This annual report describes the activities and the recommendations of the Council.
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Desalination Committee
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Non-AMA Groundwater Committee
MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNOR’S WATER AUGMENTATION, INNOVATION AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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<th>Representative Russell Bowers, Speaker of the House</th>
<th>Representative Gail Griffin</th>
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<td>Senator Karen Fann, President of the Senate</td>
<td>Senator Sine Kerr</td>
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<td>Senator David Bradley, Senate Minority Leader¹</td>
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<td>Senator Rebecca Rios, Senate Minority Leader</td>
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<td>Representative Charlene Fernandez, House Minority Leader²</td>
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<td>Representative Reginald Bolding Jr., House Minority Leader</td>
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<td>Tom Buschatzke (Chair)</td>
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<td>Basilio Aja</td>
<td>Glen Hamer³</td>
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<td>Cheryl Lombard</td>
<td>Grady Gammage</td>
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<td>Christopher Udall</td>
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<td>Craig Sullivan</td>
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<td>Doug Dunham</td>
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<td>Stephen Roe Lewis</td>
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<td>Patrick Graham⁴</td>
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<td>Ted Cooke</td>
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<td>Spencer Kamps</td>
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<td>Stefanie Smallhouse</td>
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<td>Stephen Q. Miller</td>
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¹Served until January 2021
²Served until January 2021
³Served until February 2021
⁴Served until November 2020
⁵Served until February 2021
⁶Served until December 2020
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The unforeseen events of the global COVID-19 pandemic this past year impacted many of the meetings associated with the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council (Council). As the world reacted and adapted to the pandemic, so did the Arizona Department of Water Resources (Department), the Council, and its many stakeholders. Meetings that were once held in person at the Department’s offices were conducted virtually or over the phone.

This new meeting format presented unique challenges to conducting business and continuing the conversations that had been fostered in years past. Yet at the same time, the virtual world provided an opportunity for greater stakeholder participation in the online committee meetings and attendance at Council meetings. Conference room capacity and distance were no longer limiting factors; committee participants logged on from every corner of Arizona, from tribal nations, and even from other states.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, the Council and committees made considerable progress during 2020-2021. The Post-2025 AMAs Committee met six times over the course of the year, working to identify and describe water management challenges and opportunities facing the most populous areas of the State. The committee produced a set of six issue briefs that were presented to the Council. The Council tasked the committee to begin work to identify and develop potential strategies and solutions.

The Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee researched additional augmentation options and presented information to the Council on forest management and weather modification efforts in the State. The Desalination Committee investigated, discussed, and produced a document summarizing legal and regulatory limitations to the use of brackish groundwater. The Non-AMAs Groundwater Committee discussed proposed legislation that would make it possible to establish Rural Management Areas.

In September, the federally recognized tribal nations within Arizona were invited to participate in a special meeting of the Council. Representatives from nine of the nations shared perspectives on tribal water rights and water rights settlements with the Council members and attendees over the course of the half-day meeting.

We sincerely appreciate the many hours the Council members and committee participants invested in online meetings and intensive work behind the scenes—researching, drafting documents and presentations, reviewing numerous iterations and providing feedback. It has been invaluable to the progress made. Special thanks to those who have served as committee chairs and co-chairs, including Desal Committee Chair Philip Richards and Post-2025 AMAs Co-Chair Tim Thomure, who stepped down from their roles this year. We are grateful for your leadership and commitment.

The Council and committees will continue to meet virtually, as well as beginning in-person hybrid meetings, in the next fiscal year and will continue to advance the discussions and progress made in 2020-2021. We hope to see many of you in person once again in the near future.
BACKGROUND

The Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council (Council) was established by Executive Order 2019-02 on January 31, 2019, concurrent with the historic signing of the legislation ratifying the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and legislation implementing the DCP in Arizona. The new executive order superseded and rescinded Executive Order 2015-13, which established the Governor’s Water Augmentation Council under the Arizona Water Initiative. In recognition of the fact that there is more work to be done to address Arizona’s water issues beyond the immediate issues on the Colorado River, the Council expands on the foundation laid by the former Council.

