



Environmental Day at the Capitol coming up...and so are more attacks on democracy



February 3, 2023

Hi all!

Well, the bills are moving through the legislative process with rapid speed so far. We shall see if they get held up in either chamber, and which ones get a veto. As expected, this week, the House and Senate majority introduced and the Senate passed a "skinny budget." The House will consider it on Monday. It seems destined to the waste bin, but apparently they are hellbent on making their point with the Governor.

The count on anti-democracy bills rivals 2022, but unlike 2022, there is someone in the Governor's office who is respectful of democratic processes. Still, we want to keep as many of these bills as possible from reaching the Governor's desk.

We're still waiting to learn who the Governor will appoint to her office of resiliency, but an announcement on that is expected any day. Speaking of appointments, the Senate decided to set up a whole new process for reviewing executive nominations, so rather than going before the committee that is focused on that subject matter, there is now a special five-person committee that just considers nominations. This is clearly to send a message to the Governor to be concerned about confirmations. The first nominations will be considered on Thursday.

There was a bit of good news this week, SB1224, a measure to reinstate the full \$10 million per year for the State Parks Heritage Fund, passed out of the Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee 7-0. It is up on the Appropriations agenda next week, which is where it has gotten pared down in the recent past. We hope you will sign in to support it and strongly urge the full funding.

See below for what is coming up at the Capitol next week and details on Environmental Day at the Capitol.

If you have not signed up yet for the Request to Speak system to voice your position in support or opposition to bills, we encourage you to do so now as you will need to get the account activated at the Capitol. [Here is a link for signing up.](#) If you are coming to Environmental Day at the Capitol, you can activate your account then. To learn more about how to use the Request to Speak System, you can sign up for one of the trainings sponsored by Civic Engagement Beyond Voting. [Here is their sign-up link.](#)

Please consider signing in on Request to Speak to oppose SB1093, SB1122, SB1140, SB1141, SB1143, SB1144, SB1170, SB1213, SB1257, SB1265, SB1312, HB2231, HB2411, HB2415, HB2535, HB2547, HB2561, HCR2033, HCM2002, HCM2004, and HCM2007, and to support SB1224, SB1392, SB1714, HB2505, HB2506, and HB2518.

To review bills we are tracking, [go to this link.](#)

For more information, reach out to Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Thank you so much for helping to promote good public policy!

All the best,



Sandy Bahr
Chapter Director
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

Coming Up This Week at the AZ Legislature



Historic Capitol courtesy of Sandy Bahr

Monday, February 6th

House Committee on Land, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs at 2:00 PM in HHR3
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2505 outdoor recreation coordinating commission; continuation](#) (Diaz) continues this until 2029. This commission reviews and provides comments on statewide recreation issues for state parks. **SUPPORT**
- [HB2506 Arizona state parks board; continuation](#) (Diaz) continues state parks until 2029. **SUPPORT**
- [HB2518 appropriation; Glassford Dells regional park](#) (Bliss) appropriates \$3.5 million to the State Parks Board for Prescott and Prescott Valley to establish the Glassford Dells regional park, provided the cities and county provide a match. **SUPPORT**
- [HCM2002 federal lands; housing shortage](#) (Griffin) sends a message to Congress seeking to open up more public land to development. **OPPOSE**
- [HCM2004 urging Congress; national forest health](#) (Griffin) has a lot of misinformation about national forests and asks Congress to change the management. **OPPOSE**
- [HCM2005 hunting; angling; wildlife conservation](#) (Griffin) asks Congress to respect Game and Fish and hunting and fishing. I'm not sure what the point of this is. **MONITOR**

Senate Committee on Elections at 2:00 PM in SHR1
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1140 elections; voting centers prohibited](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits counties from using voting centers -- they can only use polling places in the districts. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1141 early ballot drop off; identification](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) requires voter identification to just drop off an early ballot. This is unnecessary and will result in additional disenfranchisement. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1143 voting registrations; ballot requests; source](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits anything other than the official early ballot request forms, limiting grassroots efforts to get people signed up for early voting. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1144 electronic ballot adjudication; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits electronic adjudication of ballots and requires creation of a duplicate ballot if the ballot has been damaged. This seems unnecessarily burdensome. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1170 ballot drop boxes; prohibition](#) (Hoffman: Borrelli, Farnsworth, et al.) prohibits the use of unmonitored drop boxes for voting, thus making early voting more inconvenient for those who prefer not to use the mail. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1175 registrations; observers; counting procedures; verification](#) (Kavanagh) expands the authorized uses of precinct registers and other lists of information derived from voter registration forms, among other things. **MONITOR**
- [SB1201 early ballots; signatures; electronic pollbooks](#) (Kavanagh) prohibits a county recorder from comparing the signatures of the voter's early ballot affidavit with the

signatures from the electronic pollbook. I have no idea why he is proposing this.

