

NOTICE OF PROPOSED EXPEDITED RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

**1. Permission to proceed with this docket was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039(A) by the governor on:**

March 25, 2026

**2. Title and its heading:**

12, Natural Resources

**Chapter and its heading:**

15, Arizona Department of Water Resources

**Subchapter and its heading (if applicable):**

Not applicable.

**Article and its heading:**

Article 4, Licensing Time-Frames

Article 7, Assured and Adequate Water Supply

**Part and its heading (if applicable):**

Not applicable

**Section number:**

R12-15-401	Amend
R12-15-701	Amend
R12-15-710	Amend
R12-15-711	Amend

**3. The subject matter of the proposed rule:**

Last year, the legislature passed S.B. 1611 (2025 1st Reg. Sess. Ch. 252), which established the Ag-to-Urban program. This program expressly requires the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) to conduct an expedited rulemaking to “[s]et licensing time frames to issue groundwater savings credits,” and to “[d]evelop a summary process to apply groundwater savings credits to designations of assured water supply.” A.R.S. § 45-465.05(G). The proposed amendments will establish a licensing timeframe for the issuance of groundwater savings credits and make changes to provide for an abbreviated process to pledge groundwater savings credits to a designation.

**4. A citation to all published notices relating to the current proceeding:**

N/A

**5. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the rule:**

Name: Ben Bryce  
Title: Special Advisor to the Director  
Address: Arizona Department of Water Resources  
1110 West Washington, Suite 310

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Telephone: (602) 771-8478

Fax: (602) 771-8686

Email: [bbryce@azwater.gov](mailto:bbryce@azwater.gov)

Website: [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov)

**6. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:**

Written comments should be submitted to: Sharon Scantlebury, Docket Supervisor, Arizona Department of Water Resources, 1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007 or electronically to [docketsupervisor@azwater.gov](mailto:docketsupervisor@azwater.gov). Information regarding an oral proceeding will be provided in the Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking. Oral comments may be made at the oral proceeding. For information regarding informal public meetings that may be scheduled in the future, please contact Ben Bryce using the same address provided above.

**7. A timetable for agency decisions or other action on the current proceeding, if known:**

ADWR will engage in stakeholder discussions and then publish a Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking (“NPERM”) with the Secretary of State, along with posting the proposed rules on its website. In accordance with A.R.S. § 41-1027(B), ADWR will deliver copies of the NPERM to the Governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the administrative rules oversight committee and the governor's regulatory review council. ADWR will also publish a Notice of Oral Proceeding on Proposed Expedited Rulemaking, accept comments, and hold an Oral Proceeding on Proposed Expedited Rulemaking on a date to be provided in the NPERM.