effectively communicate that support to state and federal entities, major state universities as well as to the general public and to gain their understanding and favorable action on an issue under consideration.

Board of Director Members

The Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona has a very talented and diverse Board of Directors, that meets regularly to develop and promote the best water policy possible for its members and water users throughout Arizona. Our door is always open!





AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

A Message from the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona President, Tom Davis



We welcome everyone in-person and virtually to the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona's Annual Meeting & Water Conference. We could not make such meetings take place without you our members, colleagues, our sponsors, staff, Salt River Project PERA Conference & Training Center and University of Arizona College of Ag, Life & Environmental Sciences or their technical and resource expertise. We appreciate your attendance and trust you will leave with some new contacts, strengthened relationships, and learn something new.

For several years after it's formation, ABWC focused primarily on representing agricultural groundwater users. The Groundwater Code was implemented, the CAP delivery system became operational, and as our membership expanded to include more ag interest from the Colorado River, our focus became towards surface water interests. However, during these years we were constantly reminded by our members of the growing problem of rapid groundwater depletion in many basins in Arizona that have little to no recharge. Many of these basins are being mined at a rapid rate. These basins are traditionally ag communities, but have been experiencing rapid population growth and increases in other industries.

We are supportive of Governor Hobbs' and the Department of Water Resources' initiative to manage the aquifer withdrawals in these groundwater basins. The Governor's Water Policy Council, lead by ADWR, was tasked to formulate a bipartisan groundwater management program focused on these distressed basins that have well pumping rates that far exceed the aquifer recharge. Many of these basins are being mined at such a rate that their economies, many are supported by ag, will disappear when the aquifer is pumped dry, possibly within a few decades. ABWC was invited to participate on the council. The effort was to involve affected communities in managing this "race to the bottom" and over pumping in these distressed basins. A yearlong deliberation resulting in a framework that allowed ADWR and local residents in each basin devise a plan to withdraw water at rates that would prolong the life of these aquifers. This framework resulted in HB2857. This bill was introduced but didn't get a hearing in legislative committees. Meanwhile, during this legislative session a similar bill was drafted SB1221. This bill was passed through the House and Senate but is considered inadequate by several residents and elected officials in some of these basins. Members of our Board along with the assistance of Representative Tim Dunn have fostered discussions between the Governor's staff and the sponsors and supporters of SB1221 in hopes of developing a more comprehensive bill during this coming session. I necessarily, believe that this legislation could be worked on and result in a successful bill next session. Good legislation often takes time to get it right.

The topic of water in Arizona is so critical. It is nice to know that partnerships and discussions are taking place all year long.

Again, thank you for joining us and have a great day and safe travels.

President Tom Davis
Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona



Welcome to the ABWC 2024 Annual Meeting & Water Conference

The Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona
Annual Meeting & Water Conference Committee Chairman, Mathew Beyer
Serving as your Master of Ceremonies for Today's Program.

We welcome and thank you for taking your time to join us for the Annual Meeting of the Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona. Your in-person and virtual attendance reflect your important interest in Arizona water. The current and future management of Arizona groundwater and the Colorado River is vital and intertwined. We trust you will find the speakers very informative and leave with a water-focused mindset as to how Arizona can continue to flourish with sustainable, forward thinking practices to manage the current challenges for Arizona and the Colorado River.

Annual Meeting & Water Conference



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PRESENT

Murky Water in Arizona

Friday, August 23, 2024

Located at the SRP PERA Training & Conference

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN WILL BEGIN AT 7:45AM

THE PROGRESS

- 8:30AM **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**
Tom Davis, President of the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona
- 8:35AM **A MESSAGE FROM THE ARIZONA GOVERNOR**
Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs
- 8:45AM **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA (WIFA) UPDATE**
Jonathan Lines, Chairman of the Board, Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona
- 9:05AM **ON-FARM WATER IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PROGRAM AND ARIZONA WATER POLICY**
Arizona Representative Tim Dunn, Legislative District 25
- 9:20AM **ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN WATER & AGRICULTURE**
Meghan Scott, Esq. Noble Law Office Attorney