MONITOR

- [SB1213 legislative council; procedures manual](#) (Kern: Kolodin) substitutes legislative council for the secretary of state relative to the elections procedures manual. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1265 voting; elections; tally; prohibition](#) (Kern: Mesnard, Rogers, et al.) prohibits ranked choice voting. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1273 early ballot delivery; instruction requirement](#) (Bennett) requires information on ballot abuse and felonies to be included with the early voting information. **MONITOR**
- [SB1287 election returns; canvass; review](#) (Kaiser) requires the canvass of an election to be postponed if returns from any polling place are in question and until the governing body has examined all returns. **MONITOR**
- [SB1303 campaign finance; contributions; reporting](#) (Mesnard) says that if an in-state individual has made prior contributions totaling less than \$100 during the election cycle, only those contributions that exceed \$100 when added to the prior contributions must be included in a campaign finance report. **MONITOR**

Senate Transportation and Technology at 2:00 PM in SHR2

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1122 transportation tax; election; Maricopa county](#) (Farnsworth: Cook) directs Maricopa County to hold an election for the sales tax for transportation and prescribes how much it will be and what it will be used for, including that 80% will go to freeways. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1229 appropriation; State Route 347](#) (Shope) appropriates \$18 million for intersection improvements. **MONITOR**
- [SB1312 vehicle mileage; tracking; tax; prohibitions](#) (Hoffman) prohibits the state or any political subdivisions from developing land use or transportation plans that include vehicle miles traveled reductions, prohibits VMT tracking, and prohibits any per mile fees. This last item is being looked at as an alternative to the gas tax. This bill also runs counter to state implementation plans for reducing pollution. **OPPOSE**
- [SB1321 appropriation; Little Colorado River levee](#) (Hatathlie: Alston, Borrelli, et al.) appropriates \$20 million to rebuild a levee on the Little Colorado River in Winslow. **MONITOR**

Tuesday, February 7th

Environmental Day at the Capitol!

House Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 2:00 PM in HHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2439 vehicle emissions inspections; enactment date](#) (Griffin) pushes out the date on some conditional enactments relative to emissions inspections changes. **MONITOR**
- [HB2448 appropriation; groundwater; Santa Rosa canal](#) (Martinez: Cook, Smith) appropriates \$25 million to the AZ Department of Water Resources to go to two irrigation districts for infrastructure. **MONITOR**
- [HB2535 private property; wells; regulation; prohibition](#) (Smith: Carter, Chaplik, et al.) says private wells cannot be regulated by cities when property with private wells is incorporated into a city. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2561 city water provider; requirements; service](#) (Kolodin: Chaplik, Griffin, et al.) tries to require that Scottsdale continue to provide water to Rio Verde. **OPPOSE**
- [HCR2012 support; water management policies](#) (Griffin) supports continuing water policies that "protect property rights and water rights." I am not sure the purpose of this. Write a letter for pity sake.

Senate Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM in SHR109

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1002 appropriation; livestock loss board](#) (Kern) appropriates \$250,000 for the livestock loss board to compensate livestock interests for losses associated with wolves. They should include a provision that says those receiving the dollars cannot sit on the board. **MONITOR**

- [SB1065 appropriation; widening; I-10](#) (Shope: Borrelli, Terán) appropriates \$360 million to widen I-10 between Casa Grande and Chandler. **MONITOR**
- [SB1102 appropriation; SR 303; Route 60](#) (Carroll: Shamp, Livingston) appropriates \$3 million for improvements to this intersection. **MONITOR**
- [SB1224 state parks; lottery; heritage fund](#) (Shope) restores the \$10 million from lottery dollars for the State Parks Heritage Fund for trails, protecting cultural sites, education, etc. **SUPPORT**
- [SB1229 appropriation; State Route 347](#) (Shope) appropriates \$18 million for intersection improvements. **MONITOR**
- [SB1321 appropriation; Little Colorado River levee](#) (Hatathlie: Alston, Borrelli, et al.) appropriates \$20 million to rebuild a levee on the Little Colorado River in Winslow. **MONITOR**

Wednesday, February 8th

House Committee on Government at 9:00 AM in HHR3

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2536 administrative review; approvals; developments](#) (Toma) allows cities to set up an expedited review process for developments via ordinance. **MONITOR**
- [HB2547 zoning ordinances; property rights; costs](#) (Toma) requires cities to adopt individual property rights cost of housing impact statement regarding the impact of any zoning ordinance. **OPPOSE**
- [HCM2007 state immigration enforcement; urging Congress](#) (Griffin: Carroll) asks Congress to pass a bill to allow states to bypass federal border and immigration policies. **OPPOSE**

