

2025 LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

*A Guide to Water
Policy Issues Impacting
Southern Arizona*



Foreword

Since 1999, the Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA) has operated as a voluntary nonprofit association organized to discuss, analyze and recommend ways to preserve and enhance the quality and quantity of Southern Arizona’s water resources. SAWUA works to determine and encourage the most effective management of the region’s sustainable supplies of water. Accordingly, SAWUA’s primary task is to have an active presence and participation in the development of legislation, policies and rules affecting water users. This legislative briefing document is intended to provide Legislators and legislative staff with an overview of water policies of interest to Southern Arizona. This briefing is designed to provide a concise reference to those issues. SAWUA remains available to provide additional information on these issues as well as any other water-related legislation of mutual interest or concern.

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Membership Organizations

Avra Water Co-op Inc.



Avra Water Co-op is a community owned, not-for-profit water provider located west of the Tucson Mountains and adjacent to the Saguaro National Park West. Our service area of 12.48 square miles is all located within unincorporated Pima County in the small community of Picture Rocks. Water is pumped from three wells which average 800-acre feet of

groundwater per year.



Aerial view of the CAVSARP Recharge Facilities, Tucson Water.

BKW Farms Inc.



BKW Farms is a third-generation family farm in Marana growing cotton, alfalfa, heritage grains, mushrooms and produces mushroom supplement powders. As the Wong family has made sustainable agriculture practices a priority, the farm converted to irrigate with only Central Arizona Project (CAP) in the mid-1990s and has converted the 4500 acre farm to a Groundwater Savings Facility. Additionally, BKW delivers water and operates three Underground Storage Facilities in the Tucson and Marana area.

Community Water Company of Green Valley



The Community Water Company of Green Valley is a nonprofit established in 1975 by water users in the Green Valley Area. The Company's mission is to reliably deliver drinking water while maintaining a sustainable supply to its residential and commercial population of over 24,000.

Farmers Investment Co



Farmers Investment Company (FICO) owns one of the world's largest pecan farming operations, Green Valley Pecan. FICO prides itself in its environmental stewardship, and its ongoing efforts to enhance water efficiency, including transitioning from flood to sprinkler irrigation and utilizing renewable CAP water in its groundwater savings facility.



FCAP filters – A joint Freeport/ FICO groundwater storage project, while providing CAP water for orchard irrigation.

Flowing Wells Irrigation District



The Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID) is a municipal water provider that has served communities on the north side of the Tucson metropolitan area since 1922.

With over 3,500 service connections, FWID supplies quality water for about 16,000 individuals and businesses for domestic use and fire protection.



Flowing Wells Road Main Repair

Green Valley Domestic Water Improvement District



The Green Valley Water District was established in 2002 when residents came together to purchase an existing water company from the property developer in pursuit of local control. With over 4,500 residential water service connections,

approximately 100 commercial connections and three golf courses, the wells produce just under one million gallons of water per day on average. The Green Valley Water District is dedicated to providing high-quality water and excellent customer service while prioritizing environmental conservation.

Global Water Resources, Inc.



Global Water Resources, Inc. is a water resource management company that owns, operates and manages water, wastewater and recycled water utilities in growth areas surrounding the metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson Arizona. Global Water manages our systems using an integrated approach, which we refer to as Total Water Management (TWM). TWM promotes sustainable communities through effective planning, the use of recycled water and by providing individuals and communities resources that promote wise water usage practices.

Kai Farms



Kai Farms has been family owned and operated since 1938 and is located primarily in the Tucson Active Management Area. The majority of water for the farms is received from the CAP through Groundwater Savings Facilities and the balance is pumped from the ground. Kai Farms produces cotton, pecans, alfalfa and small grains. The cotton goes on to be processed at the family-owned Trico Gin.

Metro Water District



The Metro Water District (the District) serves nearly 60,000 customers primarily in unincorporated areas of Pima County. Formed via voter initiative in 1992, the District is the largest Domestic Water Improvement District in Arizona. In addition to



providing safe and reliable water services, the District boasts a diverse renewable water portfolio that includes an annual allocation of 13,460 acre-feet of CAP water. The District is currently investing approximately \$44 million in critical infrastructure to recover renewable water resources and reduce reliance on groundwater pumping.

