



Public Notice Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

August 12, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

**This meeting will be held as a Hybrid meeting.
Attendance in person is welcomed; Others may join via Zoom.**

Access this [Link](#) to join via Zoom. Meeting ID: 815 3667 5632
(Option to join by phone: 602-753-0140, same Meeting ID as above)

A. Call to Order

B. General Business—Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes for the June 10, 2026 Meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: September 9, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.
3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Impacts for Arizona
4. Arizona Water Banking Authority's Firming of M&I Subcontracts
5. Conservation and Demand Management Update

C. Member Reports

D. Executive Director's Report

E. Future Agenda Items

F. Adjournment

*The order of the agenda may be altered or changed by the AMWUA Board of Directors. Members of the AMWUA Board of Directors may attend in person or by internet conferencing.

More information about AMWUA public meetings is available online at www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings, or by request.

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

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**MANAGEMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2026
HYBRID MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Beaty, Avondale, Chair
David Burks, Peoria, Vice Chair
Jeremy Abbott, Chandler
Jessica Marlow, Gilbert
Ron Serio, Glendale
Barbara Chappell, Goodyear
Joe Giudice, Mesa
Andy Granger, Phoenix
Thyra Ryden-Diaz, Scottsdale
Lilliana Urenda, Tempe

AMWUA STAFF PRESENT

Michelle Barclay, AMWUA	Rhett Larson, AMWUA	Sheri Trapp, AMWUA
Paul Bergelin, ANWUA	Aly Slobodzian, AMWUA	Warren Tenney, AMWUA
Tyenesha Fields, AMWUA		

A. Call to Order

Kirk Beaty called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the May 13, 2026, Meeting

Upon a motion by David Burks, seconded by Jeremy Abbott, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes from May 13, 2026.

2. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.

3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations

Warren Tenney, AMWUA's Executive Director, explained that with the growing challenges facing the Colorado River, there would be three related presentations. One from staff providing a general overview about the current Colorado River situation, a presentation about the Secure Water Arizona Project that provides opportunities for cooperation during water shortages, and a presentation on ASU's research examining the relationship between Colorado River reductions and increased groundwater reliance, which confirms the need to invest in new water supplies to ensure a reliable water future.

Mr. Paul Bergelin, AMWUA's Water Policy Advisor, reported that the federal government continues to pursue a proposed 10-year operational framework for the Colorado River, with updated guidelines every two years. He explained that the proposal could require Lower Basin States to absorb significant water reductions based on priority water rights, Central Arizona Project users, at the greatest risk of shortages. Mr. Bergelin also noted that the Bureau of Reclamation is placing greater emphasis on protecting Lake Powell by maintaining higher reservoir elevations to preserve water storage and hydropower generation.

Mr. Bergelin reported that hydrologic conditions remain concerning, with Colorado River system storage continuing to decline and runoff into Lake Powell remaining well below average despite the spring runoff season. While emergency management actions have temporarily stabilized Lake Powell, they are expected to further reduce water levels in Lake Mead. He concluded by noting that experts continue to warn the Colorado River is becoming less reliable by producing less water, making long term reductions in water use and continued investment in sustainable water management essential for the future of the Basin.

David Burks asked about a recent news report regarding an agreement involving San Diego and requested additional information about its significance. Mr. Tenney explained that the agreement is to establish a framework to explore future interstate water exchange opportunities, including the potential for desalinated water produced by San Diego to be exchanged for Colorado River water that could become available to Arizona or other users. He clarified that the agreement is not yet an operational project but rather a commitment to continue exploring the concept. Mr. Tenney stated that Arizona should pursue every opportunity to secure additional water supplies and believes any available water source should be evaluated regardless of cost.

Mr. Bergelin added that many of the projects being considered through the Long-Term Water Augmentation Fund rely on similar water exchange mechanisms. He explained that these projects involve investing in new water supplies in exchange for additional

Colorado River water and noted that the San Diego agreement could serve as a useful model for future water augmentation efforts in Arizona.

4. Overview of Secure Water Arizona Program

Max Wilson, Water Resources Management Advisor for the City of Phoenix, presented an overview of the Secure Water Arizona Program (SWAP), a collaborative initiative developed by the Cities of Phoenix and Tucson to strengthen water supply reliability for municipal providers as they deal with post-2026 Colorado River operations. He explained that the program is intended to provide flexibility and voluntary solutions based on each water provider's water supplies and needs.

