

Using Model Legislation to
Integrate Land Use and Water Use
Planning at the Community Level

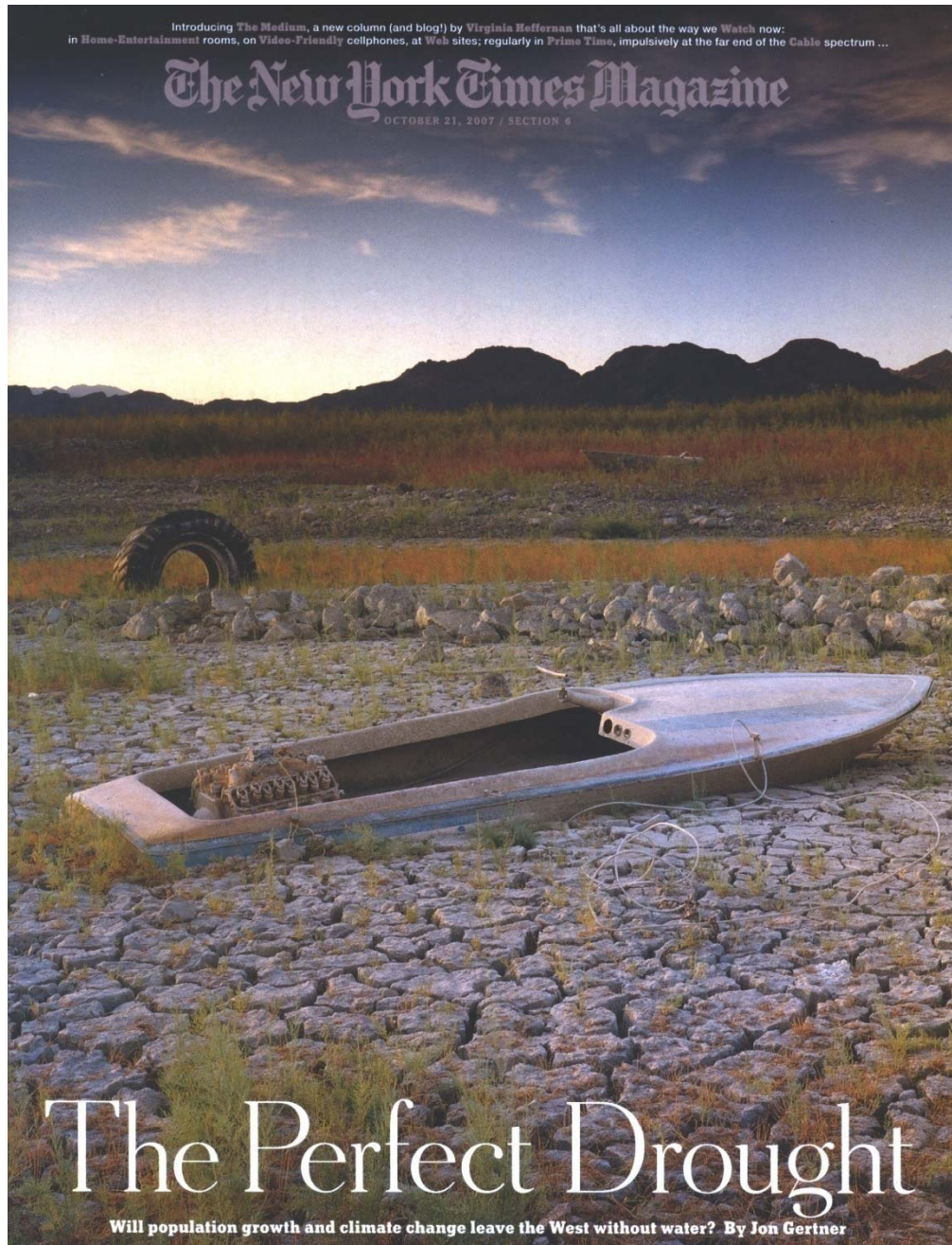
STARTING AT THE SOURCE



Introducing *The Medium*, a new column (and blog!) by Virginia Heffernan that's all about the way we Watch now: in Home-Entertainment rooms, on Video-Friendly cellphones, at Web sites; regularly in Prime Time, impulsively at the far end of the Cable spectrum ...