Senate Committee on Government at 9:30 AM in SHR2

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1093 city water provider services](#) (Kavanagh) requires the cities to provide water via standpipes if they have been providing it previously to areas outside the city if certain conditions are met. This is again trying to force Scottsdale to provide water to Rio Verde. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Appropriations at 2:00 PM in HHR1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#):

- [HB2026 appropriation; on-farm efficiency fund](#) (Dunn) appropriates \$30 million to the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Fund. Increasing irrigation efficiency is a worthy goal. Unfortunately, no change in the type of crop is allowed, no switch to something less water intensive. **MONITOR**

House Committee on Municipal Oversight & Elections at 2:00 PM in HHR4

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2078 counties; elections; state audits](#) (Diaz: Marshall, Pena) allows any person to seek an explanation from elections officials regarding various actions related to elections and provides for an audit by the Secretary of State. **MONITOR**
- [HB2231 early absentee voting; limitations; conflicts](#) (Harris: Heap, Jones, et al.) makes early voting into absentee voting and only allows someone to vote early under certain conditions. This would decrease voting significantly. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2415 active early voting lists; removal](#) (Biasiucci: Bliss, Carbone) removes voters from the active early voting list if they fail to vote early in one election cycle, instead of two. This will result in a significant purge of this list and in fewer people voting. **OPPOSE**
- [HB2560 images; voter lists; records; contest](#) (Toma: Bennett) requires that a list of all eligible voters be posted, all people who voted, and images of ballots. **MONITOR**
- [HCR2033 primary elections; eligible candidates](#) (Smith: Chaplik, Heap, et al.) refers to the ballot a constitutional amendment that says each political party can nominate just the number of offices available and any others would go on the next general election. It would preclude ranked choice voting. **OPPOSE**

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure at 2:00 PM in HHR3
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [HB2285 appropriation; Jackrabbit Trail improvement](#) (Livingston) appropriates \$22,600,000 for these improvements. **MONITOR**
- [HB2289 appropriation; State Route 24](#) (Cook: Carter, A Hernandez, et al.) appropriates \$18 million for this. **MONITOR**
- [HB2411 water supply; elimination; reduction; damages](#) (Cook: Martinez, Toma, et al.) tries to make Scottsdale liable for termination of water service to Rio Verde. What they really should be doing is tightening regulation, not proposing this kind of bill to reward wildcat development. **OPPOSE**

Thursday, February 9th

Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water at 9:30 AM in SHR2
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

- [SB1223 water infrastructure; commerce grant fund](#) (Shope) appropriates \$8 million to this entity for grants to contract for the design and construction of water infrastructure. **MONITOR**
- [SB1257 water resources; assistant director](#) (Petersen) requires the Department of Water Resources director to appoint an assistant director that only works with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority on augmentation. This would put even more resources into augmentation versus conservation. Why not have this person focus on that? **OPPOSE**
- [SB1390 water infrastructure finance authority; amendments](#) (Kerr) is a clean-up bill for last year's massive bill on the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority that set up an augmentation program and provided some funding for water conservation. We are still reviewing this clean-up bill. **MONITOR**
- [SB1391 department of environmental quality; counsel](#) (Kerr) allows the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to employ outside counsel. **MONITOR**
- [SB1392 appropriation; state park; Verde River](#) (Kerr) appropriates an undesignated amount for a state park at the headwaters of the Verde River. It is good to see legislators supporting parks again. **SUPPORT**
- [SB1714 appropriation; Arizona trail fund](#) (Gowan: Shamp, Shope) appropriates \$250,000 for the Arizona Trail Fund. **SUPPORT**

Senate Committee on Director Nominations at 2:00 PM in SHR1
Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting [here](#).

Executive Nominations

- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - Karen Peters, Director
- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES - Dr. Theresa Cullen, Director
- DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY - Angela Brooke Rodgers, Director

Environmental Day at the Capitol on Tuesday and
Check out the recorded briefings



Environmental Day at the Capitol
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM (meetings with legislators, as can be scheduled)
11:30 AM Registration
Noon Program, Tabling, and Opportunities for Action
2:00 PM News conference on trees for kids
4:00 PM Wrap up

To prepare for Environmental Day, we held a series of briefings. Find links to the recordings of those briefings below.

- To view **Water, Climate, and Democracy**, a reflection on the 2022 AZ Legislative Session and an overview of the 2023 AZ Legislative Session to date, [go here](#).
- To view the **Climate and Clean Energy in Arizona** briefing, [use this link](#).
- To view the **Volunteer Lobbying Workshop**, [go here](#).
- **Water 101**, an introduction to water issues in AZ can be [watched here](#).
- Our program on **Environmental Justice in Arizona** can be [viewed here](#).
- Watch a briefing on **Environmental Day Bills** [here](#).