The Council is a forum for discussion of water issues. It brings together a diverse group of stakeholders from across the State to raise, analyze, discuss, and vet what are often difficult and complex issues, as directed by the Governor, in order to ensure a sustainable water future. In doing so, it builds greater understanding of the water resource challenges and the potential solutions to those challenges, as well as a greater understanding and appreciation among the stakeholders, elected leaders, and government agencies of one another’s perspectives on these issues.

The Council continues the legacy of cooperative long-term strategic water planning in Arizona. Through the Council and its committees, stakeholders across the water-use sectors – including members of the public, industry, non-profits, academia, and policymakers – are encouraged to confront difficult issues and to work collaboratively to identify and develop solutions to challenges faced by water users throughout the State.

COUNCIL ROLE

The Council is tasked with:

Identifying and recommending opportunities for water augmentation, innovation, and conservation.
Assessing long-term impacts of conservation projects funded with monies from the Groundwater Conservation Fund and reporting on those impacts.

Considering a communication plan for the State to convey the status of its water supply resiliency and its efforts to maintain that status moving forward.

Preparing and submitting an annual report that describes the Council’s activities and recommendations.

The Council is also charged with providing guidance to the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (Department) on issues upon the Director’s request.

COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The Council consists of individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Director of the Department serves as the Chair of the Council. In addition, in order to enable the discussions that need to occur among diverse stakeholders and legislators to achieve good policy outcomes, membership of the Council includes the Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the House Minority Leader and the Senate Minority Leader, or their legislative designees. These members of the Arizona State Legislature and other elected leaders representing local, county, and tribal governments from across the State have been supportive and active participants in the Council and its committees.

COMMITTEES

Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order, the Council may form additional working groups or committees. The Council’s committees, where much of the work of the Council is accomplished, include Council members as well as non-Council members. Participation in the committee meetings is open to the public and there is no formal membership. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings that were once held in person at the Department’s offices were conducted virtually or over the phone.

The committees work to identify and discuss issues and to develop, evaluate, and prioritize recommendations for the Council to consider. The committees have occasionally formed subcommittees as technical workgroups to perform specific tasks to assist or inform the committee’s efforts.

Committee chairs report on the activities of their respective committees at each of the Council’s meetings, receiving feedback and direction from the Council. Details of the committee activities are provided later in this report. Meeting agendas, materials, presentations, recordings, and summaries are posted to the Council page on the Department’s website.
COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Council meets quarterly. At the time of this report, the council meets virtually and meetings are available online to be attended by the public. Meeting agendas, materials, presentations, recordings, and summaries are posted to the Council page on the Department’s website.

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<th>MEETING TOPICS</th>
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<tr>
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ACTIVITIES

This second Annual Report of the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council addresses the period from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021 (FY 2021).

The federally recognized tribal nations within Arizona were invited to participate in a special meeting of the Council on September 10, 2020. Representatives from nine of the nations shared perspectives on tribal water rights and water rights settlements with the Council members and attendees over the course of the half-day meeting.

The Non-AMA Groundwater Committee Co-Chairs reported to the Council that the committee heard presentations on Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas as well as legislation to enable the establishment of Rural Management Areas. The committee discussed the two types of authorities, but no consensus on the subject was reached. In order to assist the Council in understanding
how potential issues fit together and to better weigh potential solutions, the chair charged the committee to consider issues as they interrelate and affect multiple stakeholder groups, and to bring those issues forward as a collection, rather than separately.

The Post-2025 AMAs Committee co-chairs presented a final package of issue briefs to the Council. The issue briefs describe six interrelated water management issues identified and discussed by the committee over the course of more than a year. A subset of committee participants shared concerns and differing perspectives on two of the issue briefs and documented them in a letter to the Council chair. The Council discussed the issues at length and charged the committee to move forward without delay into the next phase of work — continuing to explore, refine and understand the relationship between the water management issues identified, consider them holistically, and work to develop strategies and solutions for the Council to consider. (More details on the issue briefs are located in the Committees of the Council section below.)

The Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee chair presented a summary of studies of importation options for the Colorado River Basin, including binational desalination and trans-basin diversion augmentation to move water from Missouri or Mississippi Rivers to offset Colorado River diversions to the Front Range. (More details are in the Committees of the Council section below.)

In FY 2021, the Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee largely completed its research, evaluation, and discussion of the potential for augmenting water supplies in Arizona through several additional water augmentation strategies. The committee chair and committee participant Bruce Hallin of SRP provided their conclusions regarding those strategies to the Council at the September 2020 meeting.

The Council was briefed on significant water issues over the course of the year. Director Buschatzke reported on the letter sent by Arizona and five other Colorado River Basin States to the Secretary of Interior requesting a delay of the final Record of Decision on the Lake Powell Pipeline. Staff apprised the Council on drought status and outlook. The Council was kept informed regarding the Department’s work to complete and promulgate the Fourth Management Plans and the timeline and development of the Fifth Management Plans. The Council was also informed of the development of the $2 million dollar Groundwater Conservation Grant Program and the award selection process.
COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Four working groups, or committees, have been created by the Council to address specific issues or challenge areas.

LONG-TERM WATER AUGMENTATION COMMITTEE

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee is to identify and explore methods of augmenting water supplies in Arizona.

ACTIVITIES

- Discussed the following potential augmentation strategies:
  - Weather modification
  - Forest management
  - Phreatophyte management
  - Examples of water importation strategies
- Continued the Storage Sites Subcommittee Meetings.
  - The subcommittee heard presentations from projects developed in Mohave and Cochise Counties
  - The Department’s Chief Hydrologist presented the results of the Storage Sites Analysis

The committee continues to consider, investigate, evaluate, and potentially develop additional options for augmentation.

The committee researched, evaluated and discussed the potential for water augmentation in Arizona through weather modification, phreatophyte management, and forest/grassland management and provided the following conclusions to the Council at the September 15, 2021 meeting:

Although forest management is critically important to protect water resources, the committee concluded it is difficult to recommend as an augmentation option. Recent research in Arizona indicates that restoration through tree thinning can result in small gains to streamflow — on the order of one to eight percent — but those gains lessen quickly over time as regrowth of vegetation occurs. It is also extremely difficult to determine if the gains even reach streams. Over more than 100 years of recordkeeping,
SRP has not been able to identify appreciable gains in runoff due to changing forest conditions. SRP is working with ASU and other partners to better understand gains in the system due to watershed restoration, where they occur, and the longevity of the gains. SRP will report back to the Council on the progress of the research.

The committee determined that weather modification merits attention. SRP, in partnership with the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the Department, is implementing a study to better understand the feasibility and efficacy of cloud seeding in the White Mountains. The study will commence once additional partnership funding is secured, estimated to occur at the end of CY 2020. Upon completion of the study, SRP will provide a report to the Council and may seek support for weather modification efforts on a broader scale, depending on the outcome.

The committee has explored phreatophyte management extensively, performing a literature review and interviewing local experts. Committee participants concluded that more focused research and pilot projects are needed. Specifically, pilot projects in which interdisciplinary teams of experts work together to: (1) Identify project sites where there is potential for water augmentation along with other benefits, (2) Design and implement vegetation management strategies and assess the outcomes over a term of five or more years. From those pilot projects, a set of technical tools should be developed for broader use throughout the State. The committee will reconvene to explore next steps.

The committee heard presentations on the history and studies of importation options for the Colorado River Basin, focusing on the Binational Study of Water Desalination Opportunities in the Sea of Cortez and also studies that focused on and trans-basin diversion augmentation to move water from Missouri or Mississippi Rivers to offset Colorado River diversions to the Front Range. A summary of these presentations was provided to the Council at its December 2020 meeting.

Several committee participants met as a working group to discuss various financing and funding studies that past water initiatives had reviewed and developed prior to the establishment of the Council. The Committee may schedule additional work group meetings as any additional need to review funding, as it relates to future water augmentation projects, is identified.

