

# Arizona Department of Water Resources

## *New Management Area: Key Concepts and Components*



**Willcox , AZ**  
**February 27, 2015**

**Douglas W. Dunham**  
**Assistant to the Director**  
**Legislative Liaison**  
**Ombudsman**

# Groundwater Conservation Area Goals

- \* Minimize regulatory footprint
- \* Encourage conservation
- \* Freezes large irrigation, but is divorced from the “tied to acres” model of the AMA/INA; allows portability with increased efficiency
- \* Allows for limited addition of new low water-duty, highly efficient crop irrigation
- \* Protects existing GW users with well impact reviews
- \* Supports conservation, mitigation and supply augmentation projects



# Groundwater Conservation Area Irrigation (HWI)

- \* Freeze on High Water-Duty Irrigation acres (greater than 1.5 af/ac)
- \* Irrigation of less than 2 acres exempt but limited to 10 af/yr
- \* Must be irrigated within the last 5 years (SCI)
- \* Flexibility of right within same farm unit if increasing efficiency; reduction of water duty 5%
- \* Convert to Type-3 for new uses within basin; water duty reduction 50%



# Groundwater Conservation Area Irrigation (LWI)

- \* New irrigation may be added for high efficiency, Low Water Duty Irrigation (LWI); water duty of 1.5 af/ac
- \* Limit of new LWI acres W/O Type-3; 25% of total HIA
- \* Total upper limit of LWI from Type-3 not more than 50% of HIA
- \* LWI acres 2 acres or more may be irrigated with exempt wells (<35 gpm) not to exceed 10 af/yr
- \* Irrigation of less than 2 acres exempt but limited to 10 af/yr



# Groundwater Conservation Area New Type-3 Rights

- \* Conversion of historical irrigation (HWI) to new uses by creating a Type-3 Right (sever & transfer); in whole or in part (minimum size 10 af/yr)
- \* Water Duty reduction of 50%
- \* Portable anywhere within the basin
- \* Volumetric right; not limited to acres served for low water-duty crops
- \* Available for any new use (Irrigation, Municipal or Industrial)



# Groundwater Conservation Area Metering and Reporting

- \* All non-exempt wells require metering and annual use reporting
- \* Exempt wells used to irrigate LWI lands of 2 acres or more require metering and annual use reports
- \* All new exempt domestic wells, new exempt well used for non-irrigation (less than 2 acres, stock watering etc.) are not required to meter but must estimate and report use



# Groundwater Conservation Area Well Impact Review

- \* All new non-exempt wells will require well impact review
- \* Exempt wells used to irrigate LWI lands 2 acres in size or more withdrawing more than 10 af/yr will require well impact review
- \* Exempt wells used to irrigate less than 2 acres, and withdrawing 10 af/yr or less are exempt
- \* Exempt wells used for domestic, and stock watering are exempt



# Groundwater Conservation Area Withdrawal Fee

- \* All non-exempt wells and exempt wells used to irrigate LWI lands 2 acres in size or more will have an annual withdrawal and use fee per acre foot
- \* All wells used to irrigate LWI lands 2 acres in size or more will have an annual aquifer impact fee
- \* Fees to be used within the basin collected for conservation, mitigation & augmentation projects; also administration & monitoring: fissuring, subsidence, groundwater monitoring & modeling



# Groundwater Conservation Area Groundwater Users Advisory Council

- \* An appointed council shall be created representing all of the water use sectors within the GCA
- \* The GUAC shall hold public meetings as needed
- \* The GUAC shall advise the Director and make recommendations on: setting withdrawal fees; which conservation, augmentation & mitigation projects to support; report on progress & results of supported projects, and any changes to regulatory structures and programs that may be needed.
- \* Director may appoint an Area Director to coordinate with the local community



# Groundwater Conservation Area Municipal uses

- \* Municipal Service Area Rights – existing wells grandfathered; new wells pass impact review
- \* MSA may expand up to 50% without addition of Type-2 or Type-3 rights
- \* MSA must file annual report (existing CWS report) and pay withdrawal fee
- \* MSA required to use BMP's to support conservation efforts & minimize L&U
- \* Mandatory Water Adequacy requirement for new subdivisions



# Groundwater Conservation Area Industrial uses

- \* Existing uses are grandfathered in; Type-2 right
- \* Type-2 right (portable) volume assigned based on highest use in past 5 years
- \* Additional uses require the addition of Type-2 or Type-3 rights
- \* Industrial uses must file annual use report and pay withdrawal fees.
- \* Industrial uses must adopt best management practices to support conservation efforts



# QUESTIONS?

