

Hobbs: Crackdown on water use is unlikely

GSN NEWS SERVICES

While a Colorado River conservation plan has yet to be approved by the federal government, Gov. Katie Hobbs made two things clear two weeks ago: Arizona will lead the way in the tri-state agreement and Arizonans need not worry about a water-use crackdown.

The governor's news conference came days after Arizona, California and Nevada agreed to conserve 3 million acre-feet of Colorado River water by 2026.

"Whether you are a new parent worried about the future of your child, a business owner concerned about the sustainability of our economy, or a student who just wants the government to take climate change seriously, Arizona is taking action," Hobbs said. "I look forward to Arizona leading the way in continuing to build an

Arizona for everyone."

But last week, state water officials said they won't issue any permits for new subdivisions for some areas on the fringes of Phoenix, the first real acknowledgment that the state's water supply cannot support all of the anticipated growth.

Tom Buschatzke, the director of the Department of Water Resources, said a newly completed analysis of the groundwater in the basin in and around Phoenix shows there simply won't be enough to provide the legally required 100-year supply of water. State law requires such assurances in the major metropolitan areas.

But nothing in the new order will bring development to a halt - at least not in much of the Phoenix area.

Tom Buschatzke, the Arizona Department of Water Resources director, said

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day it was," Hansen said. "A couple of our kids went to therapy. I did for a short time.

"We took in her fiancé, he stayed with us three months. He felt closest to Rachel being here."

Although Bailey no longer lives with the Hansens, he stops over nearly every day to have dinner with the family.

"He's part of our family," Hansen said. "We love him as a son."

The investigation

Although it's been a full year with no arrest, Hansen said she is "very optimistic" that the police will close the case.

"We do meet with the detective every couple of months," she said. "He kinds of says, 'We are working on it, we done some things. We go down one rabbit hole and something else pops up.'"

"They have been following a couple of different leads but that is all they can tell us. They don't want anything to get out.

"I think it's going to take some time. And we are just continuing to keep her story alive and known and out there so

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that people don't forget about it. I want people to be aware. We think of Gilbert as a safe community and yet this tragic thing happened."

Although her daughter is gone, Rachel's legacy continues on with the creation of a nonprofit animal rescue.

Hansen in May began setting up a nonprofit dog and puppy rescue called Rachel's Rescue.

"Rachel fostered and cared for dogs and puppies with me," Hansen said. "And she always wanted to start a rescue."

A grim anniversary

With the anniversary of Rachel's murder, Hansen said what really stood out for her was the mass shooting of 19 students at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas on May 24, 2022.

"She spent this day last year sobbing and sobbing," Hansen said. "It affected her so, so much that innocent children were shot and killed. It was just a very emotional that day and for several days she was questioning and trying to understand how could that happen? We had no idea that a short time later..."



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