The Subcommittee, formed by the committee in FY20, continued to meet during FY21 to complete the task of recommending site selection criteria for the potential revision of the 2017 report titled, Potential Water Storage Sites on State Trust Land (Storage Sites Report). The 2017 report was required by SB 1399, which directed the State Land Commissioner and the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources to work together to develop a report that identifies the six most potentially acceptable water storage sites on State Trust land. A nearly identical bill, HB 2249, was enacted in 2021, requiring an updated report by December 31, 2021.

As a result of the Subcommittee’s discussion, analysis performed by Department staff, and input from Representative Griffin — who sponsored both storage sites bills and

participated actively in the subcommittee — a new approach was identified. Rather than narrowing the number of potential sites, the new approach is to include all the potential sites identified using preliminary criteria in the report and then provide local stakeholders with the tools, resources, and information to evaluate the potential sites and opportunities for a project on a local case-by-case basis. The outcome is a guide that outlines the steps and considerations to siting, designing and permitting a water storage project, enabling local stakeholders who can best assess their unique needs, opportunities, and potential partnerships.

Department staff will continue to work with the subcommittee and committee to complete the draft guide and are working with the Arizona State Land Department to complete and finalize the report.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING DATES</th>
<th>MEETING TOPICS</th>
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<td>April 19, 2020</td>
<td>• Discussion of Potential Augmentation Strategies</td>
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Council and committee agendas, materials, presentations, recordings, and summaries can be viewed on the Council’s page on the Department’s website.

**DESLINATION COMMITTEE**

**PURPOSE**

The Desalination Committee was originally established under the Governor’s Water Augmentation Council to evaluate the feasibility of developing additional desalination projects to augment water supplies in Arizona.
ACTIVITIES

Drafted and finalized the Regulatory Background & Summary of Discussion Report

Under the Council, the Desalination Regulatory & Legal Subcommittee completed the task of identifying the legal and regulatory barriers to the increased use of brackish, or poor quality, groundwater supplies in Arizona.

At the March 25, 2021, committee meeting the draft summary of the issues raised and discussed by the subcommittee titled, Draft Regulatory Background & Summary of Discussion, was presented. The Draft Summary report findings state:

There are no legal or regulatory constraints specific to the use of brackish or poor-quality groundwater in Arizona law. Brackish or poor-quality groundwater is not specifically defined in Arizona statute. It is simply groundwater.

Statutory limitation is related to the use and transportation of groundwater.

In March of 2021, Philip Richards stepped down from the Council and as chair of the Desalination Committee. Henry Day of APS filled both these positions. We have appreciated Philip’s leadership and support on the Council and the Desalination Committee and look forward to working with Henry.

Arizona is exploring opportunities for joint collaborative ocean desalination projects that would increase delivery or exchange of Colorado River water through the Minute 323 Binational Desalination Work Group, which is co-chaired by Director Buschatzke. See the Executive Summary of the Binational Study of Water Desalination Opportunities in the Sea of Cortez, prepared for the Binational Desalination Work Group, for more information.

Council and committee agendas, materials, presentations, recordings, and summaries can be viewed on the Council’s page on the Department’s website.

POST-2025 AMAs COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The Post-2025 Active Management Areas Committee is focused on identifying challenges within Arizona’s Active Management Areas (AMAs) and generating strategies and solutions beyond 2025.
ACTIVITIES

The committee met six times in Fiscal Year 2021 and had robust discussions focused on identifying and describing water management issues facing the AMAs beyond the year 2025.

Issue briefs presented to the Council on March 19, 2021:

Hydrologic Disconnect
Exempt wells
Unreplenished Groundwater Withdrawals
Groundwater in the Assured Water Supply Program
Water Supplies for Replenishment of the CAGRD
Post-2025 AMAs Management Structure

Outlined the next steps towards developing strategies and solutions.

The Post-2025 AMAs Committee was established by consensus at the June 13, 2019 Council meeting at the recommendation of Chairman Buschatzke.

