

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
GROUNDWATER USERS ADVISORY COUNCIL
PRESCOTT ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA
3550 North Central Avenue • Phoenix, Arizona 85012
Telephone (602) 771-8500 • Fax (602) 771-8689



Jim Holt, Chairman
Larry Tarkowski, Vice-Chair
Yvonne Kimball
Christopher Marley
Robert Roecker

February 23, 2015

US Bureau Reclamation
Financial Assistance Services
Attn: Shaun Wilken
Mail Code: 84-27852
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support for Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R15AS00015, WaterSMART:
Development of Feasibility Studies under the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program
for Fiscal Year 2015

Dear Mr. Wilken,

The Prescott Active Management Area (AMA) is one of three actively managed groundwater basins in Arizona with a management goal of reaching “Safe Yield” (a balance between recharge and withdrawals) by the year 2025. It is the only Safe Yield AMA that does not have access to water from the Central Arizona Project. Since the implementation of Arizona’s landmark Groundwater Management Act in 1980, water users in the Prescott AMA have lived under the strictest groundwater management program in the West. Groundwater withdrawals during that timeframe have declined despite a four-fold increase in population.

The Groundwater Users Advisory Council (GUAC) in the Prescott AMA coordinates with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to implement water management plans. We are currently examining innovative approaches to reaching safe yield by increasing water supplies and reducing water use. The GUAC is also working with local governmental jurisdictions through the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition (Coalition) for development and implementation. To support these efforts, the Coalition is submitting a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (WaterSMART Feasibility Studies FOA No. R15AS00015). This feasibility study would interface with ADWR’s groundwater model to determine ways to increase natural recharge in the Prescott AMA Groundwater Basin. The GUAC supports the Coalition’s Feasibility Study application to monitor storm runoff in the Prescott AMA and recommends funding approval.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Holt, Chairman
Prescott AMA GUAC