

Post 2025 AMAs Committee

OBJECTIVE: Identify water management challenges facing the AMAs and generate strategic solutions for 2025 and beyond

FOUNDATION: The Groundwater Management Code was adopted in the face of severe groundwater depletion and established AMAs and respective Management Plans for implementation of its programs. The fifth and final Management Period ends in 2025. This Committee provides an opportunity to evaluate the outcomes of the first 45 years under the Code, and to identify potential strategies for sound water management after 2025.

APPROACH: The Committee will tackle its objective with two phases:

1. Identify the water management problems facing the AMAs;
2. Propose solutions/strategies for addressing those problems after 2025

To build consensus on the issues facing the AMAs, the Committee will identify the current state with a data-driven evaluation *e.g., Where are the AMAs in relation to safe-yield? What factors are driving unreplenished pumping? Is safe-yield an appropriate goal? What other issues have not been addressed by the Code or Management Plans?* Identifying these issues and memorializing them through this Committee provides an opportunity to educate Legislators and other decision makers, building a foundation for targeting solutions.

After this first phase assessment, the Committee can begin to propose and develop potential solutions or strategies to address those water management problems.

KEY PRINCIPLES: Necessary for a productive process:

- Build consensus that the Groundwater Management Act has benefited Arizona and sound water management is critical to our future.
- Encourage honest, objective, and open discussion. Avoid hiding behind problems. Deliberate rather than posture.
- Utilize data to identify and define issues. Consensus about the problems is imperative to reaching agreement on solutions.
- Respect differences among AMAs. Some problems and their solutions will be common among AMAs. Others will be unique to a specific AMA.

STRUCTURE: Committee members should be either Council members, their designees, or appointed by a Chairperson and largely represent areas inside the AMAs. (This is modified from the email announcement for the Groundwater Committee)