

**KATIE M. HOBBS**  
GOVERNOR



**THOMAS BUSCHATZKE**  
DIRECTOR

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
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December 10, 2025

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). Active projects in fiscal year 2025 included:

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
20-202WPF	Gila Valley Irrigation District System Optimization Phase I
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
22-210WPF	Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site
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

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<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
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
24-219WPF	Big Sandy NRCD Improving Watersheds Through Restoration Projects
24-220WPF	Christopher Creek Restoration Project
24-221WPF	Pine Canyon Restoration and Watershed Protection Project
24-222WPF	Verde River Access Point Restoration
24-223WPF	West Turkey Creek Watershed Resiliency Project
25-224WPF	Verde River and Oak Creek Riparian Restoration
25-226WPF	Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Phase 2 Implementation

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.azwpf.gov/documents-and-reports>.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the information in this letter at 602-771-8528 or [rteran@azwater.gov](mailto:rteran@azwater.gov).

Sincerely,



Reuben Teran, Executive Director  
Arizona Water Protection Fund

- cc: The Honorable Adrian Fontes, Arizona Secretary of State  
The Honorable Warren Petersen, President, Arizona State Senate  
The Honorable Steve Montenegro, Speaker, Arizona House of Representatives  
Thomas Buschatzke, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Lynne Smith, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Will Palmisano, Finance and Administration Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Trent Blomberg, Chief Legislative Liaison, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Kyler Deshpande, Budget Analyst, Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting  
Micaela Larkin Andrews, Assistant Director, Joint Legislative Budget Committee