

Groundwater Management in Active Management Areas



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Arizona Department of Water Resources

Regulatory Structure

- Registration of all wells
- Adequate Water Supply
- Community Water Systems Documentation

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- Expansion of irrigated acres is prohibited
- Measuring and Reporting

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- Assured Water Supply
- Management Goals, Plans, & Conservation Programs
- Grandfathered Rights and Withdrawal Permits
- Lakes Bills, Transportation, Well Spacing, and Other

Statewide

INA

AMA

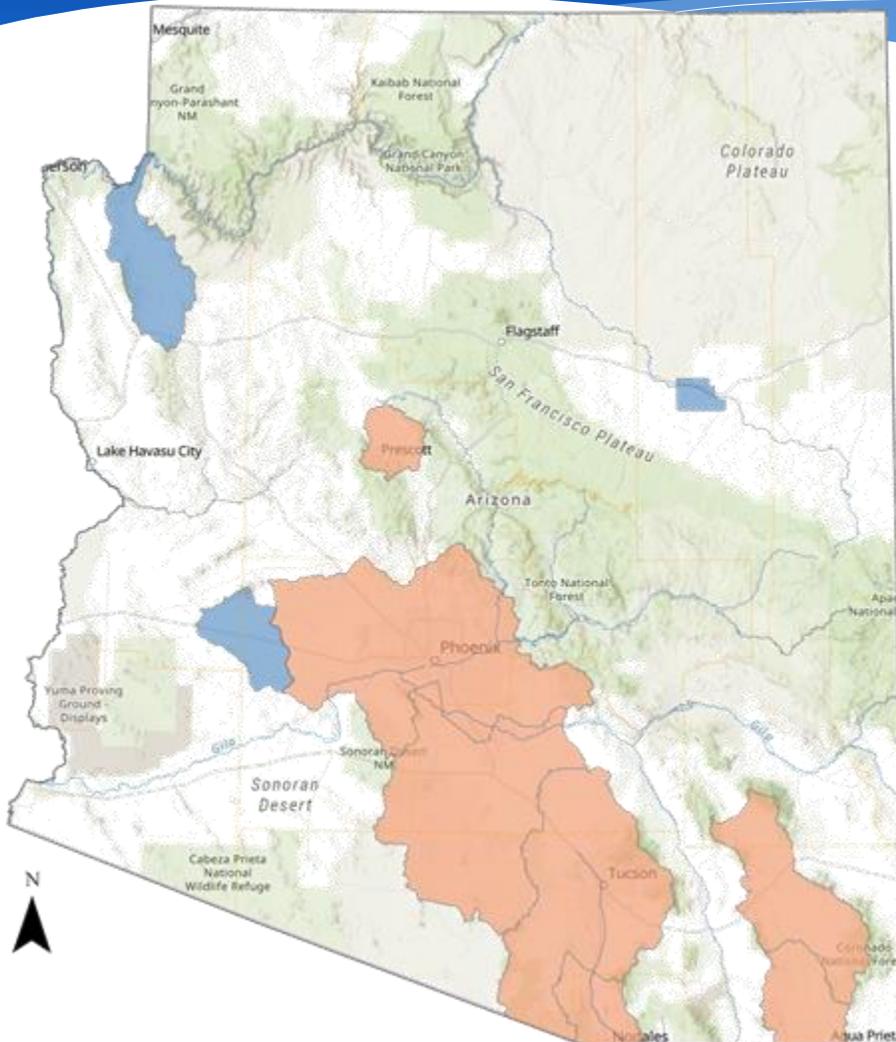
Existing Active Management Areas (AMAs) & Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INAs)

Seven AMAs

- Prescott AMA
- Phoenix AMA
- Pinal AMA
- Tucson AMA
- Santa Cruz AMA (est. 1994, considered “initial”)
- Douglas AMA (est. December 1, 2022)
- Willcox AMA (est. January 1, 2025)

Three INAs

- Joseph City INA
- Harquahala INA (est. 1981)
- Hualapai Valley INA (est. December 19, 2022)



Water Management & Protections in an AMA

Measuring and Reporting

- Wells > 35 gpm required to measure and submit annual reports

Well Impact Analysis

- Required for new non-exempt wells
- Limits the impact of new wells on nearby existing wells

Mandatory Conservation

- Agricultural, Municipal, and Industrial Requirements
- Developed with local input and adopted in management plans
- Designed to reduce withdrawals of groundwater

Assured Water Supply

- 100-year water supply requirement for new developments
- Consumer protection for homeowners

FIFTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

PRESCOTT ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

2020-2025

Prescott AMA 5MP

<https://new.azwater.gov/ama/management-plans>

Requirements became effective January 1, 2025.



Contents:

0. Executive Summary
1. Hydrology
2. Supply and Demand
3. Underground Water Storage, Savings, and Replenishment
4. Agricultural
5. Municipal
6. Industrial
7. Implementation, Compliance, and Support
8. Water Strategy



Assured & Adequate Water Supply

Requirements

Physical, Legal, & Continuous Availability

Financial Capability

Quality

Assured:
Consistency with Management Plan & Goal

Adequate Water Supply

Outside AMAs

Notification Step

- Water Report provided to first buyer – can indicate inadequate water supply

Mandatory Adequacy

Outside AMAs,
Local governments may opt-in

Permitting Step

- Required to obtain water adequacy report

Assured Water Supply

Inside AMAs

Permitting Step

- Required to obtain determination of Assured Water Supply

Transportation of Groundwater

- * In most cases, transporting groundwater across basin boundaries is prohibited.
- * Exceptions:
 - * Groundwater may be transported from the Butler Valley, McMullen Valley, Yuma Groundwater Basins, from the Harquahala INA, and from the Big Chino Sub-basin and moved into an initial AMA under specific conditions and limitations.

“In Arizona, we’re going to have to make tough policy choices about water management. We’ll have to make choices about which aspects of our lifestyle we can give up and which we will maintain.”

ADWR Director Tom Buschatzke



Thank you!

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**PROTECTING
ARIZONA'S WATER SUPPLIES
*for ITS NEXT CENTURY***