



Acre-foot (acre-ft): A measurement of water quantity equal to approximately 325,851 gallons (enough to cover one acre of land one foot deep).

Active Management Area (AMA): A region designated for state regulation by the Groundwater Management Act of 1980. There are five regions in the state, Phoenix, Tucson, Pinal, Prescott, Santa Cruz.

Aquifer: An underground layer of permeable rock, sediment (usually sand or gravel), or soil that yields water.

Arizona Dept of Water Resources (ADWR): The state agency, created in 1980 by the Groundwater Management Act, designated to implement state water legislation.

Assured Water Supply (AWS): A designation or certificate given to water providers or sub-dividers who can show that they have enough water for the next 100 years.

AWS Rules: ADWR rules within an AMA that restrict the use of mined groundwater and require a showing of a 100-year supply for each new subdivision (certificate) or for an entire service area (designation).

Central Arizona Project (CAP): The 330-mile system of pump stations and concrete lined canal that brings Colorado River Water to Central and Southern Arizona.

Groundwater: Water under the surface of the earth, regardless of the geologic structure in which it is standing or moving. Groundwater does not include water flowing in underground streams with ascertainable beds and banks.

Groundwater Management Act (GMA): Enacted by the legislature in 1980 to address the state's groundwater overdraft problems.

Groundwater recharge: The replenishment of the groundwater through natural or artificial means. Direct recharge can be accomplished via surface basins, streambeds, or injection wells. Indirect or in-lieu recharge occurs when another water supply, is utilized instead of groundwater, thereby saving the groundwater for use at a later time.

Hydrologic cycle: The cyclic transfer of water vapor from the Earth's surface via evapotranspiration into the atmosphere, from the atmosphere via precipitation back to earth, and through runoff into streams, rivers, and lakes, and ultimately into the oceans.

Management Plan: A plan, updated every 10 years until 2025, that contains regulations and programs designed to assist the AMAs to achieve their water management goals.

Recharge: The replenishment of the groundwater through natural or artificial means. Direct recharge can be accomplished via surface basins, streambeds, or injection wells. Indirect or in-lieu recharge occurs when another water supply, such as CAP water, is utilized instead of groundwater, thereby saving the groundwater for use at a later time.

Renewable Water Supply: Supplies that are more quickly replenished (e.g. CAP/SRP water or effluent).



Safe-Yield: A water management goal which attempts to achieve and thereafter maintain a long-term balance between the annual amount of groundwater withdrawn in an AMA and the annual amount of natural and artificial recharge in the AMA.

Seepage: (1) The slow movement of water through small cracks, pores, Interstices, etc., of a material into or out of a body of surface or subsurface water. (2) The loss of water by infiltration into the soil from a canal, ditches, laterals, watercourse, reservoir, storage facilities, or other body of water, or from a field.

Surface water: Water that is on the earth's surface such as water flowing in rivers, streams, reservoirs and lakes.

Water cycle: The circuit of water movement from the oceans to the atmosphere and to the Earth and return to the atmosphere through various stages or processes such as precipitation, interception, runoff, infiltration, percolation, storage, evaporation, and transportation.

Water table: The top of the water surface in the saturated part of an aquifer.

Well (water): An artificial excavation put down by any method for the purposes of withdrawing water from the underground aquifers. A bored, drilled, or driven shaft, or a dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension and whose purpose is to reach underground water supplies or oil, or to store or bury fluids below ground.

Withdrawal: Water removed from a ground-or surface-water source for use.