



PROTECTING ARIZONA'S
WATER SUPPLIES
for ITS NEXT CENTURY

**Arizona Department of Water Resources
Enhanced Aquifer Management Stakeholder Process
September 27, 2013**

Problems:

- Certain areas within the Active Management Areas (AMAs) are experiencing local groundwater level declines. These declines can result in land subsidence, earth fissuring, increased pumping costs, decreased water quality, and possible physical availability issues.
- Ideally recharge facilities would be constructed in proximity to areas that are experiencing groundwater level decline.
- Current law and rules allow a party to recharge/store water in one location and recover in another location within the same AMA. The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District is not required to replenish mined groundwater in the same location within the AMA where the pumpage originally occurred.
- There may be a number of reasons why recharge/recovery or pumping/replenishment may not take place in the same location. Some reasons include the proximity of renewable supply infrastructure; suitability of recharge sites; cost of building a recharge facility; economy of scale in having shared recharge facilities; and lack of storage capacity in some recharge facility sites.

Objective:

- With input from stakeholders, the Department will create a concept paper that provides a policy/regulatory framework for managing storage and recovery to meet water management objectives.

Proposed Schedule:

- The Stakeholder group will meet every 3-4 weeks on Wednesdays. Meetings will usually be scheduled for 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, beginning in October. The first meeting will be October 9th from 12:00 PM-3:00 PM. Meetings are expected to continue into 2014.

Proposed Ground Rules:

- Process is open to any interested party for comment and participation.
- The Department will receive input from the stakeholder group on recharge/recovery and water management issues.
- Agendas and proposals will be distributed in advance of meetings and also posted to the website.
- The Department will arrange for accessibility to meetings via web/telephone conference.

Proposed Issues for Discussion:

- Location of the most significant problem areas in AMAs
- Overview of the Department's Enhanced Aquifer Management proposal, along with comments and alternative proposals received

- Discussion of location of pumpage/recharge/replenishment – incentives and disincentives
 - Cuts to aquifer (disincentives)
 - Area of Hydrologic Impact (AOHI)
 - Sub Basin
 - Levels of cut to aquifer
 - Additional credits earned for storage in certain areas of concern (incentives)
 - Areas that would uniquely benefit by recharge
 - Special Enhancement Areas (“SEAs”)
 - What would reward be (extra credits? \$\$?) Would need to store in area of concern, but recover elsewhere.
- Types of storage/recovery to be included in proposal:
 - Long-Term Storage Credits
 - Annual storage/recovery
 - Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR) Replenishment
 - Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) Storage/Recovery
- Types of water considered:
 - Effluent
 - Sources other than effluent
- WATERBUD (Water That Cannot Reasonably Be Used Directly) statutes 45-802.01(22)(A) and 45-852.01 (B)(1)
- Current 50% Cut to Aquifer for Managed Recharge Projects
- 4-foot Decline Criteria for Recovery Wells
- Current incentives exempt remediated groundwater from municipal conservation requirements, and account for remediated groundwater as allowable groundwater under Assured Water Supply Rules. These incentives are currently set for expiration in 2025.

Proposed Initial Meeting Schedule through end of 2013, in the Verde conference rooms at the Arizona Department of Water Resources

- Wednesday, October 9th 12:00 PM -3:00 PM
- Wednesday, November 13th 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 18th 12:30 PM -3:30 PM
- Additional meetings to be scheduled as needed in 2014

Agenda for Kickoff Meeting, October 9th

- Overview of issues and process;
- Discuss the Department’s Enhanced Aquifer Management proposal, and comments received;
- Overview of how credits are calculated currently;
- Overview of how credits would be calculated with the Department’s Enhanced Aquifer Management proposal;
- Topics for future discussion and schedule of future meetings