

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Information Summary

November 20, 2008

Subject

AMWUA 2009 Resolutions and Issue Papers

Policy Question

Does the AMWUA Management Board 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

For the 2008 Legislative Session, the AMWUA Board of Directors adopted the following series of Resolutions and Issue Papers:

- 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 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to be metered or to use an Arizona Department of Water Resources-approved measuring device with the amount of water withdrawn annually reported to the Arizona Department of Water Resources.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.

Summary

AMWUA staff and the Water Resources Advisory Group reviewed 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. Staff did not identify any modifications, nor additional Resolutions or Issue Papers for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Pursuant to the direction at last month's Board meetings, AMWUA staff and the Water Resources Advisory Group propose modifying the language in last year's Groundwater Management Act resolution so the resolution more affirmatively states AMWUA's position. A copy of the proposed draft language is attached for your review.

Considerations

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

Prior Committee Action

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

At the October 8, 2008, AMWUA Management Board meeting, the Management Board recommended that the AMWUA Board of Directors direct AMWUA staff to work with the Water Resources Advisory Group to review and revise the 2008 Resolutions and Issue Papers for the 2009 legislative session.

At the October 16 AMWUA Board of Directors' meeting, the Board of Directors directed AMWUA staff to revise *Resolution A: The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Safe-Yield* so it more affirmatively states AMWUA's position.

At the November 12, 2008, Management Board meeting, the Management Board voted to recommend to the Board of Directors the adoption of the 2009 Resolutions and Issue Papers, as attached.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the AMWUA Board of Directors adopt the proposed draft language for the 2009 Resolutions and Issue Papers and give direction to AMWUA staff to use these Resolutions and Issue Papers for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Attachments

- **Attachment A** ~
Draft of AMWUA Resolution A: “The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Safe-Yield”
- **Attachment B** ~
Final of AMWUA Resolution A: “The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Safe-Yield”
- **Attachment C** ~
AMWUA Issue Paper A: “The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Safe-Yield”
- **Attachment D** ~
AMWUA Resolution B: “The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Rural Arizona”
- **Attachment E** ~
AMWUA Issue Paper B: “The 1980 Groundwater Management Act and Rural Arizona”
- **Attachment F** ~
AMWUA Resolution C: “Funding Rural Water Resources Development: Conditions Antecedent and Funding Principles”
- **Attachment G** ~
AMWUA Issue Paper C: “Funding Rural Water Resources Development: Conditions Antecedent and Funding Principles”