This annual report describes the activities and the recommendations of the Council.
Members of the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council

On January 31, 2019, Governor Ducey signed Executive Order 2019-02, stating in part, “…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 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…”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislators</th>
<th>Members During Fiscal Year (FY) 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appointed by Executive Order</td>
<td>Tom Buschatzke (Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Russell Bowers, Speaker of the House</td>
<td>Amelia Flores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator Karen Fann, President of the Senate</td>
<td>Basilio Aja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator Rebecca Rios, Senate Minority Leader</td>
<td>Buchanan Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Reginald Bolding Jr., House Minority Leader</td>
<td>Cheryl Lombard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chris Camacho</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christopher Udall</td>
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<td>Craig Sullivan</td>
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<td>Daniel Seiden</td>
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<td>Dave Roberts</td>
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<td>David Brown</td>
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<td>Doug Dunham</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Designees &amp; Participating Legislators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainable water supplies are essential to the economic vitality and quality of life for Arizona and its citizens. The proactive measures taken by the State of Arizona have resulted in a current state of resiliency with respect to its water supplies.... it is important for the work of the Governor’s Water Initiative to be continued and expanded upon through creation of a new Council with a long-term focus on water augmentation, innovation and conservation.”

(Executive Order 2019-02)
Executive Summary

The Post-2025 Active Management Areas (AMAs) Committee of the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council (Council) was the focus of much of the Council’s work in fiscal year 2021-22, working rapidly the first half of the year to finish exploring challenges identified the year prior and develop recommendations before the legislative session. A set of near-term recommendations, described later, were provided to the Council at the November meeting. One of the committee’s recommendations—accelerating rules for direct potable reuse—was addressed in legislation introduced in 2022 (HB2129).

The Desalination Committee, formed initially under the original Governor’s Water Augmentation Council in 2016, completed its work and made its final recommendations to Council at the September meeting. The committee concluded that no policy changes were required to enable the use of brackish, or poor quality, groundwater, and that it should continue to be regulated as it currently is, as groundwater. The Desalination Committee will be on hiatus until recalled by the Council.

The Non-AMA Groundwater Committee discussed the potential for augmentation of groundwater aquifers through enhanced stormwater recharge, water harvesting
and reuse, conservation and efficiency practices, and options for rural groundwater management, including irrigation non-expansion areas and rural management areas, a proposal that was again submitted to the Arizona Legislature in 2022.

The Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee highlighted the need for comprehensive, statewide water augmentation planning. Committee participants researched and discussed financing opportunities and needs for water augmentation and efficiency projects, recommending to the Council that the State commit additional funds to build on the $200 million funding set aside for the Drought Mitigation Board established in 2021 by SB 1822.

The Council and committees largely paused their work in the second half of FY 2022. During this span, Arizona’s water community focused on a water-intensive legislative session and Colorado River shortage. At his final State of the State address in January, Governor Ducey announced a proposal to provide $1 billion in funding for augmentation, innovation, and efficiency projects. Draft legislation to establish an Arizona Water Authority was announced in the weeks that followed. The new Water Authority would have the ability to fund, borrow money, and issue bonds to fund projects. Council members were asked to provide input into the draft legislation.

At the close of FY 2022, the impacts of ongoing drought across the southwest are of increasing concern statewide. As Arizona's communities and economy continue to grow, innovative policy, planning, and investment will be crucial. The Governor's Water Council may be called on to play a more significant role in the evolution of Arizona’s water management success in the years to come.
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. This 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 challenges 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, 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.

- Governor Doug Ducey, on the Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council
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. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, meetings were conducted via webinar.

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 or technical workgroups to perform specific tasks to assist or inform the committees’ 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. Committee meeting agendas, materials, presentations, and recordings are posted to the Council page on the Department’s website.
Council Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Meeting Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| July 15, 2021       | • Drought Mitigation Revolving Fund  
                      • Committee Updates  
                      • Establishment of Additional Management Periods                          |
| September 16, 2021  | • Update on Colorado River Shortage  
                      • Committee Updates  
                      • Agricultural Best Management Practices for the Fifth Management Plans       |
| November 30, 2021   | • Update on 1,030’ Consultation  
                      • Additional Management Periods  
                      • Committee Updates                                                            |
| June 28, 2022       | • Colorado River Update  
                      • Legislative Recap  
                      • Council Annual Report                                                       |

The Council meets quarterly. At the time of this report, the Council meets via webinars that are open to public attendance. Council meeting agendas, materials, presentations, and recordings are posted to the Council page on the Department’s website.
Activities

This third Annual Report of the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council addresses the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022 (FY 2022).

