

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

### **APPLICATION TO SUBSTITUTE IRRIGABLE ACRES DUE TO LIMITING CONDITION IN AN IRRIGATION NON-EXPANSION AREA (A.R.S. § 45-437.03)**

In accordance with A.R.S. §§ 41-1008 and 1079, the Department of Water Resources (Department) provides the following information regarding the application review process to assist applicants in filing an application to substitute irrigable acres due to a limiting condition within an AMA.

#### **Steps for Processing Your Application and Obtaining Approval**

Before filing your application, the Department encourages you to contact one of the Department personnel indicated at the end of these guidelines to discuss the application process and review criteria. If you wish, a meeting may be scheduled to facilitate this process. To assist you in understanding the substantive requirements for this application, a copy of A.R.S. § 45-465.02 is attached.

It is imperative that you complete the application form in its entirety. An incomplete or incorrect application may result in a delay in processing your application. Please send the application to the address indicated on the form, along with any required fees and supporting documentation. The Department suggests that you retain a copy of all documents which are submitted for review. **The initial fee for an Application to Substitute Irrigable Acres Due to Limiting Conditions in an Irrigation Non-Expansion Area is \$1,000. Total fees for this application are based upon an hourly billable rate, which can be found on the ADWR web site @www.azwater.gov. If the costs of reviewing your application exceed \$1,000, you will be invoiced for the difference, up to a maximum total fee of \$10,000. Payment may be made by cash, check, or credit card (if you wish to pay by credit card, please contact the Groundwater Permitting and Wells Program at 602-771-8527). Checks should be made payable to the Arizona Department of Water Resources. In addition to the hourly application fee, the applicant must pay any review-related costs associated with the application and the actual cost of mailing or publishing any legal notice of the application or notice of a pre-decision administrative hearing on the application. Review-related costs are: (1) costs associated with a pre-decision hearing on the application, such as court reporter services and facility rentals for the hearing, and (2) mileage expenses for a site visit conducted before issuing a decision on the application. Failure to enclose the initial application fee will cause the application to be returned. Fees for an Application to Substitute Irrigable Acres Due to Limiting Conditions in an Irrigation Non-Expansion Area are authorized by A.R.S. § 45-113 and A.A.C. R12-15-103.**

#### **Time Frames for Review of Your Application.**

Within **120** days after receipt of your application, the Department will determine whether your application should be granted or denied, unless this time is extended as described below. In processing your application, the Department will first determine whether the application is administratively complete (administrative completeness review), and then whether the application meets the substantive criteria established by statute or rule (substantive review). Each of these reviews will be completed within the times stated below. The time for the administrative completeness review plus the time for the substantive review is referred to as the overall time frame.

##### **1) Administrative Completeness Review Time Frame**

Within **30** days after receipt of your application, the Department will determine whether your application is complete, and will issue a written notice of administrative completeness or deficiencies. After your application is complete, the Department will proceed with substantive review.

If the Department sends you a letter that your application is incomplete, the Department will include a comprehensive list of specific deficiencies. Until the missing information is received, both the administrative completeness review and the overall time frames will be suspended. When the Department receives the missing information, the administrative completeness review and overall time frames will resume. Your application will not be complete until all of the requested information is received. If you do not supply the missing information within sixty (60) days, your application may be denied.

## 2) **Substantive Review Time Frame**

Within **90** days after the application is complete, the Department will review your application to determine whether it meets the substantive criteria required by statute or rule. By mutual written agreement between you and the Department, the time for substantive review may be extended by up to **30** days.

During the substantive review, the Department may make one written request for additional information. You may also agree in writing to allow the Department to submit supplemental requests for additional information. If additional information is requested by the Department, both the substantive review and overall time frames will be suspended. When the additional information is received, the substantive review and overall time frames will resume.

At the end of the Department's substantive review, the Department will send you a written notice either granting or denying your application. If your application is denied, the notice will include the justification for the denial and an explanation of your right to appeal the denial.

### **Agency Contact**

Please direct any questions, comments or requests for further assistance to Groundwater Permitting & Wells at (602) 771-8527.