

2022 Tribal Firming Exercise: Generally based on modeling results presented to the RPAG, this exercise assumes an estimated 17,500 acre-feet of AWBA Tribal firming in 2022. Answer the three questions and return the completed form to Vineetha Kartha at vkartha@azwater.gov by Friday, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018.

Questions about what to do? Contact Virginia O'Connell at voconnell@azwater.gov or Terri Sue Rossi at tsrossi@azwater.gov.

What actions will be taken to address the 17,500 acre-foot cut to the 2022 NIA order by the Gila River Indian Community and the lessees of the White Mountain Apache Tribe water?

Gila River Indian Community:

The AWBA has an agreement with the Community that details how firming will be accomplished. The agreement identifies several methods for meeting a firming obligation. The method used in a given shortage year will be determined cooperatively under a schedule outlined in the agreement. The following is an example of a firming method that could be used:

Eg. The AWBA extinguishes a credit that was accrued on Community lands and the Community pumps groundwater from its wells for an equal volume.

White Mtn. Apache Indian Tribe Lessees:

The AWBA has met with all of the lessees to discuss possible firming options. Based on those discussions, the AWBA is anticipating a firming agreement similar to the AWBA's agreement with the GRIC: allowing for maximum flexibility by providing an array of firming options.

Eg. AWBA transfers a withdrawal fee credit to a lessee to replace an equal volume of CAP supplies shorted that were intended for annual storage and recovery by the lessee.

Note: enforceability date April 30, 2021

What entities are you relying on for help, if any, and how are they helping you? What entities might be affected by your actions?

Gila River Indian Community firming:

The AWBA would be relying on the Community. Recovery by CAWCD is also identified as one of the firming options, therefore the AWBA could potentially also have to rely on CAWCD.

White Mtn. Apache Indian Tribe Lease firming:

Partners are not known at this time. Potential partners could include the lessees, CAWCD as with the GRIC firming agreement or possibly other third-party entities.

What issues with your approach (operational, legal, or financial) can you identify today that will need further regulatory analysis for potential change?

None.