

1 **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

2 **BEFORE THE DIRECTOR**

3 IN RE: SUBSEQUENT ACTIVE  
4 MANAGEMENT AREA: WILLCOX  
5 GROUNDWATER BASIN, COCHISE AND  
6 GRAHAM COUNTIES

**DIRECTOR'S ORDER  
INITIATING  
PROCEEDINGS  
AND  
ORDER FOR HEARING**

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8 The Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources ("Director") hereby initiates this  
9 action pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 45-412 to consider designating the Willcox  
10 Groundwater Basin as a subsequent active management area ("AMA"), based upon the following  
11 criteria:

- 12 1) Active management practices are necessary to preserve the existing supply of  
13 groundwater for future needs; and  
14 2) Land subsidence or fissuring is endangering property or potential groundwater storage  
15 capacity.

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17 The Willcox Groundwater Basin is located generally in the northern Sulfur Springs Valley and  
18 is the entire surface watershed area that contributes to Willcox Playa plus the upper watersheds of  
19 Leslie Creek and Rucker Canyon that lie east of the Swisshelm Mountains in the Whitewater Draw  
20 watershed. The Willcox Groundwater Basin is located within both Cochise and Graham Counties. A  
21 map of the proposed area, as depicted on the June 1980 groundwater basin map on file with the  
22 Department of Water Resources ("Department"), is attached as **Exhibit A**.

23 **ORDER**

24 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that a hearing will be held at the Willcox Community Center,  
25 312 W. Stewart Street, Willcox, Arizona on Friday, November 22, 2024 beginning at 1:00 P.M. and  
26 via webinar using this link <https://adwr.info/WCXPM>, to hear evidence both orally and written, as to  
27 the following:

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A. Whether the Director should issue an Order declaring the area as depicted, in Exhibit A, as an active management area.

B. The boundaries of the proposed active management area.

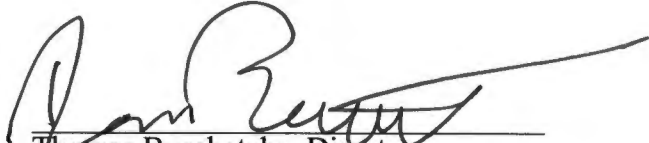
At the hearing, the Department will present factual data in support of the proposed subsequent AMA, pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-413(C). Any person or authorized representative may appear at the hearing and submit oral or documentary evidence for or against the proposed action. Additionally, written comments not submitted at the hearing described above may be received by the Department no later than 5:00 PM November 22, 2024 by mail or hand-delivery. Electronic or faxed submissions may be submitted by midnight on November 22, 2024 to:

Sharon Scantlebury  
Docket Supervisor  
Arizona Department of Water Resources  
1110 W. Washington, Suite 310  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 771-8686 (fax)  
[docketsupervisor@azwater.gov](mailto:docketsupervisor@azwater.gov)

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-413(C), the Director shall give full consideration to public comment and to recommendations made by local political subdivisions.

The Director will issue an order within thirty (30) days after the hearing containing his written findings with respect to all pertinent matters considered during the hearing and the order will be published as required by A.R.S. § 45-414.

DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2024.

  
Thomas Buschatzke, Director  
Arizona Department of Water Resources

**EXHIBIT A**

