



Docket Supervisor - ADWR &lt;docketsupervisor@azwater.gov&gt;

---

## Douglas AMA Management Written Comments

1 message

---

**Steve Kisiel** Personal Identifying Information  
To: Docket Adwr <docketsupervisor@azwater.gov>

Wed, Jun 28, 2023 at 10:37 PM

These are challenging times for water policy in Arizona. All parts of our great state are feeling the cumulative impact of years of drought and the ever increasing demands on our finite groundwater resources. These impacts are particularly evident in the Sulphur Springs Valley where significant growth in large agricultural activity over the past 20 years has resulted in rapidly declining water tables in both the Douglas and Willcox Basins. Declines of 6-10 feet per year are not uncommon- my own personal experience is an average six foot per year decline in our domestic well over the past 25 years and significant expense to deepen our well.

Challenging times call for dramatic efforts and so the citizens of the Sulphur Springs Valley figured out how we could get the groundwater management question on the ballot. More than two years of work resulted in successful petition drives in the Douglas and Willcox Basins. Many of us put in countless hours on the two petition drives and campaigns and we talked to hundreds of residents one on one and in public forums and shared everything we knew about the groundwater situation and how the AMA would work. Election Day was bittersweet as the AMA question passed in the Douglas Basin and failed in the Willcox Basin. Our efforts will continue in the Willcox Basin because we have no choice —the long term viability of this valley depends on it and we are confident that new opportunities for groundwater management will emerge.

I share this history because it might help you understand why everyone who worked so hard on the Douglas AMA petition drive and campaign and all the residents who voted YES are so disappointed in the proposed goal. How can we have any confidence that a goal “attempting to reduce the rate of aquifer depletion...” will result in any real changes?. How does that goal give us any confidence that we will see the secure water future we all worked so hard for with the AMA petition and campaign? Why is there so much ambiguity about the ultimate end goal of these reductions (is it safe yield or planned depletion?)and the rate of reduction (is it 1% or 50% every 10 years?)?

Challenging times call for a challenging goal. We are on the cusp of a new era of water management in this state. Let this Douglas AMA goal be a beacon for a water secure future for all of rural Arizona . Be bold and courageous and let the goal inspire us to create that brighter future in a time of water scarcity. The goal for the Douglas Basin should be to attain a stabilized water table within the next 25 years. Call it whatever you want but anything short of a long term balance between the water withdrawals and the recharge rate is a foreclosure on the long term future of this entire Sulphur Springs Valley.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven C. Kisiel  
Personal Identifying Information  
Pearce, AZ

Sent from my iPhone