



# Arizona Department of Water Resources Prescott Active Management Area

DECEMBER 2009

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## Top Officials to Lead Statewide Water Sustainability Effort

Following Governor Jan Brewer's commitment to collaborate on water resource issues, Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther, Arizona Corporation Commission Chairman Kris Mayes, and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Ben Grumbles will direct a statewide effort to boost water sustainability through increased conservation and reuse.

The formation of the blue-ribbon panel on water sustainability was announced after Governor Brewer highlighted water conservation and water recycling as priorities for the state.

The Governor directed the agencies to work together and formulate a plan of action to achieve water sustainability. The panel will have a number of tools at hand, involving technology, innovation, and collaboration to reduce water waste and inefficiency, recycle water, and restore watersheds.

The panel will look to identify and overcome obstacles to increased water sustainability. Of particular interest will be suggestions and concerns of cities, towns, and other water providers involved in implementing new strategies.

A key part of the multiagency collaboration will be a focus on water reuse. The blue-ribbon panel will provide advice on the technical, legal, and policy aspects of promoting recycling of wastewater, graywater, industrial process water, and stormwater.

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“ We look forward to working with our key stakeholders to help us chart a better path to securing Arizona's sustainable water future. ”

**Herb Guenther,**  
Director, ADWR

### Among the ideas being considered by the panel are:

- The importance of water-efficient technologies and practices;
- The need to recognize the nexus of water and energy;
- Additional conservation incentives; and
- The assistance of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona.



# Get to Know... Shaun Rydell



“With the recent gift of my first grandchild, now, more than ever, I am dedicated to ensuring that we have a clean, safe and sustainable water supply for future generations.”

**Shaun Rydell**  
Water Conservation  
Coordinator  
City of Prescott

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[www.cityofprescott.net/services/water/conservation.php](http://www.cityofprescott.net/services/water/conservation.php)

As the City of Prescott’s first fulltime water conservation coordinator, Shaun Rydell has brought enthusiasm to her task of developing and implementing a comprehensive water conservation program for the city.

Since she took the position in 2006, the City has adopted many new conservation efforts, including a conservation-based tiered water rate structure and the Water Smart public education campaign.

A significant task of Shaun’s is to support the mayor-appointed Water Conservation/Safe Yield

Committee, a volunteer committee that evaluates conservation programs, provides input on project development and recommends WaterSmart proposals for policy and council adoption.

Shaun just completed the **Conservation—Regional Water Awareness Handbook** and is working to distribute newly-developed WaterSmart education cards throughout the region.

Committed to designing and developing regional Water Smart community-based programs, Shaun is an ardent supporter of creating opportunities that

encourage the development of local industry, increase training and certification for efficient water use in landscapes and increase the use of new technologies to support regional water-efficiency efforts.

An Iowa State University graduate in Community and Regional Planning, Shaun practiced planning in Kansas before relocating to Prescott. Technically trained in Architectural Drafting, Shaun has over 29 years experience in exterior and interior design and consumer-based project development.

**Water Smart**™

## Regulatory Stuff

In 2009, the Prescott AMA office:

- Sent out four advisory letters to water right holders for failure to file an annual withdrawal and use report;
- Conducted two site inspections to determine the pumping capacity and kilowatt hours per acre-foot for three wells associated with a grandfathered irrigation right;
- Continued negotiations on a stipulation and consent order for violations of withdrawals in excess of legal authority and the statute regarding bodies of water;
- Conducted two site inspections associated with exempt wells that were potentially drilled illegally; and

- Set the groundwater withdrawal fees for water use in 2010. Per the recommendation of the Groundwater Users Advisory Council, the fees will remain at \$2.00 per acre-foot of water withdrawn in the Prescott AMA.

## Water Level Map

Water Level Change Map Series (WLCMS) No. 2 that details the water level changes in the Big Chino Sub-basin from 1999-2004 was published in April, 2009. WLCMS No. 4 that details water level changes from 1999-2009 was published in September, 2009. Both WLCMS are available on the ADWR web page in the Hydrology [eLibrary](#).

# UPDATE: City of Prescott's Application to Modify its Designation of Assured Water Supply

On October 12, 2007, Prescott submitted an application to modify its designation of assured water supply to include groundwater imported from the Big Chino Sub-basin. During the public notice period, ADWR received multiple objections.

