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Sustainability: Finding Balance for Arizona
Dear Fellow League Member:

As president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, it is with great pleasure that I welcome the inaugural issue of Arizona City and Town magazine. This bi-annual publication will contribute greatly to our work not only as local leaders, but also in addressing regional issues that cross many of our borders.

The League staff has produced a wonderful new publication that will help to broaden the channels of communication among our state's municipal leaders. Much of this premier edition focuses on Arizona's future, and for good reason. “Where Are We Growing: 2020 and Beyond” is a message that ties well into the League's upcoming annual conference and its theme, “Today's Choices: Tomorrow's Reality.”

Coming from a community that is heading quickly toward residential build-out, the subject of growth carries many challenges, yet just as many opportunities. I congratulate the League for tackling this matter with passion and a sense of urgency so we may quickly and collectively begin to seek a vision for future success. Arizona is a dynamic state that has developed well these past 95 years. It is now our charge to see that success continue.

Once again, welcome to Arizona City and Town. I look forward to future editions as we continue to work for the good of the people of Arizona, and its cities and towns.

Sincerely,

Boyd W. Dunn
League President
Mayor, City of Chandler
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When you think of Arizona, what comes to mind? With more than 6 million people in the state today, there are probably close to 6 million different answers — whether you think about our enormous variety of spectacular natural features; the fact that we’re the fastest-growing state in the nation; that there are incredible opportunities for businesses and employment; that we’re rich in quality of life and have some of the best resort and vacation destinations in the world; or that we are in the major leagues of national political impact. We are fortunate to live here.

Arizona’s cities and towns are at the heart of making the state a great place to live and work. Our economic impact is monumental — with more than 80 percent of the state’s residents living in incorporated cities and towns, producing 91 percent of the state income tax revenue and 93 percent of the state sales tax revenue. The investment cities and towns make in economic development is critical to the state’s financial strength, and our investments in public safety, parks, streets and other infrastructure help to create a safe, positive atmosphere for families and businesses to thrive.

With so much going for us, it is important sometimes to take a step back, gain a little perspective and reflect on how fast the world is changing around us, and yet how much we still value the things that attracted people here decades ago.

With this new publication from the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, we hope to provide you with some material that will enable you to do that. We want this magazine to be thought-provoking and something that will stay with you for a while. Think of it as the League’s “coffee table” publication, one that reflects an image of quality and value and showcases some of the many different aspects of our state and its citizens.

I’d be delighted to hear from you about your reaction to this magazine and any comments or suggestions you may have for future issues. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Ken Strobeck
Executive Director

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Formation and Administration of Community Facilities Districts
What Our Legislators Have to Say

We asked several state legislators the following question: ______

Paula Aboud

“A lthough there are myriad of issues that I could speak to — transportation, water, education — I feel very strongly about public safety and, most especially, the safety of women and children in their homes. The responsibility of a just society is to protect its citizens — especially its most vulnerable ones. Local governments and the state could do much more for providing services and assistance to people in their times of need. A safe society is a more productive society, and that should be a greater goal of state and local government.”

— Senator Paula Aboud, District 28

Kirk Adams

“A s the fastest growing state in the nation, A rizona faces many challenges. One of our biggest challenges is transportation infrastructure. The usual politics and inherent rivalries between the Legislature and local governments will produce gridlock, figuratively and literally. Likewise, status quo transportation funding and planning will not be sufficient to keep A rizona’s goods and services rolling on our highways. Together, we must closely examine commuter rail, toll roads, toll lanes and innovative funding sources. A collaborative effort is imperative to our success.”

— Representative Kirk Adams, District 19

Steve Farley

“Dealing with growth. Instead of restricting options for local municipalities to obtain adequate revenues, the Legislature should be collaborating with towns and cities to find creative new ways to fund the public safety, transportation, healthcare and education infrastructure that our citizens are demanding as we grow.”

