



HUALAPAI VALLEY IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREA (HVINA) FACT SHEET



➔ What is an INA?

An Irrigation Non-Expansion Area, or INA, is a geographic area in Arizona where the expansion of irrigated acres is prohibited and where withdrawals from wells with a pump capacity of greater than 35 gallons per minute must be reported annually. A new INA can be formed using the boundaries of either a groundwater basin or one or more sub-basins. Within an INA, there are limits on the expansion of irrigated lands.

YOU MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR NOTICE OF AUTHORITY TO IRRIGATE LAND IN AN INA TO CONTINUE TO IRRIGATE MORE THAN TWO ACRES WITH GROUNDWATER

What is the Purpose of an INA?

INAs may be created when the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) determines that “there is insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for irrigation of the cultivated lands in the area at the current rates of withdrawal” and that the establishment of an active management area (AMA) is unnecessary. The process for the Director to consider a new INA can initiated either locally by petition or by the Director.

In the case of Hualapai Valley INA (HVINA), the Mohave County of Board of Supervisors requested in June 2022 that the ADWR Director take “whatever actions available and necessary to designate the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin as a subsequent INA.” After a public meeting, the ADWR Director signed an Order to initiate procedures to consider whether to designate the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin as an INA on October 12, 2022. After a public hearing on November 12, 2022, the Director issued a decision establishing the Hualapai Valley INA on December 19, 2022.

What Changes Occurred When the Hualapai Valley Basin Became an INA?

Only acres that had been irrigated within the five years preceding the initiation of the procedures to designate the INA (October 12, 2022) may be irrigated. The irrigation of new acreage after October 12, 2022 is prohibited. This prohibition does not impact fields of less than two acres or lands where a “substantial capital investment” was made to bring the land into cultivation during the five years preceding the initiation of the procedures to designate the INA (October 12, 2022).

YOU MUST FILE AN APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO IRRIGATE LANDS IN AN IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREA.

What is Considered “Substantial Capital Investment” (“SCI”)?

The INA statutes state that land which was not irrigated during the five years preceding the date of the Department’s Notice of Initiation of Designation Procedures (October 12, 2022) “is deemed to have been in irrigation if the director finds that substantial capital investment has been made for the subjugation of such land for an irrigation use including on-site irrigation distribution facilities and a well or wells the drilling and construction of which were substantially commenced before the date of the notice of the initiation of designation procedures.” ARS 45-437 (B)

What is the Difference Between an Exempt Well and a Non-Exempt Well?

Generally speaking, an exempt well is a non-irrigation well with a pump of capacity of 35 gallons per minute or less. Non-exempt wells are those wells that produce more than 35 gallons per minute.

Do All Well Owners Have to Buy Meters if Located in the Hualapai Valley INA?

“Each person withdrawing groundwater from a non-exempt well for an irrigation use and each person withdrawing more than ten acre-feet of groundwater per year from a non-exempt well for a non-irrigation use shall use a water measuring device approved by the director” ARS 45-437 (C) (1) There is an exemption from the metering requirement for withdrawals which are both (1) used only to irrigate 10 or fewer contiguous acres of land at the place of use and (2) not used on land that is part of an integrated farming operation.

Who Must Prepare and File Annual Reports in the Hualapai Valley INA?

“Each person withdrawing groundwater from a non-exempt well shall file a report on a calendar year basis with director... no later than March 31 of the following year. ARS 45-437 (C) (1) Those owners of non-exempt wells that pump fewer than 10 acre-feet per year for non-irrigation uses, and thus do not require meters, must also file annual reports, but may estimate their usage. As with metering, there is an exemption from reporting requirements for withdrawals which are both (1) used only to irrigate 10 or fewer contiguous acres of land at the place of use and (2) not used on land that is part of an integrated farming operation.

How are Lands Determined to be Eligible to be Irrigated in the Hualapai Valley INA?

The Application for Notice of Authority to Irrigate Land in an Irrigation Non-Expansion Area needs to be submitted by landowners who claim to have irrigated land in the five-year period prior to designation of the Hualapai Valley INA (prior to October 12, 2022). In this application, you will be asked for irrigation history for the five years prior to October 12, 2022. ADWR will verify historical irrigation using data sources including aerial photography and satellite imagery and may also conduct site inspections. ADWR will also examine claims of an SCI, if applicable. A determination will be made for each property claimed to have been historically irrigated or claimed under an SCI. Each owner will be notified of his/her verified acreage.