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department



The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department protects public health, safety and the environment by providing and maintaining sanitary sewer systems and seven water reclamation facilities to over 285,000 customers throughout Pima County. In collaboration with regional water providers, the Department recycles Arizona's most precious resource, water, allowing it to be utilized in a myriad of ways such as parks and golf courses, wildlife habitats, dust control and long-term storage in underground aquifers. This practice allows groundwater to be saved for drinking.



Aerial view of the Agua Nueva Wastewater Reclamation Facility looking north.

Sahuarita Water Company

SAHUARITA
Water Company



The Sahuarita Water Company (SWC) is a privately owned water utility that provides water service to the master-planned communities of Rancho Sahuarita and Rancho Resort, both within the Town of Sahuarita. With approximately 7,100 connections serving over 21,000 individuals, the SWC relies on groundwater to supply residential and commercial.

Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility



The Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility (SWRF) is a state-of-the-art facility that employs the latest technology to filter reclaimed water to supplement groundwater supplies. The SWRF not only maintains the facility and its over 50 miles of pipeline, but they have also prioritized sustainable growth by installing solar to reduce electricity demands. In turn, this effort reduces the rates for customers and expands the community's renewable energy portfolio.

The Town of Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility – Solon Solar Project is part of the Town's efforts to implement energy saving strategies while utilizing renewable energy sources, such as solar, to minimize operation and maintenance costs.



Town of Marana Water Department



The Town of Marana Water Department (Marana Water) provides water services to over 12,000 households and businesses, and water reclamation services to over 7,500 customers. The Town is one of Arizona's fastest-growing municipalities. In 2024 Marana's population was estimated closer to 60,000 and is anticipated to reach 75,000 by 2040. The majority of this growth is anticipated to rely on Marana Water for water and wastewater services. Marana Water strives to manage water resources in a cost-effective and responsible manner to sustain growth in an environmentally friendly manner.



The Town of Oro Valley Water Utility



The Town of Oro Valley Water Utility is a municipal water service provider serving a community of approximately 45,000 residents by way of the Utility's nearly 21,000 residential and commercial service connections. Oro Valley Water Utility's mission is to maintain and acquire sufficient water resources to ensure the community has adequate water supply to sustain the Town's quality of life and support residential and commercial development. The Utility's service area is located primarily within the corporate limits of the Town of Oro Valley. The Utility has a resource portfolio of 60% groundwater, 20% CAP and 20% reclaimed water but continues to invest in infrastructure to decrease groundwater reliance.

Tucson Water



Tucson Water is the largest water utility in Southern Arizona, serving more than 750,000 people with safe and reliable water service for over 100 years. A department of the City of Tucson, Tucson Water is a national leader in water conservation and efficiency, a steward of one of the first and largest reclaimed water systems in Arizona and a pioneer in recharge and recovery of surface water for long-term water reliability.



Recharging CAP water in the Tucson Water CAVSARP Recharge Project.

Water Policies of Interest to Southern Arizona

1 Dedicated Funding for Arizona Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund

The State of Arizona was given primacy by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a state superfund program for study and remediation of groundwater contamination at sites not involving Federal lands or facilities. The Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) program was created in State Statute to seek funding from responsible parties for the remediation activities needed to remove contaminants from impacted groundwater sites.

It is our desire to continue dedicated funding from the state budget for the WQARF program. Several of the sites in the state that are currently being remediated utilize dispersed fee-based funds to maintain the remediation systems operations. From year to year these funds can rise or fall based on other Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) priorities. As new constituents are detected in these contaminant plumes, the costs for treatment will most likely rise and require stable funding streams to remediate groundwater.

2 Renegotiation of Colorado River Basin Lake Powell and Lake Mead Operation Guidelines

To achieve the balance of our aquifers, Southern Arizona relies on renewable water transported and delivered through the Central Arizona Project (CAP). This supply pumped from the Colorado River has offset and in large areas reversed the impacts of past over pumping of groundwater. Currently, the federal government is in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process in which they hope to promulgate a preferred alternative in 2025. Twenty-four years of drought have put the Colorado River System in danger of not supplying the water that has been allocated by the 1922 Compact.

Southern Arizona and the CAP system are the junior rights on the Colorado River. For a sustainable future, groundwater pumping cannot replace our present priority position for access to renewable supplies through the CAP canal. To provide reliable supplies of water to customers and have a sustainable economy, the future distribution of the Colorado River should protect current municipal and Indian priorities in Arizona.

