

2010 Water Issues

After May 2010, with no preference in the statute, the only alternatives for municipalities in “times of scarcity” would be a free market purchase or condemnation:

- Is the permanent transfer of water from agriculture rights to municipal rights the best solution for temporary shortage?

Should people take priority over cows?

Since every change from agricultural use to municipal use takes a significant “haircut” and often a “modern” priority date, should there be a preference for municipal uses over other uses?

Should any other type use receive such a preference?

What, if any, are appropriate limits on the preference?

Conservation uses? Domestic Use? Essential Use?

Equal priority rights, or all rights?

Reality: System creates “forced scarcity”–

Should any preference be limited to drought?

Catastrophic failure of an essential system?

Population growth?