Dr. Wilson explained that SWAP is built on voluntary participation, willing buyer and willing seller transactions, and mutual agreement among participants. The program includes three primary components: an Emergency Reserve Program to provide short term assistance during water shortages, a Reduction Offset Program to support projects that create additional water supplies, and a Water Sharing Sandbox to encourage innovative water conservation and sharing agreements.

Mr. Wilson explained that participating entities would negotiate water saving projects directly with one another, with successful projects becoming available to all SWAP participants. He added that the program will be implemented in two phases, beginning with the Emergency Reserve Program and initial projects, followed by expanded governance and statewide participation. He concluded that SWAP is intended to provide Arizona water providers with a collaborative and flexible approach to improving long term water security.

Jeremy Abbott asked whether SWAP would create any conflicts with the Arizona Water Banking Authority's management of long-term storage credits. Mr. Wilson responded that the program does not change the cities' position that the Water Banking Authority should continue to fulfill its existing obligations. Instead, SWAP is intended to serve as a safety net if future shortages exceed the Water Banking Authority's available resources or if conflicts arise that prevent the timely distribution of water credits.

5. ASU Groundwater CuRVE Project

Cynthia Campbell, Cynthia Campbell, Director of Policy Innovation for the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative at Arizona State University, presented the findings of the Groundwater CuRVE project, which evaluates the long-term impacts of Colorado River shortages on groundwater conditions within the Phoenix Active Management Area. She explained that the study modeled multiple Colorado River shortage and water demand scenarios over a 50-year period and found that prolonged reductions in Colorado River supplies would significantly increase groundwater pumping while reducing groundwater recharge, resulting in widespread aquifer depletion. Even under the most

favorable scenarios, groundwater levels declined across much of the Phoenix Active Management Area, while more severe shortages produced substantially greater declines and placed significant strain on existing groundwater infrastructure. Ms. Campbell emphasized that groundwater cannot serve as a long-term replacement for Colorado River supplies and that Arizona must continue planning and investing in additional water augmentation projects to ensure future water security.

Joe Giudice asked how current aquifer conditions compare to those of 30 to 40 years ago. Ms. Campbell explained that the study was built using the Arizona Department of Water Resources' historic groundwater model and confirmed that groundwater levels have generally recovered since implementation of the Groundwater Management Act in 1980. However, the modeling projects that prolonged Colorado River shortages and increased groundwater pumping would reverse those gains over the next 50 years, eliminating aquifer recovery throughout the Phoenix Active Management Area. She added that the study used conservative water demand projections that accounted for slower growth and conservation efforts while also recognizing the use of existing alternative water supplies before additional groundwater pumping was modeled.

Mr. Tenney noted that water providers have long anticipated relying on groundwater, including long term storage credits and groundwater allowances, to help bridge the gap until new water supplies become available after 2026. He stated that the study reinforces the urgency to develop additional water supplies within the next decade and provides data confirming that groundwater alone cannot serve as a long-term solution.

Mr. Giudice also commented on other Arizona State University research regarding groundwater declines across the Colorado River Basin and asked how those findings compare to the Groundwater CURVE study. Ms. Campbell responded that while she was not directly involved with the broader basin wide research, it similarly found declining groundwater levels. She explained that the Groundwater CuRVE project focused specifically on the Phoenix Active Management Area and demonstrated that, despite historic aquifer recovery, prolonged Colorado River shortages would ultimately require increased groundwater pumping and reinforce the need for additional long term water supplies.

6. [2026 Legislative Session](#)

Aly Slobodzian, Government Relations Director, reported lawmakers were nearing the end of the legislative session and expected to finalize the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. She reported that the proposed \$18.3 billion budget includes a reduction to the general fund over four years. The Arizona Department of Water Resources received a 2 percent increase to its operating budget, while the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) would see a \$20 million transfer to the general fund. However, no reductions were made to the Long-Term Water Augmentation Fund, preserving the state's primary investment in developing new water supplies. Ms. Slobodzian noted that AMWUA

coordinated a coalition of 33 organizations advocating to protect this funding, emphasizing its importance following continued concerns over Colorado River shortages.

Ms. Slobodzian also reported that the budget includes a proposed \$6 million increase to the Colorado River Litigation Fund, expanding it from \$3 million to \$9 million, and extends a reimbursement program supporting infrastructure for large economic development projects. She noted that statutory authority for advanced water purification was not included in the budget.