THE POWER

- 9:30AM **INDUSTRY WATER CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP**
Craig Caballero, Owner of Caballero Dairy Farms & Chairman/Interim CEO of United Dairymen of AZ
- 9:45AM **GILA BEND BASIN**
Robert Van Hofwegen, General Manager Paloma Irrigation & Drainage District and Electrical District #8
- 10:05AM **ARIZONA INDUSTRY GROWTH & HOW THAT IMPACTS WATER AND POWER**
Chris Camacho, President & CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council
- 10:25AM **A MESSAGE FROM THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Paul Brierley, CEO and EDD of the Arizona Department of Agriculture

10 MINUTE NETWORKING BREAK

THE POSSIBILITIES

- 10:35AM **WATER MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**
Glen Vortherms, Coordinator of the WMCP and General Manager, Maricopa Water District
- 10:45AM **UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AUGUST 24 MONTH STUDY**
Erin Orozco-Whitaker, Bureau of Reclamation Hydrologist
- 11:00AM **VERDE RIVER AND SALT RIVER WATERSHED**
Leslie Meyers, Chief Water Executive and Associate General Manager of Water Resources for Salt River Project
- 11:25AM **CROP PER DROP AND WHY ARIZONA IS #1**
George Frisvold, Professor & Extension Specialist, University of Arizona Dept of Ag & Resources Economics
- 11:40AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS, ARIZONA POLITICAL CLIMATE**
Mike Noble, CEO Noble Predictive Insights
- 12:40PM **CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**
Tom Davis, General Manager, Yuma County Water Users' Association

LUNCH IS SERVED

- 1:15PM **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS BY THE AGRIBUSINESS & WATER COUNCIL OF ARIZONA**



A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Arizona Governor, Katie Hobbs

Born and raised in Arizona, Governor Hobbs has spent her life exemplifying hard work and public service. After putting herself through college at both NAU and ASU, she began her career as a social worker working with homeless youth and later helped run one of the largest domestic violence shelters in the country. After seeing her fellow Arizonans continue to struggle with little action from the government, Governor Hobbs decided to take matters into her own hands and run for office.

After being elected to the Arizona House in 2010, Governor Hobbs went on to serve in the Arizona State Legislature for four terms, including two as Senate Minority Leader. After working across the aisle to deliver for Arizonans, Governor Hobbs saw an opportunity to use her leadership skills to serve Arizonans across the state. In 2018, she was elected Secretary of State, where she successfully oversaw a contentious election cycle and forcefully defended the votes and voices of every single Arizonan. Seeing her home state at a critical turning point, Governor Hobbs made the decision to run for Governor, and in 2022 was elected the fifth woman, and also fifth Arizona native, to lead the state.

With over a decade of public service, Governor Hobbs sees her role in government as a continuation of her social work. In her first term, she has already moved the needle forward on some of our state's most critical issues, including housing, water security, and economic development. Governor Hobbs approaches every situation and every challenge with a desire to make people's lives better and give every Arizonan an opportunity to thrive.

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WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona Update Jonathan Lines WIFA Chairman of the Board

WIFA Board Chairman Jonathan Lines has a deep love for the West and for his hometown of Yuma, Arizona. Jonathan's roots in Rural Arizona run deep, with family who ranched and mined in Pima, Safford and Thatcher, Arizona before settling in Yuma in the 1930s. Chairman Lines is the general manager of Lines & Lundgreen Roofing and Insulation Inc., and formerly served as the chairman of the Arizona Republican Party from 2017-2019. Prior to leading the state party he chaired his county party for three terms and served as the Arizona Republican Party Treasurer.

Jonathan's high moral standards, work ethic, commitment to excellence, and natural born leadership skills have been crucial to his success in family, business, and community. Jonathan is an avid outdoorsman, family man, and public servant, involved in numerous organization including the Boy Scouts, Rotary, and Caballeros de Yuma. Jonathan has also serves on the Arizona-Mexico Commission and the Arizona State Fair and Expositions Board. Lines was appointed to the WIFA Board in 2022 and elected Chairman in 2024.

Jonathan is married to Rosalie from Provo, Utah. They have 11 children, 8 boys and 3 girls.