Where Can I Find the Application For Irrigation in an Irrigation Non-Expansion Area?

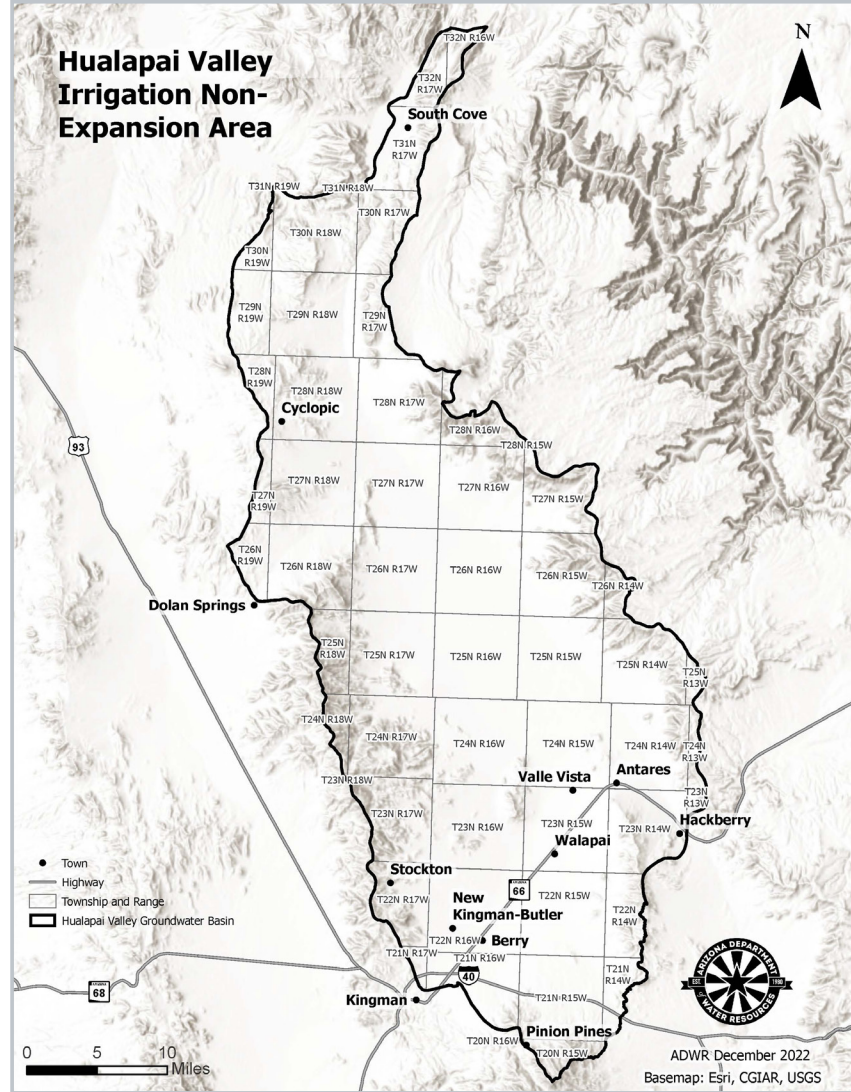
The application can be found at new.azwater.gov/sites/default/files/media/Authority_to_Irrigate_Land_in_the_Hualapai_INA_REV202211.pdf

When Will I Receive Notification of My Irrigation Authority?

Applications will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. There is no deadline for submitting your application, but those who irrigate without an authority or who do not submit an annual report may be subject to compliance action.

Where Can I Find Out More Information on the INA and Irrigation Rights?

More information can be found at new.azwater.gov/ama/hualapai-valley-ina



How can I submit my application?

Applications can be submitted to earp@azwater.gov or mailed to ADWR at 1802 W. Jackson St. Box 79, Phoenix, AZ 85007

YOU MUST FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT BY MARCH 31 IF YOU ARE PUMPING GROUNDWATER FROM A NON-EXEMPT WELL

ADWR WILL EVALUATE APPLICATIONS ON AN ONGOING BASIS.

Please Contact Us with any Questions at 602-771-8585 or via Email at Earp@Azwater.gov