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SLIDES: Thinking the Unthinkable

Lawrence J. MacDonnell

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Thinking the Unthinkable

Lawrence J. MacDonnell

University of Wyoming College of
Law

Assumptions

- The basin's reliable water supply is already fully used
- Every basin state, as well as Mexico, would like to use more water; there are concrete plans for increased consumptive uses
- Global warming means less reliable (and likely reduced) water supplies
- Litigation between the basins highly likely

Possible Elements for Negotiation

1. No new net depletions of basin water
2. Lee Ferry flow obligation relaxed
3. Consumptive uses in Lower Basin and Mexico no more than 9 maf in normal year
4. Program to voluntarily reduce some existing consumptive uses
5. States commit to facilitate voluntary reallocation of basin water within state

No net depletion

- No new water uses that would increase the depletion of basin water
- At least, expressly condition new uses with presumption of curtailment as necessary
- Imposes almost entirely on Upper Basin so would need be accompanied by significant offsets

Lee Ferry flow

- The 10 year/ 75 maf Compact flow obligation plus 750 K/yr for Mexico should be relaxed
- Instead, commitment to manage basin water supply as necessary to ensure availability of enough water to enable consumptive uses of 9 maf of mainstream water in LB states and Mexico in normal year

LB Consumptive Uses

- Compact allocates 7.5 maf of consumptive use of system water to Lower Basin; consider the additional 1.0 maf as the Gila
- Lower Division states agree to bring all depletions (outside the Gila) down to 7.5 maf/yr
- Forego any expectations of surplus conditions
- Redirect hydroelectric power revenues towards retirement of consumptive uses

Facilitate Reallocation

- Essential that basin water potentially be available to meet new needs
- States need to commit to establish necessary mechanisms (such as water banks) to enable such transactions