

**DRAFT COUNCIL REPORT**

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**To: City/Town Council**  
**From: City/Town Manager**  
**Re: Greater Arizona Mayors Association**  
**Date: October 2009**

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**Purpose:**

To consider supporting the formation of the Greater Arizona Mayors Association, whose membership is made up of municipalities in Northern Arizona, for the purpose of advocating for common interests, at the state and federal level.

**Background:**

Since May 2009, Mayors from Northern Arizona municipalities have been gathering to talk about the common challenges they face. Examples of common issues range to include water and transportation infrastructure, economic stability through tourism, management of state lands and parks, and the overall vitality of a community via healthcare access and quality educational facilities.

While evaluating the success of the Tri-City Council effort put forth by Bullhead, Kingman and Lake Havasu, Mayors began discussing the potential for a larger organization that could represent the needs of Northwestern Arizona. Some of the benefits of this effort include:

- Strategically navigating a changing political landscape
- Securing Northern Arizona's fair share of state and federal resources
- Protecting rural lifestyle as projected growth patterns occur
- Speaking with one voice to the Governor, Legislature, State Agencies and Congress
- Furthering the agendas of regional planning, water, and transportation organizations

**Next Steps:**

This effort is bigger than any one community, as it creates a platform by which Northern Arizona municipalities can educate policy makers about their issues, and in turn hold the state and federal government accountable for outcomes.

The next meeting of the Greater Arizona Mayors Association meeting is slated for Friday, November 13, 2009, hosted by the Town of Prescott Valley. Among the items on the agenda will be the formalization of the Greater Arizona Mayors Association, to enable advocacy to occur during the next legislative session.

Attached is a draft resolution for the Council's consideration.

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