



Arizona Department of Water Resources

PRESS RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Water Resources to hold water planning meeting in Wenden

PHOENIX (September 22, 2016) - The Arizona Department of Water Resources (Department) will hold a water planning meeting in Wenden on October 5th to continue discussions regarding water conditions in the West Basins Planning Area. This meeting is part of a series of meetings to examine water resource challenges for the area. The goal of this process is to develop stakeholder driven solutions for projected future water demand and supply imbalances.

The Department began working with stakeholders in the area in January 2016. During the initial meeting, the Department received input regarding stakeholder's water resources concerns. Concerns focused on declining groundwater levels and water use for the production of goods that are exported outside of the state. The following meetings focused on water use data collection and development of mitigation strategies for future water demand and supply imbalances.

While the most populated areas of the state are under stringent groundwater regulations, mandatory water conservation requirements and have diverse water supply portfolios, most of rural Arizona relies exclusively on groundwater as its primary water source and lacks groundwater regulations.

In order to determine the current water conditions in the area, earlier this year, Director Tom Buschatzke directed his staff to conduct a water level survey of the Ranegras Plain Groundwater Basin which includes the areas of Vicksburg, Hope, New Hope and Brenda.

In March 2016, the Department collected water level measurements in 58 wells located throughout the Ranegras Plain Groundwater Basin. The 2016 water level measurements were compared to water level measurements obtained during the last water level sweep of the Basin that was conducted in 2004. The Department's analysis of the data collected showed the average change in water levels from 2004 to 2016 for all wells measured in the Ranegras Plain Groundwater Basin was a decline of just over a foot and a half per year.

Meeting Details

Date: October 5, 2016
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Location: Centennial Community Center, 69725 Centennial Park Rd., Wenden, Arizona 85357

The meeting agenda is available at:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/documents/MeetingAnnouncement10-5-2016.pdf

These meetings and future meetings are part of Governor Ducey's Water Initiative for the state. Through the Planning Area Stakeholder Process, the Department will work closely with rural areas and local stakeholders to define their water resource issues and identify strategies that will be successful in assisting with meeting future water demands.

On October 5, 2015, Governor Ducey announced his Water Initiative to secure sustainable water supplies for Arizona's future. In addition to the Planning Area Stakeholder Process, the Water Initiative involves the creation of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council, which will investigate long-term water augmentation strategies, additional water conservation opportunities, funding, and infrastructure needs to help secure water supplies for Arizona's future.

Information regarding Arizona's Water Initiative is available at:

http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/Arizona_Water_Initiative/index.htm

For more information regarding this matter, please contact Michelle Moreno, Public Information Officer at mamoreno@azwater.gov or (602) 771-8530.

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