



Management Plans - ADWR <managementplans@azwater.gov>

Comments Regarding the Douglas AMA Proposed Goal

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Input on the Proposed Douglas Basin AMA Management Goal

1. The ultimate goal of the Douglas Basin AMA should be to achieve a long term balance between the water being recharged into the aquifer (natural and artificial) and the water being withdrawn from the aquifer.
2. Planned depletion over the long term is not a viable option for the Douglas Basin. Groundwater and the precipitation that falls from the sky are the only sources of water in this basin. Water tables are already dropping at an alarming rate of 3-5 feet per year in the Elfrida area. The AMA was not approved by the voters to continue that rate of depletion but rather to slow the rate of depletion in the short term and to stabilize water levels in the long term.
3. The use of the word "attempting" in the proposed goal gives the impression this is a half-hearted, wishy-washy goal and doesn't provide much confidence of achieving any real progress in slowing and eventually stopping the declining water levels in the basin. A goal that sets a low threshold for the rate of reduction over the long term is really a goal of planned depletion in disguise and is not consistent with the long term economic viability of the residents and small farming operations in this area.
4. Recommend using the words "achieve a reduction of XX% in the overdraft" and specify timeframes for the targeted reduction in each of the first three 10 year management plans with expectation that at the end of the third management plan at least a 95% reduction will be achieved in the rate of depletion (as compared to the current overdraft).

A strong goal for the Douglas Basin will set an important precedent for the future of groundwater management in rural Arizona. Our future depends on it.

Respectfully submitted,
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