On November 12, 2008, ADWR issued a draft decision that granted Prescott's application in large part. Prescott and other AMA residents appealed this decision to the Office of Administrative Hearings. After several days of hearing in Prescott, the Administrative Law judge (ALJ) issued his decision on October 29, 2009. In it, he recommended the (ADWR) Director affirm his previous decision to grant Prescott's application, but increase the amount of groundwater Prescott can transport from the Big Chino Sub-basin by 500 acre-feet per year.



## Blue-ribbon Panel (continued)

On November 24th, the Panel met to continue planning the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Reclaimed Water. The group agreed on a scope of work, task force purpose and general membership list. The Task Force will formally "kick-off" its work after the start of the new year.

### Need Assistance?

If you have any questions or need assistance with a New Use Summons or Statement of Claimant, please contact the Prescott AMA office at 928.778.7202 or the Phoenix Adjudication Section at 866.246.1414.

On November 20, 2009, the Director issued his decision. In that decision, the Director determined that Prescott was not entitled to transport the additional 500 acre-feet per year from the Big Chino Sub-basin. The Director's decision is posted on ADWR's [web page](#).

All parties to the administrative appeal may either request the Director to reconsider the November 20, 2009 decision or seek judicial review of the decision in superior court. On December 8, 2009, three of the parties served ADWR with a complaint for judicial review. ADWR must file an answer to the complaint by December 28, 2009.

## New Use Summons

The Arizona Department of Water Resources, acting as technical assistant to the Arizona Superior Court, recently mailed out New Use Summons to 187 entities in the Verde River watershed to inform potential claimants about the general stream adjudication of the Gila River System.

Entities that may have initiated a new water use received the New Use Summons. Initiation of a new water use was demonstrated by: application for a surface water right; application for a notice of intent to drill a well; registration of a well; or changing property ownership. The summons directs those entities to make any claims to water rights that they may have by filing a Statement of Claimant (SOC) with ADWR.

## Should Well Users File?

The adjudication process may include water uses from wells, depending upon the location of the well and other factors. If the court determines that your well should be included in the adjudication process and you have not filed a SOC, you could lose your right to withdraw and use water from that well. **ADWR encourages well users to file a SOC.**

## 2009 Water Legislation

HB 2008, passed during the Legislature's third special session in 2009, imposes a moratorium on certain rule-making activities by state agencies. The moratorium prohibits state agencies from conducting any rule making that would impose increased monetary or regulatory costs on other state agencies, political subdivisions of this state, persons or individuals, or would not reduce the regulatory burden on the persons or individuals so regulated. The moratorium is in effect until July 1, 2010, consequently, ADWR has suspended all rule making activities in the Prescott AMA.



## ADWR Sunset Review

On October 28, 2009, as required by law, there was a public hearing of the Senate Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Public Debt and House of Representatives Water and Energy Committee of Reference for the Sunset Review of ADWR. It was recommended that the agency be continued for another 10 years.



## Fostering Water-efficient Behavior— Community Based Social Marketing Workshop Hosted by ADWR & EPA WaterSense



Presenter: Doug McKenzie-Mohr



Carol Ward-Morris, AMWUA  
Christina Klien, City of Scottsdale

## The B-word

Two ADWR-budget-related bills passed:

**SB 1001 (budget reductions and transfers; 2008-2009):** provides for various cuts, transfers, reductions and reversions to the ADWR budget.

**SB 1188 (general appropriations; FY 2009-2010) & HB 2643 (general appropriations; 2009-2010; trailer):** appropriates to ADWR \$18,121,800 from the state General Fund and \$946,100 from the Assured & Adequate Water Supply Administration Fund for a total budget of \$19,067,900.



In light of the fiscal crisis affecting the State of Arizona, ADWR is undergoing severe budget reduction pressure. The Governor directed ADWR to develop strategies for becoming self-funding to various degrees. On December 4, 2009, the Department held a meeting with individuals and groups who have a stake in ADWR's future. The advice and counsel of stakeholders is essential to developing any workable self-funding fee structure. Information regarding ADWR's strategy to become self-funding can be found on the ADWR [web page](#).

## From Workshop Evaluations:

- "Best workshop I have ever attended!"
- "Perfect!"
- "Excellent!"
- "Great workshop. I learned a lot!"
- "The workshop was outstanding!"



[www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov)

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