

# FACTS AND FIGURES

## Regulatory Environment

### REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS:

- Prescott Active (water) Management Area (PrAMA)
- Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition (UVRWPC) partners are located within the (PrAMA) and subject to regulation and oversight by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR).

### CURRENT CONDITIONS

- PrAMA is one of four initial Active Management Areas identified by the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, and was determined to be mining groundwater (overdraft) in 1999.
- The region has been identified by the federal government as having a “high likelihood of conflict over water by 2025.”
- Management of water resources within the PrAMA is directed by ADWR’s Management Plans. Currently operating under the 4th Management Plan released in 2014.
- The PrAMA includes 125,000 water users, 40,000 municipal service connections, and 10,000 independent private wells
- Average regional water use is approx. 150 gallons per capita per day (includes irrigated agriculture and golf courses)

### WATER RIGHTS –Water rights within the PrAMA fall under major categories depending on the source of water as governed by Arizona Water Law.

- Groundwater rights – access for non-exempt wells is strictly controlled by Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) provisions include:
  - Goal of reaching Safe Yield by 2025 (balancing the amount withdrawn by the amount re charged);
  - No new residential or commercial subdivisions are not allowed to access the groundwater supplies in the PrAMA (since 1999); and
  - Water conservation mandate for water providers, irrigated agriculture, and industry.
  - Moratorium on new irrigated agriculture supplied by groundwater
  - Small wells that pump less than 35 gallons per minute are exempt from the groundwater law.
- Surface water rights –
  - Governed by the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation (First in Time, First in Right)
  - Defined as water on the surface of the ground flowing in defined stream channels or subsurface water that is connected to and part of a flowing stream.
  - Most surface water supplies in the area have a senior appropriation claim by downstream water users.
  - A general adjudication to determine the relative extent and priority of surface water rights has been on-going since 1974.
  - Surface water rights are partially administered by the groundwater code as an alternative to groundwater.

- Reclaimed water (effluent) –
  - Administration is primarily governed by Arizona Supreme Court cases Long vs. APS and Long vs. City of Phoenix.
  - Effluent is partially administered by the groundwater code as an alternative to groundwater.
  - Unlike other types of water in Arizona, effluent can be owned by the entity that produces it. Surface water and groundwater are typically owned by the State and rights are granted by the State to certain users
  - Within the PrAMA, almost all available effluent is directly used for irrigation or is recharged to the aquifer.
- Rainwater –
  - Rainwater is not an appropriable source of water in Arizona as long as it is collected prior to reaching a defined stream channel.
  - Arizona has established few, if any, policies governing the use of rainwater or sheet flow.

**SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY - Current available water supplies within the Upper Verde River Watershed (PrAMA) include groundwater, surface water and effluent.**

- Groundwater is pumped from the Little Chino and Upper Aqua Fria sub-basins within the PrAMA.
  - The PrAMA is an actively managed groundwater basin administered under the 1980 Groundwater Management Act.
  - Approximate annual groundwater withdrawals are 16 to 20,000 acre-feet per year (a.f.y.)
  - Average annual overdraft is 8-10,000 a.f.y.
- Surface Water in the PrAMA (useable supplies)
  - Watson and Willow Reservoirs – approximately 1,100 a.f.y.
  - Lynx Lake – approximately 200 a.f.y.
- Reclaimed Water (effluent)
  - City of Prescott – approximately 4,000 a.f.y.
  - Town of Prescott Valley – approximately 2,200 a.f.y.
  - Town of Chino Valley – approximately 50 a.f.y.