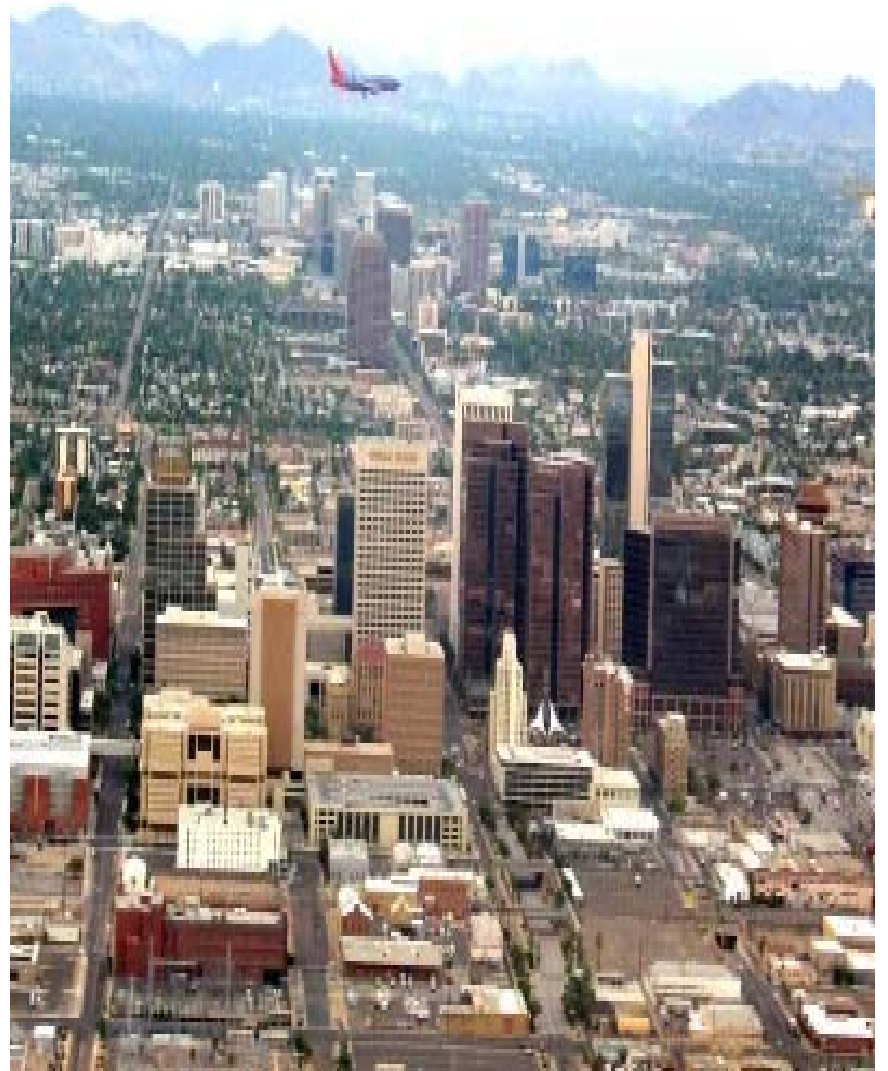
The New York Times Magazine

OCTOBER 21, 2007 / SECTION 6



The Perfect Drought

Will population growth and climate change leave the West without water? By Jon Gertner