— Representative Steve Farley, District 28

Jake Flake

“Revenue sharing is the monetary lifeblood of cities and towns. I feel that it is a fair and efficient way for municipalities to receive a good share of their funding. This gives them the money to provide services to their people at the local level. I believe that the least amount of government that we can get by with is the best government, and what government we must have is the best when it is closest to the people. If the cities and towns did not have the money to provide many of these services, the people would be asking the county or state for them. I am happy to help them with their revenue sharing and have them provide the services.”

— Senator Franklin “Jake” Flake, District 5

Ann Kirkpatrick

“Local governments and the legislature should collaborate to ensure A rizonans, especially those living in the Flagstaff area, have access to affordable housing. Homes in my district are so expensive that many citizens cannot afford to purchase their own home. Buying a home is one of the best ways to improve a person’s economic future and be vested in a community. Elected officials at all levels need to develop strategies to ensure A rizonans have access to affordable and quality homes.”

— Representative A nn Kirkpatrick, District 2
“Public safety issues involve both the state and municipalities. The laws we pass at the Legislature have no value if the cities lack resources to implement and enforce them. In my neighborhoods, the police and fire departments are integral partners in assuring a resident’s quality of life. The legislature should partner with cities to seek solutions and resources to address community problems, not simply impose solutions.”

— Senator Debbie McCune Davis, District 14

“We as a state Legislature must be made to realize that despite our authority under the Constitution, there are some things that are simply not our job. We are supposed to meet for a few months each year to deal with issues of statewide importance. When we forget that, we waste precious time that could be spent on issues critical to the state and make it harder for local officials to deal with the mundane but very serious issues that face our constituents every day.”

— Representative Tom Prezelski, District 29

“With Arizona recently being named the fastest-growing state in the nation, it is important that we work cooperatively, on a regional basis, to address our growing transportation needs. In order to sustain our quality of life and vibrant economy, we must also look beyond traditional approaches and identify innovative methods of building infrastructure. Our cooperative efforts must include the public and private sector working together to develop solutions to the increasing transportation infrastructure needs as we continue to grow.”

— Senator Jay Tibshraeny, District 21

“It is imperative that local governments and the Legislature come together and create a transportation plan for the voter’s consideration in 2008. Finding dollars to improve on a $20 billion shortfall on an annual basis is poor business planning, and it short-changes Arizona’s opportunities to expand its economic base and attract good-paying jobs. A strong plan for transportation over the next 20 years will give stability to investment and a design to build from. Arizona’s future growth opportunities are at risk without a plan to fund this investment, and our chance to economically make this investment becomes more challenging the longer we delay.”

— Representative Andy Tobin, District 1

“With the incredible rate our state is growing, our local governments and Legislature must work closely in planning and land use. I do not feel the Legislature should mandate what the localities do, but [it should] provide comprehensive guidelines to help make Arizona a well-planned, progressive state.”

— Representative Theresa Ulmer, District 24
WHERE ARE WE GR

2020
**EDITOR’S NOTE:** As Arizona cities and towns confront the various challenges brought about by a rapid increase in population, there are a number of different opinions about how to respond in order to maintain the quality and character of our state for future generations. As part of a dialogue about the issue in this new League publication, we asked researchers at Arizona State University’s Morrison Institute to share their perspectives with us in advising municipal leaders about how to deal with growth and limited resources. Views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the League of Arizona Cities & Towns or our member municipalities. If you have comments about this article, please share your thoughts with us by writing to director@azleague.org.

The U.S. population topped 300 million late in 2006, while Arizona noted a record-high estimate of more than 6 million residents. At the same time, global experts were talking about the dawn of the “urban century” now that, for the first time, more than half of the world’s inhabitants are living in cities. These arresting facts’ implications for jobs, education, water, energy, livability and governance illustrate why sustainability is not just a timely issue, but one of the most urgent and compelling challenges of the 21st century.
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Today, sustainability is a headline topic, in part because of the alarms sounded by dramatic population growth, clear environmental declines and significant gaps between “haves” and “have nots.” In addition, businesses are realizing that doing good and doing well are mutually reinforcing, not mutually exclusive. Public and private sector leaders across the country and around the globe are concluding that “business as usual” threatens quality of life, and indeed, life in total. From every quarter, experts and consumers are starting to agree that change is required now to ensure positive futures and quality places. At the same time, dramatic advances in technology have provided possibilities that breakthrough innovations will help in solving some of the world’s toughest social, economic and environmental problems.

