Post-2025 AMAs Committee Meeting
Governor’s Water Augmentation Innovation & Conservation Council
October 27, 2021
Solutions Phase Process to Date

Since June 2021, Committee discussed and suggested ideas to address –

• Groundwater in the Assured Water Supply Program
• Unreplenished Groundwater Withdrawals
• Hydrologic Disconnect

Objective – Consider issues holistically, fine-tune most realistic, support strategies and solutions to address the three issues.

November 30th - Present general consensus proposals to GWAICC

2022 – Continue discussion to develop additional strategies and solutions
Putting together a Package

• The Co-Chairs have grouped together a series of proposals – the 2021 Package – for consideration to be done in the coming year and are combination of legislation, rules and policy

• Concepts or ideas not in the 2021 Package are still alive for discussion in 2022

Criteria used by Co-Chairs for selecting proposals for this 2021 Package –
• Address more than one challenge or opportunity
• Gain general overall support from the Committee
• Politically viable in 2022 Legislative Session

Today’s Meeting – Determine overall support from the Committee to recommend to GWAICC
2021 Package of Post-2025 AMAs Proposals

• Improve the Regulatory Process for Recharge & Recovery
• Amend ADWR's Volumetric Accounting Policy for Commingled Water Supplies
• Remove WaterBUD Restrictions
• Establish a Cut-to-the-Aquifer for Annual Storage & Recovery outside of AOI
• Establish a Mechanism/Structure for Augmentation in the AMAs
• Accelerate ADEQ’s Development of Administrative Rules for Direct Potable Reuse
• Land status tax policy to decrease groundwater mining in the AMAs
Improve the Regulatory Process for Recharge & Recovery

- Stakeholders have encountered regulatory obstacles with new and existing recharge facilities and with recovery.
- ADWR has started to address some of these issues.
- Review the recharge and recovery program with stakeholder engagement.

Amend ADWR’s Volumetric Accounting Policy for Commingled Water Supplies

- Enable a developer to provide water to a water provider that can then serve that water through the provider's mixed system without regard to historic volumetric accounting policy.
Remove WaterBUD Restrictions

• Current statutes prevent the accrual of Long-Term Storage Credits for certain entities that are pumping groundwater.

• This statutory provision was an early component of the underground storage statutes to encourage direct use of renewable supplies.

• Removing all or part of ”WaterBUD" would allow entities to accrue or buy LTSC regardless of their groundwater pumping.

Establish a Cut-to-the-Aquifer for Annual Storage & Recovery outside of the AOI

• To help decrease unreplenished groundwater pumping.

• Incentivize annual recovery near the location of storage in a way that helps to mitigate the hydrologic disconnect.
Establish a Mechanism/Structure for Augmentation in the AMAs

- Coordinated focused effort to develop new water supplies in the AMAs.
- Allow interested entities to collaborate and combine resources to obtain new supplies and build necessary infrastructure.
- Regional authorization to gather fees with purposes such as infrastructure and renewable water supplies.
Accelerate ADEQ’s Development of Administrative Rules for Direct Potable Reuse

• Provide resources to ADEQ to fast track updating the Arizona Administrative Code on Purified Water for Potable Use.
• Demonstrate stakeholder support and community benefit for direct potable reuse.
• Ensure regulations are in place so public and private water providers have a clear path for developing this resource.

Promote smart tax policy to decrease groundwater mining in AMAs

• Adding temporary and permanent fallowing as a classification of agricultural tax status will allow landowners retain a lower tax rate without needing to apply water to the land.
• Better align the tax structure with an AMA’s water management goals.
Other Proposals Identified by Committee Members to be further discussed in 2022

• Prescott AMA Exempt Wells Concepts
• Address the Subdividing Loophole in AWS Program for development that doesn't require replenishment
• Encourage Urban Development on Agricultural Lands
• Evaluate the allowable groundwater pumping depth in the AWS Program, currently ~1,000' below land surface
• Facilitate Groundwater Transfers
• Recovery of LTSC stored in the Tonopah Area
• Identification of potential aquifer recharge locations for preservation
• Limitations on Groundwater Withdrawals
• Limit Unreplenished Pumping in the Industrial Sector
• Revisit Conservation Requirements in Management Plans
• Evaluate the AOHI associated with Groundwater Savings Facilities
• Require CAGRD Replenishment within the AOI of Development
• Review ADWR's Assured Water Supply Model Run Assumptions
Next Steps

• Nov 9th – Post 2025 AMAs Committee – Further discussion of package – if necessary

• Nov 30th – Present generally agreed-upon 2021 Package to the GWAICC

• Move any legislative items in the 2021 Package to a Legislative Stakeholder process for further discussion

• 2022 – Continue discussion of other Post 2025 ideas