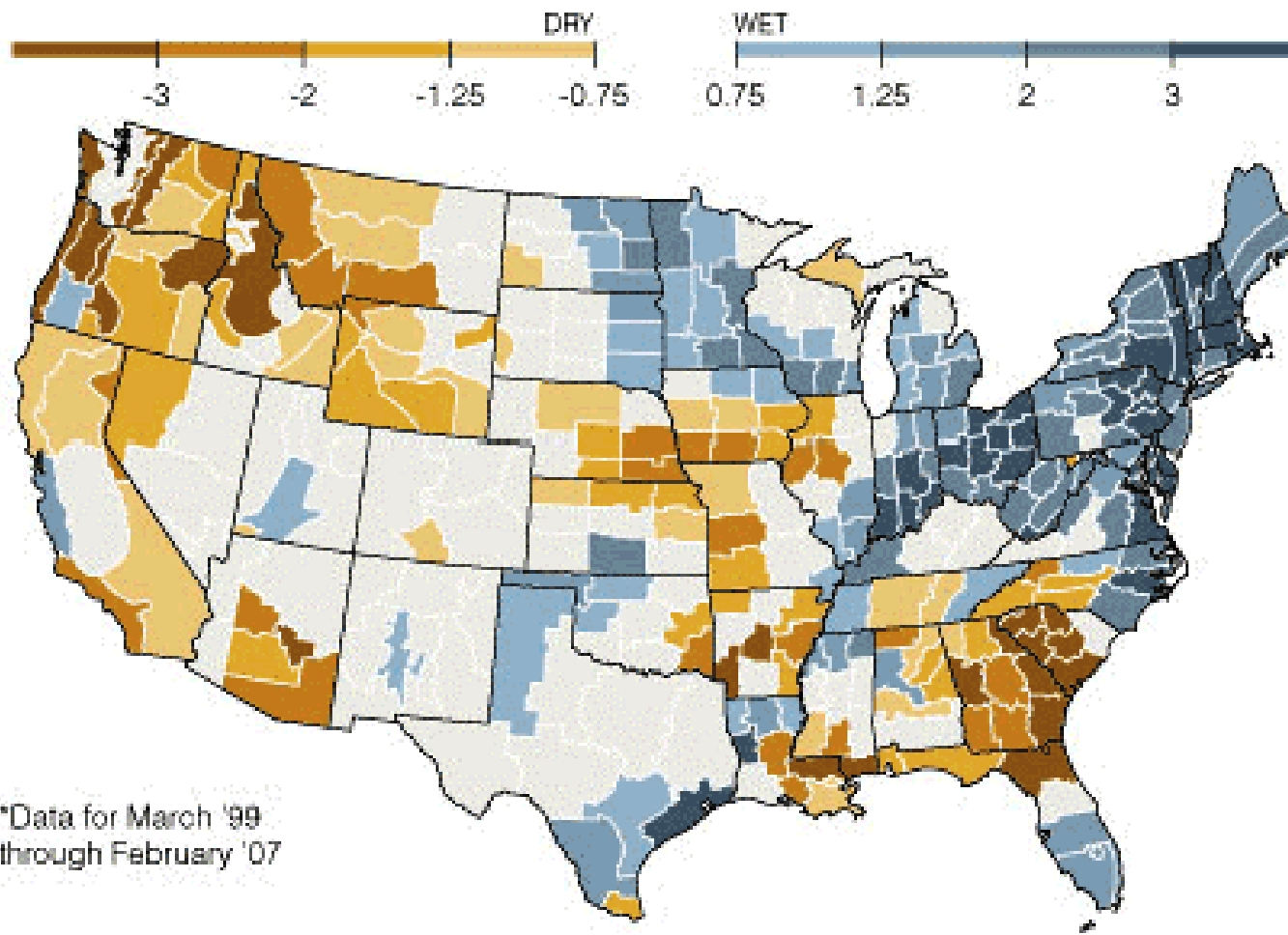






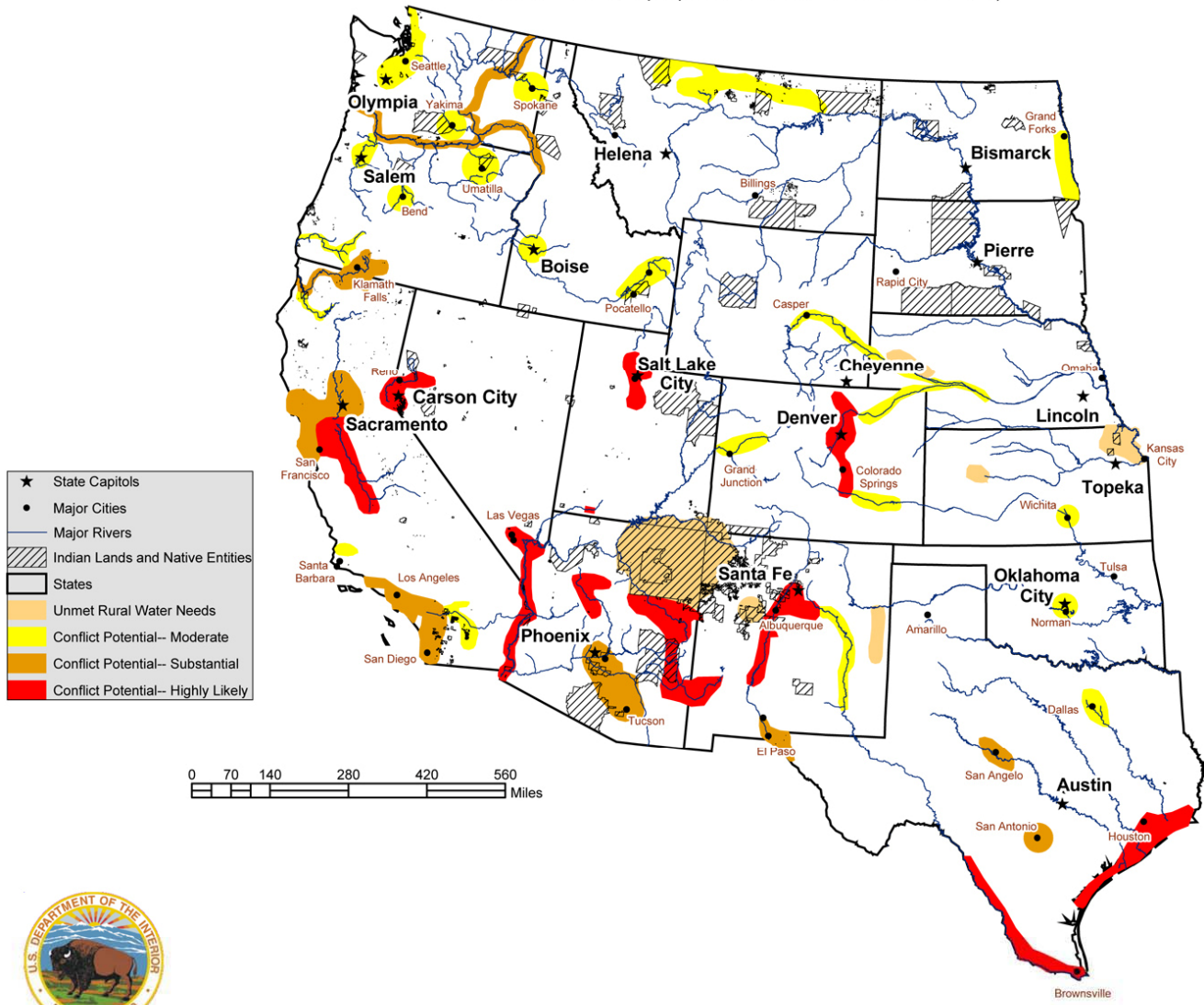
Areas of Long-Term Drought

Areas suffering the worst drought over the past eight years are illustrated by the Standardized Precipitation Index (S.P.I.).* The S.P.I. is a measure of the amount of precipitation within specific climatic zones over time.



Potential Water Supply Crises by 2025

(Areas where existing supplies are not adequate to meet water demands for people, for farms, and for the environment)

