



**For Immediate Release  
August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Contact: Diane Daly, Water CASA  
(520) 626-2678**

**House Passes Water Use Conservation and Efficiency Bill;  
Annual \$20 Million Appropriations from 2009 to 2013**

***Water CASA Director's Hearing Comments Reflected in New Legislation***

WASHINGTON, DC (August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008) Thanks in part to last fall's testimony of Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona Director Val L. Little, the House of Representatives has acted to prevent a national water-use crisis, and voted to use practical methods of water conservation, efficiency, and user education, in addition to technological innovation, as its tools.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the House passed H.R. 3957, and attached an appropriation of \$20 million for its research and development, for each year beginning in 2009 and ending in 2013. The hearing at which Little testified on this bill, entitled the Water-Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act of 2007, was held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

During her testimony at the October hearing, Little stated, "The human behavior factor can easily trump any technical strategy with the inadequate monitoring, management and maintenance of technological tools." She also emphasized "research efforts in the water conservation arena that are focused on actual, quantifiable water savings rather than projected or modeled assumptions."

H.R. 3957 attaches appropriations to a research program implementing graywater, water harvesting, and other methods long touted by Water CASA as stepping stones on the path to greater water efficiency. "Many experts are starting to see water as 'the new oil' in terms of what a precious commodity it is," Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT), who introduced the bill, said on July 30<sup>th</sup>. "The key to avoiding future scarcity is more efficient use, reuse and distribution. We need the best minds tackling this challenge and then we need to ensure the information is readily available to the public."

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**WATER CONSERVATION ALLIANCE OF  
SOUTHERN ARIZONA**

c/o CALA P.O Box 210075  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0075

**WWW.WATERCASA.ORG**  
watercasa@cals.arizona.edu  
**1195 E. Speedway**  
**520 626-2678**

WATER CONSERVATION ALLIANCE of SOUTHERN ARIZONA MEMBERS: Community Water Co. of Green Valley ◇ Flowing Wells Irrigation District  
Town of Marana Water Department ◇ Metro Water District ◇ Oro Valley Water Utility ◇ Town of Sahuarita  
Pima County ◇ Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District ◇ Bureau of Reclamation

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