NOTICE OF INITIATION OF DESIGNATION PROCEDURES / NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREA: HUALAPAI VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

The Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources ("Director"), pursuant to Section 45-435 of the Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S."), hereby gives notice of the Director's Order to initiate procedures to consider designating an irrigation non-expansion area within the boundaries of the Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin in Mohave County ("Proposed INA"). A hearing will be held at the Mohave County Administration Building on Saturday, November 12, 2022, from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Additional information can be found below and on ADWR's website at: https://new.azwater.gov/hualapai-valley-ina-request

The Hualapai Valley Groundwater Basin is the surface watershed area of Hualapai Wash, excluding the watershed of Truxton Wash, upstream of a boundary formed by the ridge line of the Music and Peacock Mountains. The area to be included in the Proposed INA is depicted in a map following this notice.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 12, 2022 – Pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-434, irrigation users may irrigate only those acres of land within the Proposed INA which were irrigated at any time during the five years preceding the first date of publication of this notice (October 12, 2022). This limitation on the acres which may be irrigated shall continue in effect until the Director makes a final determination on the Proposed INA. "Irrigate" is defined in A.R.S. § 45-402 and means to apply water to two or more acres of land to produce plants or parts of plants for sale or human consumption, or for use as feed for livestock, range livestock or poultry.

The Director may designate an area an irrigation non-expansion area if the Director determines (1) that there is insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for irrigation of the cultivated lands in the area at the current rate of withdrawal and (2) that the establishment of an active management area pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-412 is not necessary.

Designation of an irrigation non-expansion area imposes a prohibition on the irrigation of new acres within the irrigation non-expansion area, with certain limited exceptions, and creates monitoring and reporting requirements for most persons withdrawing groundwater from a non-exempt well within the irrigation non-expansion area. These limitations and requirements are designed to slow and/or mitigate groundwater depletion.

PUBLIC HEARING

At the public hearing, the Department of Water Resources will present factual data in its possession in support of or in opposition to the Proposed INA and receive comments and evidence as to whether the Director should designate the Proposed INA as an irrigation non-expansion area. The hearing will be held at the following time and place:

In person:

Saturday, November 12, 2022 from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. Mohave County Administration Building 700 W. Beale Street Kingman, Arizona 86401

Virtually:

https://adwr.info/3VaOO4w

Join by phone:

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll Access code: 2591 409 6557 Any person may appear at the hearing, either in person or by representative, and submit oral or written comments and/or evidence for or against the Proposed INA. Written comments not submitted at the hearing described above may be submitted by mail, or via email, fax, or hand delivery until 5:00 P.M. on November 18, 2022 to:

Sharon Scantlebury
Docket Supervisor
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1110 W. Washington, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-8472 (phone)
(602) 771-8686 (fax)
sscantlebury@azwater.gov

In the event of any technical malfunction with the video teleconference or phone systems, the meeting will not be delayed or postponed. The public should consider this possibility in deciding whether to attend in person or by video conference or phone.

Additional information can be found on ADWR's website at: https://new.azwater.gov/hualapai-valley-ina-request

If, because of a disability, you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this hearing, please contact Sharon Scantlebury with the Arizona Department of Water Resources at (602)771-8472 or sscantlebury@azwater.gov. Please make such requests as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

