

September 19, 2007

Ms. Val Little  
Director  
Water CASA  
P.O. Box 210075  
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0075

Dear Val and All Your Fellow Members of the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona:

Congratulations to all of you on the occasion of Water CASA's 10th anniversary. Your organization has worked tirelessly over the past 10 years to improve our region's overall water conservation efforts. In our fragile desert home, each one of us must be a water steward, and Water CASA has led the way toward heightened conservation and respect for our water resources.

Water CASA is also to be congratulated for providing more than rhetoric in response to our region's water challenges, but practical advice and actions that have helped to significantly reduce water consumption. In particular, I understand you bulk order conservation devices for use by your members. These efforts have won the support of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation with a \$10,000 grant toward purchasing such things as low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.

I also wish to call attention to your goal of creating public, low-water-using demonstration gardens. I am very familiar with the power of demonstration projects to promote new ideas. They provide people with hands-on knowledge of the benefits of a new technology and a concrete understanding of how it works. When people can see something in action, they understand its potential in a new way. Incidentally, this is why we have recommended solar demonstration projects as part of my southern Arizona solar initiative. Whether they are for solar technology or water conservation these demonstrations help stretch the imaginations of our citizens and let them know there are everyday steps they can take to safeguard, and harness, our natural resources.

It has been my distinct pleasure to work with you over the years to further the cause of smart water management. I was very pleased when, as a member of the Arizona State legislature, I was able to help in your efforts to pass a tax incentive for developers to include plumbing for gray water in their new construction. Now, as a member of the U.S. House of Representative's Water Caucus, I look forward to continuing our work together. I will do all I can at the federal level to support water research, conservation and policies that take into account the importance of water for today and for our future.

And there remain many challenges before us. Today, the pressures on our limited water resources in southern Arizona are greater than ever before, and they are growing. Our

water supplies are threatened by increased groundwater pumping and drought. The possibility of long-term changes in rainfall patterns due to global warming is something we must also consider. All of this makes it imperative that our community lead the nation in creative and effective water management. The sustainability of the communities we love depends on it.

So, once again, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the important role Water CASA plays in raising awareness about water conservation. As you well know, we simply don't have a drop to waste.

Happy 10th Anniversary!

Sincerely yours,

Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress