



*Public Notice Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02*

## **ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT BOARD**

### **MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

**This meeting will be held via AMWUA Zoom  
Access this [Link](#) to join. Meeting ID: 829 8648 0327**

(Option to join by phone: 1-346-248-7799, same Meeting ID as above)

#### **A. Call to Order**

#### **B. General Business—Items for Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Approval of the Minutes from the February 10, 2021 Meeting
2. Schedule Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
3. 2021 Legislative Session
4. AMWUA Strategic and Annual Action Plans
5. Update on the Governor's Water Council

#### **C. Member Reports**

#### **D. Executive Director's Report**

#### **E. Future Agenda Items**

#### **F. Adjournment**

\*The order of the agenda may be altered or changed by the AMWUA Management Board. Members of the AMWUA Management Board will attend by internet conferencing.

More information about AMWUA public meetings is available online at [www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings](http://www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings), or by request.

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**Arizona Municipal Water Users Association**

## MANAGEMENT BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2021

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

#### VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Jessica Marlow, Gilbert, Chair  
Brian Biesemeyer, Scottsdale, Vice Chair  
Kirk Beaty, Avondale  
Craig Johnson, Glendale  
John Knudson, Chandler  
Karen Peters, Phoenix  
Terry Piekarz, Tempe  
Cape Powers, Peoria  
Javier Setovich, Goodyear  
Jake West, Mesa

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Aarons, The Aarons Co.	Craig Caggiano, Tempe	Lacey James, Avondale
Patrick J. Adams, AMWUA	Cynthia Campbell, Phoenix	Simone Kjolsrud, AWBA
Erin Andres, Phoenix	Gregg Capps, Chandler	Karen Kruse, Phoenix
Lauren Armour, Phoenix	Sam Draper, AMWUA	Kathy Macdonald, Mesa
Michelle Barclay, AMWUA	Paulette Fenderson, Phoenix	Diana Pina, AMWUA
Gretchen Baumgardner, Scottsdale	Kathy Ferris, AMWUA	Martin Stiles, CAP
Anthony Beckham, SRP	Brett Fleck, Peoria	Drew Swieczkowski, Glendale
Ned Blum, CliftonLarsonAllen	Jessica Fox, AMWUA	Warren Tenney, AMWUA
Eric Braun, Gilbert	Eric Guidino, Phoenix	Sheri Trapp, AMWUA

#### A. Call to Order

Ms. Marlow called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

##### 1. Approval of the Minutes from the January 13, 2021 Meeting

Upon a motion made by Mr. Powers and a second, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously approved the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes.

2. [Next meeting scheduled: Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 10:00 a.m.](#)
3. [2021 Legislative Session](#)

Mr. Tenney reported that the deadline for introducing bills has past. At the January 28<sup>th</sup> AMWUA Board meeting, the AMWUA Board adopted positions on 34 bills. He provided an update on the following bills:

SB 1147 passed the Senate yesterday 29-0. This bill would give the Water Banking Authority the option to distribute long-term storage credits directly to M&I subcontractors. This bill has moved to the House.

SB 1366 would extend an Assured Water Supply Program exemption for remediated groundwater pumping until 2050. It also adds a statutory provision that mandates that remediated groundwater be put to beneficial use within the service area of the municipal provider where the groundwater was withdrawn. AMWUA is supporting this bill. The Senate version has passed unanimously from the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

SB 1274 originated from legislation introduced last year by Pinal AMA stakeholders on the Assured Water Supply Program. ADWR and AMWUA recognized problems with the language and made suggested changes and worked with the Pinal AMA stakeholders to ensure those changes were in SB 1274. The bill passed both the House and the Senate and has been sent to the Governor to be signed into law.

Mr. Tenney also reported on new bills introduced since the January Board meeting.

HB 2740 and SB 1474 seek to have ADWR conduct every three years an assessment about the health of Arizona's watersheds along with making recommendations on how much ecological water is needed to sustain the watershed. AMWUA recommends to monitor this bill.

HB 2691 would create a water quality standard for surface waters in Arizona that are not classified under the new Federal Waters of the United States. As introduced, HB 2691 appears to do less protecting of surface waters in Arizona and instead limits public input and relaxes regulations. HB 2691 was removed from the agenda of the House Natural Resources Committee with the intent that ADEQ would work with stakeholders on the bill language. AMWUA recommends to monitor this bill but requested feedback from the AMWUA Management Board.

Ms. Peters stated that Phoenix was a part of the Stakeholder Advisory Group that had worked on this effort and had put forward suggestions for ADEQ to consider to improve the legislation. Based on the new ADEQ language and discussions with other stakeholders, Phoenix opposed HB 2691 as presented to the committee.

HB 2577 would appropriate an unspecified amount of money to ADWR to study augmentation opportunities for Arizona. The Speaker and few other lawmakers are interested in looking at how water from flooded areas of the Mississippi River could be moved West.

Mr. Tenney stated that any trans-basin augmentation project from the East would have astronomical costs – high level estimates are at least 2-3 times more than the Central Arizona Project, not considering the environmental and legal challenges.

Mr. Tenney added that numerous water augmentation projects closer to Arizona have been discussed in the past, but few have turned out to be feasible nor has it been determined how to effectively finance large projects. He added that we need to ensure we are adequately funding projects that improve water management today including infrastructure improvement, funding WQARF and groundwater pollution control, developing DPR technology, water loss control, retirement of groundwater pumping rights, recovery planning, retaining and hiring ADWR staff to better manage groundwater throughout the state as well as the Colorado River reconsultation process. AMWUA staff will continue to track HB 2577.

Mr. Aarons stated that 1,707 bills were introduced this year. He noted that there are a number of mirror bills, which were presented last year but due to the COVID-19 situation did not continue through the legislative process. Mr. Aarons stated that the Legislature is a business of relationships and it has been difficult given the situation, but in spite of this things are moving well and he has received compliments from legislators on the efforts made in regard to the Pinal County legislation (SB 1274).

Upon a motion by Ms. Peters and a second by Mr. Setovich, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously recommended to the AMWUA Board of Directors that AMWUA monitor HB 2740, SB 1474, and HB 2691.

#### 4. Colorado River Conditions

Mr. Tenney reported that the Colorado River Basin has continued to see below normal precipitation across the entire basin. The period from April 2020 to January was one of the driest on record. Due to minimal precipitation and low snow levels, early February water supply volume forecasts are below average throughout the Colorado River Basin.

Mr. Tenney stated that Lake Powell is projected to fall in the Mid Elevation Release Tier by the end of Calendar Year 2021, which would result in a 7.48 MAF release from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. The US Bureau of Reclamation's April 24 month study will confirm that release from Lake Powell. This latest forecast means that Lake Mead is projected to end 2021 below 1075' elevation triggering a Tier 1 Shortage in 2022 and also likely in 2023.

Mr. Tenney reported that ADWR, CAWCD and Reclamation plan to hold a workshop at the end of April in conjunction with the April 24 month study in an effort to be forthright about a Tier 1 Shortage in 2022.

Mr. Tenney stated that at last week's CAWCD Board meeting, CAWCD staff committed to giving regular reports about how they will be implementing water delivery activities under shortage conditions, including implementing the Arizona DCP Agreements.

Mr. Tenney noted that while a Tier 1 shortage does not impact the deliveries of Colorado River water to the AMWUA members, CAWCD's OM&R rates will be higher with a Tier 1 shortage. He added that discussions have begun with the WRAG and CAWCD about how best to utilize the Rate Stabilization Fund that was collected by CAWCD from all M&I users as a way to smooth rate increases due to anticipated shortages.

Mr. Tenney stated that this year will see increased media coverage about the Colorado River. Impending shortages are a reminder that it will be important to collectively strike the right balance in discussions with the public, elected officials, and the media about Colorado River supply availability and its impact to our cities. To that end, AMWUA has prepared and already has in place a Colorado River Shortage Awareness Campaign that conveys the AMWUA members have been preparing for the shortage and looking at how to reduce risks from deeper shortages on the Colorado River.

Mr. Setovich commented that this is a challenging time for the cities, and cooperation with consistent and clear messaging will be helpful. Ms. Marlow agreed.

## 5. Communications Overview

Mr. Tenney reported that the projected shortage on the Colorado River in 2022 and other water issues will be in front of the public this year. He anticipates there will be a lot of questions about how the AMWUA members are managing these issues. AMWUA has strived to communicate the municipal perspective on water resources and policy issues, and will continue to share about what the AMWUA members do to safeguard their water and to deliver water. In addition, AMWUA has produced blogs, various publications, and social media messages on behalf of its members.

Mr. Tenney asked for the AMWUA members' support in two key ways: 1) to let their communications staff know that water is a top priority to be talking about, and 2) that AMWUA's materials and awareness campaigns are provided to make it easier for their PIOs to communicate about water since these materials are produced on behalf of all of the members.

Sheri Trapp, AMWUA's Communications Manager, updated the Management Board on AMWUA's communications efforts. She stated that the two communication objectives are: 1) to convey the municipal perspective on water by educating the public, decision makers and the media, and 2) stay in front of the issues, address misconceptions and face challenges head on. To achieve this, AMWUA has created content and materials for the AMWUA members to utilize.

Ms. Trapp stated that on a larger scale AMWUA has created the Water Awareness Campaign and the Colorado River Shortage Awareness Campaign. These campaigns help to control the messaging, can be uniquely tailored and expanded upon, and have longevity. In addition, the AMWUA members have a wider reach through the collaborative broadcast of consistent messaging.

Ms. Trapp stated that the Colorado River Shortage Awareness Campaign's core messages include: 1) There is no immediate impact to our municipal water supplies, 2) We are prepared for a shortage on the Colorado River and will continue to prepare for deeper shortages, and 3) Using water wisely increases our resiliency. This awareness campaign will play a vital role today and will provide the AMWUA members with consistent, well-coordinated responses to any inquires that may arise.

Ms. Trapp stated the news about the Colorado River shortages reiterates why consistent messaging is critical moving forward. The carefully crafted core messages will benefit the AMWUA members in their responses and can be used as the foundation for more tailored messages.

Ms. Trapp stated that collaboration is at the core of what AMWUA does and the more that the AMWUA members participate in and utilize these two campaigns, the more significant the impact and expansive the reach. To better coordinate, she is making arrangements with the communications staff at ADWR and CAWCD to host a regional communications meeting.

Ms. Trapp concluded that AMWUA will continue to develop content and resource materials, expand the use of AMWUA's content to broaden its reach, increase the understanding of why water is a priority, and utilize awareness campaigns to their full potential. She noted that she appreciates working with the AMWUA members' staff since their expertise and feedback provide valuable insight.

Mr. Biesemeyer commented that the AMWUA members work better as group. He thanked Ms. Trapp and AMWUA for their efforts to prepare.

Ms. Marlow echoed this comment and added that the consistency in messaging is important especially between neighboring communities. She shared that this is timely in that Gilbert Public Works is looking for direction from its Town Council on a rate study for the design reconstruction of Gilbert's water treatment plant due to capacity and water quality challenges on the SRP system. She added that this as well as long term rate increases and potential drought impact will affect the overall cost of water, so messaging will be important to share with residents.

#### 6. [AMWUA Quarterly Financial Statements – Second Quarter](#)

Mr. Tenney reported that the second quarter AMWUA financial statements show that AMWUA is \$6,628 under the year-to-date budget. He added that he anticipates to continue to stay under budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Upon a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Ms. Peters, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously recommended that the AMWUA Board of Directors approve the AMWUA quarterly financial statements for the second quarter.

### **C. Member Reports**

Mr. Setovich shared that as of January 25<sup>th</sup> the Goodyear City Council approved a 5-year rate plan for water, wastewater, and sanitation services as well as the continued operation of Goodyear's new stormwater program through the general fund. He added that holding an extensive outreach program with the public was very beneficial.

Ms. Peters reported that the Phoenix City Council adopted a notice of intent in January, and engagement has begun with the community on Phoenix' water rates. She stated that consistent with a 5-year plan presented to Council two years ago, Phoenix is recommending a 3% rate increase this calendar year and a 3.5% increase in calendar year 2022. She added that there was discussion about postponing rate increases due to the COVID situation, but it was decided with Council input that a steady approach was better and targeted the increase for October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Peters stated that an aggressive customer assistance approach has been implemented with \$2 million allocated from Phoenix' general fund to assist delinquent account holders due to economic hardship during this time.

### **D. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Tenney reported that the Senate Natural Resources Committee will be considering the Governor's nomination of Eric Braun, Gilbert's Water Resources Manager, to the Arizona Water Banking Authority Commission.

Mr. Tenney reported that AMWUA's proposal to modify the GPCD Program in the 5<sup>th</sup> Management Plan was presented to ADWR. He added that ADWR has strong feelings about maintaining the GPCD Program as it is historically but understands the concerns with the non-residential component and is developing an approach to make the GPCD target calculation more straightforward.

Mr. Tenney reported that Mayor David Ortega of Scottsdale and Councilmember Bridget Binsbacher of Peoria have joined the AMWUA Board of Directors.

### **E. Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were discussed.

### **F. Adjournment**

Ms. Marlow adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

**MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**INFORMATION SUMMARY**  
**March 10, 2021**

## **2021 Legislative Session**

### **ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE**

#### **Legislation**

Effectively advocate with one voice at the Legislature.

- Monitor, analyze and clarify state and federal legislation of interest to our members.
- Engage with legislators to inform them about the issues important to AMWUA including identifying and working with legislators to champion water issues.

*Strategic Plan: Objectives – Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Reinforce Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage; Collaboration – Legislature, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, Salt River Project, Water Community, and Business Community*

### **SUMMARY**

With the completion of “cross-over” week, committee hearings have resumed, and bills are being heard in each chamber. The next major milestone of the session is March 26<sup>th</sup>, the last day for bills to be heard in committee. This legislative summary provides a status update on all bills that the AMWUA Board of Directors has adopted a position. The document identifies bills that continue to advance through the process, and those that are unlikely to move forward.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the AMWUA Management Board review the legislative update and ask any questions that arise.

Depending on legislative developments before the March 10, 2021 meeting, the AMWUA Management Board may be asked to provide direction regarding legislation.

## Key Water Legislation

### [HB 2035](#) appropriation; Arizona water protection fund (Griffin)

This bill would appropriate \$1 million from the state general fund in Fiscal Year 2021-22 to the Arizona Water Protection Fund. The Arizona Water Protection Fund is a state-run program administered by ADWR that funds projects to protect and enhance water quality and quantity in Arizona's rivers, streams, and riparian areas. Some of these efforts include revegetation, erosion control, channel stabilization, research, and water conservation. AMWUA has supported this legislation in previous years.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: Passed Senate Appropriations Committee 3/2*

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### [HB 2041](#) | [SB 1446](#) groundwater replenishment reserves (H: Griffin | S: Kerr)

This bill introduces clarifications to the calculation of CAGR's 100-year replenishment obligation for the purpose of calculating the replenishment reserve target. Existing statute could be read to require the CAGR to calculate the replenishment reserve based on each AMA's buildout obligation multiplied by 100. Modifies the statutory calculation of each AMA's projected replenishment obligation to equal the cumulative projected obligation for each year following submission of the Plan of Operation. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: HB 2041 signed by Governor 2/18*

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### [HB 2056](#) | [SB 1368](#) water conservation notice; no forfeiture (H: Griffin | S: Kerr)

Allows a water right holder to file a "Water Conservation Plan" with ADWR. Upon filing a plan that outlines water conservation measures that are planned or will be implemented, the water rights included in that notice would be shielded from a claim of abandonment or forfeiture. The Plan can be extended by 10-years, indefinitely. Includes a legislative intent clause specifying that the Legislature intends the provisions to only apply prospectively.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: HB 2056 signed by Governor 2/18*

**[HB 2074](#) | [SB 1147](#) water banking; storage credits; subcontractors (H: Pratt | S: Kerr)**

For nearly three decades the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) has stored Colorado River water underground to supplement the water supplies of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Municipal & Industrial (M&I) subcontractors. To access the stored water in times of shortage, current statutes require that the AWBA must first transfer the long-term storage credits (LTSC) to CAP for recovery. This bill would provide the AWBA with the option to distribute LTSC directly to M&I subcontractors. The concept of direct distribution is an outcome of a stakeholder effort to plan for the recovery of water supplies stored by the AWBA. This legislative change would provide flexibility and simplicity for recovery of AWBA credits and reduces the cost of recovery to end users. AMWUA took the lead for this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: SB 1147 Passed Senate, assigned to House NREW 2/24*

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**[HB 2078](#) | [SB 1021](#) groundwater; waterlogged area exemption; date (H: Dunn | S: Kerr)**

The Buckeye Waterlogged Area (BWLA) was established by the Legislature in 1988, covering an area surrounding the Gila River from confluence with the Salt River west to Gillespie Dam, which includes part of Avondale and Goodyear. Within the BWLA, farmlands are exempt from water duties, certain irrigation districts are exempt from conservation requirements, and entities pumping groundwater are not required to pay withdrawal fees. Statute requires that ADWR review the area's hydrologic conditions and make a recommendation to the Governor and Legislature on whether or not the exemptions should continue. ADWR published its findings in December 2019 and recommended that the BWLA continue through 2034. This bill would extend the BWLA exemptions through 2034, as recommended by ADWR. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: HB 2078 signed by Governor 2/5*

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**[HB 2247](#) | [SB 1177](#) forest products; processing; tax credit (H: Griffin | S: Kerr)**

This legislation would establish a new tax credit for qualifying entities in the forest product industry that participate in the Arizona Commerce Authority's "Healthy Forest Enterprise Incentive Program." The tax credit is determined by the volume qualifying forest products that the business processes annually. This legislation, developed by SRP, is intended to incentivize increased forest thinning to improve watershed conditions. The tax credit offered in this legislation expires after 10 years.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: HB 2247 passed the House. SB 1177 assigned to House NREW 2/25*

**[HB 2330](#) | [SB 1370](#) environmental quality programs; terminations; repeal (H: Griffin | S: Kerr)**

This bill proposes to remove the statutory termination dates for multiple programs administered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Current statutes include sunset dates for these individual programs, separate from ADEQ's sunset review as an entire agency. Removing the termination dates for these programs would align their sunset reviews with the ADEQ sunset review. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: HB 2330 assigned to Senate NREW committee. SB 1370 passed House NREW 3/2*

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**[HB 2336](#) | [SB 1274](#) assured water supply; subdivisions (H: Pratt | S: Shope)**

This measure has been introduced on behalf of the Pinal AMA Stakeholder Group; entities working to address groundwater physical availability issues in the Pinal AMA that have resulted in ADWR holding pending AWS applications. HB 2336 would amend statute to allow a water provider in the Pinal AMA to Modify their most recent Designation of Assured Water Supply (AWS) without having to re-demonstrate the physical availability of groundwater if the Provider is not seeking to increase its previously approved physical availability volume.

This bill codifies ADWR's existing policies related to determining the "Area of Impact" for water stored underground that will be included in an AWS application.

The bill also changes the AWS statutes to allow developers to change the land use type or increase the number of housing units on a subdivision plat associated with existing Certificates of AWS, provided that the overall water use does not increase. Current regulations require developers to apply for a new Certificate if a plat is revised and housing units are increased by 10% or more.

AMWUA has worked with the proponents of this bill to incorporate technical amendments related to the AWS Program, as well as to secure a provision that would ensure ADWR can revise its Rules across all AMAs to make conforming changes.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: SB 1274 signed by Governor 2/12*

**[HB 2388](#) water supply development fund; appropriation (Griffin)**

Appropriates \$50,000,000 to the state Water Supply Development Revolving fund. This fund was established in 2007 and was intended to assist rural water providers acquire water supplies through loans and grants. Currently statutory criteria exist that limit the disbursements from the fund to only water providers that are located within an AMA, or a jurisdiction that has voluntarily adopted adequate water supply provisions. This bill would negate those statutory criteria and make the monies available to any water provider outside of Maricopa County. HB 2388 also expands the definition of “water provider” to include additional private water companies and Natural Resource Conservation Districts. Passive stormwater recharge projects are added to the approved statutory list of water supply development projects.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: Passed House NREW 2/2*

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**[HB 2390](#) | [HB 2594](#) | [HB 2778](#) stream adjudications; cooperative extension; appropriation (Griffin & Bowers)**

These bills authorize Arizona Universities to represent claimants in the General Stream Adjudications. HB 2778 was introduced with slightly differing language, directing the \$500,000 to the University of Arizona’s cooperative extension, rather than for the establishment of a new UA law clinic. HB 2778 also modifies the qualification criteria of those eligible to receive this assistance from low income claimants to “small land owners.”

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: HB 2778 passed House COW 3/1.*

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**[HB 2441](#) water; substitute acreage (Griffin)**

Adds statutory provisions that would allow an irrigator to retire irrigated acres and apply that water right to new, “substitute” lands. The substitute lands must be contiguous to the retired acres or part of the same farming unit. The irrigator must notify ADWR that the retired acres were damaged by floodwaters or, report that a “condition” (including soil quality or the shape of the farmland) exists that is limiting the efficient irrigation of those original acres and that the substitution of new land will facilitate more efficient water use.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: Scheduled for hearing in Senate NREW committee 3/3*

**[HB 2576](#) | [SB 1763](#) water rights; general adjudications; funding (H: Griffin | S: Engel)**

This measure establishes the *General Adjudication Personnel and Support Fund*. Monies in the Fund can be used to provide additional full-time staff, equipment, or services for the Adjudication proceedings for both the Court and ADWR. Prior to any monies being allocated from the Fund, ADWR or the Supreme Court must prepare an expenditure plan for review by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The bill appropriates nearly \$400,000 for the Court to immediately utilize and \$2 million for the general purposes of the Fund. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: HB 2576 passed House NREW Committee 2/16*

**[HB 2614](#) | [SB 1366](#) remediated water; groundwater; use (H: Osborne | S: Kerr)**

In 1997 the Arizona legislature enacted reform measures to the WQARF Program, including creation of incentives for the use of remediated groundwater to facilitate the cleanup of groundwater contamination. Session Law directs ADWR to consider remediated groundwater pumped pursuant to qualifying projects to be consistent with the Management Goal and Plan of the AMA. HB 2614 incorporates the Session Law provisions into A.R.S. Title 45, extends the exemption from 2025 to 2050, and adds a statutory provision that mandates remediated groundwater be put to beneficial use within the service area of the municipal provider where the groundwater was withdrawn, or pursuant to an existing grandfathered right.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: SB 1366 passed the Senate and was transmitted to the House 2/17*

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**[HB 2691 s/e](#) ADEQ; water quality programs; WOTUS (Griffin)**

This bill authorizes ADEQ to adopt water quality standards for surface waters in Arizona that are not classified as “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) pursuant to the Clean Water Act. The statutory amendments direct ADEQ to establish a list of “protected surface waters” and outlines specific waterbodies that must be listed, as well as criteria and procedures for adding or removing waterbodies to the list of protected surface waters. AMWUA has engaged with ADEQ throughout the formation of this legislation as a member of the Department’s Stakeholder Advisory Group. AMWUA staff recommended adoption of a Monitor position on this bill, in recognition that each member city has specific comments and concerns with the legislation.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: Passed House COW 3/3*

## Stalled Legislation

### [HB 2203](#) | [SB 1079](#) well drilling; groundwater basins (H: Cano | S: Steele)

Establishes a well drilling moratorium that prevents new wells in the Upper San Pedro and Verde Valley groundwater subbasins until the conclusion of the General Stream Adjudication unless a well is a replacement well or does not pump subflow.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: Neither bill received a committee hearing*

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### [HB 2204](#) | [SB 1656](#) wells; permits; spacing rules (H: Cano | S: Mendez)

Requires that ADWR adopt rules governing the location of new and replacement wells >35 gpm located outside of AMAs, within groundwater basins that the Director determines to be experiencing declining groundwater levels. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA: Support*

*Status: Neither bill received a committee hearing*

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### [HB 2205](#) | [SB 1562](#) WQARF; Appropriation (H: Cano | S: Peshlakai)

Appropriates \$15 million from the general fund in FY2021-22 to the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund. WQARF is a state-sponsored program established by the Legislature and administered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to clean up hazardous soil and groundwater contamination. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: Neither bill received a committee hearing. WQARF will be addressed through the Budget*

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### [HB 2206](#) | [HB 2595](#) | [SB 1765](#) subsequent irrigation non-expansion areas; procedures (H: Cano, Cobb | S: Otondo)

These measures introduce a number of modifications to the procedures for establishment of new irrigation non-expansion areas (INA). This proposal would allow ADWR to consider projected rates of groundwater withdrawal as part of the determination of a new INA. The bills also clarify which entities are eligible to petition the State to create a new INA and would mandate that petitioners submit a groundwater model and hydrologic assessment using methodology approved by the ADWR Director. The language aligns with the suggested

statutory changes presented by ADWR in the summer of 2017 during the Governor’s Water Solutions Conversations. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: None of the bills received a committee hearing*

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**[HB 2209](#) | [SB 1314](#) groundwater pumping; measuring; reporting (H: Cano | S: Steele)**

Requires monitoring and annual reporting for nonexempt groundwater wells throughout the state. Water users who irrigate 10 or fewer acres that are not part of a larger farming operation, or water users who pump <10 acre-feet per year for non-irrigation use are exempted from this requirement. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: Neither bill received a committee hearing*

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**[HB 2286](#) | [SB 1037](#) water efficient plumbing fixtures (H: Lieberman | S: Engel)**

Arizona adopted water-efficiency standards for indoor plumbing fixtures in 1992 which have since been superseded by various federal laws and requirements. This bill would update Arizona’s water-efficiency standards to align with criteria established by the WaterSense Program, a public-private partnership between industry, utilities, and regulators. AMWUA supported this legislation in the 2020 session.

*AMWUA Position: Support*

*Status: Neither bill received a committee hearing*

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**[HB 2456](#) Colorado River fourth priority water (Cobb & 5 others)**

This bill would add statutory language prohibiting the transfer of any Priority 4 (P4) Colorado River water to non-Colorado river communities.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: HB 2456 was never assigned to a committee*

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**[HB 2679](#) water; rural management areas (Cobb)**

For counties bordering the Colorado River, this bill would allow the County Board of Supervisors to establish a new type of water management jurisdiction called a *Rural Management Area* if a particular groundwater basin or subbasin meet certain criteria, generally related to

groundwater depletion. For any Rural Management Area that is formed, a five-person advisory council shall be appointed by the Governor, and ADWR shall appoint a Director of the area. Rural Management Areas may develop a Management Goal, Management Plan, and voluntary or mandatory best management practices designed to reduce groundwater withdrawals in the area. The proposed Management Plan must be submitted for approval by ADWR.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: HB 2679 never received a committee hearing*

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**[HB 2740](#) | [SB 1474](#) watershed health; use; survey (H: Dalessandro | S: Engel)**

This bill directs ADWR to conduct a triennial assessment of watershed health throughout Arizona and to establish by 2024 a set of recommendations for how much “ecological water” is needed to sustain ecosystems, wildlife habitat, or communities that may rely on a watershed. The bill also provides for the appropriation of water for “watershed health uses,” defined as the conservation of water within a natural watercourse that supports the health of an individual watershed. Current statutes allow for the appropriation and beneficial use of water instream for fish, wildlife, and recreation purposes but not explicitly for the benefit of the watershed or ecosystem as a whole.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: Neither bill received a committee hearing*

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**[SB 1386](#) water; augmentation authority; special districts (Shope)**

This measure has been introduced on behalf of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority (CWAA). The bill would create a statutory framework for a CWAA to levy an assessment (similar to an ad valorem property tax) upon request of property owners for the purposes of financing water supply development projects that will ultimately allow that property to be eligible for a Certificate of Assured Water Supply. SB 1386 also adds to the existing statutory authorities of County Improvement Districts the ability to acquire water supplies and develop infrastructure for water conveyance, reuse, or replenishment. Finally, this bill would require ADWR to transfer a minimum of \$200,000 per year of groundwater withdrawal fee monies to the Pinal CWAA. Currently, statute specifies that ADWR may transfer up to \$200,000 by annual determination.

*AMWUA Position: Monitor*

*Status: Held in Senate NREW Committee 2/17*



## MANAGEMENT BOARD

### INFORMATION SUMMARY

March 10, 2021

## AMWUA Strategic and Annual Action Plans

### STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE

Operational Principles – Manage an Efficient and Effective Association

### SUMMARY

The AMWUA Board of Directors approved the Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 at its September 2016 meeting. The Executive Director developed that Strategic Plan after meeting individually with the AMWUA Board and Management Board members that summer. Those interviews were an opportunity to listen to each member's views about AMWUA. Based on the responses, the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan was developed and approved.

Subsequently, the AMWUA Board of Directors approved an Annual Action Plan that detailed how the Strategic Plan would be accomplished each fiscal year.

Last fall, knowing the Strategic Plan was in its final year, the Executive Director discussed with the Board President how to best proceed with developing a new Plan. The Board President believed that AMWUA's current Strategic Plan was correctly focused and producing results that accomplished AMWUA's vision and mission. Therefore, it would be advantageous to update the current Strategic Plan by keeping substantively the same objectives while detailing each in a more straightforward and succinct manner to serve as AMWUA's roadmap.

The Executive Director discussed the Strategic Plan with AMWUA's new Board President in January 2021. The Board President concurred that there was no need to substantially revise the Strategic Plan since it remains fundamentally relevant, but supported making AMWUA's guiding principles more concise. It was also decided it would be best to present the updated Strategic Plan together with the new Annual Action Plan, which details what AMWUA will work on in the coming fiscal year.

The draft Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 is substantively similar to the previous Plan but streamlined and reorganized on two pages. It is more succinct in providing the vision and mission statements and descriptions of the objectives. Overall, the main areas of emphasis remain - facilitate, educate, collaborate and advocate. Facilitate dialogue among AMWUA's members to develop proposals for issues of common interest. Educate decision-makers, media, and the public

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

about water issues. Collaborate with key groups to achieve solutions. Advocate for making solutions a reality for AMWUA's members. The 2016-2020 Strategic Plan is also attached as a reference.

To outline how the Strategic Plan will be accomplished, AMWUA staff has drafted a new Annual Action Plan to guide AMWUA's efforts through Fiscal Year 2022. The Water Resources Advisory Group has reviewed this plan.

The Annual Action Plan serves to highlight focus areas for AMWUA but most likely staff will need to address other issues that may arise during the upcoming year. Such issues would be identified with the Management Board and the Water Resources Advisory Group to ensure consistency with AMWUA's Strategic Plan.

The Annual Action Plan's key areas of focus through Fiscal Year 2022 include: Day-to-Day Operations, Enhanced Communication, Legislation, Prepare for Redesignation, Demand Management & Efficiency, Sustainable Water Management, Recovery Implementation Plan, Finances & Water, and Colorado River Management & Shortage Preparation.

AMWUA staff have prepared a presentation that reviews both the updated Strategic Plan and the proposed Annual Action Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to review both the updated Strategic Plan and the proposed Annual Action Plan and provide comments and feedback.

Staff proposes that the Management Board direct AMWUA staff to incorporate comments from the Management Board and recommend the AMWUA Board of Directors' approval of the Annual Action Plan through Fiscal Year 2022 upon receiving the AMWUA Board's feedback.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- **Attachment A:** Draft Strategic Plan for 2021-2026
- **Attachment B:** Draft Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2022
- **Attachment C:** 2016-2020 Strategic Plan

## **AMWUA Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026**

Adopted , 2021

*We are ten Valley cities, representing more than half of Arizona's population, working in collaboration for over 50 years to protect and ensure sustainable water supplies for our communities,*

### **Vision**

The Arizona Municipal Water Users Association will be a successful advocate, expert, and leader on water issues, working to protect its members' water supplies by ensuring laws and regulations support water resources sustainability enabling continued prosperity in the desert.

### **Mission**

The Arizona Municipal Water Users Association protects our members' ability to provide assured, safe, and sustainable water supplies to their communities. Working collaboratively, we advocate responsible water stewardship that supports economic prosperity and safeguards Arizona's water supplies for future generations.

### **Objectives**

Guided by its vision, AMWUA will facilitate discussion among our members on how to best pursue and advocate for the following objectives to accomplish AMWUA's mission. To achieve these objectives by 2026, AMWUA will advocate with one voice for those agreed-upon solutions to water management challenges affecting its members and Arizona.

#### *Facilitate our Strength in Numbers*

- Ensure AMWUA's organizational strength for facilitating discussion, encouraging consensus, and best serving its members is maximized through the full utilization, efficient structuring, and retention of a knowledgeable, effective, and productive staff and consultants.
- Research and analyze issues, legislation, and policies impacting water supplies and management and propose solutions that AMWUA members can collectively support and advance with one voice.
- Maximize the policy, administrative, and technical expertise of the AMWUA Board, AMWUA Management Board, Water Resources Advisory Group, and Conservation & Efficiency Advisory Group by providing timely information and engaging on issues in regular meetings.
- Support the long-term viability and partnership of the Sub-Regional Operating Group to oversee the 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Annually implement a resourceful, effective operating budget that demonstrates how AMWUA's mission and objectives will be accomplished.

#### *Educate - Excel as an Expert and Resource*

- Communicate effectively about water from the perspective of AMWUA members by maximizing the impact of AMWUA's website, digital platforms, media, and other public forums to advance the importance of planning and investing in water resources and infrastructure.
- Communicate the successes of our members in water management while highlighting the importance of efficient water use and strong statewide water management to ensure economic success.
- Promote AMWUA's expertise among its membership, the water community, and the public by having a presence at meetings, forums, events, and in the media while participating in regional, state, and national organizations to represent and advance the interests of our members.

### *Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions*

- Effectively work with and influence the Legislature, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Salt River Project, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the water community, the business community, and other key players to pursue policies and positions beneficial to our members and Arizona.

### *Safeguard Water Supplies*

- Protect our members' existing water supplies, including groundwater, Salt & Verde Rivers water, Colorado River water, recycled water, and stored water.
- Advance awareness and the shared responsibility of our *One Water*, which represents all water sources, including the full reuse of water.
- Explore concepts for how our members can plan and invest in future water resources and infrastructure.
- Assist members in developing and implementing programs and policies that could further extend supplies through the efficient use and conservation of water.

### *Strengthen Groundwater Management*

- Support and protect the Groundwater Management Act and the AMA management goal of safe-yield.
- Support policies and efforts that enhances and strengthens the responsible use of groundwater in the Phoenix Active Management Area, particularly during a shortage.
- Promote ways ADWR can more effectively administer programs essential to AMWUA members.

### *Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage*

- Assist our members with the development and implementation of measures to ensure the resiliency of their water supplies even during drought and shortage.
- Collaborate with AWBA, CAWCD, and ADWR to have a recovery implementation plan for M&I water firmed by AWBA to allow municipalities to better prepare for a shortage.
- Assist members with the ongoing development and implementation of programs and policies that promote water-efficiency and encourage conservation to manage demand.

### *Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy*

- Develop concepts for policies and programs that build on the accomplishments of the Groundwater Management Act and will carry forward sound water management for AMWUA members and Arizona beyond 2025.

### *Minimize Financial Impacts*

- Increase our members' understanding of CAWCD and SRP's respective finances and encourage CAWCD and SRP's financial stability.
- Work with CAWCD and SRP to convey how their respective rates and taxes impact the AMWUA members and collaborate to ensure the best benefits of those rates and taxes for AMWUA members.

### *Interconnect Disciplines*

- Develop ways to better maximize and connect the knowledge, practices, and activities of water resource planning, demand management, water quality, water/energy nexus, sustainability, economic development, and finance efforts.

**Arizona Municipal Water Users Association  
Annual Action Plan - Fiscal Year 2022  
Approved , 2021**

**DRAFT**

AMWUA will pursue the following actions to ensure it achieves the vision and mission outlined in the 2021-2026 strategic plan. This action plan will guide the development of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and will drive the organization's efforts through Fiscal Year 2022. Although this plan outlines primary areas of focus, AMWUA will remain flexible and vigilant to address unforeseen issues.

### **Day-to-Day Operations**

Maintain the daily operations of an effective organization and the services members rely on.

- AMWUA will continue to serve its members through collaborating on issues and advocating for the agreed-upon positions. Regular meetings of the AMWUA Board of Directors, Management Board, Water Resources Advisory Group, Conservation & Efficiency Advisory Group, Sub-Regional Operating Group, Communication Advisory Group, Finance Advisory Group as well as interaction with other members' staff will be used to facilitate such collaboration.
- AMWUA will continue to communicate with the public and decision-makers about water and the important responsibilities of its members.
- AMWUA will continue to address ad hoc research and informational requests from members and questions from the public regarding regional water issues.
- AMWUA will continue to provide timely notification of water issues and summaries of key water meetings held throughout the year to its members.
- AMWUA will continue to wisely manage its financial resources and effectively develop its personnel as an agile team with organizational depth.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Educate - Excel as an Expert and Resource*

### **Enhanced Communication**

Improve how AMWUA conveys the municipal perspective on water issues, stays in front of water issues, and personalizes water issues to better communicate how they affect the average citizen.

- Work with member and partner PIOs and communications staff to facilitate information exchange, identify shared challenges and opportunities, and enhance coordination of messaging and communication of water resource issues and information.
- Utilize various communication platforms, including the website, weekly blog, social media, and public presentations.

*Strategic Plan: Educate – Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Excel as an Expert and Resource, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Interconnect Disciplines*

### **Legislation**

Effectively advocate with one voice at the Legislature.

- Monitor, analyze and clarify state and federal legislation of interest to our members.
- Engage with legislators to inform them about the issues important to AMWUA including identifying and working with legislators to champion water issues.

*Strategic Plan: Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Reinforce Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy*

### Prepare for Redesignation

**DRAFT**

Continue strategizing how best to prepare our members to renew their assured water supply designations.

- Identify issues that our members will need to address including the physical availability of surface water, groundwater, and CAP NIA supplies.
- Engage with ADWR to ensure coordination with the redesignation process.

*Strategic Plan: Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Strengthen Groundwater Supplies, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy*

### Demand Management & Efficiency

Continue to excel as a leader in water conservation by assisting our members in strategizing demand management and in raising awareness about ongoing conservation efforts in order to enhance water resource supply sustainability.

- Increase outdoor water efficiency including efforts to research and develop outdoor water efficiency standards.
- Further quantify savings from water conservation efforts.
- Engage in efforts to pursue demand management best practices and policies in the 5<sup>th</sup> Management Plan, Post 2025 AMAs Committee, and through commercial, industrial and institutional efficiencies.
- Engage in regional, statewide and national demand management efforts and elevate our members' programs.
- Sustain AMWUA's resource materials including publications and websites that are utilized by our members and the public.
- Expand promotion and visibility of existing and new AMWUA and member materials and programs along with the overall messaging about our water conservation efforts.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Educate – Excel as an Expert and Resource, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Strengthen Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy, Minimize Financial Impact, Interconnect Disciplines*

### Sustainable Water Management

Evaluate and pursue our members' contribution towards efforts and policies that will sustain and safeguard our water resources and prepare for the critical water management issues beyond 2025.

- Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council – Actively participate to protect and promote our members' perspectives.
- Post-2025 – Lead discussions in the Post-2025 AMAs Committee toward developing strategies and solutions to address issues associated with the AMA management structure, unreplenished groundwater withdrawals, the hydrologic disconnect, Assured Water Supply Program, the CAGR, and exempt wells.
- Watershed Management – Work with SRP, the Nature Conservancy and others on improving and sustaining a healthy watershed.
- Arizona Water Banking Authority – Analyze how the Water Bank can best benefit municipal users moving forward.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Educate – Excel as an Expert and Resource, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Strengthen Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy, Interconnect Disciplines*

**Finances & Water****DRAFT**

Examine, analyze and influence water positions and policies that impact our members' finances.

- CAWCD – Decisions regarding the use of property tax revenue, use of rate stabilization funds, recovery infrastructure financing, costs of System Use Agreement water quality requirements, and costs of shortage-related programs.
- SRP – Better understand the impact of SRP's long-term water costs.

*Strategic Plan: Collaboration and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impacts*

**Colorado River Management & Shortage Preparation**

Assist, monitor and coordinate on the impacts of shortage declarations on the Colorado River along with the Reconsultation of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

- Ongoing Coordination – Pursue opportunities to assist and synchronize continuing preparation efforts such as identifying ways to strengthen members' drought (shortage) preparedness plans.
- Recovery Planning - Participate in the Recovery Planning Advisory Group to engage in the implementation phases of recovery of AWBA stored water for the benefit of M&I subcontractors.
- Enhanced Messaging – Facilitate the coordination of regional messages to ensure the public and decision makers understand how Colorado River shortage affects our water supplies; what our members have done, and continue to do, to prepare; our collective resilience to shortages; and increase the visibility and frequency of conservation awareness messaging.
- Risks – Analyze long-term risks of shortages to our members

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impacts*

## AMWUA Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020

*AMWUA – One for Water*  
Adopted September 22, 2016

*We are the ten major cities in the Phoenix metro area, working together for nearly 50 years to protect and ensure the water supplies for our communities, representing more than half of Arizona's population.*

### **Vision**

The Arizona Municipal Water Users Association will be a successful advocate and leader on water issues, ensuring that its members' water supplies are protected and enhanced, and that laws and regulations support economic prosperity and water resources sustainability. AMWUA will be a recognized and respected expert on water issues, serving as a valuable resource to its members, water professionals, policy-makers, educators, and the general public.

### **Mission**

The Arizona Municipal Water Users Association protects our members' ability to provide assured, safe, and sustainable water supplies to their communities. Working collaboratively, we advocate responsible water stewardship that supports economic prosperity and safeguards Arizona's water supplies for future generations.

### **Objectives**

Guided by its vision, AMWUA will facilitate discussion among our members on how to best pursue and advocate for the following objectives in order to accomplish AMWUA's mission. To achieve these objectives by 2020, AMWUA will advocate with one voice for those agreed-upon solutions to water management challenges affecting its members and Arizona. An action plan will be developed annually to detail how to accomplish this strategic plan.

#### *Advocate for Solutions –*

- Effectively influence the Legislature about sound water management.
- Encourage and influence ADWR, ADEQ, SRP, CAP and others in the water community to pursue policies and positions beneficial to our members and Arizona.

#### *Safeguard Water Supplies –*

- Protect our members' existing water supplies including groundwater, Salt & Verde Rivers water, Colorado River water, reused water, and stored water.

#### *Reinforce Groundwater Management –*

- Support and protect the Groundwater Management Act and the goal of safe-yield.
- Support the completion of a 4<sup>th</sup> Management Plan that enhances and strengthens the management of groundwater in the Phoenix Active Management Area.
- Support improvements for strategic aquifer protection.

*Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage –*

- Evaluate how Colorado River and Salt & Verde Rivers supplies can be safeguarded from the effects of drought and shortage.
- Support the efficient and responsible use of groundwater during shortage.
- Collaborate with AWBA, CAP and ADWR to develop a complete recovery plan for M&I water firmed by AWBA to allow municipalities to better prepare for shortage.
- Assist members with ongoing development and implementation of programs and policies that continue to promote water use efficiency and encourage conservation to manage demand.

*Augment Supplies –*

- Explore concepts for how our members can secure and fund additional water for their future needs.
- Explore concepts for how our members can best utilize, construct, maintain and fund water infrastructure.
- Assist members to develop and implement programs and policies that could further extend supplies through the efficient use and conservation of water.

*Elevate the Benefit of Water Reuse –*

- Continue to promote the full reuse of water.
- Support the long-term viability and partnership of the Sub-Regional Operating Group to oversee the 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Identify proposed water quality regulatory changes that may affect water supply issues and develop a relationship with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

*Initiate Post-2025 Water Policy –*

- Analyze the Groundwater Management Act to consider areas for additional improvement for groundwater management.
- Develop concepts for policies and programs that build on the accomplishments of the Groundwater Management Act and will carry forward sound water management for AMWUA members and Arizona beyond 2025, the year safe-yield is targeted by the Act.

*Minimize Financial Impacts –*

- Assist members to develop concepts to drive investment in water resources and infrastructure along with reducing various financial impacts on water utilities including energy and regulations.
- Increase CAP and SRP's awareness on how their respective rates and taxes impact their customers – the AMWUA members – and collaborate with CAP and SRP to ensure the best benefits of those rates and taxes for AMWUA members.
- Increase our members' understanding of CAP and SRP's respective finances and encourage CAP and SRP's financial stability.

*Interconnect Disciplines –*

- Develop ways to better maximize and connect the knowledge, practices and activities of water resources planning, demand management, water quality, water/energy nexus, sustainability, economic development, and finance efforts.

## **Collaboration**

To accomplish these objectives and its overall mission, AMWUA will collaborate and advocate with the Legislature, ADWR, ADEQ, BOR, SRP, CAP, regional water groups, the business community, and other key players.

### *Legislature*

- Elevate with Legislators and Legislative staff the importance of strong statewide water management to ensure long-term economic success in Maricopa County and Arizona.
- Develop water champions in the Legislature and cultivate relationships through various means with Legislators to inform them about the importance of water resources and infrastructure for AMWUA members.
- Support legislation that is consistent with and advances AMWUA's mission and oppose legislation that does not.

### *Arizona Department of Water Resources*

- Advocate for ADWR to sustain the Groundwater Management Act, protect Arizona's Colorado River supply, achieve safe-yield in the Phoenix Active Management Area, and complete the adjudication process.
- Promote ways ADWR can more effectively administer programs essential to AMWUA members.

### *Salt River Project*

- Cultivate a strong relationship with SRP to ensure Salt & Verde Rivers supplies and the SRP system are secure and maintained for the benefit of AMWUA members.
- Work together on issues that affect AMWUA members, including but not limited to, financial policies that impact AMWUA members, watershed management, groundwater management, and maximizing use of the SRP canals.
- Increase understanding and communication among SRP Board members and management about the issues important to AMWUA members.

### *Central Arizona Project*

- Cultivate a strong relationship with CAP to ensure Colorado River supplies and the CAP system are secure and maintained for the benefit of AMWUA members.
- Work together on issues that affect AMWUA members, including but not limited to, CAP's rates and taxes, Colorado River shortage issues, recovery planning, wheeling, Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, and power issues.
- Increase understanding and communication among CAP Board members and management about the issues important to AMWUA members.

### *Water Community*

- Coordinate with, but not limited to, the Southern Arizona Water Users Association, Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, agricultural water users, Tribal water users, Bureau of Reclamation, the Kyl Center for Water Policy and other academia, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the Nature Conservancy, and other water organizations to advocate for solutions on common issues.

### *Business Community*

- Increase awareness and engagement among the business community regarding the important connection between water and long-term economic strength.

### **Operational Principles**

To accomplish the mission, achieve its objectives, and effectively collaborate, AMWUA must operate efficiently. To best serve our members, the following principles are to ensure AMWUA's successful day-to-day operations:

#### *Facilitate our Strength in Numbers -*

- Research and analyze issues and propose solutions that AMWUA members can collectively support and advance with one voice.
- Communicate timely notifications and analyses to our members on potential regulations, legislation and policies impacting water supplies and management.
- Maximize the policy, administrative, and technical expertise of the AMWUA Board, AMWUA Management Board, Water Resources Advisory Group, and Conservation Committee through providing timely information and engaging on issues in regular meetings.
- Celebrate in 2019 AMWUA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an opportunity to promote AMWUA's accomplishments and the importance of being engaged in water.

#### *Excel as an Expert and Resource -*

- Communicate effectively about water from the perspective of AMWUA members.
- Maximize AMWUA's website, the media, and other public forums to advance the importance of planning and investing in water resources and infrastructure for AMWUA members and Arizona.
- Communicate a positive message about the successes of our members in water management and quickly correct misperceptions and misinformation that may arise in the media.
- Advance and continue to communicate the importance of efficient water use to decision makers and the public.
- Promote AMWUA's expertise among its membership, the water community and the public through having a presence at meetings, forums, and in the media.
- Participate in regional, state, and national organizations to represent and advance the interests of our members.

#### *Manage an Efficient and Effective Association -*

- Ensure AMWUA's organizational strength for facilitating discussion, encouraging consensus, and best serving its members is maximized through the full utilization, efficient structuring, and retention of a knowledgeable, effective, and productive staff and consultants.
- Implement annually a resourceful, effective operating budget that clearly demonstrates how it is accomplishing AMWUA's mission and objectives.
- Develop annual action plans to detail how this strategic plan will be accomplished.



## MANAGEMENT BOARD

### INFORMATION SUMMARY

March 10, 2021

## Update on the Governor's Water Council

### ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

#### Sustainable Water Management

Evaluate and pursue our members' contribution towards efforts and policies that will sustain and safeguard our water resources and prepare for the critical water management issues beyond 2025.

- Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council – Actively participate to protect and promote our members' perspectives including in leading the Post-2025 AMAs Committee discussions.

*Strategic Plan: Objectives – Advocate for Solutions; Safeguard Water Supplies, Reinforce Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Augment Supplies, Initiate Post-2025 Water Policy; Collaboration – Arizona Department of Water Resources, Salt River Project, Central Arizona Project, Water Community, Business Community*

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update regarding activities related to the Governor's Water Council and its committees. The Governor's Water Council is scheduled to meet March 19, 2021. The main focus of the meeting will be a progress report from the Post-2025 AMAs Committee and the presentation of six issue briefs completed by the Committee. The Committee co-chairs will be seeking support from the Council to move the Committee discussions into a strategies and solutions phase.

### RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is encouraged to ask questions and discuss the update presented regarding the Governor's Water Council.