

# Groundwater Transportation

May 6, 2008

# Groundwater Transportation Prohibited Between Basins

(Title 45, Chapter 2, Articles 8 and 8.1)

- Several Specific Exemptions Created
  - Existing uses
  - Providers serving populations in both basins by July 1, 1993
  - Yuma basin
  - Little Colorado basin
  - Parker basin

# Groundwater Transportation into an AMA Prohibited

- Several Specific Exemptions Created
  - McMullen Valley (§45-552)
  - Big Chino subbasin (§45-555)
  - Harquahala INA (§45-554)
  - Butler Valley (§45-553)
- Each has specific limitations and qualifications

# Allowable Transportation

- Transportation includes: exchanges, indirect recharge, or any other method of providing water through reciprocation.
- For transportation activities; wells constructed after September 21, 1991 must pass well spacing review
- Well spacing review based upon 5-year 10-foot draw down (A.R.S. §45-598)
- Wells used for Big Chino transportation under §45-555.E are exempted

# A.R.S. §45-552

## McMullen Valley

- Lands must be HIA irrigated with GW and purchased by a city before Jan. 1, 1988 or
- Lands must be HIA irrigated with GW and purchased by a person within the same basin and county as an initial AMA
- Imported by: city, town, private water company; must be used by: city, town, private water company, or Arizona Water Banking Authority.
- Volumetric limits also depth & decline limits for assured water supply

# A.R.S. §45-553

## Butler Valley

- Lands owned by State of Arizona, or political subdivision of the state.
- Transported by Arizona or a political subdivision of Arizona.
- No volumetric limits
- No depth limits

# A.R.S. §45-554

## Harquahala INA

- Lands eligible to be irrigated under §45-437.B (subsequent INA qualifying lands)
- Imported by this state or political subdivision for their use or by the Arizona Water Banking Authority.
- Average volumetric limit (3 af/ac)
- Max decline rate of 10 feet per year and max depth of 1,000 feet.

# A.R.S. §45-555(A) Prescott/Big Chino

- (§45-555-A) owned by a city or town irrigated to meet HIA (January 1, 1975 – January 1, 1990)
- Transported by a City or Town owning or leasing HIA lands
- Average volumetric limit (3 af/ac)
- Depth/decline limits: none

# A.R.S. §45-555(E) Prescott/Big Chino

- Any lands within the sub-basin
- Limited to City of Prescott as importer
- Volumetric limits: up to 14,000 af/yr
- No well impact analysis required.

# Questions or Comments?

Doug Dunham  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Water Management Division  
Arizona Department of Water Resources

3550 N. Central Avenue, 2nd Floor

Phoenix, Arizona 85012

(602) 771-8500

(800) 352-8488

[dwdunham@azwater.gov](mailto:dwdunham@azwater.gov)

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