On-Farm Water Irrigation Efficiency Program Arizona Water Policy Representative Tim Dunn, Legislative District 25

Tim Dunn was elected in 2018 to the AZ House of Representatives. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Government Committee and is a member of the Natural Resources, Energy & Water and Appropriations

Committees and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility. His committee assignments have helped him protect the land, water, and agricultural interests of District 25 and rural Arizona.

Tim is a lifelong resident of Yuma. He graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. in Agronomy and is currently working on a Masters of Legal Studies: Law and Economics Concentration. He is married to his wife Eileen Dunn, has two sons, Kirk and Timothy Ty Dunn, daughter-in-law Sierra and granddaughters Coralee and Ada.

A successful businessman, Tim continues to create jobs throughout LD25. Together with his wife, they own Dunn farms, Dunn Grain Co., Upstream Development Co., and several Sport Clips Haircut franchise stores in Yuma, Buckeye, and Goodyear.

Tim is also an active founding board member of Champion Christian Church in Yuma where he enjoys helping the church in building community outreach opportunities. In his free time, Tim enjoys the outdoors, off-roading, exploring the backroads of Arizona, fishing, hunting, and competitive barbecuing.





Designed to support, promote, celebrate and inspire women with careers and interest in water and agriculture through education, networking and fellowship.



Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture Meghan Scott, Esq. Noble Law Office Attorney

Meghan C. Scott is licensed in both Arizona and California, and focuses on water and agriculture law.

Meghan also has experience in business and corporate law, contracts and contract negotiation, estate planning and administration, real estate law, human resources and employment matters, civil litigation and homeowners' associations.

For further information and Event Details, visit:

www.agribusinessarizona.org



Industry Water Conservation and Stewardship

Craig Caballero, Owner of Caballero Dairy Farms and Chairman/CEP of United Dairymen of Arizona

Craig Caballero is a second-generation dairy farmer and owner of Caballero Dairy Farms in Eloy, AZ. He grew up on his family's dairy in Gilbert, Arizona, and attended college at Grand Canyon University, where he received his degree in Business. After college, Craig played in the Minor Leagues for the Detroit Tigers and Chicago Cubs. He returned to Arizona in 1998 with an entrepreneurial desire in business.

Today, Craig continues to grow his dairy operations and personal growth in the dairy industry. Along with his wife Heather, children Anika, Joseph, and Ethan, he has grown to milk over 5,200 cows and houses over 10,000 replacements in his herd. Sustainable practices are at the heart of the operation, including water re-use, recycling, and feeding byproducts. In addition, the state-of-the-art dairy completed a methane digester project in the spring of 2024. Craig is the Chairman of the United Dairymen of Arizona and sits on many Dairy Industry Boards, including National Milk Producers Federation Executive Board, Newtrient BOD, and NDM BOD. Craig and his wife Heather are driven by a passion for the Dairy Industry and are highly active in local philanthropic efforts. However, family, friends, and farming are his true loves.





Gila Bend Basin

Robert Van Hofwegen, General Manager of Paloma Irrigation & Drainage District & ED8

Based in Gila Bend, AZ, Robert VanHofwegen is a proficient District Manager with experience in agriculture, irrigation, and utility management. He serves as the District Manager for Paloma Irrigation and Drainage District and Electrical District Number Eight, and partners in the management of Sunset Farms and Westwind Brothers transportation company. Robert is known for his expertise in budgeting, logistics, software development, and staff supervision.



With a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Arizona State University, Robert has effectively managed projects worth millions and secured significant funding for water conservation initiatives.

His skills in Node-Red and SCADA programming have enhanced operational efficiency across various districts. An avid pilot, Robert enjoys flying, and spending time with his family when he isn't working.



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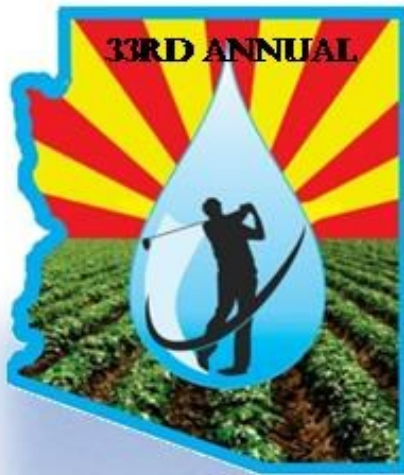
Greater Phoenix Economic Council

