



Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

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April 21, 2023

Director Thomas Buschatzke
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Director Buschatzke,

The Arizona Farm Bureau Federation appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed management goal for the Douglas Active Management Area during this informal comment period.

Agriculture production is a major economic driver for this region and should be considered as the central consideration of the management goal. We believe the goal for this AMA should be to preserve future water resources for agriculture uses for as long as feasible, and in certain instances fairly transferable to other uses as those uses arise.

While there are similar challenges between this basin and others under an AMA, there is a significant difference that must be taken into account when establishing the goal and the subsequent management plan. Unlike other AMA's in the state, the Douglas area will not have access to Colorado River Water delivered through the Central Arizona Project. This is significant as other management areas rely heavily on these water resources to meet their needs while working toward their own management goals. The lack of this additional water resource should also be heavily weighted when establishing to goal for this area.

We look forward to continuing to work with ADWR as this management goal is refined and the management plan is crafted.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Smallhouse, President
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation