

ADWR's Vision: Reliable Water Supplies to meet the Needs of Current and Future Arizonans

Mission: To safeguard the health, safety and economic welfare of the public by protecting, conserving and enhancing Arizona's water supplies in a bold, thoughtful and innovative manner.

Agency Description: ADWR administers the State's water laws and develops policies that promote conservation and protect water availability. ADWR uses its technical, legal, administrative, and policy expertise to defend the integrity of Arizona water supplies.

The Department compiles and analyzes water supply data, engages with stakeholders and issues permits and licenses. ADWR negotiates with national and international partners on behalf of the State and supports the general stream adjudication proceedings.

ADWR protects Arizona against the loss of life and property through the implementation of the dam safety, flood warning, and floodplain management programs.

Executive Summary:

ADWR has identified six priorities to accomplish our mission:
Protect the Colorado River System by promoting participation in compensated conservation programs and negotiating an agreement to share Colorado River reductions on an interstate and intrastate basis.

Advance Water Planning Priorities by launching the Governor's Council to address Assured Water Supply and rural groundwater issues, collecting new hydrogeologic data of basins outside Active Management Areas (AMAs), issuing first Supply & Demand reports and determining a schedule for Year 2 of Supply & Demand.

Support General Streams Adjudication by improving communication strategies for customer interactions and augmenting resources to support the public's understanding of the Adjudication process.

Protect the Life and Property of Arizonans by improving ADWR's process to address safety concerns with high-hazard unsafe dams.

Improve the Accessibility and Accuracy of Arizona's Water Data by completing a customer portal for new regulated areas, updating a deployment plan for modernizing IT systems and executing a data cleansing initiative.

Manage Establishment Processes for Newly Regulated Areas including adopting the Douglas AMA management goal and developing a Management Plan.

Summary of Multi-Year Strategic Priorities

#	Five Year Strategy	Start Year	Progress / Successes (FY 2023)
1	Protect the Colorado River System	2017	Defended Arizona's apportionment while stabilizing the Colorado River System. Completed Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) agreements to preserve Arizona's water in Lake Mead. Executed compensated system conservation agreements between the US and Arizona water users. Collaborated on and submitted a Lower Basin Consensus Plan to the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) for analysis following BoR's withdrawal of its initial Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
2	Advance Water Planning and Compliance Priorities	2019	Launched Governor's Water Policy Council. Adopted 5 th Management Plans for initial AMAs. Completed hiring and began work for Supply and Demand studies for Year 1 basins. Increased investigation & compliance actions.
3	Support General Stream Adjudications	2017	Developed 25 reports and maps for the Court within deadline. Proposed deadlines for 9 additional major reports. Verified the database entry for 16,016 claims within the Verde River Watershed, including all high priority claims within Sycamore and Lower Verde Valley.
4	Protect the Life and Property of Arizonans	2017	Maintained a response time of less than 2 business days for requests for assistance related to floodplain management. Completed an assessment of the Flood Warning System.
5	Improve the Accessibility and Accuracy of Arizona's Water Data	2018	Continued integrating metadata management with our Application Modernization project. Published 4 new public dashboards. Contracted and began Application Modernization project. Conducted agency-wide records management initiative.
6	Establish Processes for Newly Regulated Areas	2023	Proposed a management goal for the Douglas AMA. Began accepting and processing applications for irrigation authorities and grandfathered rights, including development of an online customer portal.

#	FY24 Annual Objectives	Objective Metrics	FY 2024 Annual Initiatives
1	Minimize reductions to Arizona’s 2.8M acre-feet Colorado River allotment while protecting critical elevations of Lakes Powell and Mead	# of acre-feet of conservation among Lower Basin states and Mexico beyond those required by previous agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promote adoption of the collaborative proposal by the federal government in a record of decision 2) Launch post-2026 operational guideline discussions
2.1	Address Assured Water Supply and Rural Groundwater issues with the Governor’s Water Policy Council	# of policy recommendations provided to the Governor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide a package of recommendations to the Governor by December 2023
2.2	Advance compliance inspection and audit priorities	# of compliance audits conducted # of proactive inspections conducted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Design and publish an initial compliance dashboard
2.3	Complete water supply and demand assessments for all groundwater basins at least once every 5 years.	# of groundwater basins with a completed supply and demand assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Collect hydrogeologic data outside of AMAs 2) Issue first supply and demand reports in December 2023
3	Focus Adjudication efforts on court assignments by directing public to other resources	% of repeat requests from customers for legal advice to ADWR Adjudications staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve communication strategies for customer interactions 2) Augment available resources to support the public’s understanding of the Adjudication process
4	Help owners/stakeholders to understand and reduce risks posed by their high-hazard unsafe dams	# of high-hazard unsafe dams where owners/stakeholders agree to an engineering assessment of existing conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update ADWR’s process to evaluate and address risks posed by high-hazard unsafe dams 2) Contact 2 owners/stakeholders to educate them about risks and seek participation in an engineering assessment
5.1	Modernize the Department’s IT systems	# of licensing and other customer-facing processes improved and staged for release	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Evaluate and restructure IT modernization plan 2) Complete a data cleansing initiative as part of deployment
5.2	Formalize ADWR metadata management program	# of implemented metadata management program components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Create and start implementing a metadata management strategy
6	Establish Douglas AMA	% of Douglas AMA establishment process steps completed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Complete Year 1 requirements for AMA establishment