Arizona Industry Growth & How that Impact Water and Power
Chris Camacho, President & CEO
Greater Phoenix Economic Council

Chris Camacho serves as president & CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), one of the longest-standing public-private partnerships for economic development across the country. As chief executive, Chris leads the development and execution of the region's strategic economic strategy, oversees domestic and international business development, and ensures the market position remains competitive through coordination with partner organizations, private sector leaders, and municipal and state leadership. GPEC has attracted more than 540 companies during his tenure, creating more than 100,000 jobs and \$56.8 billion in capital investment. Some notable

projects include TSMC, Apple, LG Energy Solutions, Microsoft, GoDaddy, Amazon, Garmin, General Motors, HelloFresh, KORE Power, Williams-Sonoma and headquarters including Benchmark Electronics, Carlisle Companies, Rogers Corporation and EMD Electronics. In October 2021, Chris led GPEC to being recognized as the top economic development organization globally by the International Economic Development Council a year after being named the top EDO in the U.S. in 2020.

Margaret received her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Northeastern University in 2017 and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering (Hydrology, Water Resources & Environmental Fluid Mechanics) in 2022 from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Margaret's graduate research focused on groundwater-surface water interactions on the Columbia River in Washington state.



H₂O Open

Tommy Caywood Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, October 18, 2024

Shotgun Start at 9:00am

Francisco Grande Golf Resort



SAVE the DATE!

www.agribusinessarizona.org/annual-h2open



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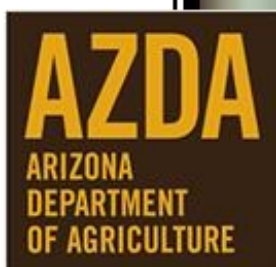


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A Message from the Arizona Department of Agriculture **Paul Brierley, CEO and EDD of the** **Arizona Department of Agriculture**

In June of 2023, Paul Brierley was appointed Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. Paul was raised working on his family's farm in central California. After earning an Electrical Engineering and Computer Science degree and conducting applied telecommunications research, he returned to production agriculture in Southeast Arizona before serving as Director of Organization at the Arizona Farm Bureau.



With a background in agriculture, research, leadership and politics, Paul was chosen to serve as the inaugural Executive Director of the University of Arizona's Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture (YCEDA), which he built into a highly effective research organization focused on usable results that impact the desert agriculture industry's pressing problems.

Paul also chaired the University of Arizona's Presidential Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate.



Paul is a Flinn-Brown Fellow, a Project CENTRL graduate, and has served in leadership positions with many organizations including the Arizona Farm Bureau, Arizona Crop Improvement Association, Yuma Multi-university Campus Corporation, Arizona Town Hall, Arizona District Export Council, Aerospace Arizona, Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation.

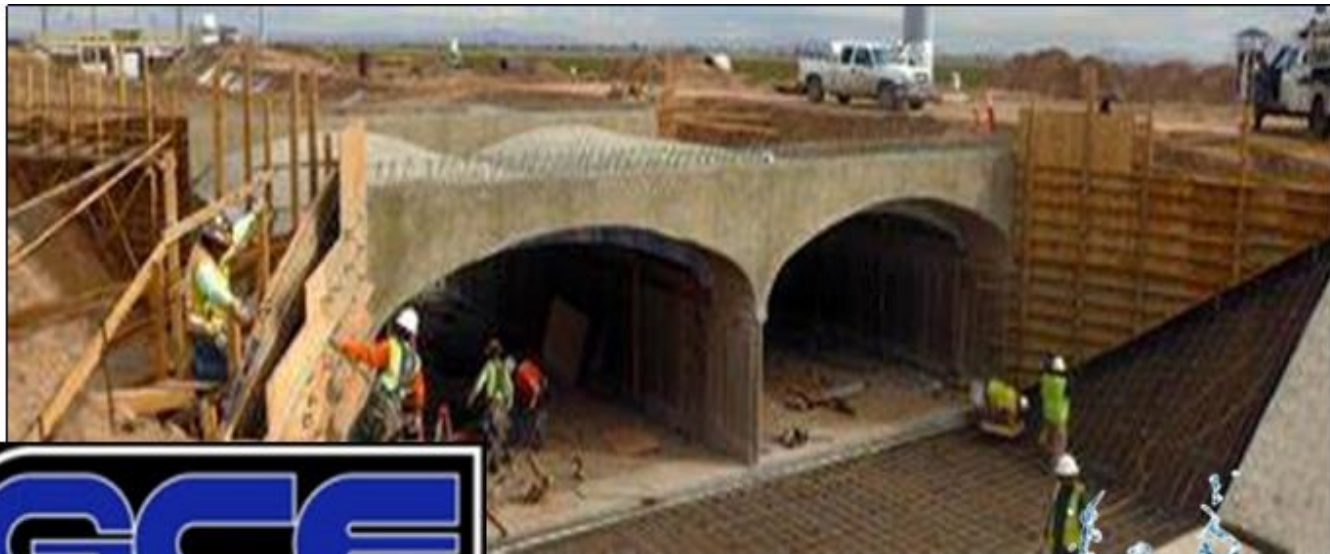
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WATER MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

