



# CAGR D

## The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District

The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR D) was created in 1993 by the Arizona Legislature to ensure that developments in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties without access to renewable water supplies are able to demonstrate an assured water supply. The CAGR D is a function of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), which also operates the Central Arizona Project (CAP).

Membership in the CAGR D allows a developer or water provider without renewable water supplies to pump groundwater by joining the CAGR D. The CAGR D then has the long-term legal responsibility of replenishing the aquifer for excess groundwater withdrawals by its members.

### MEMBER LANDS

If the developer of a subdivision can demonstrate legal access to groundwater that is physically and legally available for 100 years, it may join the CAGR D by paying an enrollment fee and an activation fee. These fees may change over time. The on-going cost of annual groundwater replenishment is then paid by the homeowner as an assessment based on the home's actual water usage. This assessment is collected by the county treasurer along with the property owner's annual property taxes.

### MEMBER SERVICE AREA (MSA)

Municipal water providers, water companies, water districts, town and cities with legal access to 100 years worth of groundwater may join the CAGR D as a Member Service Area (MSA) by paying an enrollment fee and signing an agreement with the CAGR D. A development served by the MSA pays the activation fee at the beginning of construction. Any billing for excess groundwater replenishment is billed directly to the MSA, rather than the homeowner.

The CAGR D's current Plan of Operation projects an annual replenishment obligation of 227,000 acre-feet of water beginning in 2025.

In 2010, the Legislature authorized the CAGR D to begin charging membership dues for each parcel of Member Land and within a Member Service Area to help finance bonds for CAGR D replenishment activities. CAGR D is authorized to issue bonds to raise revenue to acquire water supplies to meet the CAGR D's replenishment obligations.

The CAGR D's structure presents a number of challenges.

- CAGR D is obligated to accept new members as long as its Plan of Operation is in effect.
- Currently, CAGR D relies on shrinking, temporarily available excess CAP water, effluent, and water storage credits to meet its obligations.
- Membership in the CAGR D allows continued dependence on use of groundwater and depletion of local aquifers.

