

Active Management Areas – Fifth Management Plans



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Arizona Department of Water Resources

OUR MISSION

ADWR is the steward of Arizona's water future and ensures long-term, reliable water supplies to support the continued economic prosperity of the State.

Groundwater Management Act (1980)

Created Arizona Department of Water Resources

Goals of the Act

- Control severe groundwater depletion
- Provide the means for allocating Arizona's limited groundwater resources
- Improve Arizona's groundwater supplies through conservation and development of additional water supplies

Former Arizona Governor and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt signing the GMA



Regulatory Structure

- Registration of all wells
- Adequate Water Supply
- Community Water Systems Documentation

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- Expansion of irrigated acres is prohibited
- Monitoring and Reporting

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- Assured Water Supply
- Management Goals, Plans, & Conservation Programs
- Withdrawal Fees

Statewide

INA

AMA



Management Goals (A.R.S. § 45-562)

Safe-yield:

“A groundwater management goal which attempts to achieve and thereafter maintain a long-term balance between the annual amount of groundwater withdrawn in an active management area and the annual amount of natural and artificial recharge in the active management area.”

(A.R.S. § 45-561(12))

Prescott, Phoenix, and Tucson AMAs:

Safe-yield by the year 2025

Pinal AMA:

To allow development of non-irrigation uses and to preserve existing agricultural economies in the AMA for as long as feasible, consistent with the necessity to preserve future water supplies for non-irrigation uses.

Santa Cruz AMA:

To maintain a safe-yield condition in the AMA and to prevent local water tables from experiencing long term declines



Management Plans

A.R.S. § 45-563 (A)

“The director shall develop a management plan for each initial active management area for each of five management periods... and shall adopt the plans only after public hearings... The plans shall include a continuing mandatory conservation program... designed to achieve reductions in withdrawals of groundwater.”





Arizona's Water Future

As Arizona transitions to a drier future, we must continue to promote a culture of conservation - one that enables the unbeatable quality of life and boundless opportunity we enjoy.

GOVERNOR DOUG DUCEY

Signs Arizona DCP Legislation (1.31.19)

Conservation Programs

<https://new.azwater.gov/5MP/plans-concepts>

A.R.S. § 45-563(A): “... The plans shall include a continuing mandatory conservation program for all persons withdrawing, distributing or receiving groundwater designed to achieve reductions in withdrawals of groundwater.”

- * Programs for Three Sectors:
 - * Agricultural (Chapter 4)
 - * Base Program
 - * Historic Cropping Program
 - * Best Management Practices Program (BMP)
 - * Municipal (Chapter 5)
 - * GPCD Program
 - * Non-Per Capita Program (NPCCP)
 - * Industrial (Chapter 6)
 - * General Requirements
 - * Specific Subsector Programs

- * Conservation Programs include:
 - * Regulatory requirements related to water use
 - * Reporting requirements
 - * Conservation targets
 - * Flexibility provisions
 - * Compliance provisions



Changing Value of Effluent

History:

- * In the past was a lower quality water/throwaway water, which was “underutilized”
- * Value of effluent has changed
 - * Advances in research, technology, and new uses of effluent/reclaimed water
 - * Changing regulations

Existing Incentives:

- * Agricultural
 - * Effluent cannot contribute to the exceedance of an allotment.
- * Municipal
 - * Most effluent is not included when calculating GPCD.
- * Industrial
 - * Turf: Effluent use is discounted when calculating total use.
 - * Lakes/ponds: Not subject to allotments if filled/refilled exclusively with effluent.
- * Recharge
 - * Stored effluent does not receive a “cut to the aquifer” and is not subject to WTCRBUD.



Changing Value of Effluent

Development of 5MPs:

- * Current status:
 - * Limited availability of additional effluent
 - * Increasing competition for all water supplies, including effluent
 - * First permit issued for DPR
- * Considerations:
 - * Are existing incentives still appropriate/necessary?
 - * Would changes to incentives allow for better water management?
 - * Should incentives prioritize uses rather than incentivizing any use of effluent?

Proposed Updates to Incentives:

- * Municipal
 - * All potable uses of water are proposed to be included when calculating GPCD.
- * Industrial
 - * Turf: Discussed potential changes to effluent adjustment



Estimated 5MP Timeline

new.azwater.gov/5MP

2020: Development

- Work Group, Subgroups, & Stakeholder Outreach
- Data Analysis
- Develop **Concepts** to Increase Conservation
 - Update Existing Programs
 - Design New Programs

2021: Drafting

- Build out **Concepts** developed in previous phase
 - Regulatory Language
 - Feedback from GUACs/AMAs re: Customization & Implementation
- Draft Narrative & Background
- Develop Data Tools

2022: Adoption

- Publication of initial drafts
- Presentation to GUACs for recommendations
- Promulgation processes
 - Hearing & Public Comment
 - Findings & Adoption
 - Noticing of Conservation Requirements



Questions?

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**PROTECTING
ARIZONA'S WATER SUPPLIES
for CURRENT & FUTURE GENERATIONS**