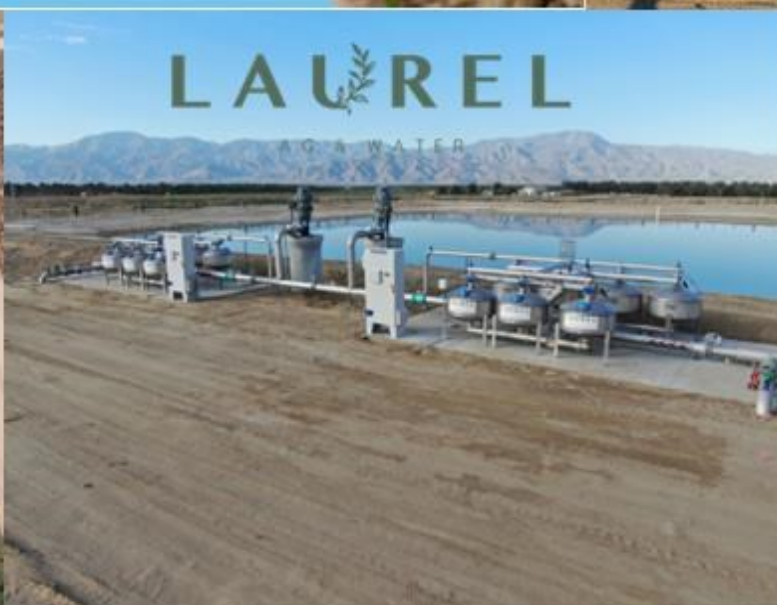
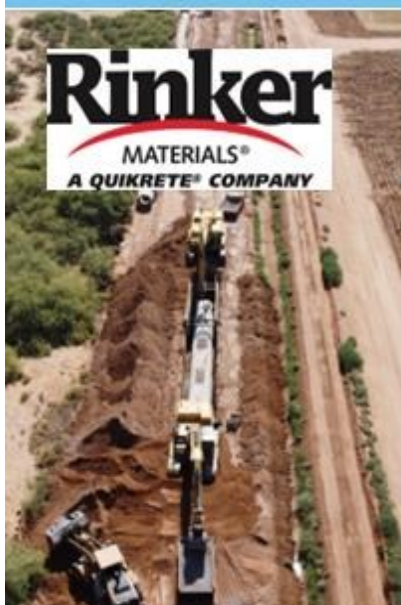
Glen Vortherms, General Manager, Maricopa Water District and Coordinator of the Water Management Certificate Program



Providing an overview of the program and the impact this program has on educating our future Arizona Water Managers and Leadership.



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UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AUGUST 24-MONTH STUDY

Erin Orozco-Whitaker Hydrologist, River Operations Group
with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Erin Orozco-Whitaker started her federal career as a hydrologist for United States Geological Survey in 2010 before transitioning to the Bureau of Reclamation in 2022. Currently, she serves as a hydrologist within the River Operations Group.

In this capacity, Erin manages daily and mid-term operational models of the lower Colorado River system, offering critical support for both annual operations planning and the day-to-day management of the Colorado River from Lake Mead to Mexico.