3 Maintain Current Priorities in CAP Canal

As the potential for substantial cuts in water deliveries to the Lower Basins States on the Colorado River increases, it is important to maintain the current priority of Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Subcontractors in the CAP canal system. Any reductions that impact water deliveries to the CAP canal should be equitably and proportionally applied to allocations that currently exist.

4 Support the proposed WaterSense revision to Arizona's Plumbing Code

The Arizona plumbing code fixture requirements under A.R.S. § 45-312 list fixtures and their respective water conservation limits based on the 1996 Uniform Mechanic Code (UMC) national plumbing code. The most up to date plumbing code utilizes the WaterSense designation of fixtures. The WaterSense designation reduces the allowable flow limits of household fixtures (ex. Toilet 1.28 gallons per flush or less) to further promote water conservation in households.

Because the State of California and Texas have adopted these standards, it is difficult to find older flow rate fixtures at local home improvement stores. However, products remain available by order or on shelves that are not WaterSense fixtures. Home builders can still order large numbers of fixtures for a subdivision that reflect the older 1996 plumbing code legally in Arizona. Most fixture rebate programs offered by local water providers all require the

WaterSense level of flow conservation. It would be easier for customers to comply with these rebate limits if older code fixtures could not be offered in Arizona. This will require an amendment to A.R.S. § 45-312 updating the plumbing code to WaterSense standards.

5 Support regulation protecting groundwater resources

Several groundwater basins in rural Arizona are experiencing depletion of water supplies because of little to no regulation regarding groundwater pumping. Supporting new regulation by these rural areas to create protections is recommended.

6 Support WIFA funding

The Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) has been a mechanism to help fund critical Arizona Water initiatives that range from safe drinking water to augmentation efforts, to conservation.

For example, regulation has been established by the EPA that impacts providers with any detectable concentration of Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This impacts a large group of water providers that have detectable concentrations of PFAS in their drinking water systems. It is important to have Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) funding available for water providers to address these regulatory changes.

Furthermore, SAWUA members have achieved local, state, national and international recognition for their conservation efforts and believe continued investment on this front is crucial to continue to meet the community's present and future needs. For municipal providers, solutions include programs and partnerships that address water loss control, public engagement and rebate programs, smart metering for customer empowerment, and developer engagement, to name a few. SAWUA supports continued investment into the WIFA conservation fund to facilitate water providers' adoption of proven

technologies and bold new initiatives will ensure a successful future for water conservation and quality of life in our desert environment and communities.

7 Support ADEQ implementation of Advanced Water Purification guidelines and rules

As surface water and groundwater supplies become more scarce, we support the adoption and implementation of Advanced Water Purification (AWP) guidelines that will offer an additional needed source of supply for our community's water resource portfolios.

8 Support Arizona State funding of irrigation efficiencies on agricultural lands

In the past, irrigation technology was costly and difficult to install for use on large scale agricultural lands. Modern technologies have proven both efficient and economically viable ways of utilizing water resources. Agriculture accounts for about approximately 70% of Arizona's total water use. Any reductions in water use could yield large savings of water that can be used to support Southern Arizona's water resources.

9 Support projects that reduce the hydrologic disconnect between the location of CAGRD replenishment and location of groundwater use

The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD) provides replenishment of aquifers to offset member service area and member lands groundwater pumping. Often the location of use is distant from where replenishment is currently possible. There is sufficient recharge capacity at the constructed recharge facilities that are used by the CAGRD. However, as demonstrated by groundwater modeling, several areas in the Tucson Active Management Area (TAMA) are showing groundwater level declines where current and expected groundwater is not locally replenished. Future developments should consider construction of new recharge facilities proximal

to the area of groundwater pumping to mitigate the expansion of current and future groundwater supply and demand imbalances.

10 Supporting TAMA's Inclusion in Ag to Urban Proposal

The overdraft of our Arizona aquifers was generally addressed in the Groundwater Management Act of 1980 and nuanced changes have continued to occur. Agriculture, by its nature, uses a large amount of the state's water. Total agricultural water use in 2019 was estimated to be approximately 70% by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). Currently, ADWR is undertaking a stakeholder process to create an Ag to Urban conversion program for the Phoenix and Pinal active management area (AMA). There are approximately 33,967 acres of agricultural land in TAMA that could be converted. This new conversion program has the potential to save a significant volume of groundwater, and TAMA should also be a part of this program.

