

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
OCTOBER 6, 2025
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Martinez, Morris, McClendon, Smith (telephonic), Morales, Watts (telephonic), and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: Acting City Administrator, John D. Simonton
Deputy City Attorney, Rodney Short
Various Department Heads or their representative
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

I. RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRANSFER OF COLORADO RIVER WATER

Resolution R2025-095 - Resolution Opposing the Permanent Transfer of Colorado River Water from Greenstone RP, d/b/a “GSC Farms, LLC”, to the Town of Queen Creek, Arizona, as presented, and offering reasonable alternatives. (City Admin/City Atty)

Short presented the following information:

- Greenstone RP Group seeks to permanently transfer water rights from land in La Paz County to Queen Creek – a move seen as harmful to rural Arizona.
- This would be the first off-river water transfer in Arizona not involving the Central Arizona Project, setting a major precedent for future water policy.
- City Council has opposed the water transfer through Resolution R2019-051, which opposed the original proposal, and Resolution R2020-046, which urged the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- BOR initially conducted a lesser Environmental Assessment, concluding with a finding of No Significant Impact.
- Subsequently, on-river communities (Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties) won a federal lawsuit, compelling BOR to revisit the analysis.
- BOR has now filed a Notice of Intent to conduct a full EIS.
- The City Council is being asked to reaffirm their opposition and submit formal comments during the public review period.
- Proposed alternatives in the Resolution include:
 - No Action – Reject the transfer entirely.
 - Conditional Approval – Allow transfers only when Lake Mead is at a safe level to support both water supply and power generation.

Motion (Morales/Morris): To adopt Resolution R2025-095. Roll call vote: **adopted** 7-0.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Mayor Nicholls** adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m. No Executive Session was held.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:

City Clerk: _____