

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Janet Napolitano
Governor

Herbert R. Guenther
Director

January 9, 2006

Dear Stakeholder:

As you may know, the Arizona Department of Water Resources is currently conducting an evaluation of the regulatory program for large municipal water providers contained in the Third Management Plan. The purpose of the evaluation is to consider alternatives to the current program that may better meet the needs and capabilities of the Department, as well as the municipal water providers included in this program.

The initial phase of the evaluation included an informal information gathering effort to identify concerns and to request comments and suggestions from large municipal water providers in each of the Active Management Areas, as well as from various staff members at the Department. The results of this effort are contained in the enclosed paper, *Evaluation of the Third Management Plan Program for Large Municipal Water Providers in Active Management Areas: Summary of Interviews and Framework for the Stakeholder Process*.

As implied in the title of the paper, we are about to begin the stakeholder process to continue our work toward the development of a revised program for municipal providers. The Department is committed to an open and inclusive stakeholder process and would like to invite your participation in this effort. The first stakeholder meeting will be held on Friday, February 3, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Department's new office located in the Meridian Bank Building in Phoenix. The address is 3550 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012. We will be meeting in the Upper Verde Conference Room on the second floor. You are welcome to bring other staff members from your organization to the meeting with you. If you cannot attend, you are welcome to send another representative from your organization in your place.

During our first meeting, we will review the comments and suggestions offered during our initial information gathering effort and will be presenting some possible alternatives for discussion. We also will present any alternative proposals submitted by the community for review and discussion. In addition, we will discuss the meeting schedule and tentative agendas and locations for future meetings. We plan to meet every two to three weeks until the stakeholder process is completed. It is our objective to complete the stakeholder process by the end of June 2006 to leave sufficient time to prepare any draft legislation required to accommodate an alternative program.

If you plan to attend, please let me know either by phone, (602) 771-8602, or by email at rsstinnett@azwater.gov so we can plan appropriately for the number of people participating. Also, if you have questions about the stakeholder process or about the enclosed paper, do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Robin Stinnett
Special Programs Manager

cc: Sandra Fabritz-Whitney, Assistant Director for Water Management
Alejandro Barcenas, Area Director, Santa Cruz AMA
Randy Edmond, Area Director, Pinal AMA
Mark Frank, Area Director, Phoenix AMA
Kenneth Seasholes, Area Director, Tucson AMA
Gerry Wildeman, Area Director, Prescott AMA