

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor



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Director

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West Basins Planning Area Stakeholders Meeting Summary

Date: January 30, 2016
Time: 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Location: Centennial Community Center
69725 Centennial Park Rd.
Wenden, AZ 85357

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. ADWR Director, Tom Buschatzke, began the meeting with a brief overview of the agenda and recognized the elected officials present. Elected officials present included, La Paz County Supervisors Holly Irwin, DL Wilson, and King Clapperton; Mayor of Quartzsite Ed Foster; as well as Representative Sonny Borrelli.
 - b. Representative Sonny Borrelli provided a brief opening statement.

2. Discussion of Planning Areas Process
 - a. ADWR Deputy Assistant Director of Water Planning, Gerry Walker, gave an overview of the [Arizona Water Initiative Planning Area Process](#).
 - b. Ms. Walker described the following:
 - i. Purpose of the meeting
 - ii. Explanation of planning areas
 - iii. Description of the West Basins Planning Area including
 - iv. Explanation the Governor's Water Initiative
 - v. Explanation of the Planning Area Stakeholder Process
 1. The goal is to complete each planning area in one year.
 2. The West Basins Planning Area was selected as one of the first planning areas due to increasing groundwater demands.
 - vi. Local water demands and how we need to gather more information
 - vii. The next steps in the process:
 1. Additional meetings/discussions
 - a. Future meetings will be more informal/discussion oriented
 2. Continue well measurements
 3. Well sweep of the Ranegras Plain Basin

4. Online portal to submit water concerns to ADWR and provided the corresponding email address
 5. USGS irrigation field verification
3. West Basins Planning Area Hydrology Presentation
 - a. ADWR Chief Hydrologist, Frank Corkhill, gave an overview of [hydrological information](#) for the West Basins.
 - b. Mr. Corkhill described the following:
 - i. Physical and hydrologic characteristics of the basins
 - ii. Pre-development groundwater flow patterns
 - iii. Locations of registered wells
 - iv. Groundwater withdrawals for agricultural irrigation from 1940 to 2014
 - v. Hydrographs using McMullen Valley as an example, but also noted that ADWR has similar data available for every basin.
 - vi. Briefly discussed Arizona Department of Environmental Quality water quality data available for the West Basins.
 - vii. Land subsidence in McMullen Valley Basin.
4. Presentation of Management Tools Available
 - a. Ms. Walker gave a brief overview of existing [management tools](#).
 - b. Ms. Walker described the following:
 - i. Limitation of groundwater use is that it must be put to beneficial use and it must be withdrawn from a legally registered and constructed well.
 - ii. In AZ, groundwater in an aquifer is considered a public resource.
 - iii. The West Basins Planning is not within an Active Management Area (AMA), but does include the Harquahala Valley Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA).
5. Public Comment
 - a. Sixteen stakeholders submitted speaker cards and commented during the Public Comment Period.
 - b. To ensure that every person who wished to speak had the opportunity, ADWR did not respond to questions asked during the public comment period. All questions asked were documented and will be responded to in writing and made available via ADWR's website.
6. Closing Remarks
 - a. Director Buschatzke wrapped up the meeting and introduced ADWR's coordinator of the West Basins Planning Area, Mandy Whatley.
 - b. Director Buschatzke expressed that in future meetings he hopes to be able to provide more information and work with stakeholders to develop an ample set of solutions to solve the water related problems in the area.