

## OUR TURN

# Phoenix, residents must do part to conserve water

As leaders of Arizona's largest city, part of our jobs is to create a long-term vision for Phoenix and the region. That means anticipating potential challenges. One critical issue we face is maintaining a water supply that can meet our needs into the future.

Through the Central Arizona Project, the Colorado River provides a significant percentage of the Valley's water. Yet, the river is facing a problem of supply and demand as population growth continues in communities throughout the river basin.

Not only do sources like the Colorado help underwrite residential water for our entire population, they drive our economic health from tourism to high-tech. Our ability to sustain a strong business environment and create new jobs is tied to responsible wa-

ter management.

In the face of increased pressure on the Colorado River basin, Phoenix has led efforts to assure a wide range of water resources for residents. We work closely with the Central Arizona Project to store unused CAP water in underground aquifers where it will be available for future use.

We have tightened plumbing codes, upgraded aged and leaky infrastructure, and required more desert landscaping for new residential and commercial development. With these efforts, Phoenix actually uses less water overall than we did a decade ago.

Yet with the population of central Arizona expected to increase by 50 percent over the next 20 years, our current regional water use is unsustainable. If we don't do more, we will face a



**My Turn**  
**Bill Gates**  
Councilman



**My Turn**  
**Greg Stanton**  
Mayor

challenge that has escalated to crisis.

To meet this challenge, we must all continue to do our part. Some of the things we can do as homeowners are:

- » Perform regular maintenance of outdoor sprinklers, drip systems and plumbing to prevent costly undetected leaks.

- » Consider renovating your landscape using low-maintenance Arizona-native or low-water-use plants.

- » To reduce evaporation, time sprinklers to stop watering before the sun comes up.

- » Go to [phoenix.gov/waterservices](http://phoenix.gov/waterservices) to find out more about our water supplies and how to conserve water.

We all are stewards of this precious natural resource, just as we are stewards of our economy and the future of our community. And we must always remember that the future will one day be the legacy we pass to our children. Let's give them a strong future and a sustainable quality of life that is at least as good as the one we inherited.

*Greg Stanton is the mayor of Phoenix. Bill Gates is a Phoenix city councilman.*