



Management Plans - ADWR <managementplans@azwater.gov>

Douglas deadline

Diana LaMar Personal Identifying Information

Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 1:57 PM

To: Management Plans - ADWR <managementplans@azwater.gov>

The goal presented by the ADWR was insufficient and lacked inspiration. I resubmit my prior goal/comments (in blue) and also attach comments I support from Michael Gregory.

The management goal of the Douglas AMA is to achieve and maintain Safe Yield and the long-term stabilization of local water tables by 2050, and to protect the economies and welfare of communities within the basin by prioritizing water rights for locally-residing water users, imposing water usage fees for non-locally-residing water users, and setting limits on non-exempt water rights for non-agricultural uses, commercial developments, and other forms of urbanization."

M. Gregory:

No more water out than goes in. 'Planned depletion, slower rate of withdrawal' or other halfway measures are not acceptable. No more out than in. Which is to say, caps on withdrawal from non-exempt wells, especially those of mega operations. A significant number of conservation plans must be put in place in the first planning cycle."

Michael Gregory, a McNeal resident and environmental activist, said the goal "was weak in several respects, so it is to be hoped that many comments will be submitted before the deadline so that the next draft of the goal will better reflect what those who initiated and voted for the AMA wanted. In particular, letters and emails should tell the agency that 'attempting to reduce the rate of aquifer depletion' is not an acceptable goal, but that the goal must be to achieve reduced depletion.

"In short, the goal to be achieved as soon as possible should be 'safe yield,' which means requiring measures that assure no more water out than nature puts in. And furthermore, the goal must make clear that 'to support the general economy and welfare of communities in the basin' means to support the small farm and rural residence lifestyle of the basin, not the mega-corporation industrial agriculture that has in the last few years led to the aquifer depletion that led us to vote for the AMA in the first place. Big money interests with the biggest straw must not be given advantages over smallholders."

Other comments:

There must be a fair process to determine the level of substantial improvements. The scale cannot tip to big ag!

Development of a working relationship with Mexico is essential. The GSA has done so with the new Port of Entry. Our partners to the south cannot be an afterthought.

An overall sustainability plan should be a part of the larger goal with clear restrictions on development, businesses, manufacturing, municipalities and residents. The regulations surrounding this has not been sufficiently discussed.

Sincerely,

Diana LaMar