



WILL WE HAVE WATER IN 100 YEARS?

Differences between Assured Water Supply and Adequate Water Supply

Arizona's continued growth requires a robust and comprehensive strategy to ensure that dependable and renewable water supplies are available to sustain development. Two programs have been instituted to address water sources for new residential development in the state; the Assured Water Supply Program addresses development within five Active Management Areas (AMAs), while the Adequate Water Supply Program applies to development in rural areas. The two Programs have different goals and reporting requirements.

ASSURED WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

Assured Water Requirements necessitate that prior to the development of new subdivisions in one of five AMAs (portions of Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai Counties) the developer or the water provider that will serve the subdivision must demonstrate an Assured Water Supply to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). An Assured Water Supply is a 100-year, renewable supply that is physically, legally, and continuously available and dedicated to serving the subdivision. Additionally, the proposed water use must be consistent with the AMA's water management goals (in the case of the Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson AMAs - a target of safe yield by 2025) and be consistent with the ADWR Management Plan (providers must comply with water conservation requirements.) The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District was created as a mechanism for developments without access to renewable water supplies to obtain an Assured Water Supply.

ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The less stringent Adequate Water Supply Program is in place for subdivisions outside the AMAs. Under Adequate Water Supply rules, the subdivision is not required to demonstrate a 100-year continuous water supply in order for lots to be sold. State law merely requires that if an adequate determination has not been made, that it be disclosed to potential buyers. In order to obtain a determination of adequate water supply, the subdivision must prove a 100-year supply of water that is physically, legally and continuously available, as well as meet water quality standards. Unlike the AMA's Assured Water Supply, an Adequate supply determination is not required to meet safe-yield or similar goals. Areas under the jurisdiction of the Adequate Water Supply program are not subject to the same conservation requirements that are mandated in AMAs.

The Assured Water Supply Program provides stability while the Adequate Water Supply Program creates a greater need for renewable water supplies. Future water planning for all counties in Arizona may need to include a stronger Adequate Water Supply Program, management goals, conservation requirements and infrastructure financing to ensure sustainable water supplies for the future.