The Post-2025 AMAs Committee began its work with a shared understanding of what Arizona has achieved since the establishment of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, which was enacted to conserve, protect, and allocate the use of groundwater resources of the State in order to protect and stabilize the general economy and welfare of the State and its citizens. The programs and water management efforts that have evolved from the Act have successfully reduced groundwater overdraft across a series of five management periods. However, most of the AMAs have not met their goals, and the final management period closes in 2025. An imbalance between available water supplies and demand remains that will inevitably drive additional groundwater declines, particularly as pressures on the State’s other water supplies increase.

The committee began the work of identifying challenges facing water management in the AMAs in October of 2019 and has continued the process of identifying and analyzing water resource challenges throughout FY 2021. The committee developed a consensus-based list of issues, each expressed as issue statements and described in supporting issue briefs.

The process to develop issue statements and briefs was extensive, comprising five committee meetings, numerous working meetings of staff, multiple technical reviews by Department and CAGRD staff, individual meetings with stakeholders to solicit additional input, electronic surveys, and many electronic exchanges of drafts and feedback. Although not all committee participants supported the way the issues were presented, there was agreement to submit the package of issue briefs to the Council for consideration. The understanding gained from more than a year of discussion by the 100-plus participants will serve as the basis for the committee to begin to develop potential strategies or solutions to address these water management challenges.
The following list provides the main issue statement included in each of the six issue briefs drafted by the committee.

In Arizona’s active management areas, unreplenished groundwater withdrawals by all water-using sectors, as permitted by law, combined with a lack of sufficient incentives to either reduce withdrawals or mitigate the impacts, may limit the State’s ability to meet the AMA long-term groundwater management goals.

The storage and recovery of water supplies in hydrologically disconnected areas within AMAs has the potential to create or worsen localized groundwater depletion. Similar issues may arise in the context of hydrologically disconnected pumping and replenishment to meet requirements of the Assured Water Supply Program.

Exempt wells contribute to groundwater overdraft in the Prescott AMA, more so than in other AMAs, placing the long-term viability of its aquifers at greater risk and impeding the ability to reach the management goal in the Prescott AMA.

Large areas of the AMAs remain groundwater-dependent due to a lack of renewable water supplies and infrastructure, which creates uncertainties as groundwater supplies become more limited.

What are the roles and consequences of the use of groundwater to support new growth after 2025?
What are the risks to homeowners whose physical groundwater supplies may be depleted after the regulatory Assured Water Supply 100-year timeframe?
What roadblocks prevent access to renewable supplies and infrastructure in these groundwater-dependent areas?

The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD) provides a mechanism to replenish some of the Assured Water Supply related groundwater use within three Active Management Areas.

However, the CAGRD and its members face long-term uncertainties related to the availability and costs of supplies for replenishment.
What are the long-term uncertainties for the CAGRD related to the availability of renewable supplies for replenishment?
What issues may arise as replenishment supply costs are borne by the CAGRD and passed on to its members?
What concerns exist about ADWR’s oversight and review criteria of CAGRD Plans of Operation in relation to the CAGRD’s long-term viability?

There is no statutory provision establishing Active Management Area (AMA) goals or additional management periods and plans after 2025. The fifth management plans will remain in effect until statutory changes designate otherwise.
Although there are six individual issue briefs, the committee acknowledges these issues are interconnected, and the challenge of securing and managing water supplies is shared by all sectors—municipal, agricultural, and industrial. The issues need to be considered together, and any potential strategies and solutions must be developed and weighed with this in mind. In addition, strategies and solutions will need to be assessed in relation to the immediate and long-term needs and consequences of the challenges presented in each of the six briefs.

The six issue briefs were presented by the then committee co-chairs Tim Thomure and Warren Tenney at the March 2021 meeting of the Council. A subset of the committee expressed concerns and differing perspectives on the issue briefs, *Groundwater in the Assured Water Supply Program* and *CAGRD Replenishment and Water Supplies*, and documented them in a letter to the Council chair. The Council discussed the issues identified by the committee and the concerns shared, and they charged the committee to move forward without delay into the next phase of work. The Council chair directed the committee to continue to refine the issues, to explore and understand the relationships between them, to consider them holistically, and to work to develop potential strategies and solutions for the Council to consider. The package of issue briefs was appended to include the letter shared by the subset of the committee. (The updated document is available on the Council webpage).

