

Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council Post-2025 AMAs Committee

November 2, 2020



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Today's Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Overview of Committee's Progress and Objectives
2. Defining the Issue(s) related to CAGR and AWS Program
 - a. Review and Discussion of Comments Received on Draft Outline
 - b. Discussion and Updating of Draft Issue Statement(s)
3. Discuss Draft AMAs Management Structure Issue Brief
4. Next Steps



Review of August & October Meetings

Objective: Issue Identification on CAGR D and the Assured Water Supply Program

August 26th Discussion

- ADWR provided background on the history of the AWS Program and function of the CAGR D
- Discussion questions on the CAGR D and AWS program to maintain focus on
 - **Improving groundwater management post-2025**
 - **Ensuring regulations and programs support sustainable groundwater management into the future**
 - **Continue to serve the state going forward**



Review of August & October Meetings

October 8th Discussion

- Review of major issue themes raised at August meeting
- Discussion of Draft Issue Statement and Outline on CAGR and the AWS Program

Comments submitted by 13 Committee members and their organizations following last month's meeting showing differing perspectives.





Comment Themes

Major Themes

- Physical Availability of Groundwater
 - Serves as primary limit to CAGRDR enrollment and primary restriction to AWS groundwater use
- Future Availability of Renewable Supplies
 - Competition between CAGRDR, its members, and other users
 - Cost Implications
- Assured Water Supply Program
 - Lack of a ‘bridge’ to reduce reliance on CAGRDR or incentivize de-enrollment, if desired by MSA or MLs





Comment Themes

Additional Themes

- Intention of the Groundwater Code and AWS Program
- The requirements of CAWS versus DAWS
- Replenishment model is working versus not working



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Develop Issue Statement



Draft Issue Statement

Updated Draft Issue Statement:

More than two decades after their development and successful implementation, the Assured Water Supply Program and the CAGRDR may not provide sufficient requirements, inducements, or options for certain communities and water providers in the AMAs to seek to reduce their reliance on groundwater and transition to a long-term reliance on renewable supplies.





Additional Issue Statements

Other options generated from comments submitted:

Physical Availability - Under the current regulatory structure, new groundwater withdrawals will continue to be utilized to meet the demands of new growth. Physical availability of groundwater is a principal criteria to issuing determinations of AWS but may not be an effective guardrail for protecting the health of the aquifer as competition increases for the remaining amount.

Future Availability of Renewable Supplies - The CAGR's indefinite need to acquire water supplies to continually satisfy the replenishment obligation of its growing membership may be unsustainable.





Develop Issue Statement(s)

More than two decades after their development and successful implementation, the Assured Water Supply Program and the CAGRDR may not provide sufficient requirements, inducements, or options for certain communities and water providers in the AMAs to seek to reduce their reliance on groundwater and transition to a long-term reliance on renewable supplies.

Under the current regulatory structure, new groundwater withdrawals will continue to be utilized to meet the demands of new growth. Physical availability of groundwater is a principal criteria to issuing determinations of AWS but may not be an effective guardrail for protecting the health of the aquifer as competition increases for the remaining amount.

The CAGRDR's indefinite need to acquire water supplies to continually satisfy the replenishment obligation of its growing membership may be unsustainable.

Issue Statement(s)





AMA Management Structure

- * Next draft Issue Brief was produced to address the future management of the AMAs
- * Committee comments requested by November 17

Draft Issue Statement:

There is no clear statutory provision regarding goals or additional management periods and plans after 2025. The fifth management plans will remain in effect until statutory changes designate otherwise.

Next Steps



Closing Remarks

Co-Chairs

