
Monday's Arizona Republic had three stories/editorials that touched on the extreme importance of Solar Power and water use and conservation to the future of Arizona, California and the Colorado River basin. Every potential Solar development or change in the usage of the Colorado water system has tremendous ecological ramifications, energy ramification, air and climate ramifications, land use ramifications and farming and food production ramifications. But there is a single solution that would have a positive effect on all of these critical concerns. Arizona and California could triple their solar power production, conserve enough water for 100,000 homes, have no impact on land use or require additional land use and have no environmental impact. All we, and of course the energy companies, would need to do is construct a system of solar paneling over all of the Arizona and California (All American Canal) canals. The All American Canal by itself covers 640,000 acres of land – 1000 square miles, and the Arizona canal system covers almost an equal amount of land. If, covering all of these canals, we were to construct a system of solar panels, we could provide energy for over 1,000,000 homes and businesses and save enough water from evaporation to feed over 100,000 homes and businesses. This would not require one (1) additional acre of public or private land, not one (1) single additional \$1,000,000 ecological study, nor one (1) additional acre of potential farm land. All it would require is funding and the will to accomplish something on the scale of the Hoover Dam.