

KATIE M. HOBBS
Governor



THOMAS BUSCHATZKE
Director

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
602.771.8500
azwater.gov

December 19, 2023

The Honorable Katie M. Hobbs
Governor, State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

The purpose of this letter is to fulfill the reporting requirements for the Arizona Department of Water Resources (Department) specified in Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 45-352(C).

Watershed Improvement Program

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-352(C) the Department is required to report "...on or before December 31 each year regarding the activities of the watershed improvement program during the preceding fiscal year and shall provide a copy of that report to the secretary of state."

There have been no specific program activities of the watershed improvement program since its establishment. Related program activities are currently being undertaken through the Arizona Water Protection Fund program (A.R.S. § 45-2101), and active projects in fiscal year 2023 included:

Project Number	Project Name
20-204WPF	Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration
20-205WPF	Upper, Middle, and Lower Fossil Creek Invasive Plant Removal
20-207WPF	Harrenburg Wash Enhancement Project
20-208WPF	Paria Beach Riparian Restoration
20-209WPF	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Lower Verde River Riparian Restoration Project
22-210WPF	Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site

Project Number	Project Name
22-211WPF	Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study
22-212WPF	The Path to Protection at Oak Creek: Social Trail Rehabilitation for Watershed Health
22-213WPF	Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project
22-214WPF	Habitat Restoration in the Gila River Riparian Corridor
22-215WPF	Ravenna & Pampas Grass Control along the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Diamond Creek
23-216WPF	Timberline-Upper Little Colorado River Watershed Improvement Project
23-217WPF	Becker Lake Wildlife Area: Little Colorado River Habitat Improvement Project
23-218WPF	Protecting and Restoring Habitat and Surface Flow in Tanque Verde Creek

The annual report for the Arizona Water Protection Fund submitted pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-2107 contains additional details for these projects and program activities. Annual reports may be accessed online at <https://www.azwfp.gov/documents-and-reports>.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the information in this letter at 602-771-8528 or rteran@azwater.gov.

Sincerely,



Reuben Teran, Executive Director
Arizona Water Protection Fund

cc: The Honorable Katie M. Hobbs, Governor, State of Arizona
The Honorable Adrian Fontes, Arizona Secretary of State
The Honorable Ben Toma, Speaker, Arizona House of Representatives
Thomas Buschatzke, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Lynne Smith, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Scott Selin, Chief Financial Officer, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Ben Alteneider, Chief Legislative Liaison, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Elizabeth Selby, Budget Analyst, Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting
Micaela Larkin, Assistant Director, Joint Legislative Budget Committee