Water Policy Glossary

- ▶ **Acre-foot:** A measurement of water quantity equal to 325,851 gallons, which is enough to cover one acre of land one foot deep.
- ▶ **Active Management Area (AMA):** A region designated for state regulation by the Groundwater Management Act of 1980. There are five regions in the state, including the Tucson Active Management Area, where groundwater use is regulated through a series of successfully more stringent management plans. The goal in the Tucson Active Management Area is to reach safe yield by 2025. The other AMAs are Phoenix, Pinal, Prescott and Santa Cruz. American Water Works Association (AWWA): AWWA is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational society dedicated to ensuring safe and clean water. They published a highly regarded journal and lead the industry in lobbying and education.
- ▶ **Advanced Water Purification:** Advanced Water Purification (AWP) treatment is the process of using technologies to remove impurities, harmful chemical contaminants and pathogens from wastewater, and treating it to high-quality drinking water.
- ▶ **Aquifer:** An underground layer of permeable rock, sediment or soil that yields water.
- ▶ **Area of Hydrologic Impact (AHI):** The area affected by a recharge project, generally within a one-mile radius of the project.
- ▶ **Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC):** The state agency responsible for the oversight of corporations, including private water companies.
- ▶ **Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality (ADEQ):** The state agency responsible for the oversight, regulation and enforcement of many aspects of the water industry including water quality and operator certification.
- ▶ **Arizona Dept. of Water Resources (ADWR):** The Arizona Department of Water Resources defends and enhances Arizona's water supplies,

assuring water certainty, economic prosperity and quality of life now and for future generations. The Department's duties include protecting Arizona's rights to the Colorado River, as well as ensuring the health and reliability of its in-state surface water resources and its underground aquifers.

- ▶ **Arizona Reconsultation Committee (ARC):** Arizona has reconvened the Arizona DCP Steering Committee and renamed it the Arizona Reconsultation Committee. The 2007 Shortage Sharing Guidelines and DCP will expire on Dec. 31, 2025 and new operating rules will need to be put into place. ARC provides a venue for developing and sharing stakeholder perspectives for the new operating rules to be developed.
- ▶ **Arizona v California Decree:** In this landmark Supreme Court decision and subsequent decree of 1964, Arizona's claim to a 2.8 MAF/yr entitlement from the mainstem of the Colorado River was established.
- ▶ **Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA):** The AWBA was established in 1996 to increase use of the state's Colorado River entitlement and develop long-term storage credits for the state. The stores, or "banks", can be used in times of shortage to firm water supplies for Arizona.
- ▶ **Assured Water Supply (AWS):** A designation given to water providers or subdividers who can show that they have enough water to sustain projected use for 100 years.
- ▶ **Aqueduct:** A man-made channel that conveys water from one place to another.
- ▶ **AWS Rule:** ADWR rule that requires a 100-year water supply for any new subdivision and restricts the use of mined groundwater within an AMA.
- ▶ **AZ Water Association:** formerly known as the Arizona Water Pollution Control Association, AZ Water is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization founded in 1928 with a membership of 2,700 water/wastewater professionals dedicated to preserving and enhancing Arizona's water environment

- ▶ **Basin Management Area (BMA):** A proposal that would allow for residents outside of active management areas (AMA) to petition the Director of ADWR to designate groundwater basins to be at risk if they meet certain criteria. The BMA proposal is a part of a boarder on-going discussion stakeholders have had about adding a third, more local and customized groundwater management tool to Arizona's water management toolbox.
- ▶ **Best Management Practice (BMP):** BMP is a practice, or combination of practices, that is determined to be effective and practicable (including technological, economic and institutional considerations) means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals.
- ▶ **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR):** The BOR is a division of the US federal government led by the Secretary of the Interior.
- ▶ **Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD):** In 1993, the Arizona State legislature created a groundwater replenishment authority to be operated by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) throughout its three-county service area. This replenishment authority of CAWCD is commonly referred to as the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD). The purpose of the CAGRD is to provide a mechanism for landowners and water providers to demonstrate an assured water supply under the new Assured Water Supply Rules ("AWS Rules") which became effective in 1995.
- ▶ **Central Arizona Project (CAP):** The CAP is a 330-mile system of pump stations and concrete-lined canals that bring Colorado River water to Central and Southern Arizona. CAP is governed by an elected board that must oversee the operation of the system and meet the federal repayment obligations.
- ▶ **Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD):** The CAWCD is a multi-county water district (Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties)

formed to manage the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and to repay the federal government for costs of constructing the CAP. The CAWCD is also responsible for planning and implementing projects to supply its district with water. It operates the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR) and several recharge facilities.

