5th Management Plans Work Group Agricultural Subgroup Meeting

March 3, 2020
I. Welcome

II. Recap of previous Agricultural Subgroup meetings and the 5th Management Plans timeline

III. Discussion of new concepts for the 5th Management Plans Agricultural Conservation Programs:
   A. Modifications to existing programs
   B. New programs

IV. Closing Remarks
A.R.S. § 45-563 (A)

“The director shall develop a management plan for each initial active management area for each of five management periods... and shall adopt the plans only after public hearings... The plans shall include a continuing mandatory conservation program... designed to achieve reductions in withdrawals of groundwater.”

ADWR-led stakeholder forum for the development of the 5th Management Plans

Goals:

* Assess existing conservation programs
* Update existing management strategies
* Develop new management strategies
5MP Agricultural Subgroup Goals & Strategies

Goals

* Assess existing conservation programs
* Update existing management strategies
* Develop new management strategies

Strategies

* Data Analysis
  * Comparison of programs
* Develop concepts
  * Changes to existing programs
  * Potential new conservation programs
Recap of Previous Agricultural Subgroup Meetings

**September 5, 2019 Meeting**
* Overview of Base and BMP Agricultural Conservation Programs
* Overview of available agricultural data
  * Annual Reports
  * Other Sources/Potential Sources
* Discussed potential additional analyses and data
  * Need for data re: actively irrigated acres

**November 18, 2019 Meeting**
* Overview of BMP Program
* Data Analysis
  * Available data shows that the BMP program is not achieving conservation equivalent to the Base Program.
* Review of each BMP
  * Potential to collaborate with NRCS
  * Concern re: tailwater quality
  * Potential to collaborate with Cooperative Extension for data on slopes
Agricultural Conservation Program Concepts for the 5\textsuperscript{th} Management Plans
A.R.S. § 45-568.02(G)

“The director shall include... a best management practices program... in lieu of complying with an irrigation water duty and a maximum annual groundwater allotment. The program shall be designed to achieve conservation that is at least equivalent to that required under [the Base Program].”
**Modifications to BMP Program**

**Concept**

- Introduce Tiers for BMP Points Targets
  - Similar to tiers in Municipal Non-Per Capita Program based on number of connections

**TBD**

- Method for creating tiers
  - Units
    - AF/acre
    - Total acreage
    - Other?
- Setting tier cut-offs
- Setting points targets for each tier
A.R.S. § 45-568.02(F)

“The director may include in the adoption of, or a modification to, the management plan for the fifth management period additional alternative agricultural conservation programs that the director determines achieve conservation that is at least equivalent to that required under [the Base Program]...”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Allow multiple IGFRs under the same owner/operator to combine reporting/allotments, with a “cut to the aquifer” percentage reduction of the total combined allotment. * Similar to provision allowing contiguous turf facilities to combine allotments</td>
<td>* Geographic limitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Contiguous/Irrigation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* “Cut to the Aquifer” Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Process for joining/leaving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Management of flex credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps for Agricultural Subgroup

* From today’s discussion:
  * Input on these concepts and “TBD” items
  * Incorporate feedback & consider additional details
  * Consider individual AMAs

* Other items:
  * Further evaluation of changes to individual BMPs/new BMPs
  * Consideration of any additional new concepts
Closing Remarks
Upcoming MPWG Meetings

Work Group

Subgroup

Breakout

MPWG

3/19/2020

Ag

5/14/2020

Muni

3/9/2020

Industrial

TBD

Safe-Yield Technical

4/20/2020

Turf

3/30/2020
Questions?

managementplans@azwater.gov

Management Plans Work Group:
new.azwater.gov/5MP

Full Text of Management Plans:
new.azwater.gov/ama/management-plans