

Agency 5-Year Plan

Issue 1 Data Integrity

Description: Water is a vital factor in the health and strength of Arizona’s economy. In October 2015, Governor Ducey announced the Arizona Water Initiative to help ensure the certainty and vitality of Arizona’s water supply long into the future. The Governor’s Water Initiative involves two tracks. The first is to examine water supply and demand imbalances in the 22 planning areas identified in the 2014 Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability Report. Beginning with rural areas, the Governor’s Water Initiative will seek to create and implement solutions to meet future water demands. The second track requires an appointed team to examine augmentation strategies and explore conservation opportunities and infrastructure capability.

Data is fundamental to the analysis required to understand the water conditions in the State. Both tracks of the Governor’s Water Initiatives require good data. At current, the Department of Water Resources is facing challenges with data integrity. The Department operates 5 separate databases, all of which contain some data that could be useful to the public and also to achieve the goals of the Governor’s Water Initiative. The data in these databases, while valuable, is not complete and could be improved. The Department uses data to support regulatory and permitting decisions. Accurate data is essential to making sound water management decisions which are key to ensuring secure and resilient water supplies for Arizona’s future.

Solutions:

The Department is dedicating available resources to data clean up. The Department is requesting additional personnel in its FY 2018 Budget Request to further address these data integrity issues. The Department is requesting three Hydrologist positions and two GIS-related positions, both of which will provide the expertise and staff time to gather necessary data and update databases to ensure data provided both to the public and to interested parties is reliable and accurate.

Issue 2 Fairness and Equity in Water Regulations

Description: With the reduction of ADWR staff over the past decade, investigations of Active Management Areas compliance/noncompliance are often only initiated in the event of a direct complaint made or in the event of the observation of a fairly egregious violation.

Solutions:

The Department will continue to dedicate available resources to investigate compliance with AMA regulations. Additionally, ADWR is requesting three Water Resource Specialist II positions to provide additional staff resources to the AMA program.

Issue 3 Insufficient Adjudications Personnel

Description: The Department provides technical assistance for the general stream adjudications process to the Arizona Superior Court. Currently, there are two ongoing general stream adjudications in Arizona: the Gila River System and the Little Colorado River System. The Court has expressed a desire to increase the pace of the adjudications process.

The purpose of these adjudications is to determine the priority and extent of water rights. This is important because until water rights are determined, the Department cannot accurately determine water availability. This uncertainty impacts statewide water planning as well as personal and business decisions regarding the availability of future water resources.

Solutions:

To date, the Department has met Court orders and requests in a timely fashion. The Department is requesting four Water Resource Specialist II positions and two Water Resource Specialist III positions to dedicate to fulfilling existing and future court orders as the pace of the process increases.

Resource Assumptions

	FY2019 Estimate	FY2020 Estimate	FY2021 Estimate
Full-Time Equivalent Positions	149.0	149.0	149.0
General Fund	14,723,100.0	14,723,100.0	14,723,100.0
Other Appropriated Funds	2,119,100.0	2,119,100.0	2,119,100.0
Non-Appropriated Funds	7,320,500.0	7,320,500.0	7,320,500.0
Federal Funds	340,000.0	340,000.0	340,000.0