



ADWR Comment on the proposed Douglas AMA 10-year Goals

1 message

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Wed, Nov 6, 2024 at 11:54 PM

To: docksupervisor@azwater.gov

Good evening, and thank you for the opportunity to provide input today. I'm writing to provide some feedback on the first 10-year management goal for the Douglas Active Management Area.

First off, I'd like to ask that the proposed 10% reduction in groundwater use be increased. A 10% reduction isn't enough, given the ongoing water scarcity in our region. We need to be bolder and set a higher goal to ensure we're actively conserving our resources and protecting the long-term health of our water supply. A more significant reduction would demonstrate a stronger commitment to sustainable water management.

Additionally, I strongly believe that the largest farms should be making the biggest cuts. Larger operations generally use more water, and they have more resources to invest in water-saving technology and infrastructure. It's only fair that they bear a larger share of the responsibility for conservation efforts. If we're serious about protecting our water, we need to ensure the biggest users are contributing the most. Operations like Riverview Dairy continue to buy up property in the Douglas Basin and drill 1000+ - foot wells, often times buying out small farms or ranches with grandfathered water rights. Given their deep pockets, they don't have the incentive to be good stewards of groundwater resources like family farmers or orchardists would since Riverview is well equipped to move on after the aquifer has been depleted.

I also want to highlight the importance of fairness when it comes to the size and ownership of farms. Out-of-state corporate farms often have greater resources and are more likely to prioritize profit over sustainability. It's crucial that they're required to make deeper cuts compared to local family farms, who have a more direct stake in the long-term health of our community and environment.

Another point I'd like to raise is about the types of crops being grown. Farms that are already using low-water-use crops should not be required to cut back as much as those growing water-intensive crops, like trees or double cropping. We should be rewarding efficiency and encouraging practices that minimize water use.

Lastly, I'd ask that caps be put in place for new groundwater use, especially for industries like mining and feedlots. These operations can have a huge impact on water availability, and without limits, they'll continue to exacerbate the problem.

Thank you for considering these points, and I look forward to seeing more aggressive steps toward sustainable water management.

Signed,

Neil Petersen