The Post-2025 AMAs Committee will begin this work in June 2021 with a new co-chair. Valley Partnership President/CEO Cheryl Lombard volunteered to fill Tim Thomure’s seat when he announced he would be stepping down at the end of the March 2021 Council meeting. Tim’s leadership, hard work, and sense of humor throughout his tenure as co-chair has been greatly appreciated.
Council and committee agendas, materials, presentations, recordings, and summaries can be viewed on the Council’s page on the Department’s website.

NON-AMA GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE

PURPOSE
The Non-AMA Groundwater Committee was established to address groundwater issues outside of Active Management Areas.

ACTIVITIES

Presentation by the Department’s Chief Council, Ken Slowinski, on Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INAs).

Presentation by Representative Cobb on introduced legislation for establishing Rural Groundwater Areas.

Discussion regarding the concept of the Rural Groundwater Areas legislation.

The Non-AMA Groundwater Committee was established by consensus at the June 13, 2019 Council meeting at the recommendation of Chairman Buschatzke. As a starting point for discussion, the committee co-chairs drafted proposed goals and objectives for the committee. The proposed goals and objectives, refined by the committee to read as follows:

To achieve a baseline understanding of Arizona groundwater in non-Active Management Areas

To identify and develop voluntary alternatives to address groundwater issues by planning area while protecting individual property rights
Committee participants have identified issues and concerns relating to groundwater use as topics for discussion, noting that discussion of these topics is an important opportunity for better understanding of the issues and stakeholder perspectives and does not predispose any outcomes. **As of this report, the committee has no consensus on these issues and has not produced issue briefs.**

The committee has narrowed the list of topics and issues for further discussion by the committee to the following four categories:

**Groundwater management strategies:**

“Rural management areas” – potential for developing an alternative to the Active Management Area or Irrigation Non-Expansion Area structures that could meet the water management needs of certain parts of the state

Water adequacy requirements

Well spacing / well impact requirements

**Groundwater transportation basins: Harquahala INA, Butler Valley, McMullen Valley**

Data needs, understanding impacts, enabling planning, and identifying areas of concern

Best management practices (BMPs) and education

Well monitoring or measurement and reporting

At the December 10, 2020, meeting, the committee heard a presentation by the Department’s Chief Council Ken Slowinski on INAs and a presentation by Representative Cobb on introducing legislation for establishing Rural Groundwater Areas. The committee provided input on the presented statutory authorities. Participants of the committee raised several issues with regard to the rural management authority and posed questions for further exploration. No consensus was reached by the committee on the topic.

- Presentation on Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas
- Presentation on Rural Management Areas
- Discussion & Next Steps

A full listing of the topics identified for discussion by the committee, Council and committee agendas, materials, presentations, recordings, and summaries can be viewed on the Council’s page on the Department’s website.
In January 2019, the sum of $2,000,000 was appropriated by SB1227 from the State General Fund to the Department as part of Arizona’s Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) legislation for the purpose of providing grant monies to support groundwater conservation and reduce groundwater withdrawals in the Active Management Areas (AMAs). This fund is referred to as the Groundwater Conservation Grant (Grant).

The Grant process is being administered through the Department’s Water Management Assistant Program (WMAP). However, the distribution of the Grant money will be tracked separately from the general WMAP fund, which is generated by groundwater withdrawal fees. The WMAP Coordinator is responsible for administering the Grant and WMAP activities, including overseeing the Grant process, reviewing applications, drafting contracts, and maintaining communication between the Department and grantees. The Grant process and schedule can be viewed on the WMAP page on the Department website.

