Data and Mapping to Support Water and Land Use Decisions

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Presentation Overview

• Overview of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
• Overview of the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy
• Babbitt Center’s Interests
• Where we Work
• How to Work with Us
Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy 2006

Babbitt Center 2017
Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

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Water Sustainability and Resilience

Research

Partner

Innovate

Educate
The Colorado River provides water to cities, farms, industries, and ecosystems across seven US States and Mexico. Although not the largest river in the US, the Colorado is the *hardest working*.

- 1,450 mainstem river miles
- 246,000 sq mile watershed
- 14 MAF/year runoff
- 10 major reservoirs
Colorado River System

• 40 million people & industry
  o $1.7 trillion/yr economic activity; 12th largest GDP globally

• 28 federally recognized tribes

• 4 million irrigated acres
  o $5 billion/yr agricultural value

• 10 million Mwh/yr power generation

• Habitat for endangered & threatened species from alpine headwaters to Mexican delta
Sustainability Challenges

• Demand UP …. Supply DOWN
• The Structural Deficit plus Climate Impacts
• Future of Agriculture
• Pressure for Water Transfers
• Rural vs Urban Water Uses
• Environmental/Habitat Uses
• Governance
• Multi-Jurisdictional – Tribal - Bi-National Coordination and Conflict
• Uncertainty
• Land is a Key
Why Is Land Important When Looking At Water Scarcity?

- Water is the lifeblood of the American West
- Land use decisions are made every day that shape our water future
- Coordination of land and water use decisions is critical if we are to meet the current and future water needs of our people, economy, and environment
- Our goal is to assist communities and states in the Colorado River Basin as they strive to integrate appropriate land use policy into water resource management on a local scale
How Do We Work With Partners?

• We are:
  o A nonprofit private operating foundation
  o We work contractually
  o We don’t provide grants