In FY 2022, the Council heard and considered three potential options for establishing additional management periods, beyond the fifth, for the Active Management Areas. Legislation introduced by Representative Gail Griffin in 2018 would have established one additional management period, and an ADWR proposal from the same year would have established three additional management periods. In response to further discussion with Representative Griffin, a third proposal was developed by ADWR, establishing one additional management period, and extending the fifth management period to provide more time for development of the sixth management plan. All three proposals were posted to the Council website for feedback.

The Post-2025 Active Management Areas Committee proposed a set of recommendations to improve groundwater management beyond 2025:

- review of the Recharge and Recovery Program by ADWR with stakeholder input,
- review of the methodology for evaluating certificates and analyses of Assured Water Supply applications in commingled water distribution systems by ADWR,
- further discussion of Arizona’s approach to augmentation by the Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee,
- removal of WaterBUD (water that cannot reasonably be used directly) restrictions, and
- additional resources to enable Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to fast-track updates to rules for direct potable reuse.

The Desalination Committee chair informed the Council that the committee concluded there are no legal or regulatory constraints to the use of brackish, or poor quality, groundwater, and no changes are necessary to the current regulatory framework to enable its use, further recommending that brackish groundwater continue to be regulated as it is, as groundwater. The committee also recommended the establishment of a forum, outside the Council process, to exchange information and discuss financing projects and emerging technologies, which could help advance additional brackish desalination projects in Arizona. The chair summarized the committee’s work to date and recommended the committee be placed on standby until the Council recalls it to take on additional tasks.

The Finance Subcommittee reported their findings to Council, and the Long-Term Water Augmentation (LTWA) Committee recommended supporting and continuing to build on the current $200 million in the Drought Mitigation Fund. The fund was established in 2021 by SB 1822, to provide a consistent and dedicated funding source annually in subsequent state budgets to ensure Arizona can meet its water needs into the future.
The LTWA Committee chair highlighted the need for comprehensive, statewide water augmentation planning. The committee was charged by the Council chair to consider options for brackish groundwater projects as part of a broader statewide augmentation plan. At the July Council meeting, Director Buschatzke noted it would be important to reinitiate discussions of the possibilities for expanding enhanced recharge of stormwater to support groundwater aquifers considering the challenges presented by persistent drought and a forecasted hotter, drier future. These discussions were taken up by the LTWA Committee.

Committee updates to the Council included the potential for enhanced aquifer recharge from stormwater runoff, recent legislative water-focused successes, and discussions regarding irrigation non-expansion areas and proposed rural management areas. ADWR staff provided information on agricultural best management practices to the Council.

Rusty Bowers, the speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives, presented to the Council on the recently created Drought Mitigation Revolving Fund and the Drought Mitigation Board that was established to evaluate and approve funding requests. $2 million in funding was appropriated to the fund to provide financial assistance to develop water supply and conservation projects in regions lacking sustainable supplies to meet long-term water demands.

Director Buschatzke updated the Council regarding the Bureau of Reclamation’s August 24-Month Study and the 1,030’ Consultation. The Study’s projections triggered a first-ever Tier 1 shortage for Colorado River operations in 2022. It also triggered a provision of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) that requires the Lower Basin States and the Secretary of Interior to consult and determine what additional measures will be taken to protect critical elevations in Lake Mead. These discussions led to the development of the 500+ Plan, a two-year commitment from Arizona, California, Nevada, and the United States to aim to conserve an additional 500,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead annually for 2022 and 2023.

On June 14, 2022 the Commissioner of Reclamation, Camille C. Touton, testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee’s hearing on western drought that Reclamation modeling showed an additional two to four million acre-feet of water use reductions in the Colorado River basin are needed to protect the critical elevations of 3,500’ in Lake Powell and 1,000’ in Lake Mead in 2023. The Commissioner noted that Reclamation would prefer to see a consensus and collaborative solution developed by the seven Basin States by mid-August 2022, but that the agency would take action to protect the system if necessary. The mid-August time-frame is critical because of the announcement of operational decisions for both Lakes Powell and Mead for the following calendar year.
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
Chairman: Wade Noble

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

Activities: In response to direction from the Council chair at the Council’s July meeting, the Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee began exploring challenges and opportunities to expanded augmentation of groundwater aquifers utilizing stormwater runoff.

As noted by Director Buschatzke, it will be critical to have a sound technical basis as to the viability of these projects, to understand if there are potential impacts, or not, to those who hold surface water rights, and to have meaningful discussion on the topic. The committee was asked to consider what needs to be better understood from a technical, regulatory, or legislative perspective in order to move forward with these discussions and what hurdles will need to be overcome to make this a viable water augmentation solution. As a foundation, ADWR Senior Research Hydrologist Keith Nelson presented on the potential at a regional scale for stormwater recharge.

ADWR and Arizona State Land Department, working with the Committee, Representative Griffin, and the Storage Sites Subcommittee, expanded the Potential Water Storage Sites on ASLD Trust Land report to include 331 potential underground storage sites on State Land. The report, issued in response to HB 2249 state lands; leases; renewal applications, enacted in 2021 (laws 2021, chapter 33), was submitted well in advance of its December 31, 2021, due date.
As a result of the discussions during the process of updating the Storage Sites report, ADWR staff, with input and assistance from participants of the committee and subcommittee, developed a guide to selecting underground water storage and/or aquifer augmentation sites to assist stakeholders at the local level in winnowing down potential sites to those that will suit their specific needs and capabilities.

At the January 13, 2022, committee meeting, ADWR staff presented an overview of statutes regulating weather modification and cloud seeding in Arizona and other states. James Walter of SRP presented an overview of weather modification/control research efforts and projects, providing a detailed summary of historic innovations in weather modification science, winter cloud seeding activities in the west, and the SRP White Mountains research project. A workgroup was formed to continue discussions of weather modification and cloud seeding potential in Arizona, and ADWR staff is reviewing statutory requirements.

Chairman Wade Noble proposed the committee develop a statewide plan for water augmentation—identifying projects and exploring the benefits and potential challenges of those projects—and then present the plan to the Council for guidance on which projects to further explore/develop. Next steps would include quantifying the benefits and costs of the selected projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Meeting Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 3, 2021</td>
<td>• EnhancedAquifer Recharge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Storage Sites Subcommittee Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 13, 2022</td>
<td>• Weather Modification and Cloud Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of Long-Term Water Augmentation Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Desalination Committee**

**Chairman:** Henry Day

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

**Activities:** At the August 2021 committee meeting, ADWR staff presented on brackish, or poor quality, groundwater and Arizona groundwater regulation. The committee concluded that no changes are necessary to the current regulatory framework to enable the use of brackish groundwater. Three recommendations were decided on and ultimately presented to the Council at the November meeting:
Brackish groundwater should continue to be regulated as it is, as groundwater.

The establishment of a forum, outside the Council process, to exchange information and discuss financing projects and emerging technologies, could help advance additional brackish desalination projects in Arizona.

The committee should be put on standby until such time as the Council identifies additional tasks and recalls the committee to undertake that work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Meeting Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26, 2021</td>
<td>• Brackish Groundwater and Arizona Law&lt;br&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Discussion &amp; Next Steps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council and committee agendas, materials, presentations, recordings, and summaries can be viewed on the Council’s page on the Department’s website.
Post-2025 AMA Committee  
Co-Chairs: Warren Tenney & Cheryl Lombard

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

Activities: The committee moved quickly to further refine the challenges identified in the Issue Briefs drafted in FY 2021, 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, as directed by the Council Chair at the March 2021 meeting.

In order to develop potential recommendations for the Council ahead of the FY 2022 legislative session, the committee co-chairs narrowed the issues from the original six to three that affect all sectors and stakeholders across all the AMAs:

- Groundwater in the Assured Water Supply Program
- Unreplenished Groundwater Withdrawals
- Hydrologic Disconnect

Five meetings were held from August to November of 2021. ADWR, Central Arizona Project (CAP), Salt River Project (SRP), and the Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA) provided presentations to inform the development and discussion of potential recommendations to address the identified issues.

