



Docket Supervisor - ADWR <docketsupervisor@azwater.gov>

Douglas AMA goal comment

1 message

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To: docketsupervisor@azwater.gov

Tue, Jun 27, 2023 at 11:32 PM

Dear Ms. Scantlebury,

Below are my comments about the proposed management goal for the Douglas AMA:

I am a Douglas groundwater basin resident and the proposed Management goal by ADWR for the Douglas groundwater basin is inadequate in addressing the current groundwater situation in the valley. I urge ADWR to strengthen the goal into something that is in line with the other AMAs, something that is measurable, unambiguous, and that is in line with ADWR's mission.

The word "attempt" in the current goal completely undermines the purpose of active management, makes the goal unable to be measured, and should be removed from the goal altogether. During ADWR's first Douglas AMA meeting in January, ADWR stated that the goal needed to be measurable the proposed goal does not include any metric to make it measurable. None of the management goals for the existing AMAs contain the word "attempt." These goals state clearly what the residents of the basin aspire to for the conservation of their groundwater.

The documented subsidence and groundwater depletion of the Douglas aquifer is clear from ADWR public presentations and the reports found on their website. The residents of this basin deserve a management goal that is concrete and in line with the initial AMAs across the state of Arizona. A.R.S. ARS 45-569(B) states that if earth fissures or land subsidence are endangering property in the area of the AMA, the management plans implemented for the AMA must follow the management plans established for the state's existing AMAs. At a minimum, ADWR should be setting a management goal for our Douglas AMA that would adhere to the management goals and plans set for our state's existing AMAs. All management "plans" fall under any management "goal" therefore any goal proposed by ADWR should be written to best support this statute.

According to A.R.S. 45-141, our waters belong to the public at large and we need an AMA Goal that works for local residents. The goal should follow the law with a strong assertion that it is the public whose right to a stable water supply is protected over the special out of state interests extracting free groundwater for their own profit. The public at large voted this AMA into place after 40 years of inaction from ADWR and we have the right to have our groundwater protected.

The goal should achieve and maintain stabilized local water tables within 10 years and maintain stable water levels in the following decades. As stated above, the goal will ultimately influence the management plans and therefore the goal should be in line with ADWR's mission which states that they are "Protecting & Enhancing Arizona's water supplies for current and future generations". Currently, the proposed goal will not do much of anything to protect & enhance the Douglas groundwater basin but will continue the depletion of the aquifer which in turn will endanger the welfare and economy of the Douglas groundwater basin and its residents.

Thank you,
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Ash Dahlke