Phoenix, AZ

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Phoenix Met Area

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SEEN & HEARD

Bidding adieu... motoring home... creating actic
For the past 14 years, Mary Jo
Waits has been intimately involved
in some to the most important is-
sues facing Arizona and the Valley,
from the economy to leadership.
Along the way she has helped
shake up establishment thinking and sparked some lively debate.
Now she is moving on to share
her expertise with other states.
"I think I've worked on every is-
sue I've been excited about," said Waits, whose last day as associate director of the Morrison Institute
for Public Policy at Arizona State
University is June 30. She will be-come a consultant and continue as a part-time fellow at thefCenter for the Future of Arizona, which is
headed by former ASU President Lattie Coor.
"I've had an incredible ride. I re-
ally feel I've added something and been part of the debate, if nothing else," she said.
Her most recent reports for the
institute, Five Shoes Waiting to Drop on Arizona's Future and
Which Way Scottsdale?, not only grabbed the attention of local lead-ers, they were noticed in other cities and states, which have called Waits asking her to do similar re-ports for them. But because the in-stitute focuses on Arizona issues, she had to refuse. Now she plans to take on such jobs.
Rob Melnick, director of the in-
stitute, said Waits would be missed. "But I am never surprised or upset when really talented people move on. It's a natural evolution."
Waits said she plans to remain in

Deirdre Hamill/The Arizona Republic
Mary Jo Waits, associate director of Arizona State University's Morri-
son Institute for Public Policy, is leaving the job on June 30.

Arizona but has always dreamed of
living in France. "As a knowledge
worker, I could work from any-
where," she said. "I could actually
live in Paris for a while."