

Water Solutions for Arizona 2-22-07

Prepared and offered By

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Arizona has a long history of fighting over water and the only thing that has changed is the technology for acquiring water resources. The Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCD's) have been implementing on-the-ground soil and water projects since they were organized to overcome the "Dustbowl Disaster" of the 1930's. The typical sediment and erosion control practices commonly known as "Best Management Practices" are proven to enhance storm water recharge as an added benefit. This proposal is based on projects that are being implemented all over the country and one in particular that has shown dramatic results in Los Angeles, California. This project is called Trans- Agency Resources for Environmental and Economic Sustainability "T.R.E.E.S".

- Urban areas that are paved over with concrete, asphalt and roofs form "heat islands" that cannot dissipate the CO 2. Greenbelts that are full of Trees and shrubs will sequester the CO 2 and can double as recharge areas using cisterns, detention basins and infiltration trenches while cooling the area and reducing the energy needed to cool homes and businesses.**
- These practices can be included in the "Growing Smarter" legislation requiring all cities and Counties to adopt a "Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan" or (SWPPP). A Senate Bill 1557 almost addresses this issue. If every City with a population of over 40,000 and every County is required to adopt a SWPPP with a minimum package of Storm Water Management Practices, the State will be able to withstand extended drought and reduce flood disasters.**
- NRCD's are poised to step up and implement these projects where cities and counties may need the technical assistance and an intermediary to expedite contracting and permitting. NRCD'S have a track record for implementing projects and cutting through the "red tape". The "Best Management Practices" that are proven most effective for our purposes are all approved by The Environmental Protection Agency, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and, Arizona Department of Water Resources.**
- A complete menu of "Urban Best Management Practices is attached". The core list should be the very minimum adopted by each entity across the State and is as follows: guttered roofs with cisterns or infiltration trenches in all new construction, infiltration trenches with or without cisterns on all commercial parking areas, greenbelts with native trees, shrubs, rock check dams and detention basins in all drainages, rain sensors on all automatic irrigation systems and, recharge or reuse all treated effluent.**

Using just these "core practices" Los Angeles has reduced their water use by over 50%. We can do the same Statewide and the best part of this plan is that the practices are inexpensive and proven effective. Great examples of greenbelts if you left out the lakes are Indian Bend Wash and Rio Salado. Thank you for your time.