- ▶ **Certificate of Assured Water Supply:** A permit that must be issued by the ADWR for a development if it is determined that there is AWS for the development.
- ▶ **Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA):** The CRWUA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization formed to plan, study, formulate and advise on ways to protect the interests of all who utilize Colorado River Water.
- ▶ **Desalination:** Desalination is the process of removing salt from sea water or brackish water for use.
- ▶ **Designation of Assured Water Supply:** A permit issued by the ADWR for a municipal provider if it is determined that there is an AWS for the territory.
- ▶ **Drought Contingency Plan (DCP):** With a nearly two-decade-long drought, Arizona and six other western states were asked to formulate a plan to conserve water in Lake Mead. A group of 40 stakeholders worked together to form the DCP and pass enabling legislation in 2018.
- ▶ **Effluent:** Wastewater that has received at least secondary treatment.
- ▶ **Exempt Well:** A well with a maximum pumping capacity of not more than 35 gallons per minute, which is used to withdraw water for non-irrigation purposes.
- ▶ **Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GPCD):** The average quantity of water each person uses in one day.
- ▶ **Gila River Indian Community (GRIC):** The GRIC traces its roots back to the Hohokam, prehistoric Native American people who lived and farmed along the Gila River Basin centuries ago. Composed of two tribes, the Maricopa and the Pima, GRIC is located in south-central Arizona.

- ▶ **Governor's Water Policy Council (GWPC):** Created by Governor Hobbs in 2023, and chaired by the ADWR Director, the GWPC is tasked with modernizing the Arizona Groundwater Management Act and providing recommendations for the Governor and Legislators to consider. Members of the Council serve on either of two Committees: the Assured Water Supply Committee or the Rural Groundwater Management Committee, which reviews and assesses potential management tools prior to discussion at the full Council.
- ▶ **Grandfathered Right (GFR):** A right to withdraw and use groundwater within an AMA based on the fact of lawful withdrawals and use prior to the AMA's designation. These rights include Irrigation Grandfathered Rights, Type 1 non-irrigation Grandfathered Rights and Type 2 Non-Irrigation Grandfathered Rights.
- ▶ **Graywater:** Used water from residential bathroom sinks, showers, tubs and washing machines. Use of gray water for outdoor watering is permitted if criteria to protect health are met. Sewage is not graywater; it is an example of blackwater.
- ▶ **Groundwater:** Water under the surface of the Earth, regardless of the geologic structure in which it is standing or moving. Groundwater does not include water flowing in underground streams with ascertainable beds and banks.
- ▶ **Groundwater Management Act (GMA):** The GMA is monumental legislation that was enacted in 1980 by the Arizona State Legislature to address the state's groundwater overdraft problem and ensure water supplies for future generations.
- ▶ **Groundwater Savings Facility (GSF):** An indirect recharge facility that uses surface water (CAP water) instead of pumped groundwater. The CAP contract holder, such as a municipal or industrial entity, partners with an agricultural operation (typically an irrigation district) that would have otherwise pumped groundwater for agricultural use and provides

CAP water in-lieu of the pumped groundwater. The contract holder then receives a long-term storage credit for the groundwater not pumped.