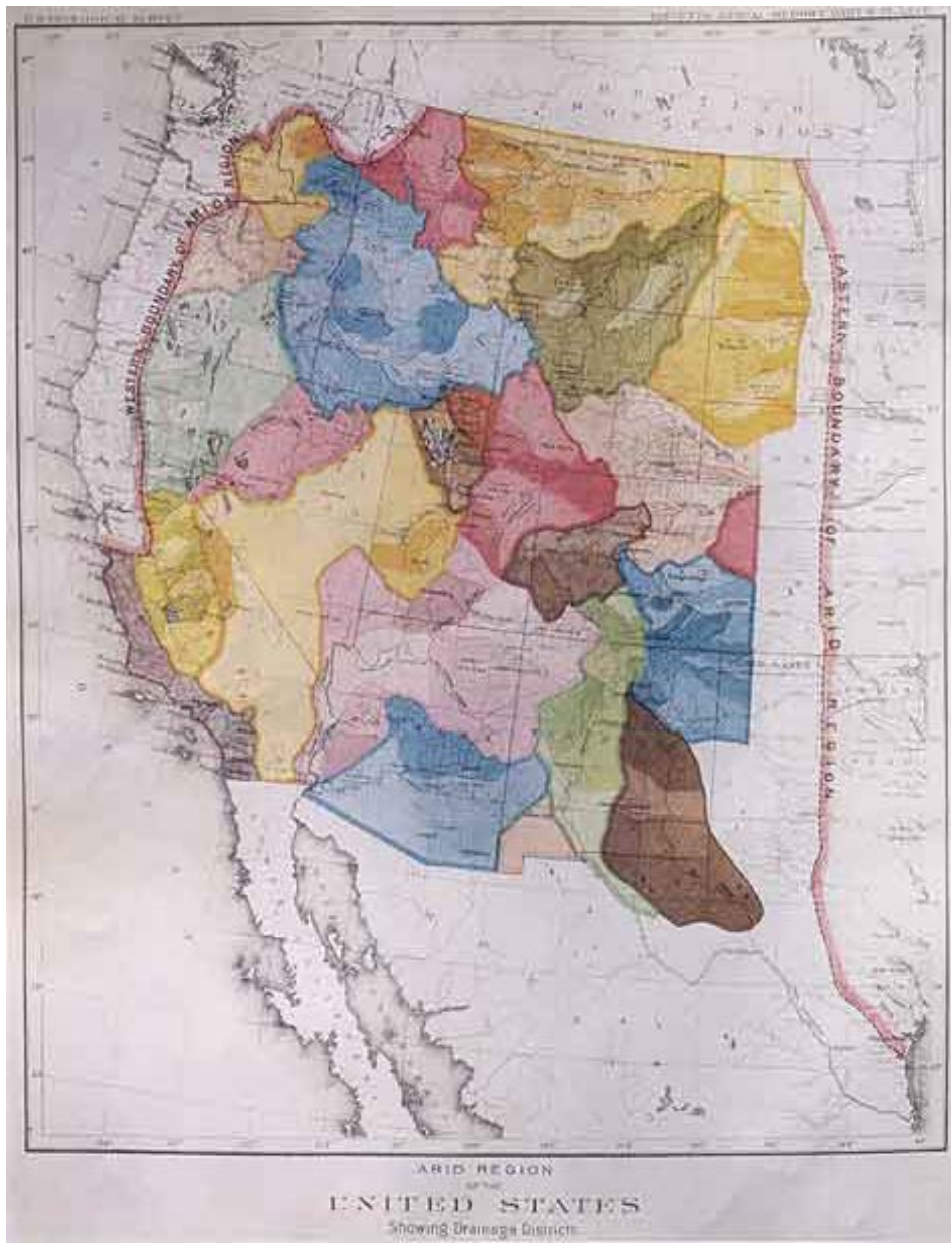


Contents of Enabling Legislation

- an inventory of the community's water supply capacity both now and in the future;
- an evaluation of climate impacts and supply variability over time;
- an analysis of how supply capacity relates to land use growth models and goals in the community's comprehensive land use plan;
- a prioritization of water uses that reflects how the community wishes its water supply to be used over time in light of land use planning goals;
- a list of goals that the community has for its water supply;
- a list of specific action items for the community to implement its water supply goals;

(cont.)

- a plan for coordinating with other communities and entities than share a common water source with the community;
- a plan for coordinating with state agencies that make decisions affecting the community's water supply;
- an assessment of the opportunities for water marketing and inter-governmental agreements with local, state, federal, and tribal entities that can help the community adapt to changing water supply demands; and
- a requirement of how frequently the water supply plan must be revisited and updated.









Other Statutory Changes

- allow local governments to require developers to show something more than an exempt groundwater well permit when reviewing land use proposals (85-2-306)
- require even minor subdivisions to do an EA for water supply impacts (76-3-609)
- extend subdivision review criteria to not only the surface impacts of the land use, but to the water consumption impacts on services, agriculture, wildlife, habitat, and public health (76-3-608)

