



Mark Woodward's Comments on the 5th MP

1 message

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To: managementplans@azwater.gov

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ADWR,

I would to thank the ADWR for working so closely and diligently on the 5th Management Plan with the Arizona Alliance for Golf on behalf of the entire golf industry here in Arizona. I know this process was challenging on many fronts but working collaboratively on this very important issue produced a plan that I can support.

Although this plan is not perfect and will present some challenges for some of the state's larger acreage golf courses who use groundwater, I believe it provides a balanced approach. As we found out very clearly during this process every golf course is very unique and different in their own right.

Some of the new tools that have been made available to golf courses will help a great deal such as the turf conversion grant to reduce turf and ultimately reduce the use of groundwater, the variance and administrative review processes will provide additional options and help close the gap as we work towards the new allotments in the 5th MP.

The golf industry as a whole and particularly golf course superintendents have lead the way when it comes to using water efficiently and effectively. Superintendents are highly motivated and educated about environmental stewardship specifically related to water conservation. The golf industry has done a great job with the Return On Investment (ROI) when it comes to the small amount of overall water we use compared to other industries in the state. (We use less than 2% of the state's water yet we produce an economic impact of over \$4.6 billion).

As mentioned above the proposed 5 Management Plan will be challenging for some golf courses but I believe that the plan is the best option to keep our industry thriving and viable for years to come.

Lastly, I would encourage to the department to continue to work very closely with the golf industry in Arizona (through the Arizona Alliance for Golf) and continue to reach out to golf courses that will be challenged by this plan and try to develop and maintain programs to assist them in maintaining their sustainability moving forward as water will continue to be challenging topic for quite some time and all golf courses in the state contribute to the states economy.

Thanks again for all your efforts and working with our industry.

Mark Woodward, CGCS

President

Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendents Associatoin of AZ