In Arizona and across the country, sustainability is at the heart of a growing number of initiatives in all kinds of public and private sector organizations. For example, in Arizona, Dial Corporation has adopted sustainability as a value and dramatically changed its manufacturing processes — in part to meet the expectations of Wal-Mart, a major customer. Individuals and businesses can buy clean energy offsets from Arizona Public Service to show others how to be carbon neutral. Arizona State University has created the Global Institute of Sustainability, which includes a School of Sustainability, and has begun to train students with all types of academic experiences to put sustainability into practice. The Diablo Trust is preserving ranchland, and all of northern Arizona is reaping economic, community and environmental benefits as a result. “Community supported agriculture” is developing around the state, allowing more Arizonans to get their food from local suppliers, as Northern Arizona University scholar Gary Paul Nabhan encouraged in his book *Coming Home to Eat.* United Way of Pinal County’s initiative on early childhood development increases equity by helping all youngsters to be ready to learn. Efforts to revitalize west Phoenix neighborhoods address livability, jobs and sustainability at the same time.

Despite the interest, however, efforts to communicate the meaning of sustainability, establish policies and measurements for balance, and change entrenched decision-making processes are still in their infancy. A myriad of good intentions and interesting, yet isolated, actions have so far not made sustainability more familiar and less mysterious for many. Nearly everyone worries about the staying power of their communities, but they still wonder: “How can we ‘do’ sustainability?”

This is especially true when the realization sinks in that sustainability is about much more than being “green,” important as that is. Many aspects of sustainability are complex realities that policymakers have struggled with for decades. Such issues as family well-being, environmental quality, educational equity, student achievement, career path-career pay jobs and smart growth have
been covered in countless publications. Sustainability, however, approaches these issues of the day differently. Better described as a journey than a destination, sustainability draws on knowledge from many disciplines and accepts people as part of — and decision-makers in — the environment. Instead of classic “silo” thinking, it looks for integrated solutions that serve the economy, environment and society simultaneously. It acknowledges the part that values play in choices and everyone’s responsibility for a quality future. Sustainability reflects both a monumental concept of life on a global scale and a simple notion of balance that applies to every person. The most commonly used “official” definition comes from the 1987 United Nations’ landmark report, Our Common Future, from the World Commission on Environment and Development. This document included the definitions and descriptions of sustainability and sustainable development that are perhaps most widely used today:

1. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2. Human needs are basic and essential; economic growth — but also equity to share resources with the poor — is required to sustain them; and equity is encouraged by effective citizen participation.

3. “Environment” is where we live, and development is what we all do in attempting to improve our lot within that abode. The two are inseparable.

4. The concept of sustainable development does imply limits — not absolute limits, but limitations imposed by the present state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and by the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities.1

In 1999, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences published its report on the topic, Our Common Journey: A Transition Toward Sustainability. This work focused on answering two fundamental questions:

1. What is to be sustained? Nature, life support and community

2. What is to be developed? People, the economy and society2

Whether defined in the flowery language of international diplomacy or the homespun words of the old adage “don’t eat your seed corn,” governments, businesses and organizations everywhere

1 Ibid.
are increasingly putting sustainability into practice as:

• an overarching value that requires using the best practices at every level of every organization every day;

• a policy framework for creating and monitoring strong economies, healthy environments and equitable opportunities;

• a flexible planning model for local, state and national programs; and

• a new mantra that reinforces the part everyone plays in ensuring a quality future.

