

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 8, 2014

CONTACT:
Michelle Moreno
(602) 771-8530
mamoreno@azwater.gov

The Arizona Department of Water Resources is seeking information regarding the condition of water wells in Southeast Arizona

ADWR is seeking volunteers to provide information regarding the status of their well to be used in an effort to analyze water conditions in the Willcox and Douglas Basins and the San Simon Sub-basin.

Arizonans, along with others in the southwest, are facing the challenges of an ongoing 15 year drought. Most of the state is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. The most populated areas of the state are under stringent groundwater regulations, mandatory water conservation requirements and have diverse water supply portfolios. In contrast, most of rural Arizona relies exclusively on groundwater as its primary water source and lacks groundwater regulations. This can result in water supplies being more stressed in some areas of rural Arizona.

Reports of wells going dry have been received through the offices of Senator Griffin, Representatives Gowan and Stevens, as well as ADWR. In response, ADWR has established a reporting portal whereby individuals impacted by wells going dry may report the incident online. In addition, due to heightened concerns about groundwater conditions in the Willcox and Douglas areas ADWR Director Michael Lacey has ordered his field services staff to conduct a detailed sweep of water level conditions throughout those areas. The water level sweep will be conducted later this year. Prior to conducting this sweep, ADWR staff will be reaching out to well owners to secure access to their wells. Widespread cooperation of local well owners will improve the effectiveness of this data collection effort.

"Specific detailed well data is fundamental to the analysis required to understand the water conditions in these valleys. Whether you are impacted by a drying well or wish to assist us in gathering current water level data, we need to hear from you", stated Director Lacey.

If you would like to volunteer your well to be part of the investigation or if you would like to report that your water well has gone dry, please complete the Arizona Well Questionnaire form that is available on ADWR's website at: http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/eforms/Forms/WS/DWR Well Survey.aspx or if you do not have access to the internet, please contact ADWR at 602-771-8530.