- ▶ **In Lieu Water:** Water that is delivered to a groundwater savings facility and that is used in an AMA or INA by the recipient on a gallon for gallon substitute basis for groundwater that otherwise would have been pumped from within an AMA or IMA.
- ▶ **Irrigation District:** A political subdivision established as a special taxing district for either agricultural improvement or irrigation and conservation purposes.
- ▶ **Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA):** A geographical area that has been designated as having insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for the irrigation of the cultivated lands at the current rate of withdrawal. Within INAs, new agricultural use of land occurring on land that was not irrigated in the five years preceding the designations prohibited with a few exceptions for substitution or transfer.
- ▶ **Long Term Storage Credit:** A long term storage credit is water that is recharged and kept underground to be recovered at a later time.
- ▶ **Colorado River Basin:** The Colorado River is divided into the Upper and Lower Basin. Lower Basin States include: Arizona, California and Nevada. Upper Basin states include: Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming.
- ▶ **Management Plan:** A plan for an AMA that contains regulatory programs defined to assist AMAs in achieving their water goals. The plan must be updated every decade.
- ▶ **Member Land:** An individual subdivision that has been enrolled as a member of the CAGR. This is allowed when (1) its owner records covenants running with the land that include the land in the CAGR and subject the land to the replenishment assessment, and (2) the municipal provider that supplies the subdivision records a covenant agreeing to submit annually to the CAGR the water delivery information necessary to calculate the replenishment assessment for each tax parcel.

- ▶ **Member Service Area:** A designated water provider (a city, town, or water company) that has enrolled its entire service area as a member of CAGR. This is accomplished when 1) it adopts a resolution that declares its service area and all extensions thereof to be in the CAGR, 2) an agreement is executed by and between CAWCD and the city, town or water company, and 3) the city, town or water company receives a designation from the Arizona Department of Water Resources.
- ▶ **Municipal Provider:** A city, town, private water company, domestic water improvement district or irrigation district that supplies water for municipal use.
- ▶ **Non-Exempt Well:** A well in an AMA generally drilled by a municipal provider with a maximum pumping capacity of more than 35 gallons per minute which is used to withdraw groundwater for non-irrigation purposes.
- ▶ **Non-Per Capita Conservation Program:** A voluntary alternative municipal program that requires providers to implement reasonable conservation measures relating to interior and exterior water use as well as an educational water conservation program. In order to qualify for entrance into the program, the provider is required to either 1) belong to a groundwater replenishment district, 2) reduce groundwater pumping consistent with AWS Rules or 3) eliminate mined groundwater use.
- ▶ **Pascua Yaqui Tribe:** The Yaqui people have lived in the Gila and Santa Cruz River Valleys for hundreds of years. In the early 1900s, many Yaqui families were either forced to move or relocated to Arizona to escape the violence of the 1910-1920 Mexican Revolution. In 1964, the Pascua Yaquis received 202 acres of desert land, and in 1978, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona was federally recognized.
- ▶ **According to the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe has five communities:** New Pascua is the Reservation just southwest of Tucson, Old Pascua is in the City of Tucson, Barrio Libre is in

the City of South Tucson, Marana is northwest of Tucson, and Guadalupe is a southeast suburb of Phoenix.

- ▶ **Potable Water:** Water that is safe for ingestion or drinking.
- ▶ **Private Water Company (PWC):** The ACC regulates Privately-owned municipal water providers. PWC's are organized as either for-profit systems managed by investors or nonprofits managed by member boards.
- ▶ **Recharge:** The replenishment of the groundwater through natural or artificial means. Direct recharge can be accomplished via surface basins, streambeds or injection wells. Indirect or in-lieu recharge occurs when another water supply, such as CAP water, is utilized instead of ground water, thereby saving the groundwater for use at a later time.
- ▶ **Reservoir:** A reservoir is a man-made body of that that is used to store water for future uses.
- ▶ **Reclaimed Water:** Wastewater that has been treated for reuse. Typically, a separate water system conveys the reclaimed water to parks, golf courses, industrial sites and the like.
- ▶ **Renewable Water Supply:** Supplies that are more quickly replenished than groundwater, which in many cases can be impossible to replenish.
- ▶ **Safe Yield:** A water management goal that attempts to achieve and maintain a long-term balance between the annual amount of groundwater withdrawn in an AMA and the annual amount of natural and artificial recharge in the AMA.
- ▶ **Tohono O'odham Nation:** The Tohono O'odham Nation is a federally recognized tribe that includes approximately 28,000 members occupying tribal lands in Southwestern Arizona. The Nation is the second largest reservations in Arizona in both population and geographical size, with a land base of 2.8 million acres and 4,460 square miles, approximately the size of the State of Connecticut. Its four non-contiguous segments total more than 2.8 million acres at an elevation of 2,674 feet.