As Michael Willis, general manager of the Blue Mountain City Council (New South Wales, Australia) notes, “everyone” definitely includes local governments: “The answers for sustainability do not come solely from the global political arena, but also from the very things we do at the local level. For nowhere is change more achievable than at the individual and local levels. In so many ways, it’s the things we do locally that really count.”

Even so, states and metropolitan regions by themselves cannot easily measure their impacts on global conditions. What they can do, however, is monitor their progress (or lack thereof) toward balance as a proxy for contributions to improvement in the world. Locally, sustainability can be viewed simply as the “right” or “wrong” path in specific, agreed upon areas, which can be tracked via measurable indicators. Some models in use now include:

• Genuine Progress Indicator – Adds to standard GDP, measures the value of such things as household and volunteer work, and services of streets and highways; it subtracts from GDP the non-market value of such things as money spent for repairs, the social cost of divorce and the depletion of environmental resources.

• Oregon Benchmarks – Employs a broad set of 90 indicators to measure progress toward the three sustainability goals: quality jobs; engaged, caring, safe communities; and healthy, sustainable surroundings.

• Sustainable Competitiveness Index – Monitors the balance among economic, environmental and equity elements for the San Diego region.
• Living with the Future in Mind – The state of New Jersey’s program for tracking 41 indicators. A 1995 stakeholder process selected items for monitoring economic vitality, quality education, healthy people, efficient transportation, decent housing and ecological integrity.
• Green Plan Capacity Index – Combines 65 indicators in environmental management, environmental policy innovation, fiscal and program commitment, and quality of governance to assess the ability of individual states to implement viable policies for sustainability.

To make headway toward sustainability, communities will have to foster a set of shared values and a dynamic process for making decisions, tracking trajectories and recognizing balance. They will need to identify what is to be measured and monitored so their policies are meaningful for everyone. They will have to make the word and the concept stand for positive actions and accomplishments. Because the stakes are high, the expectations are also high.

History shows us that wise choices, smart growth and sound investments are possible. But is there still time? Will Arizona play against type and act quickly and broadly enough to embrace a sustainable future? Arizonans are vitally interested in the answer.

Some observers say that balance is an unattainable goal. This school of thought holds that a tension among the three is more likely than equilibrium – one or another will take precedence at any time. To these commentators, the best Arizona’s leaders can do is to keep the economy, environment and society in mind while making decisions. This awareness and, hopefully, a willingness to analyze the impact of every decision on the economy, environment and society indeed may be the first step to a decision-making process that truly balances the three. As President Theodore Roosevelt counseled: “In a moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing to do. The worst thing you can do is nothing.”

Nancy Welch is the associate director of and Rick Heffernon is a senior policy analyst with Morrison Institute For Public Policy, which conducts research that informs, advises and assists Arizonans. A unit in the School of Public Affairs (College of Public Programs) at Arizona State University, the Institute is a bridge between the university and the community. Morrison Institute’s forthcoming Arizona Policy Choices report (2007) will focus on sustainability. For more information, visit www.morrisoninstitute.org.

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In this issue, we are highlighting two elected officials who have served the League for many years: Former Mayor of Apache Junction and Past President of the League Douglas Coleman, and Mayor of Globe and Executive Committee member Stanley Gibson.

Douglas Coleman

Former Mayor of Apache Junction and Past League President

Former Mayor Coleman has had a long and illustrious career as a local elected official. He began his service on the Apache Junction City Council in 1991 and was elected mayor in 1995. He was the first mayor in Apache Junction history to win a re-election bid, which he subsequently did four more times.

He joined the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Executive Committee in 1992, serving as an officer of the organization from 2002 until June of 2007. In those five years, he served as League Treasurer, Vice-President and President. After 16 years of service to Apache Junction, he has decided to step down from his position as mayor.

Q: How are cities different today than when you started on the town council?

