

Arizona Department of Water Resources

History of creation of extinguishment
credits

Pinal AMA GUAC

July 25, 2013

1980 Groundwater Code established and created:

- Irrigation Grandfathered Rights (IGFR's)
 - Based on existing use; limited to AG irrigation
- Ability to convert IGFR's to Type-1 right
 - from AG irrigation only to non-AG (M&I)
- Type-2 rights
 - Based on existing use; limited to non-AG
- Authority to withdraw and deliver groundwater within a municipal service area
 - Limited to non-AG use

1980 Groundwater Code continued

- Created 4 Active Management Areas
 - Froze the number of irrigated acres
 - Created a statutorily mandated management goal for each AMA
 - Pinal: Preserve AG as long as feasible, while preserving supplies for future non-irrigation uses
- Created Assured Water Supply Program
 - Grandfathered in existing municipal uses
 - Required new land use (development) to have 100-year renewable water supplies

1995 Assured Water Supply Rules Adopted

- Required developers to show that 100-year supplies were:
 - Physically, legally, & continuously available
 - Adequate quality, financial capability
 - Consistent with the AMA Plan (conservation)
 - Consistent with the AMA Goal (renewable)
- Extinguishment Credits created in rule for AWS use
 - Help with the transition to renewable water supply

1995 Legislature created
Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District

- CAGRD allows a developer to join when they don't have renewable water supplies.
- New growth pays for replenishment of groundwater after use.

2000

Governor Hull Water Management Commission

- Commission was tasked to review current water management conditions across the state and make recommendations for possible modification to the GW Code or existing programs
- One recommendation was that the Pinal GUAC examine the AWS rules for compliance with the Pinal statutory requirements (Goal)

2001 Pinal GUAC

- Pinal GUAC began review
 - Established Water Management Subcommittee to look at water supplies vs. demands & AWS rules vs. statutorily mandated Goal
 - Required review to be public process
 - Established the goal of having a comprehensive water management program by January 2005.

2001 – 2005

Water Management Subcommittee

- Subcommittee consisted of 15 members representing: GUAC members, Farmers, Cities & Towns, Irrigation Districts, Water Companies, Developers, ADWR representative all from the Pinal AMA.
 - Technical assistance provided by ADWR and outside consultants
- Findings and Recommendations sent to Pinal GUAC

2006

Pinal GUAC

- January 2006, Pinal GUAC unanimously accepted the recommendations and forwarded a rule modification request to ADWR.
- ADWR initiated formal public rule making based on the GUAC request.
- Rule modification formally adopted becoming effective October 1, 2007.

2009

Irrigation District Requests

- Due to the economic downturn several Irrigation Districts requested and ADWR agreed to modify the rules to:
 - Allow for the renewal of extinguished IGFRs
 - Delay the implementation of the Pinal AMA extinguishment rule
- A Gentlemen's agreement was entered into by the Districts and ADWR that the Districts would not seek further delays, regardless of economic conditions, and that they would work to prepare their systems for the eventual retirement of IGFR's