Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council
Post-2025 AMAs Committee
October 5, 2021
I. Welcome – Cheryl Lombard, Committee Co-Chair

II. Prescott AMA Exempt Well Study Group Concepts – Ron Doba, Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA)

III. Next Steps

IV. Adjournment
Webinar Logistics

• Please state your name when speaking.

• Mute yourself when not speaking.

• Indicate you wish to speak by typing your name in the chat box, and you will be invited to unmute and speak.

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• The meeting and chat will be recorded.

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I. Welcome

Cheryl Lombard
Post-2025 Active Management Areas
Committee Co-Chairs
Recent Meetings

Presentation and Discussion on these interconnected issues

• June 22\textsuperscript{nd} – Groundwater in the Assured Water Supply Program

• August 10\textsuperscript{th} – Unreplenished Groundwater Withdrawals

• September 9\textsuperscript{th} – Hydrologic Disconnect
Next Steps

October through December – Considering issues holistically, fine-tune most realistic, supported strategies and solutions to address the three issues.

• Wednesday, October 27\textsuperscript{th} – Development of Solutions

• GWAICC December 9\textsuperscript{th} – Present general-consensus proposals

2022 – Continue discussion to develop additional strategies and solutions
II. Prescott AMA Exempt Well Study Group Concepts

Ron Doba, Program Manager
NAMWUA
Exempt Wells

Study Group Draft Recommendations
STUDY GROUP FOCUS

1. Exempt well impact on the Prescott AMA
2. Exemption from connecting to a CWS when it cost less to drill an exempt well
3. Impact to CWS caused by well spacing requirements
STUDY GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1. City of Prescott
2. Town of Prescott Valley
3. Town of Chino Valley
The exempt well issue is not a new concern for the Prescott AMA.

- SWAG (2006)
- The ADWR Strategic Vision (2014)

Development is taking place outside service areas of CWS that is not required to meet AMA requirements.

Volume of water from an exempt well may exceed the volume from a CWS service connection.

Unregulated groundwater withdrawals conflict with CWS meeting the long-term goal of safe-yield.
PREScott AMA
WATer WITHDRAWAL
WELLS

GREEN: EXEMPT WELLS
ORANGE: NON-EXEMPT WELLS

https://azwaterblueprint.asu.edu/
Prescott AMA

Orange Area: Community Water System Service Areas

Green: Water Withdrawal Exempt Wells

https://azwaterblueprint.asu.edu/
PRESCOTT AMA 20 YEAR WATER LEVEL CHANGES (▼ RED, ▲ BLUE)

Little Chino Valley sub-basin
2 wells increased, 19 wells declined

Upper Agua Fria sub-basin
2 wells increased, 6 wells declined

https://azwaterblueprint.asu.edu/
“12.2 THE DEPARTMENT’S PERSPECTIVE ON WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE PRESCOTT ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Prescott AMA is not in safe yield. Current pumping is nearly double the safe-yield volume, with up to 10,000 acre-feet of additional growth on groundwater approved in advance of the limits imposed by the preliminary (August 1998) and final (January 1999) Declaration that the AMA is out of safe-yield…”

Prescott AMA was determined to not be in safe-yield
In January 1999
Managed Growth in Prescott Valley Water Allocations (# of Residential Lots)

Pre-GW Act

- Grandfathered: 10,694

1980 GW Act

- GW CAWS: 8,149

1999 Declaration

- 2830

- 2001-2021:
  - Platted: 388
  - Remaining: 362

Years:
- 1965-1980
- 1981-2000
- 2001-2021
PRESCOTT AMA

EXEMPT WELL PERMITS ISSUED SINCE 1999
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Potential programs to address new residential development not subject to assured water supply restrictions.

- Limit new exempt wells or impose conservation requirements
- Impose a fee paid to a regional authority for exempt wells so the regional authority can develop alternative supplies
- Change AWS Rules to eliminate dry lots > 20 lot exemption for safe-yield goal
- Require lot split development to contribute to a regional authority in some way
- Initiate incentives or requirements for connecting to central sewer system to facilitate effluent recharge
GW PUMPED - PERMANENT RECHARGE

- Prescott
- Prescott Valley
- Chino Valley
- Exempt Wells

PRESCOTT AMA
HISTORICAL SELECT GROUNDWATER DEMANDS
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN EXEMPT WELL GOES DRY?

DRILL DEEPER

HAUL WATER

CONNECT TO A CWS

SELL????
Engage with the Dept of Real Estate to require lot splits and dry-lot subdivisions in the Prescott AMA to follow the same AWS rules as other subdivisions.
RECOMMENDATION FOR EXEMPTION TO CONNECT TO A WATER PROVIDER

- Amend A.R.S. § 45-454(D) to require all new wells within a municipal or private water company service area in the Prescott AMA to meet AWS requirements
RECOMMENDATION FOR WELL SPACING REQUIREMENTS

- Provide an exemption for municipal providers in the Prescott AMA from the requirement of not causing additional drawdown from new service area wells where exempt well owners within the service area have the ability to connect to the existing service provider water system but choose not to do so.
QUESTIONS?

Comments can be emailed to Ron Doba at rdoba@cox.net
III. Next Steps
Ⅳ. Adjournment