Former Mayor Coleman: “I really don’t think cities have changed all that much. We are still focused on giving our residents the very best quality of life possible. The challenges of providing good police, fire, parks and roads are still the same. The change has come, I think, from the way the legislature sees us; it’s more difficult to work with our legislators today. They tend to look at us as another “special interest” rather than as a government partner that represents the same constituents they do. With cities as the economic engine of the state, we should be treated more as equals, each with a special job to do in serving the people of the state.”

Stanley Gibson

Mayor of Globe and League Executive Committee Member

In June 2007, Stanley Gibson, Mayor of the City of Globe and League Executive Committee member, will begin serving his fortieth year as a local elected official. His political career began in 1960, when A.V. Bill Hardt (former Globe Mayor and State Senator) asked him to run for the Ward 3 council position. Gibson was elected and held that position for seven years. In 1973, he was appointed to the council and served until 1998 with one term as mayor from 1978 to 1980. In 2000, he was elected mayor as a write-in candidate and has been re-elected three more times.

Mayor Gibson has been actively involved with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, as an Executive Committee member from 1964 to 1967, and again from 2000 to the present.

Q: What are you most proud of during your tenure at the city of Globe?

Mayor Gibson: “Before I was elected in 1978, the City of Globe had received a million dollar grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to build a new sewer plant. The project had been stalled and sidetracked due to lawsuits from people who were against the plant and the numerous environmental studies that followed. When I was elected mayor in 1978, I was able to work with the various groups to overcome the obstacles and bring the project to a successful completion.

I also worked for many years to secure and establish the 360+ acre Round Mountain Hiking Park. We received a $50,000 Heritage Grant and are and still developing trails right now. This project has been a focal point in the last ten years.

Finally, I think that just being re-elected so many times is an achievement. I have had a lot of help over the years — I couldn’t do this alone!”
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Entertainment Gift Ban: “The Basketball and Ballet Rule”

Tonight, the Phoenix Suns have a big game or the Diamondbacks are playing for first place in the NL West. Tickets are scarce and expensive, but a lobbyist calls you and offers you tickets to one of the events. As a local elected official, can you accept? The answer is “no,” but one of your municipal employees could accept.

The Arizona Legislature addressed this question in 2000 and amended the statutes governing lobbyists. Laws 2000, Ch. 364. This legislation, effective January 1, 2001, prohibits an elected or an appointed official of a state or political subdivision from accepting a gift for entertainment. The statute, A.R.S. § 41-1232.08, entitled “Entertainment ban; state and political subdivisions” specifically states in subsection (B) that “An elected or appointed member of... a city or town governing body... shall not accept from a person who for compensation attempts to influence the
passage or defeat of legislation, ordinances, rules, regulations, nominations and other matters that are pending or proposed or that are subject to approval [lobbyist]... an expenditure or single expenditure for entertainment...

The term “gift” is broadly defined and includes, among other things, any expenditure, which includes any payment, distribution, loan, advance or gift of money or anything of value. Single expenditure is any expenditure that provides a benefit of more than $20. A.R.S. § 41-1231.

The term “entertainment” means the amount of any expenditure paid or incurred for admission to any sporting or cultural event or for participation in any sporting or cultural activity. A.R.S. § 41-1231. Thus, the statute is dubbed the “basketball and ballet” ban.

Based upon statute, an elected or appointed member of a city or town governing body may not accept tickets to a sporting or cultural event. As with any statute, however, exceptions exist. The “basketball and ballet” prohibition doesn’t apply to “entertainment in connection with a special event properly reported” or if the “entertainment... is incidental to a speaking engagement.” A.R.S. § 41-1232.08(C).
“Special event” is not specifically defined but arises in the context of expenses relating to a special event to which all members of the Legislature, either house of the Legislature or any committee of the Legislature are invited. A.R.S. § 41-1232.03(F). “Speaking engagement” is specifically defined but only in the context of state officers or employees. Both exceptions apply only to state officials and employees, not to elected or appointed officials of a city or town.

