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Arizona Daily Star

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# New state water proposals secret

**BOB CHRISTIE**  
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — Three years after an obscure Arizona agency was charged with finding new water supplies for the state, it has received six proposals from groups that hope to tap more than \$375 million in state money to develop new water sources.

The proposals include three to create desalination plants using ocean water — likely from the Sea of Cortez in Mexico.

But exactly what is being pro-


posed — and how much it will cost — remains confidential as the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority says state law keeps it so until its board members award one or more contracts to move ahead with more detailed plans.

The board of the agency known as WIFA heard just the names of the companies or teams of companies making the proposals at their meeting last week. And Ted Cooke, a board member who chairs the agency's Long Term Water Augmentation committee, said he and

other board members also won't learn more than just the names until they prepare to award contracts, which could happen as soon as October.

Instead, agency staff will review each submission confidentially to determine if they meet the requirements laid out by the board in its solicitation.

"Even the board members will not be involved in that evaluation," Cooke told the board.

**ANNIKA WOLTERS, ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE 2018**

Among earlier ideas to the Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority to boost the state's dwindling water supply was building a plant to pump desalted water from Puerto Peñasco, Sonora (shown here) to the Phoenix area. The group now says it has six proposals, but no details have been made public.

Please see **WATER**, Page A2

# ON THIRSTY GROUND



MAMTA POPAT, ARIZONA DAILY STAR FILES

Monsoon storms and winter rainfall are both critical to the Southwest ecosystem, say experts.

## Lack of winter rains, 'dry' monsoon make for sparse aquifer recharge

**ANALEISE MAYOR**  
Arizona Daily Star

Tucson is experiencing one of its driest monsoons on record, and the parched summer comes directly on the heels of the city's driest August to March period since official weather record-keeping began here in 1895.

Both the seasonal monsoons and winter storms that have been so sparse this year are critical for groundwater recharge in the Tucson basin, but the winter precipitation contributes most to yearly recharge, says Wally Wilson, chief hydrologist for Tucson Water.

"There is episodic recharge that

is measurable along the major rivers when there's a good (monsoon) storm event, but it dissipates quickly," Wilson said. Winter rain and snow in the mountains is "much more significant with regard to the water table."

Please see **MONSOON**, Page A2

# Trump mulls sending troops to Baltimore

**JONATHAN J. COOPER AND LEAH ASKARINAM**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Sunday threatened to expand his military deployments to more Democratic-led cities, responding to an offer by Maryland's governor to join him in a tour of Baltimore by saying he might instead "send in the 'troops.'"

His latest pledge to ramp up the military's presence in left-leaning cities came as at least some National Guard units in the nation's capital began carrying weapons over the weekend, making good on a directive issued Friday by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. An Associated Press photographer on Sunday saw members of the South Carolina National Guard outside Union Station with holstered handguns.

The most recent developments in Trump's extraordinary effort to override the law enforcement authority of state and local governments came after he said he was considering Chicago and New York for troop deployments similar to what he has unleashed on the nation's capital. Thousands of National Guard and federal law enforcement officers are now patrolling the district's streets, drawing sporadic protests from local residents.

Trump made the threat to Baltimore in a spat with Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat who has criticized Trump's unprecedented flex of federal power aimed at combatting crime and homelessness in Washington. Moore last week invited Trump to visit his state to discuss public safety and walk the streets.

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