

Post 2025 AMAs Committee – AWS and CAGR Issues

Based on our review of all of the responses to the Questionnaire, there was greater preference that both Statement B and Statement C be used to advance the issues. The feedback provided through the Questionnaire was extremely beneficial to begin to further reshape and improve the two issue statements, as we have begun to do below.

At the December 15, 2020 meeting, we will continue our discussion and will welcome more feedback on the issue statements. Our objective is to develop these two issues statements to capture the general consensus on the issues and to continue gathering feedback on how they can be further explained in each issue brief. Then, with the goal of completing the issue briefs in early 2021, the Committee can prepare a final package of issues for the GWAICC and begin to develop strategies and solutions to address all identified issues.

Statement B:

The State allows for the approval of AWS determinations based solely on groundwater, which continues to pose risks to groundwater supplies in the AMAs beyond 2025, including:

- Growth can continue to occur on new groundwater withdrawals (both replenished and unreplenished) that will become more limited in the future.
- AWS determinations cannot be issued once ADWR determines there is insufficient groundwater physically available.
- Demonstrations of physical availability to 1,000 feet or 1,100 feet may allow pumping that is unsustainable and may result in water quality issues.

Statement B Revised:

Large areas of the AMAs remain groundwater dependent due to a lack of renewable water supplies and infrastructure, which creates uncertainties as groundwater supplies become more limited.

Statement C:

Groundwater pumping can continue to occur under AWS determinations. While some of that groundwater use will be replenished by the CAGR, there are potential long-term risks in both replenishment supply availability and costs for the CAGR and its members.

Statement C Revised:

The CAGR provides a mechanism to replenish some of the AWS-related groundwater use within three AMAs. However, the CAGR and its members face long-term uncertainties in the availability and costs of renewable supplies for replenishment.