A curious twist to the “basketball and ballet” ban is that it doesn’t apply to employees of a city or town. In A.R.S. § 41-1232.08(A), the section specifically states that it applies to state officers or state employees with similar prohibitions for entertainment gifts. Subsection (B), which applies to cities and towns, makes no mention of city or town employees. In interpreting statutes, the primary task is to determine the intent of the Legislature. The best indication of legislative intent is the statutory language itself. Canon Sch. Dist. No. 50 v. W.E.S. Constr. Co., 177 Ariz. 526, 529, 869 P2d 500, 503 (1994). The inclusion of state employees in subsection (A) and the exclusion of city or town employees in subsection (B) manifests a legislative intent that state employees may not accept tickets to sporting or cultural events, but city or town employees can accept such tickets.

In summary, the Legislature has enacted a scheme that:
1. Allows some gifts to city and town council members but not gifts of tickets to sporting or cultural events; and
2. Allows city or town employees to accept gifts of tickets to sporting or cultural events.

Many cities and towns are now enacting codes of ethics, which may include a prohibition on accepting any gifts from lobbyists to any elected or appointed officials, and to the city and town employees. Although the statutes permit city and town employees to accept “basketball or ballet” tickets, the employees should check with the City Attorney to ensure compliance with city ordinance and ethics codes.

Legal Corner

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In February, the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground’s grand opening celebration took place at the West Wetlands Park in Yuma. Hundreds of excited kids waiting outside the playground chanted along with Yuma City Administrator Mark Watson during the final countdown: 10...9...8...7...6...5... at this point, the kids could hold back no longer, so with a rushed 4...3...2...1, the kids flooded into the playground. Since then, the playground has been packed with hundreds of visitors every day.
The Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground is one-of-a-kind experience for children and their families. The unique components throughout the playground came from the imaginations of over 5,000 local schoolchildren. It is custom-designed, with art features, bursts of color and musical elements throughout. The playground contains separate areas and swings for both tots and school-aged children. It is wheelchair accessible and includes a variety of play features for special needs children, as well.

Local business owners Ron and Stephanie Martin, who made the initial $100,000 donation, had requested the West Wetlands Park for the playground site to honor a dear friend, the late Stewart Vincent Wolfe, who loved the park. The Caballeros de Yuma contributed $50,000, and between the two, they led the way to nearly $400,000 raised through community contributions. In addition, hundreds of dollars in in-kind goods and services were donated.
The playground was built by more than 8,000 community members who volunteered their time and contributed to the future of Yuma’s children.

The city of Yuma provided the site for the playground at the West Wetlands Park, along with funding for Leathers and Associates (the consulting firm that guided the playground’s planning/design and build process); it also donated the time of several city employees for the management of the project. Partnerships with Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and BetterYuma.org were formed and proved critical to the success of this massive undertaking.

The planning process was accomplished over several months and was led by over 50 volunteers participating on
nine different committees. They worked diligently to organize various facets of the project, which culminated in the “playground build,” which took place on February 8-12 and 15-19, 2007.

The playground was built entirely by community members, young and old, working side by side in just 10 days time, similar to an old fashioned barn-raising. Volunteers worked during three shifts a day, with free meals and childcare provided for all workers. At the end of the build, more than 8,000 individuals had volunteered their time to the project, and each walked away feeling they had contributed to the future of Yuma’s children and had many memorable experiences and stories to share.

At over three acres in size, the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground is the largest playground in Yuma and is valued at three times its actual cost, because the labor was provided by volunteers. The playground build offered an opportunity for citizens to collectively give back to the community and enjoy a shared sense of pride. Community-built benefits go far beyond the cost savings; community-built builds community!

To visit the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground, take First Street to 12th Avenue, head north (toward the Colorado River), and cross the railroad tracks. Turn left at the roundabout for playground parking.

For more information about the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground, visit www.ci.yuma.az.us or contact Greg Hyland, CPM, director of communications and public affairs (and project co-coordinator) at Greg.Hyland@ci.yuma.az.us.

Since 1950, Kitchell has been building better communities through the program and construction management of schools, libraries, police and fire facilities, detention centers, courts, theaters and performing arts centers, museums, healthcare facilities, civic centers and parking garages.

Kitchell TOGETHER, BUILDING VALUE EVERY DAY.
PAGE: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOOMING
Development in Page is booming, and it’s not just the waterline replacement and roadway rehabilitation that is changing the face of the city. Currently, there are over 20 projects under construction or awaiting necessary approvals to begin construction, including new residential subdivisions, new restaurants and updates to existing stores. The growth reflects the city’s commitment to be a proactive player in obtaining new revenues, better services and a higher standard of living for its citizens.

BULLHEAD CITY: GROWING POPULATION DRIVES NEED FOR SECOND BRIDGE
Local, state and federal officials in Arizona and Nevada are working on a second bridge across the Colorado River to accommodate the rapidly growing numbers of residents and visitors in the Bullhead City/Laughlin, Nev., area. The existing single, four-lane Laughlin Bridge is over 20 years old and straining under an average daily load of 50,000 vehicle trips. A rapidly growing area population, plus 4 million annual visitors, are driving the need for at least one more bridge. Federal funds have been obtained to help with initial studies, but more is need to complete the project. An important “Public Scoping” meeting will be held in Bullhead City on July 18.

SCOTTSDALE: WORKING WITH CITIZENS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO PRESERVE
Working in cooperation with user groups and citizens, and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, the city of Scottsdale developed an Access Area Plan and a Conceptual Trials Plan to provide for public access to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve area. Today, the community is well on its way to implementing these plans for the Preserve, with two professionally designed access areas constructed and a third designed. In addition, over 25 miles of trails have been created for non-vehicular, multiple use. Staff is working with user groups on establishing trail alignments and with volunteers from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy to build the trails or on more difficult trail segments contracts with a professional trail builder.

SIERRA VISTA: ALL ABOUT WATER
When the subject of growth comes up in Sierra Vista, the discussion inevitably turns to water. While everyone seems to agree that protecting the San Pedro River is of great importance to Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca, people don’t always have enough information on area water issues to have informed discussions. The city recently decided it was time to provide easy access to that information and launched a new Web site: “All About Water.” Check it out at www.sierravistawater.com.

NOGALES: PARTNERING TO SOLVE WATER CHALLENGES
Construction has begun on a unique project to treat wastewater along the U.S./Mexico border, an undertaking that has brought together environmentalists, local municipalities and a variety of government agencies. The project is a $62.5 million upgrade to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is the only plant of its kind to treat wastewater from both the U.S. and Mexico. The upgrade will ensure the plant complies with all environmental quality standards while helping to address the future needs of the area. Once completed, the project will treat an average of 9.9 million gallons per day of wastewater from the city of Nogales, Sonora; 4.1 million gallons per day from Nogales, Arizona; and .74 million gallons per day from Rio Rico Utilities (which serves the Rio Rico area north of Nogales).
Laird & Dines Building, Tempe

The Laird and Dines Building is significant for its long association as the location of the Laird and Dines Drug Store. This long-standing business by two of Tempe’s most significant citizens began in 1897 with backing by the Laird family and the experience of Dr. J. A. Dines. By 1901, they were located in the building that was constructed in 1893 by L. A. Amirault for Dr. S. C. Heineman and R. Gill. By 1901, it was known as the Richardson Block, named after William Richardson, a local lawyer who owned it at the time, and by 1914, it was known as the Laird and Dines Building.

The drug store continued in this location for 63 years. During this time, Dr. James A. Dines also served several terms as mayor of Tempe (1904-1912 and 1916-1920), with a total of 20 years service on the city council, and he served on the State Pharmacy Board. Hugh Laird was a member of the city council from 1924 to 1962, also serving as mayor and as a member of the state Legislature. Architecturally, the building represents the stylistic evolution of Tempe, from Victorian features to Southwestern Spanish Colonial Revival influence.

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Power Lunch

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