



Management Plans - ADWR <managementplans@azwater.gov>

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## Stakeholder input on the ADWR Douglas Basin Management Goal

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**Neil Petersen** Personal Identifying Information

Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 11:28 PM

To: managementplans@azwater.gov

Dear ADWR:

The proposed Douglas Basin AMA Management Goal discussed during the informal Douglas AMA Public Meeting on April 11, 2023, is unhelpfully aspirational with milquetoast wording such as “attempt to reduce the rate of aquifer depletion”. With monitor wells, the ADWR groundwater depth sampling regime, weather and climate databases and models, and hydrologic models of aquifer behavior, the tools for enforcing sustainable yields are at hand. When the annual mean temperature rises, the rate of increased evapotranspiration should be factored into the groundwater recharge equations. That rate figure in turn should inform the amount of conservation needed to reduce the groundwater mining by industrial agriculture concerns and other non-exempt well owners. As things stand, the profit motive to maximize returns leads directly to the tragedy of the commons, where less deep-pocketed interests are out-competed for a finite water resource and are forced out of business and forced to leave for greener pastures. The Management Goal should be amended to read “ADWR will take the steps necessary to achieve sustainable yield in the Douglas Basin by 2030.” To do otherwise is to mortgage the prospects for access to water for future generations.

Yours truly,

Neil Petersen

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