Growing Demands on Ag Water Demonstrate the Need for Ag/Urban Water Dialogue

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What’s the Problem?

• Not Enough Water: who wants it? EVERYONE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The high price and ongoing demand for water supplies demonstrates that there is a current shortage for Agriculture and Water Provides.

There has always been water shortages in Agriculture and the Environment. Now with a bursting population there is a more evident shortage of water for all.

NO NEW SUPPLIES, and INCREASED HYDROLOGIC VARIABILITY
Urbanization...

1960

2017

Source: Water Route Framework Streams
- Irrigated Agriculture (2010)
- Municipalities (2017)
- Most Recent Municipality Data (2017)
- Basin
What’s the Problem?

- Urban Development demands more than Agriculture
  Most crops “USE” (consume through ET) between 20” and 26” of applied irrigation water per year
  Most water court cases yield between 10.2” and 18” of HCU for Buy and Dry
  Most water providers require 36” to 60” of dedicated water for a development...NOT ALL OF THIS IS FULLY CONSUMED THOUGH

- Generally for every acre developed, between 3 and 5 acres are removed from irrigation with BUY AND DRY techniques
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CBT ownership 1960-2017
Water Supply and Use Timing doesn’t match

Buy and Dry will NOT work without MORE STORAGE FOR FULL YEAR DELIVERY
When Farms Are Dried up

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Why do we need to work together?

1. Water providers need Ag to stay viable to use excess water in “Normal” and “Wet” Years
2. Water providers have obligation to deliver return flows “Forever” throughout the irrigation systems
3. Our Economies are interconnected and we all do better when we work together
4. Most (86% voted for open space) citizens recognize the value of agriculture
   1. Open Spaces with beautiful views
   2. Rural Character
   3. Clean Air and Clean Water
Call to Action

- Develop working relationships to ensure Ag viability
- Leverage collaborative projects from all sectors
- Do effective land use planning