

Proposed Transfer of Arizona 4th Priority Colorado River water: GSC Farm LLC to the Town of Queen Creek



Arizona Department of Water Resources
November 19, 2019

Arizona Department of Water Resources

ADWR is the state entity charged with promoting, protecting, and comprehensively managing Arizona's annual apportionment of 2.8 million acre-feet of Colorado River water.

- A.R.S. § 45-105: The Director is responsible for the water management of the state
- A.R.S. § 45-107: Cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior of the United States
 - A.R.S. § 45-107(A). “The director is authorized, for and on behalf of the state of Arizona, to consult, advise and cooperate with the secretary of the interior of the United States...”

Transfer of a Colorado River Water Delivery Contract

- **Pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-107, the Director must be consulted regarding all Colorado River contracts and negotiations**
- **Substantive Policy Statement CR10 establishes:**
 - The policy and procedure for transferring an entitlement of the Colorado River water including leases
 - Criteria and analysis the Department will utilize to evaluate proposed transfers including conveyances, leases or assignments, of mainstream Colorado River water
- **Public Notice Process**
 - Advertise the proposed transfer once per week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the state
 - Notice to the county planning and zoning department office within the county of origin
 - Contractor conveying its entitlement provides notice to all water users within its contract service area
 - Notices to other interested parties

Substantive Policy Statement – CR 10

Pursuant to the Substantive Policy Statement, the Director will consider several factors, including:

- Potential negative impacts to the water supplies of other Colorado River entitlement holders
- Water quality impacts to the water supplies of other Colorado River entitlement holders
- Water quality impacts related to return flows and other pertinent impacts that could occur as a result of the proposed transfer

The Director will issue a recommendation within 60 days from the end of the comment period unless additional time is needed to resolve claims of negative impacts to third parties.

If negative impacts are claimed the Department will provide up to 90 days for all parties to resolve or mitigate the claimed negative impacts. An extension may be requested.

Transferring Entity - GSC Farm, LLC

- Located in La Paz County
- Section 5 contract with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for 4th Priority annual Entitlement for 2,913.3 acre-feet (AF) of water.
- Currently owns approximately 504 acres in Cibola Valley Irrigation District (CVIDD)
- Of the 504 acres 485.55 acres are irrigable, all of which are being irrigated annually.
- Proposing to transfer a consumptive use volume of 2,083.1 AF based on an unmeasured return flow factor of 28.5%
- Proposed future use of land: If the entitlement is transferred and the land is retired from Ag, the land could still be served by CVIDD which holds 300 AF/YR of 4th priority entitlement for domestic use, which could serve for potential development of the land.

Receiving Entity - Town of Queen Creek

- Located within Maricopa and Pinal counties
- Current Annual Demand¹ – 15,100 AF
- Current Supply¹: (Annual quantity)
 - Groundwater – 42,421 AF
 - CAP Water – 495 AF
 - Effluent – 2,000 AF
- Future Annual Demand¹ – 43,500 af
- Future Water Sources¹ (Annual Quantity)
 - CAP water – 4,100 AF
 - Effluent – 8,000 AF
- Proposed use of the transferred Colorado River water – Storage with Roosevelt Water Conservation District and recovery within Queen Creek’s service area

¹As identified in the GSC Farm LLC-Queen Creek request for consultation to ADWR

Comments

Deadline for comments : 5:00 PM on Monday, December 16, 2019

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**PROTECTING
ARIZONA'S WATER SUPPLIES
for ITS NEXT CENTURY**