

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

Policies Concerning Sustainable Water Supplies

Adopted by the AMWUA Board of Directors
May 9, 2007

Background

On March 5, 2007, the Board of Directors and the Management Board held a joint retreat for the purpose of continuing their discussions regarding sustainable water supplies for the Active Management Areas (AMAs), the sustainability of the aquifers in the AMAs, and the impact of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR) on these issues. At the conclusion of the retreat, AMWUA staff was directed to prepare draft policies on these issues for review by the Board and the Management Board.

Policies

AMWUA desires to ensure that sustainable water supplies are available for the safe-yield AMAs. AMWUA also seeks to ensure that the aquifers in the AMAs are available for long-term sustainable use for water supply and underground storage purposes. Accordingly, AMWUA urges the following:

1. Since Non-Indian Agricultural (NIA) water is Central Arizona Project (CAP) water, it should be reallocated to municipal water providers within the CAP taxing and service area.
2. Since direct use of renewable surface water supplies best protects groundwater supplies, preference in the allocation of NIA water should be given to municipal water providers that:
 - a. Deliver renewable water supplies directly to their customers.
 - b. Will use the water to help maintain their designations of assured water supply.
 - c. Have relinquished other water supplies for the benefit of an Indian water rights settlement.
3. Since enrollment in the CAGR is exceeding projections and could outstrip the amount of water available for replenishment, membership in the CAGR must be regulated to ensure that sustainable water supplies are available for the AMAs.
4. Because replenishment by the CAGR is not required to occur where its members pump groundwater; pumping by some CAGR members may adversely impact other water providers; municipal water providers that have been designated to have an assured water supply are subject to periodic review by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to

maintain their designations; and the determination that sufficient groundwater is physically and continuously available to serve CAGR member lands is not subject to future review by DWR:

- a. The relationship between the location of replenishment by the CAGR and withdrawals of groundwater to serve CAGR members should be evaluated and a closer correlation required if necessary to prevent adverse impacts.
 - b. Withdrawals of groundwater to serve CAGR members should be subject to the same restrictions as withdrawals of stored water from recovery wells.
5. Because new water supplies from outside the AMAs will be necessary to accommodate growth while preserving the safe-yield goal of the AMAs, municipal water providers that have been designated as having an assured water supply and the CAGR should have equal opportunity to purchase “new” water supplies through the CAWCD and use transportation capacity available in the CAP canal.
 6. Since the CAGR is governed by the Board of Directors of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) and since the CAGR and municipal water providers will be competing for water supplies and transportation capacity, mechanisms should be established to ensure that municipal water providers and the CAGR are treated equally by the CAWCD when water supply, transportation, pricing and delivery decisions are made.

KF/SLO

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