The Grant fund may be allocated to programs and projects located within the five AMAs that demonstrate the ability to conserve groundwater either directly or indirectly. The money is divided among the AMAs on a per-capita basis, with a minimum amount of $150,000 for AMAs with smaller populations:

- Phoenix AMA: $1,245,000
- Tucson AMA: $305,000
- Santa Cruz AMA: $150,000
- Prescott AMA: $150,000
- Pinal AMA: $150,000

In December of 2020, the Department’s Grant Coordinator provided an informational presentation to the Council on the development and timeline of the grant application process. By the closing date of February 14, 2021, the Department received a total of 38 grant applications covering a variety of groundwater conservation topics. The Director selected 18 projects to receive funding after considering recommendations from the respective Groundwater Users Advisory Councils (GUACs). The selected projects and funding awarded can be viewed on the WMAP page on the Department website. At this stage, 16 contracts have been executed, with two still in the process of drafting and/or receiving signatures at the close of FY 2021.

Pursuant to Executive Order 2019-02, the Council is tasked with assessing the long-term impacts of conservation projects funded with this Grant. Once the projects have been completed and groundwater savings could be determined, the Council will have the opportunity to evaluate the projects and their conservation impact.
WHEREAS, in January of 2014, the Arizona Department of Water Resources released “Arizona’s Next Century: A Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability” (Strategic Vision) that identified key priorities, timelines and action items to maintain sustainable water supplies for Arizona into its next century;

WHEREAS, the Strategic Vision divided the state into twenty-two planning areas and analyzed the water demands and supplies for each and identified strategies for meeting water demands into the future;

WHEREAS, Arizona Governor Janice K. Brewer established the Governor’s Council on Water Supply Sustainability on November 4, 2014 that published an Initial Report on December 31, 2014;

WHEREAS, the Initial Report recommended that working groups be formed to develop, evaluate and prioritize recommendations and potential partnerships regarding water supply augmentation and water supply infrastructure needs;

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2015, I, Governor Douglas A. Ducey announced a Water Initiative to implement the Strategic Vision and address the recommendations of the Initial Report through two tracks to insure the certainty of Arizona’s water supply into the future.

WHEREAS, sustainable water supplies are essential to the economic vitality and quality of life for Arizona and its citizens;

WHEREAS, the proactive measures taken by the State of Arizona have resulted in a current state of resiliency with respect to its water supplies;

WHEREAS, it is important for the work of the Governor’s Water Initiative to be continued and expanded upon through the creation of a new Council with a long-term focus on water augmentation, innovation, and conservation; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of sustainable water supplies to Arizona and policy decisions that must be made, members of the Arizona Legislature should serve on the Council in addition to individuals appointed by the Governor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona, hereby order as follows:

The Governor’s Water Augmentation Council is hereby dissolved and the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council (Council) shall be created to analyze and recommend opportunities for water augmentation, innovation, and conservation.
The Council shall continue the work of the Governor’s Water Initiative to investigate long-term water augmentation strategies for the state. In addition, the Council shall investigate strategies for water innovation and conservation.

The Council shall assess the long-term impacts of conservation projects funded with monies from the augmentation and conservation assistance fund established pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-615(1) and report on those impacts in its annual report required under paragraph 11 of this Executive Order.

The Council shall meet quarterly.

The Council shall consist of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, House Minority Leader and Senate Minority Leader or their legislative designees. The Council shall additionally consist of individuals appointed by the Governor who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Organizations currently represented on the Governor’s Water Augmentation Council shall continue to serve on the Council, and members representing those organizations may continue to serve without the need for new appointment.

The director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources shall serve as the Chair of the Council.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources shall provide staffing and technical support to the Council.

The Council shall consider the need to create additional working groups and, if formed, Council members shall serve on working groups that may also include non-Council members.

The Council shall consider a communication plan for the State to accurately convey the status of its water supply resiliency and its efforts to maintain that status moving forward.

The Council shall prepare an annual report and submit it to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, House Minority Leader and Senate Minority Leader and the Governor by July 1, 2020 and by July 1 every year thereafter.

The annual report shall describe the activities and the recommendations of the Council.

Executive Order 2015-13 is hereby superseded by this Order and Executive Order 2015-13 is rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 31st day of January in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Third.

ATTEST:

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE