

## Topics & Questions

### I. Strategy choices (mix between questions):

- A. CWAG Questions—> candidate answers
- B. CWAG Statement -> candidates discuss

### II. Prescott Water Issues and Priorities

- A. **Introduction:** CWAG provided all the candidates with a Basic Facts document that summarized water issues in the PrAMA and the Big Chino, including issues specific to Prescott.
- B. **Question:**
  - 1. What do you see as the major water management issues facing Prescott?

### III. Prescott Water Policy

- A. **Introduction:** In 2022 the Mayor established the Mayor's Commission on Water Policy Review and Monitoring. The Commission recommendations were approved by the Council on March 26, 2024.
- B. **Questions:**
  - 1. One key recommendation was to use a water budget to manage growth at a controlled rate that permits the City to provide necessary services. What do you think of this strategy and why?
  - 2. Another recommendation supported the policy that no new municipal water and sewer services outside the city limits shall be approved, with specified exceptions. What do you think of this strategy and why?
  - 3. In Prescott Valley and Chino Valley, developers must purchase rights to a 100-year water supply. Should Prescott ask developers to purchase these rights?

### IV. Big Chino Pipeline

- A. **Introduction:** In 1993, the Legislature sacrificed the Big Chino aquifer and the Verde River by creating an exception to water law permitting cities in the PrAMA to import groundwater from the Big Chino sub-basin — enough groundwater export to dry up the upper Verde River twice over — with zero concern for the environmental impacts. This is the legal authority for the controversial Big Chino pipeline project. In April, 2024 the City of Prescott updated the cost of the Big Chino project to \$360,000,000, which did not include the cost to mitigate likely damage to the Verde River. Prescott voters must approve the financing before the pipeline can be built.
- B. **Questions:**
  - 1. Do we need it? Should we build it? When?
  - 2. Financing: Who pays? New users? Current citizens? How much? Public/Private Partnership?
  - 3. How do you know that this is the best solution to our long-term water?

4. Big Chino discussions are now closed to the public so we have no idea what is going on. Do you support greater public transparency?
5. Prescott agreed to mitigate any impacts to Verde River. Do you support this agreement?

## **V. Prescott long-range water planning**

- A. **Introduction:** The Water Policy Review Commission also recommended that the City prepare a long-range water plan. Prescott city staff has begun to develop a long range water plan using grant funds from the US Bureau of Reclamation and city funds. Plan development is now beginning and is scheduled for completion in December 2026. The plan process will include public and stakeholder participation.
- B. **Questions:**
  1. Do you support this planning effort and what should it prioritize?
  2. Should Prescott's water service area be expanded (for example, to Williamson Valley)?
  3. Prescott's has asked ADWR to renew status as a Designated Assured Water Supply provider. If ADWR approves, how will growth be affected?

## **VI. Water Quality:**

- A. **Introduction:** Prescott municipal water complies with all EPA requirements because water from wells high in PFAS or in Arsenic is diluted with cleaner water. One source of the PFAS is treated wastewater recharged at the airport. Prescott has not announced plans to remove PFAS from the treated wastewater for recharge or from drinking water. We have contaminated our aquifer.
- B. **Question:**
  1. How do you prioritize fixing this?

## **VII. Conservation**

- A. **Introduction:** Although Prescott has the best water conservation program in the PrAMA, it can be improved. Water conservation alone will not solve the problem, but it is easy to implement and the least expensive strategy - a foundation for all other measures.
- B. **Questions:**
  1. Do you approve of and support funding Prescott water conservation program?
  2. How could it be improved?
  3. How would you control landscape water use - 28% of our water pumping?
  4. How would you explain to a citizen why they should conserve water?

### **VIII.Regional Cooperation for Water Management for PrAMA**

A. **Introduction:** Although the cities in the AMA share a common water resource, they continue to compete for more water to facilitate growth. CWAG believes that regional planning and management of water resources is the best strategy to preserve a shared water resource and assure long-term quality of life for all current and future citizens.

**B. Questions:**

1. Do you support joining with other cities in the AMA to discuss the possibility of forming a regional water augmentation and conservation authority?
2. What are the best solutions?

### **IX. Closing statement**

A. How do your views on water compare to other candidates?

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### **Parking Lot:**

X. Growth (don't go here!)

- A. View on current growth policy
- B. Legal water for growth to ?? population
- C. Cost of water included in impact fees?
- D. Designated water supply quantity how big can we grow?
- E. How fast at what growth rate?
- F. How far north should we expand?