

CONGRESSMAN PAUL GOSAR

BILL WILLIAMS RIVER WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT - H.R. 4924

WHAT IS H.R. 4924? WHY DO WE NEED IT?

H.R. 4924 facilitates the achievement of a fair settlement of certain claims within the Bill Williams River Watershed among the Hualapai Tribe, the U.S. Department of the Interior acting on behalf of itself and as trustee for the Tribe and its members, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and Freeport-McMoRan. This legislation supports thousands of jobs, 175 in Mohave County alone, facilitates an Indian water rights settlement and will result in a significant net water benefit to the basin. The agreement provides certainty for the Bagdad Mine, which has an annual economic impact of \$339.1 million to the state of Arizona, and sustains nearly 4,000 direct and indirect jobs. H.R. 4924 was unanimously agreed to in the United States House and Senate and signed into law on December 16, 2014.

NON-PARTISAN LEGAL REVIEW VALIDATES H.R. 4924

The report released on June 25, 2015, by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) confirms that this law is a win-win for Arizona and for Mohave County. Despite wild and baseless claims from some opponents, CRS affirmed that this legislation is good for private property owners, will result in a significant **net water BENEFIT to the basin** and will **NOT result in a loss of any tax revenue to Mohave County**. The bill is good for private property owners and good for local economies.

FACTS OF H.R. 4924

This Agreement **DOES NOT**:

- Settle all claims of the Hualapai Tribe to the Colorado River
- Transfer ownership of Planet Ranch to the Federal Government
- Give any land to the Hualapai Tribe or the U.S.
- Limit Public Access to Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Lands
- Authorize the Construction of a Pipeline from Planet Ranch or Lincoln Ranch to the Bagdad Mine
- Authorize new withdrawals from the Wikieup Wellfield
- Increase withdrawals in the Bill Williams Watershed

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT UNANIMOUSLY UPHOLDS, AFFIRMS H.R. 4924

November 12, 2015: The Arizona Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and upheld the agreements codified by the Congressman's legislation, H.R. 4924, the Bill Williams Water Rights Settlement Act, Public Law No: 113-223, paving the way for the settlement of certain claims within the Bill Williams River Watershed among the Hualapai Tribe, the United States, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Freeport-McMoRan. The Court affirmed that physical water will not be transferred out of the County stating, **"No water would be physically moved from Planet Ranch to the Bagdad Mining Complex."** All frivolous legal arguments made by the Mohave County Supervisors were ultimately rejected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV

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Supporters of H.R. 4924

Arizona Chamber of Commerce
Former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer
Hualapai Tribal Council
Hon. Mark Lewis, Director, Central AZ Project
Arizona State Senator Carlyle Begay
John Sullivan - The Salt River Project
AZ Game and Fish
AZ State Land Department
AZ Department of Water Resources
Sundance Helicopters
The Nature Conservancy in Arizona
Yavapai County Chairman Rowle Simmons