

Arizona Department of Water Resources

New Management Area: proposal summary



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Groundwater Conservation Area basic structure

- * Minimize regulatory footprint
- * Encourage conservation (all water use sectors)
- * Limits new groundwater uses
- * Freezes large irrigation, but is divorced from the “tied to acres” model of the AMA/INA; allows portability with increased efficiency (Type-3)
- * Allows for limited addition of new low water-duty, highly efficient crop irrigation
- * Protects existing GW users with well impact reviews

Groundwater Conservation Area summary review

- * Withdrawal Authorities required; exempt wells supporting exempt uses authorities not required
- * Exempt uses: 35 gpm or less; stock, domestic, and watering less than 2 acres; less than 10 af/yr
- * Withdrawal Authorities: meter & reporting; use fee: \$2-\$5 per AF
- * Exempt uses: no meter; no reporting; no use fee
- * New wells: impact review including 35 gpm or less wells used for irrigation; exempt wells for exempt uses no impact review.

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities; Irrigation

- * Irrigation Grandfathered Authority (IGFA)
 - * Existing (5 years prior to GCA & SCI qualified) or Historical Irrigation Exemption
 - * Volume limit based on 5 af/ac
 - * Certified Acres; shape and general location flexible; no increase in acres or water volume
 - * IGFA may be extinguished in whole or in part; 2 acre minimum
 - * IGFA may be converted to a Type-3 in whole or part; 10 af/yr minimum
 - * Certified Acres that have been extinguished may be brought back into production with appropriate withdrawal authority (Type-3 or new low water use irrigation authority)
 - * One-year over run; may exceed volume but make up exceedance the following year

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities; Irrigation

- * Historical Exemption

- * Acres irrigated more than 5 years prior to the GCA but 25 years or less
- * Apply w/in 5 years of GCA
- * The qualifying acres get volume limit of 2.5 af/ac (50% reduction); May concentrate allocation within qualifying acres
- * Applicant notifies ADWR of the acres to resume irrigation (certified acres gets IGFA) -OR-
- * Applicant may convert directly to Type-3 with 50% reduction
- * Historical Exemption IGFA expires in 5 years after certification if no irrigation commences.

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities; Irrigation

- * New Low Water Use Irrigation Authority (LWUIA)
 - * Limited number of new irrigation authorities; no more than 10% increase over original IGFA certified acres
 - * Volume limit based on a water duty of 1.5 af/ac
 - * Issued up to 40 acre grants; production or irrigation required before owner may apply for additional acres.
 - * One-time Aquifer Impact Fee: \$500 – \$1500 per acre
 - * LWUIA may be extinguished in whole or in part; 2 acre minimum; LWUIA not transferable to a Type-3
 - * Low Water Use Acres that have been extinguished may be brought back into production with appropriate withdrawal authority (Type-3 or new low water use irrigation authority)
 - * One-year over run; may exceed volume but make up exceedance the following year

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities; Industrial

- * Industrial Type-3
 - * Issued to existing industrial users at time of GCA
 - * Volume based upon highest use in 5 years prior to GCA
 - * Transfer from original location (more than ½ mile) or change to non-industrial use causes conversion to normal Type-3 with 50% reduction in volume.
 - * Industrial Type-3 may be extinguished in whole or part; 10 af/yr minimum
 - * One-year over run; may exceed volume but make up exceedance the following year

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities; Municipal

- * Service Area Authority (SA)
 - * Issued to cities towns and private water companies serving water to customers at time of GCA
 - * Volumetric limit based upon a 25% increase over use at time of GCA; additional growth requires Type-3's
 - * New service areas not in existence at time of GCA require Type-3
 - * Dry-lot subdivisions exempt
 - * Service area should = ADRE definition of subdivision
 - * Reporting includes compliance with L&U less than 10%

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities: New Uses

- * New Uses may be supported by the use of a Type-3
 - * Type-3 – limited volume, may be used for any purpose, from any type of well, fully portable within the GCA.
 - * Industrial Type-3 – limited volume, industrial uses, from any well, tied to location; may be converted to general Type-3
 - * Type-3 created by
 - * Conversion of Irrigation Grandfathered Authority (IGFA)
 - * Conversion of an Industrial Type-3
 - * May be sold, leased, or permanently retired, in whole or in part; 10 af/yr minimum
 - * Metering, reporting and use fee
 - * One-year over run; may exceed volume but make up exceedance the following year

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities; Exempt uses

- * An exempt well is a well equipped with a pump 35 GPM or less, and is used to irrigate less than 2 acres.
 - * Allowable uses include: domestic, stock, commercial, and garden/landscape under 2 acres up to 10 af/yr
- * No meter; no reporting; no use fee

Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Authorities; General

- * No pump size or well classification restrictions for uses through appropriate Withdrawal Authorities.
- * Exempt uses limited to the use of exempt wells (35 gpm or less)
- * Lands where original irrigation authorities have been transferred or extinguished may be brought back into production with appropriate withdrawal authority (Type-3 or new LWUIA)
- * All new wells (not replacement wells) over 35 gpm, wells 35 gpm or less used for Irrigation, and Type-3's moving more than 10 miles, all must pass well impact review

Groundwater Conservation Area General Items

- * Temporary withdrawal permits should be included (dewatering, hydro test, Temporary General Industrial Use etc. (A.R.S. 45-511 – 45-528)
- * The GCA should be included in 45-131 (the lakes bill)
- * Metering phase-in for existing meter required wells; three years with additional extensions
- * 50% deduction each year on use fee for cost of meter for existing wells up to full cost; 25% deduction first 10 years for new wells up to 50% of cost

Groundwater Conservation Area modification restrictions

- * No AMA in GCA until 10 years after the creation of GCA (give it time to work)
- * No INA in GCA
- * The intent of the Willcox Working Group is that the GCA is applicable to the Willcox Basin; allow other areas to adopt
- * Subsequent GCA: with local input-
 - * Adoption follows AMA process: Director (ADWR) driven or local initiation process; petition & vote
 - * A Subsequent GCA may be placed over an existing INA; A subsequent GCA may NOT be placed over an existing AMA

Groundwater Conservation Area Groundwater Users Advisory Council

- * GUAC: appointed board of local water users from each use sector; no fewer than 7 members
- * GUAC advises the Director on:
 - * Setting of use fees; withdrawal fee and aquifer impact fee (minimum and maximum set in statute) (\$2-5/af & \$500-\$1500/acre)
 - * Which Conservation and Augmentation projects to support (ADWR may partner with existing programs; NRCD's)
 - * Well impact review standards
 - * BMP conservation program qualifying practices
 - * Conservation Plans; updates and elements

Groundwater Conservation Area Conservation Plans

- * Conservation Plans drafted and updated every 10 years; Mid-plan modifications as needed (year 5)
- * Plans drafted with input from GUAC and general public
- * Conservation Plan shall include the following:
 - * Acceptable best management practices for each water use sector and minimum number of practices in the voluntary program
 - * Acceptable measuring device standards and acceptable alternate use calculation methodologies
 - * Well impact review standards to minimize well clustering and impacts to existing well owners (cone of depression & water table decline rates; mitigation?)
 - * Initial BMP standards should have a 5-year phase-in

Groundwater Conservation Area ADWR

- * The Arizona Department of Water Resources shall have general jurisdictional and enforcement authority
- * ADWR; collect and distribute use fees with advice from the GUAC for conservation, augmentation and water management purposes; includes conservation equipment; recharge and importation; hydrologic studies; retirement of withdrawal authorities

QUESTIONS? Comments?

