

# Arizona Department of Water Resources

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NEWS  
RELEASE



Janet Napolitano,  
Governor  
Herb Guenther,  
Director  
For immediate release  
August 21, 2008

Public Information Office  
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## ADWR issues Draft Volume 8 of Arizona Water Atlas

The Arizona Department of Water Resources has completed draft Volume 8 of a nine-volume set comprising the Arizona Water Atlas, Director Herb Guenther announced today.

"By creating the Atlas, ADWR initiates a more systematic effort to assist Arizona water planning efforts and develop solutions to water resource problems," Guenther said.

"The primary objectives are to present an overview of water supply and demand conditions in Arizona, to provide water resource information for planning and resource development purposes, and to identify the needs of our communities."

Atlas Volume 8 covers the five active management areas, or AMAs, which include the state's most urbanized areas. The five AMAs are the Phoenix, Pinal, Prescott, Santa Cruz and Tucson AMAs which stretch from the international border through central Arizona.

More than 80% of the state's inhabitants live in the AMAs and consume an average of 3.7 million acre-feet of water annually. Water use within AMAs is subject to an extensive regulatory framework, including conservation requirements, measuring and annual reporting of water use data, and long-range water management goals.

For study purposes, ADWR staff divided Arizona into seven planning areas; there is a separate Atlas volume for each of the seven planning areas, an introductory volume composed of background information, and a water resource evaluation volume.

Volume 8 is the first document of a larger AMA planning effort that includes the AMA Assessment and the fourth management plan for each AMA. The assessment will provide detailed information on each AMA and an analytical foundation for the fourth management plans.

Draft Atlas volumes 1-8 are available on the ADWR website – [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov). Because they contain considerable numbers of high-quality maps, the volumes are extremely large. ADWR recommends visitors download each item they wish to examine, rather than attempt to view them while on line.

Department staff is seeking substantive public and professional comment on the work in progress. Comments on all draft volumes are due by October 31, 2008. Staff plans to revise the Atlas based on comments received. An electronic comment form is available on the website.

The final volume of the Arizona Water Atlas, Volume 9 – Arizona Water Sustainability Evaluation, will attempt to answer the public's most common question: Does my community have enough water? To answer this question Volume 9 will describe the sustainability of water supplies for planning areas, basins, and selected communities using water resources information from Volumes 2-8 of the Arizona Water Atlas."

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