

Longterm Water Management for Rural Communities

Educational Session Facilitated by the Verde Sustaining Flows Council

September 23, 2025

Questions and Answers

- How do you use a Type Two water right for water fowl preservation?
 - Could use this for artificial wetlands. No restrictions on the use of this resource for only industrial use. It would be unusual but legal.
- What are opportunities to use reclaimed water for water augmentation? Is there funding available for this?
 - There isn't a restriction on this, though ADEQ has restrictions about quality
 - Can sell rights to effluent. Major cities in Phoenix area do this.
 - Any of the funding sources listed in the presentation would be appropriate for this
- Please explain further how you would sell a certificate of assured water supply. Would ADWR have to approve the sale?
 - The certificate attached to a plat can be sold to a developer when the plat is sold (automatically transfers over)
 - The new owner could make changes - material changes would require a new approval process to retain the certificate
- Adequate quality was an element of an assured water supply designation. In the Verde Valley, we all battle arsenic. Is there concern if the contaminant is above EPA safe levels?
 - Water provider has to demonstrate that they can treat the water to a level where it is not a concern
 - For Arsenic, usually just need to dilute the water enough that the arsenic isn't impactful. there are also treatment methods that can be used
- How does the Yavapai Apache Nation affect Verde Valley ditch rights?
 - Don't know; haven't needed to confront this
- Role that ag can play in healthy water cycles and watershed health?
 - Crop rotations, limiting water use (drip systems, other conservation methods) can be beneficial
 - AMAs do require ag users to use less water
- For effluent recharge, I understood that unless you're in an AMA, jurisdictions really are not eligible for credits. Is that accurate?

- Fred would be happy to look into this if you would like to reach out for more information.
- Sierra Vista claimed credits and is outside of an AMA
- Data Centers are such a hot topic in Arizona (and nationwide) specifically in regard to groundwater use/depletion in the communities they build in. Is there anything rural communities can do to be prepared, or obtain accurate information/education materials to inform their local community?
 - Not an expert in data centers
 - This is an important topic, communities need to be prepared to understand what their water supply is, where it comes from, and dig into the potential impacts when proposals come in. Consider how to limit their water use, modifications, where water is coming from, etc.)
 - Not necessarily a blanket “no”
- Is it possible for AZ Water Company to curtail reclaimed water usage by a municipality?
 - Fred would be happy to look into this if you would like to reach out for more information.
- Camp Verde is looking to develop a rural water management ordinance and we always value borrowing from neighbors. Are there certain ordinances you've seen that you like best and if so, which communities did those belong to?
 - Have only seen a few of these. They tend to be focused on plumbing code issues, adequate water supply.
 - There is a limitation to what a local community can do with an ordinance; think beyond restricting groundwater use.
 - You would need to have their own legal support look into this
- What are some common myths or misunderstandings about managing water in rural communities?
 - Myth that Central AZ is out to steal everyone’s water. There is reason to be concerned that Phoenix AMA communities are seeking water in other areas, but ultimately the markets will probably prevail. Cost of farming and water is so high, that likely it will become more financially feasible for some to sell water rights in the future rather than continuing to farm.
 - Not all communities will give up farming, but some will. We need to have conversations as a state/region about food security and economic impact of this.