At the October 27, 2021, committee meeting, the co-chairs presented a compilation of ideas generated by committee participants for discussion. The ideas that made the list addressed more than one challenge or opportunity, had the potential to receive general support from the committee participants, and would be politically viable in the 2022 legislative session. Based on the discussion of those ideas, the co-chairs selected five proposals that were then reviewed at the committee's November meeting and ultimately recommended to Council later that month as general consensus proposals:
- Review of the Recharge and Recovery Program by ADWR with stakeholder input,
- Review of the methodology for evaluating certificates and analyses of Assured Water Supply applications in commingled water distribution systems by ADWR,
- Further discussion of Arizona’s approach to augmentation by the Long-Term Water Augmentation Committee,
- Removal of WaterBUD (water that cannot reasonably be used directly) restrictions, and
- Additional resources to enable Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to fast-track updates to rules for direct potable reuse.

Concepts or ideas not in the package of proposals presented to the Council may still be considered for future discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Meeting Topics</th>
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</table>
| August 10, 2021 | • Presentation on Updates & Overview of Solution Phase  
                     • Presentation on Unreplenished Groundwater by Sector (ADWR)  
                     • Discussion of Potential Concepts to Address Unreplenished Groundwater Withdrawals |
| September 9, 2021 | • Presentations on Hydrologic Disconnect (ADWR, SRP, CAP)  
                     • Discussion of Potential Concepts to Address Hydrologic Disconnect |
| October 5, 2021 | • Prescott AMA Exempt Well Study Group Concepts (NAMWUA)  
                     • Discussion of Concepts to Address Prescott AMA Exempt Wells |
| October 27, 2021 | • Process to Date  
                     • Review and Discuss 2021 Package of Proposals |
| November 9, 2021 | • Review and Discuss Updated 2021 Package of Proposals  
                     • Presentation on Commingled Delivery Systems in the Assured Water Supply (AWS) Program (ADWR) |

Council and committee agendas, materials, presentations, and recordings can be viewed on the Council’s page on the Department’s website.
Non-AMA Groundwater Committee
Co-Chairs: Representative Gail Griffin & Jamie Kelley

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

Activities: At the October 2021 committee meeting, participants revisited the committee’s goals, discussing the need to place more focus in future meetings on exploring groundwater management strategies, including Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA) and Active Management Area structures that could potentially be modified to meet the needs of rural areas.

ADWR Senior Research Hydrologist Keith Nelson presented on the potential for augmentation of groundwater aquifers through enhanced recharge of stormwater runoff at a regional scale. Mohave County Senior Engineer Nick Hont presented on the Hualapai Valley Basin Groundwater Basin conditions and aquifer augmentation projects taking place within Mohave County.

At the January 2022 committee meeting, Co-Chair Jamie Kelley provided an overview of the different groundwater management strategies and tools and possible considerations that might serve as a starting point for discussion. Due to a lack of consensus among the committee participants to continue to discuss the topic in the committee, it was suggested that those interested in exploring the topic would meet independently, outside of the formal committee.
ADWR staff presented an overview of voluntary options and tools to improve water use efficiency and reduce pressure on groundwater supplies, including demand side best practices, graywater reuse, residential water harvesting, and low impact design strategies. The presentation included sources of information on the best practices implemented in Arizona, as well as some of the many resources that describe best practices for efficiency and conservation and support implementation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Dates</th>
<th>Meeting Topics</th>
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</table>
| October 14, 2021| • 2021 Legislative Water Successes  
                     • Presentations on Enhanced Aquifer Recharge/Stormwater Harvesting (ADWR, Mohave County)  
                     • Discussion of Committee Goals |
| January 6, 2022 | • Further Discussions on Water Management Strategies  
                     • Overview of Available Voluntary Options and Tools to Address Water Availability (ADWR) |

Council and committee agendas, materials, presentations, and recordings can be viewed on the [Council’s page](#) on the Department's website.
Groundwater Conservation Grant

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).

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

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 fund is 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. Note: ADWR is no longer accepting applications. Details regarding the grant can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) including program objectives, award information, eligibility, grant details, application details, the timeline, and the review and selection criteria.

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). One applicant withdrew their application. A total of 17 contracts were executed. The selected projects and funding awarded can be viewed on the WMAP page on the Department website.

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.
APPENDIX

Governor’s Executive Order 2019-02

Relating to the Creation of the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council (Supersedes and Rescinds Executive Order 2015-13)

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.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE