



BABBITT CENTER

FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



WHERE WATER
MEETS LAND

Water is the lifeblood of the American West. Yet land use decisions are often made without consideration of their impacts on water, putting the sustainability of our communities at risk. Given the importance of sound land use decisions for protection of scarce water resources, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy took action.



Established in 2017, the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is focusing initially on the Colorado River, one of the most heavily used and over allocated rivers in the world. Our work has begun locally in Arizona and Colorado, and will extend throughout the Colorado River Basin. Eventually, our work will have global reach and implications.





The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is Lincoln's new initiative to better integrate land use and water management. Based in Phoenix, the center is named for the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, former governor of Arizona and U.S. Secretary of the Interior, longtime board member of the Lincoln Institute, and a passionate advocate for improved land and water policy and planning.

"I am honored to be associated with the Babbitt Center. The Lincoln Institute has long emphasized the importance of land policy in addressing the world's toughest problems. It has now added the sound stewardship of water resources – the essential mission of the Babbitt Center – to the top of its list. Working together we can better secure our water future."

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, directed by Jim Holway, has the knowledge and expertise to assist states, local jurisdictions, and tribes seeking to improve water sustainability through improved integration of land and water use decisions. The Babbitt Center was established to serve as a trusted resource for information. Through research, program innovation, effective training, and partnerships, our work will track issues facing the Colorado River Basin and inform stakeholders; develop scalable, data-driven tools to guide planning decisions and conservation efforts; and offer solutions for the fair and sustainable management of water resources in the Colorado River Basin and beyond.

Our concerted focus and expertise, strengthened by partnerships with stakeholders and the best organizations in our field, will help states, communities, and tribes integrate sound land use and water planning decisions through a coordinated and diverse set of key activities:



RESEARCH

Conduct research and training to advance knowledge and practice for better integration of water policy and land management.



INNOVATE

Create new data and mapping tools to support improved decision making and land management.
Become known for our ability to develop and test cutting-edge techniques to address uncertainty, including adaptive management approaches.



PARTNER

Work with communities to develop, evaluate, and share best practices.
Promote regional dialogues to support collaboration among jurisdictions and between interest groups that share watersheds.



EDUCATE

Produce and share reports that assess conditions throughout the Colorado River Basin to illustrate needs and opportunities.
Assist stakeholders' efforts to develop new approaches and to more effectively use existing programs and tools.

"Working with partners is a core strategy of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. While we bring a lasting commitment, resources, and knowledge to the table, we increase our opportunities for success by partnering with organizations with complementary interests and skills." — George C. McCarthy, President and CEO, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



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