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Arizona Water Initiative West Basins Planning Area Community Stakeholders Meeting Summary

Date: March 28, 2016
Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Location: Centennial Community Center
69725 Centennial Park Rd.
Wenden, AZ 85357

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Deputy Assistant Director, Gerry Walker, welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of the agenda.
2. Presentation: Procedures for Designating a Subsequent Active Management Area/Subsequent Irrigation Non-Expansion Area. Department staff, Mandy Whatley, presented the following information:
 - a. Procedures to designate a Subsequent Active Management Area (AMA) and a Subsequent Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA).
 - b. An overview of the history of subsequent AMA's and INA's in Arizona
 - c. Water level change statistics and hydrographs for the Harquahala Valley INA.
 - d. An overview of statewide water management.
 - e. Criteria that must be met for an AMA, procedures for designating a Subsequent AMA, management of an AMA, and the mandatory regulations involved for an AMA.
 - i. Stakeholders expressed their concern that an AMA would not halt the groundwater pumping that is already occurring.
 - ii. A stakeholder asked for clarification on "substantial capital investment" in terms of irrigation. Staff provided an explanation.
 - iii. Stakeholders had questions regarding the Assured Water Supply program. Staff provided an explanation.
 - f. Criteria that must be met for an INA, procedures for designating a Subsequent INA, management of an INA, and the mandatory regulations involved for an INA.

- i. Several stakeholders expressed their concern that for proceedings to occur to designate a Subsequent AMA or INA, only registered voters could sign the petition and vote on the matter. The major concern was that the majority of residents are only part-time residents in Arizona, and they are not registered to vote in Arizona.
 - ii. A stakeholder asked a question regarding groundwater transportation laws. Staff provided clarification.
 - iii. Staff clarified the restrictions on filling and re-filling bodies of water.
 - iv. Staff stated that the presentation would be posted to the website.
 - v. A stakeholder asked a question regarding elections and which county to involve if a groundwater basin spans more than county. Staff clarified that all counties within the basin would need to be involved.
 - vi. A stakeholder asked a question on what regulations are currently being implemented in the West Basins, and staff clarified.
 - g. Mrs. Walker stated that the Department is not suggesting that either an AMA or INA are the best option for the area. The Department is providing information on existing tools and facilitating the discussion to the water users in the area determine the best set of solutions.
 - h. The presentation for Designating a Subsequent AMA/INA can be found [here](#).
3. Small group discussions to further explore water related issues.
 - a. Staff provided a discussion questionnaire for individuals to complete.
 - b. Stakeholders then discussed the questionnaire as a group.
 - i. Each table assigned a “reporter” after the groups were finished discussing the questions.
 - c. The information collected was presented by the group reporters to the group as a whole.
4. Closing Remarks
 - a. Mrs. Walker wrapped up the meeting by thanking everyone for participating and briefly discussing the timeline for the Planning Area Process.