

1-1-2008

## Environmental and Economic Pressures on Public Water Supply

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### Custom Citation

Paul Tigan, Conference Report, Environmental and Economic Pressures on Public Water Supply, 11 U. Denv. Water L. Rev. 392 (2008).

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## Environmental and Economic Pressures on Public Water Supply

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURES ON PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

The first breakout session of the conference addressed the environmental and economic pressures on public water supplies. The three professionals on the panel all hailed from Phoenix, Arizona, and the presentation was a great case study feel that allowed the audience to get a broad sense of the issues affecting Phoenix's water supply. As the panel's moderator, Rita Maguire, Founder of Maguire & Pearce, PLLC in Phoenix, stated in her introduction, the issues surrounding quality and quantity of water have been a concern throughout Arizona's statehood.

Each of the presentations had something of tiered theme. Joan Card, Director of the Water Quality Division in the Arizona Department of Water Quality, addressed the state and federal laws that Arizona municipalities must follow, including the Safe Water Drinking Act, the federal Clean Water Act, and Arizona's Aquifer Protection Program and Groundwater Management Act. Ms. Card's discussion of these overlapping programs mirrored Peter Culp's discussion of the quantity issues of phoenix's water supplies. Mr. Culp, an associate at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP in Phoenix, addressed the advantages and limitations of the various Phoenix water sources, including surface water, groundwater, effluent, and Colorado River water. Each source has its strengths and weaknesses, and concerns that are necessarily drawn from the history of the state, such as contamination of water sources from silver and copper mining.

*Paul Tigan*

## URBAN RIVER RESTORATION

Paul Kibel of Policy West in Alameda, California, moderated a session discussing urban river restoration projects across the United States. Mr. Kibel set the stage for the panel discussion by suggesting that there are really three core aspects to every urban river restoration project: economic, environmental and equity. In terms of economic considerations, such restoration projects must contemplate the acquisition of riverfront properties and the effect of departure of industry from these regions. Urban river restoration projects also implicate many of the environmental laws, including the ESA, NEPA, CERCLA, and the CWA to name a few. In terms of equity considerations, the impacts on minorities and low-income people must be contemplated. Such restoration project planners must take into consideration environmental justice concerns for the projects to be successful and integrated into the communities.

With these background concepts in mind, Uwe Brandes, at Brandes Partners LLP in Washington, D.C., Matt Clifford, with the Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula, Montana, and William H. Hyatt, Jr., Partner at