ADWR Management Plans Team,

The Town of Gilbert is submitting additional comments regarding ADWR’s draft updates to the 5MP Recharge Regulatory Language published on March 8, 2022. We greatly appreciate the Department’s efforts to provide clarity and specificity to the language and to communicate with stakeholders. However, the draft updates do not provide enough protection from the potential unintended consequences described in our previous comments.

Gilbert continues to be concerned about the impacts of this policy on our current and future water management practices that are beneficial to the aquifer. As previously commented, the groundwater management benefits of the proposed language have not been adequately demonstrated and therefore we continue to ask that the Department remove the new language. The current language in the 4MP still provides the Department with the ability to pursue policy regarding shallow depth to water issues due to recharge and we are grateful that the Department has initiated the Recharge and Recovery Workgroup where we believe this discussion can be had with many stakeholders to ensure this discussion leads to positive outcomes in water management.

Thank you,

Eric Braun
Assistant Public Works Director

Eric.Braun@gilbertaz.gov
Work: 480-503-6892
900 E. Juniper Avenue Gilbert, AZ 85234
Open Mon-Thurs, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Closed Fridays

gilbertaz.gov

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