- ▶ **Type 1 Non-Irrigation Grandfathered Rights:** A Type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right is associated with land permanently retired from farming and converted to a non-irrigation use. This right may only be sold or leased only with the land. These rights are established based on a maximum of three acre-feet per acre of retired irrigated land and generally are used for industrial purposes.
- ▶ **Type 2 Non-Irrigation Grandfathered Rights:** A Type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right generally can be used for any non-irrigation purpose. The right is issued based on groundwater non-irrigation uses from 1975-1980. These rights can be sold or leased separately from the land within the same AMA and most often are used for industrial purposes. They generally are required to follow the conservation requirements associated with the industrial conservation programs in the management plans for each AMA.
- ▶ **Underground Storage Facility (USF):** A constructed underground storage facility or a managed underground storage facility, per A.R.S. § 45-802.01(21).
- ▶ **US – Mexico Water Treaty of 1944:** This historic treaty allocated 1.5-million acre-feet of Colorado River water per year to Mexico.
- ▶ **Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona (CASA):** A nonprofit organization made up of several southern Arizona water providers dedicated to the conservation of water and public education for their customers.
- ▶ **Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA):** WIFA is an independent agency of the State of Arizona that is authorized to finance the construction, rehabilitation and improvement of drinking water, wastewater, reclamation and other water facility projects. WIFA has invested over \$2 billion in Arizona's water infrastructure and currently has over 40 projects in construction.

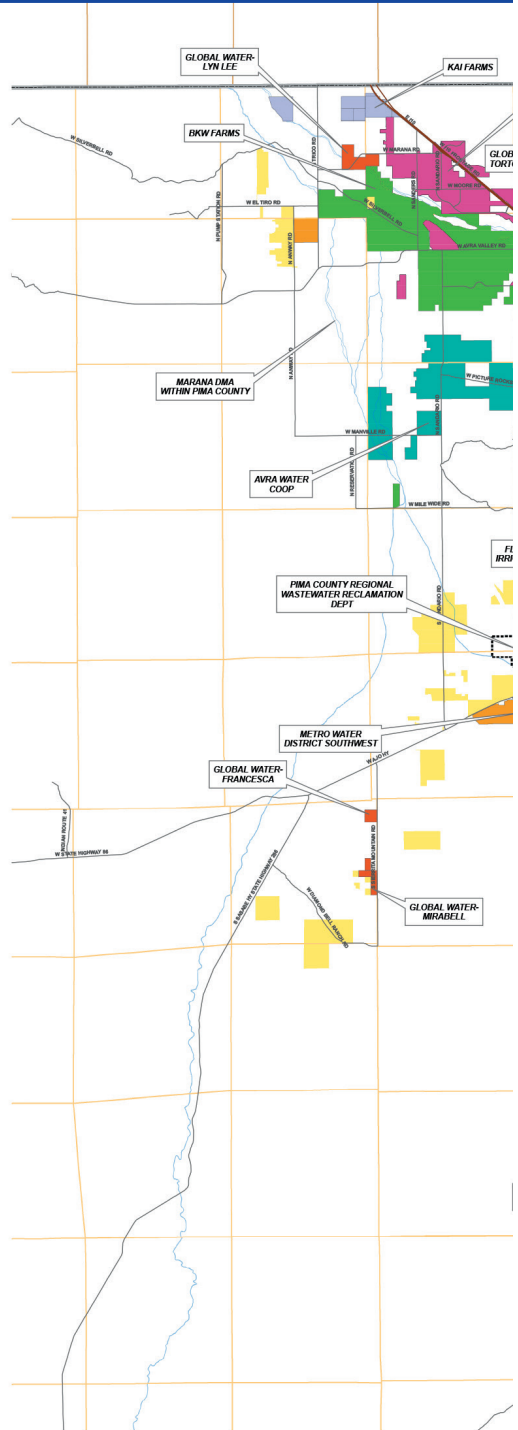
- ▶ **Water Resources Research Center (WRRC):** The University of Arizona's Water Resource Research Center promotes understanding of critical state and regional water management policy through research, community standards and public education.
- ▶ **Wheeling:** Using a second party's conveyance system to move a volume of water from one location to another.

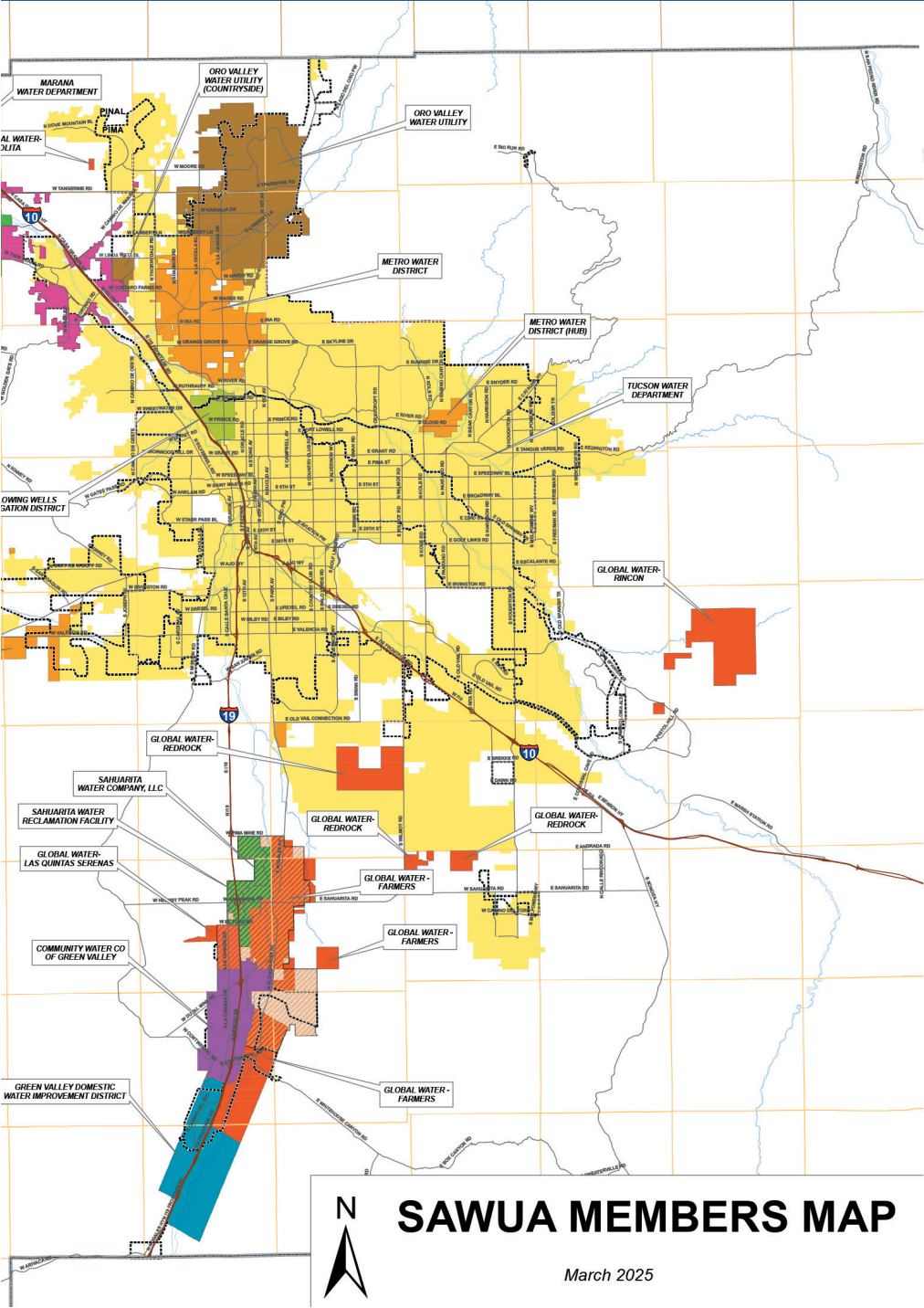


Territory

MEMBERSHIP

- Avra Water Coop
- BKW Farms
- Community Water Co of Green Valley
- Flowing Wells Irrigation District
- Green Valley Domestic Water Improvement District
- Global Water in Pima County
- Kai Farms
- Marana Water Department
- Metro Water District
- Oro Valley Water Utility
- Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
- Marana DMA within Pima County
- Sahuarita Water Company, LLC
- Sahuarita Water Reclamation Facility
- Tucson Water Department





SAWUA MEMBERS MAP

March 2025





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