

## MANAGEMENT BOARD

### *Information Summary*

October 8, 2008

#### **Subject**

AMWUA 2008 Legislative Water Policy Resolutions and Issue Papers

#### **Policy Question**

Does the AMWUA Board of Directors want to reaffirm its position on the importance of retaining the integrity of the 1980 Groundwater Code and the need for rural Arizona to adopt water management practices prior to receiving state funding for rural water resource development?

#### **Background**

Last year, the AMWUA Board of Directors adopted the attached Resolutions and Issue Papers that related to the following topics:

- The 1980 Groundwater Management Act: Safe-Yield and Ending Groundwater Mining
- The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Rural Arizona
- Funding Rural Water Resource Development: Conditions Antecedent and Funding Principals

#### **Summary**

AMWUA staff and the Water Resources Advisory Group are reviewing the three resolutions and accompanying issue papers that were adopted for the 2008 Legislative Session to determine whether the resolutions and issue papers should be modified. Discussions are also underway to determine whether other Resolutions and Issue Papers should be drafted for Board review and action.

The 2008 Legislative Resolutions and Issue Papers are attached for review. The following summary of the key points of the Resolutions and Issue Papers will help provide context for the adoption of next year's Resolutions and Issue Papers, which will be presented for Board action in November.

- Resolution and Issue Paper A relate to the 1980 Groundwater Management Act and the importance of achieving Safe-Yield and ending groundwater mining. The resolution essentially urges the Arizona State Legislature to resist any efforts to repeal, directly or indirectly, the safe-yield management goal.
- Resolution and Issue Paper B relate to the 1980 Groundwater Code and the value the Code may have for water management efforts in rural Arizona. The resolution essentially urges the Arizona State Legislature to provide rural Arizona with the water management tools that can help rural Arizona to ensure its future prosperity by passing legislation to:
  - Require the demonstration of an adequate water supply to the Arizona Department of Water Resources before a lot or plot of land may be sold.
  - Require the demonstration of an adequate water supply to the Arizona Department of Water Resources before a private well to serve a new residential use may be drilled.
  - Authorize the Arizona Department of Water Resources to enforce water conservation requirements for all water users.
  - Require all wells to be metered or to use an Arizona Department of Water Resources-approved measuring device with the amount of water withdrawn annually reported to the Arizona Department of Water Resources.
- Resolution and Issue Paper C urges that, before any funding for rural water development is considered by the Legislature, effective water management tools be established and that beneficiaries should pay the cost of future water development.

### **Considerations**

The adoption of resolutions helps to give AMWUA staff guidance regarding positions on legislative issues.

### **Prior Committee Action**

These Legislative Resolutions and Issue Papers were adopted by the AMWUA Board of Directors in 2007 and 2008.

### **Recommendation**

Review last year's resolutions in preparation for the adoption of the 2009 resolutions at the November Board meetings.

## **Attachments**

- **Attachments A & B**

Resolution and Issue Paper A: The 1980 Groundwater Management Act: Safe-Yield and Ending Groundwater Mining

- **Attachments C & D**

Resolution and Issue Paper B: The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Rural Arizona

- **Attachments E & F**

Resolution and Issue Paper C: Funding Rural Water Resource Development: Conditions Antecedent and Funding Principals