

Letter #: 301
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Sender Names: 1150:
Emails: 1150: chartwell3@aol.com
Organizations:
Subject: Comment on Bureau Process to Save the Colorado River

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Dear ladies and Gentlemen,

I have a solution to this profound problem of shortage on the Colorado River. It is a solution that has worked extremely well without regulation and bureaucratic tampering. It is socially responsible, politically reasonable, economically dynamic, and legally sound. It may be painful as you well point out it has to be. Sometimes we need that discipline.

I have the greatest respect for the 3 fine ladies now in charge. They have my full respect and support. I understand the politics. I sympathize with their efforts.

With due respect, since 1977 my focus on the river has been to consider the solution for long-term drought. As you know, there have been no real attempts to plan for this event. Now there is a collective denial and plea for the government to do something. Something is not adequate when Mother Nature is in charge.

Conservation is a cardinal principle. It is automatic when a shortage occurs. Now, the most efficient solution is something governments don't particularly like because it is a natural cure.

A free market where all sellers and buyers meet dynamically and continuously offering and bidding for scarce resources. Price is the most efficient allocator of a scarce resource. This has been the reality for thousands of years. This natural price is an honest signal to everyone. It works. They get it. They take action. Equilibrium is reached with much less pain and consternation. This model has worked for thousands of years. Why don't you consider it?

Simple-powerful point: higher prices produce more of the resource and more conservation. Lower prices, like being offered on the Colorado River encourage waste and inefficient processes and fewer new resources.

I know and understand the social dynamic. Compassionate pricing to underprivileged is necessary and will be implemented.

The bottom line is markets work. The Government is in a harsh situation. Freezing up

millions of creative ideas that create efficient solutions may be jeopardized. I hope someone has the fortitude to suggest this path. Government intervention is really dangerous. The natural forces of supply and demand work miracles. Let this age-old magic work.

Do you believe a breach in priority which is being orchestrated in California might be the Fatal Flaw here?

Sincerely,

Thomas C Havens
President
American Water Resources, Inc

1606 Hermosa Place
Colorado Springs, Co.