

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
RESOURCES

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF  
ELECTION RESULTS AND  
DESIGNATION OF THE DOUGLAS  
GROUNDWATER BASIN ACTIVE  
MANAGEMENT AREA

On December 1, 2022, the Board of Supervisors for Cochise County certified the election results for the 2022 general election. Proposition 422, which called for the designation of the Douglas Groundwater Basin Active Management Area (“Douglas AMA”), received 3,170 yes votes and 2,664 no votes. Pursuant to the certified election results, the Douglas AMA has been established.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) hereby provides notice that:

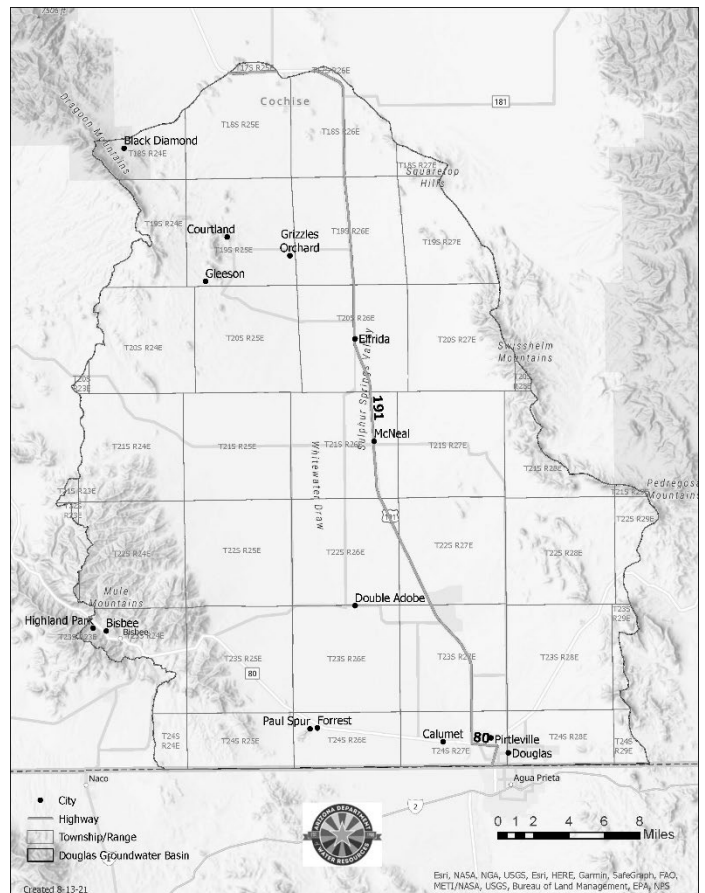
**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 30, 2022, (the date of the initial call for the election), irrigation users may irrigate only those acres of land within the Douglas AMA which were legally irrigated at any time during the five years preceding August 30, 2022, except as provided below:**

- For the area that was not previously the Douglas INA, acres of land that were not irrigated at any time during the five years preceding August 30, 2022 are eligible for irrigation if substantial capital investment has been made for the subjugation of such land for an irrigation use including on-site distribution facilities and a well or wells the drilling and construction of which were substantially commenced before August 30, 2022. A.R.S. § 45-452(G)(1).
- For the area that was previously the Douglas INA, acres of land that were not irrigated at any time during the five years preceding

August 30, 2022, are eligible for irrigation if substantial capital investment has been made in the twelve months before the call of the election for the improvement of the land and on-site irrigation distribution facilities, including the drilling of wells, for an irrigation use. A.R.S. § 45-452(G)(2).

**“Irrigate” is defined in A.R.S. § 45-402 and means to apply water to two or more acres of land to produce plants or parts of plants for sale or human consumption, or for use as feed for livestock, range livestock or poultry.**

The boundaries of the Douglas AMA are coextensive with the Douglas Groundwater Basin, depicted by a solid line in the map below. The Douglas Groundwater Basin is located in southern Sulfur Springs Valley and in the surface watershed area of Whitewater Draw, exclusive of the upper reaches of Leslie Creek and Rucker Canyon. The area extends from the border of Mexico north to Pearce, Arizona. The entire Douglas Groundwater Basin lies within Cochise County.



**Requirements:**

Application for Certificate of Grandfathered Right:

Individuals and entities, including those within the boundaries of the former Douglas INA that had an associated irrigation authority, seeking to claim a grandfathered right must apply for a certificate of grandfathered right no later than fifteen months after the date of the designation of the AMA (by March 1, 2024), in accordance with A.R.S. § 45-476.

Mandatory Measuring and Reporting:

Within AMAs, with a few narrow exceptions, persons withdrawing groundwater from non-exempt wells (wells having a maximum pump capacity greater than 35 gallons per minute) are required to measure their groundwater withdrawals with a measuring device and method that is approved by ADWR and must report the groundwater withdrawals to ADWR (A.R.S. § 45-406).

ADWR has approved the use of devices and measuring methods other than the installation of meters (see A.A.C. R12-15-903).

Persons withdrawing groundwater from exempt wells (wells having a pump with a maximum pump capacity of 35 gallons per minute or less that are used for a non-irrigation use) generally are not required to measure and report the groundwater withdrawals.

**Douglas AMA Management Goal Workshop:**

ADWR will hold a public workshop to provide information on the AMA and to obtain input from local stakeholders regarding the development of the management goal for the Douglas AMA.

Date: Thursday, January 5, 2023  
Time: 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Location:

Douglas High School  
1500 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, AZ 85607

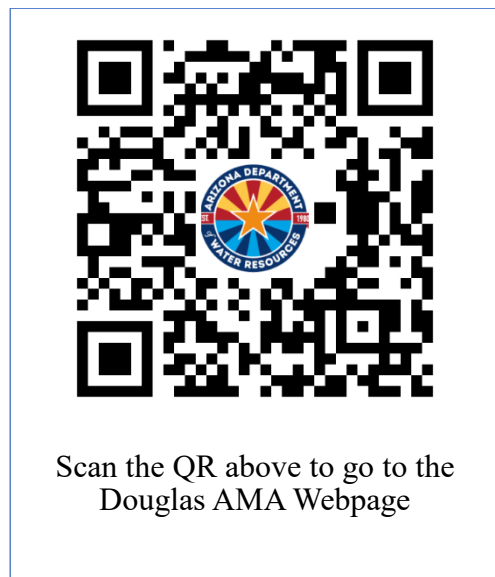
Virtual attendance:

<https://adwr.info/3Vpvhgg>

Join by phone:

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll  
Access code: 2592 471 2474

For questions or more information, please contact the Active Management Area program at (602) 771-8585 or [managementplans@azwater.gov](mailto:managementplans@azwater.gov)



Scan the QR above to go to the Douglas AMA Webpage