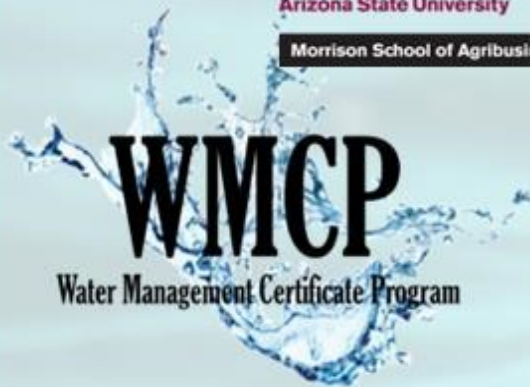
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To enroll and for more information, please email: stephanie@agribusinessarizona.org



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Verde River and Salt River Watershead

**Leslie Meyers, Chief Water Executive and Associate General Manager of Water Resources
Salt River Project**

Associate General Manager & Chief Water Resources and Services Executive. Leslie joined SRP in 2022, with more than 30 years of water resources management experience in Arizona and the southwest. Throughout her career, Leslie has worked on strategic initiative planning and implementation with Federal, States, Tribes, irrigation districts, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and others. Leslie received a BS degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and is a registered Professional Engineer.



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Agricultural & Resource Economics

Crop Per Drop and Why Arizona is #1

George Frisvold, Professor & Extension Specialist
University of Arizona Department of Ag & Resources
Economics

George Frisvold is the Bartley P. Cardon Chair of Agribusiness Economics and Policy and professor and extension specialist in the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics at the University of Arizona. He received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He has been a Visiting Scholar at India's National Institute of Rural Development, a Lecturer at the Johns Hopkins University, and Chief of the Resource Policy Branch of USDA's Economic Research Service.

From 1995-1996, he served as a Senior Economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisors responsible for agricultural, natural resource, and international trade issues.

Dr. Frisvold's research portfolio includes the management of land, water, and other natural resources.

He is currently an associate editor of the journal *Water Economics and Policy*.



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Upcoming ABWC Events:

- ◆ September 20-21, 2024 Water Management Certificate Program begins Cohort XII 2024-2025
- ◆ October 18, 2024 33rd Annual H₂Open Tommy Caywood Memorial Golf Tournament, Francisco Grande in Casa Grande
- ◆ December 2024 Check our website for a NEW AAWWA Yuma Ag Tour!

4455 East Broadway Road, Suite 102 Mesa, AZ 85206



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Please Contact by Phone or Email at: (480) 558-5301 or stephanie@agribusinessarizona.org

**Elston Grubaugh, General Manager
Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation & Drainage District**

**Glen Vortherms, General Manager of
Maricopa Water District**



PRESENTS



Keynote Address, Arizona Political Climate
Mike Noble,
CEO Noble Predictive Insights



Mike Noble is the Founder & CEO of Noble Predictive Insights (NPI), the leading nonpartisan public opinion polling, market research, and data analytics firm based in the Southwest. Noble is a thought leader in public opinion tracking and analysis, known for being a trailblazer in his field. Mike found a passion for politics while working for an Arizona Congressman before starting NPI. Since then, he has been deemed "a preeminent pollster in the Southwest" (- NBC News) by regularly conducting public and voter sentiment work throughout Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, as well as a trusted source for public opinion polling nationwide. Noble handles client presentations, public and private speaking engagements, and interviews with notable news outlets and has been published more than 4,000 times. Mike graduated from Arizona State University and has 3 sons with his wife Rebecca Noble.





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Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona Presentation of Awards

Distinguished Service Award

Statesmen Award

Special Recognition Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

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NB|AZ® is committed to serving the agribusiness community. With over 65 years of experience combined, Cody Stephan, Carrie Morales and Matt Eyrich bring a wealth of knowledge to their roles on the Agribusiness team. Our bankers come from farming families and have hands-on experience in the agriculture industry. They understand the complexity of farming/ranching operations and the diverse financial needs of farmers across the Southwest.

Let's talk

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CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT Yuma County Water Users' Association General Manager, Tom Davis



Thank you for joining us for the 2024 ABWC Annual Meeting & Water Conference. We're grateful for our members, friends, colleagues, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and others for your participation in our Murky Water in Arizona, ABWC Annual Meeting & Water Conference.



Our door is always open.
Come by or give us a call.
Thank you!