

Thursday, June 27, 2013

## Editorial: Mark Twain called it right on Verde water management philosophies

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The line in the sand over local and regional water wars used to be fairly well-defined.

It was the Verde Valley vs. Prescott.

We were unified. We were opposed to the Prescott communities' plans to tap in to the Big Chino aquifer and construct a water pipeline for their domestic water needs.

We were all about protecting the [Verde River](#).



Now, that line is a little bit fuzzy and it's not so much a Verde-Prescott conflict any more as it is dysfunction within our own Verde Valley communities.

Agreement on water-management, preservation and protection philosophies is not one in the same among Verde communities. The current and future health of the Verde River is a hot topic for debate among the Valley's leadership.

Part of the problem is the plethora of water and river protection organizations that exist in the region. Most if not all are agenda-driven and they pick and choose facts to coincide with those agendas. The same can be said for the Verde Valley's municipalities.

The danger of all this conflicting information about our water supply and health of the river is that it only weakens our credibility in the Verde-Prescott debate about Big Chino pumping. Why should the folks from Prescott give us the time of day over use of Verde River headwaters when we cannot even agree among ourselves when it comes to Verde Valley water management practices.

There is an old saying that "Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over" that is often attributed to Mark Twain. That is certainly true these days here in the Verde Valley.

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