Regarding legislation, Ms. Slobodzian reported that AMWUA removed its opposition to Senate Bill 1200 after amendments addressed concerns by limiting the bill to existing lakes, restricting groundwater use, and phasing out private effluent lakes by 2030. She also reported that Senate Bill 1448 to protect utility workers passed with AMWUA's amendment to include municipal water providers and was awaiting the Governor's action. Several additional priority bills remain under consideration, while others are not expected to advance before the close of the legislative session.

Barry Aarons, AMWUA's contract lobbyist, added that legislative leaders appear to be close to reaching agreement on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, although final negotiations could extend through the weekend if necessary. He noted that leadership from the Senate, House, and Governor's Office appear to be aligned on the budget framework and expressed optimism that the session would conclude soon. Mr. Aarons also discussed House Concurrent Resolution 2016, stating that concerns remain over its potential to restrict municipalities' ability to adjust fees and rates during emergencies, including water related needs. He added that political and practical considerations may make the proposal difficult to advance. Mr. Aarons concluded by noting that tax conformity was included in the budget, while Proposition 123 was not, and emphasized that legislative priorities continue to be shaped by affordability concerns as the session draws to a close.

7. Agreement with the University of Arizona for the Smartscape Program

Mr. Tenney presented the proposed agreement with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to continue AMWUA's water efficient landscaping education program. He explained that AMWUA has partnered with the University of Arizona since 2009 to provide training for landscape professionals on water efficient landscape design, irrigation, and maintenance practices. The one-year agreement totals \$48,000 and is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Upon a motion by Jeremy Abbott, seconded by Andy Granger, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously recommend to the AMWUA Board of Directors to approve the agreement with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

8. Office Refurbishment and Reimbursements per Lease Agreement

Mr. Tenney reported that AMWUA is eligible to receive more than \$40,000 in lease reimbursement funds for office refurbishment and recommended replacing the office carpet, which has been in place since approximately 2011. Although the project will be reimbursed by the landlord, Board approval was required because the estimated \$32,000 cost exceeds AMWUA's procurement threshold.

Upon a motion by Barbara Chappell, seconded by Ron Serio, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously recommended that the AMWUA Board of Directors approve the office carpet replacement project.

9. Fiscal Year 2027 AMWUA Budget

Mr. Tenney presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget of \$1,901,717, a 1.7 percent increase over the current budget. He noted the increase reflects funding for the KTAR sponsorship while leaving the vacant Water Policy Analyst position unfilled. He also reported that member assessments will decrease due to available carryover funds.

Upon a motion by Joe Giudice, seconded by David Burks, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously recommended that the AMWUA Board of Directors approve the Fiscal Year 2027 budget to the Board of Directors.

C. Member Reports

No reports were provided.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenney reported that the Salt River Project reservoir system was 51 percent full, compared to 65 percent one year ago. He also updated the Management Board on the Arizona Water Banking Authority, noting AMWUA's concerns that the Authority's annual report does not include a long-term plan for using water banking credits to address future municipal and industrial shortages. He added that the issue is expected to receive further discussion.

Rhett Larson provided an update on a recent Maricopa County Superior Court ruling that invalidated the Arizona Department of Water Resources' rules implementing the Alternative Designation of Assured Water Supply program. He noted that the decision is expected to be appealed by ADWR and that its long-term impacts remain uncertain.

E. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

F. Adjournment

Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

AMWUA Management Board

INFORMATION SUMMARY

August 12, 2026

Post-2026 Colorado River Operations and Impacts for Arizona

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Sustainable Water Management

Promote policies and actions to sustain and safeguard members' water resources by preparing for Colorado River reductions and managing a stressed aquifer.

- Analyze and evaluate developments related to post-2026 Colorado River operations and their implications for CAP deliveries in 2027.

SUMMARY

On July 31, 2026, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for 2027-2036 Colorado River operations. Reclamation's preferred alternative is a 10-year framework with operations/deliveries determined every two years. This includes having up to 3-million-acre feet reductions annually that would be imposed on the Lower Basin States by priority. As the most junior user, the CAP would be cut first and could see deliveries eliminated under the preferred alternative.

In the Final EIS, Reclamation indicated it would utilize the Lower Basin Proposal for the first set of two-year guidelines. The three Lower Basin States along with Mexico will share a 1.5 million acre-feet annual reduction in 2027 and 2028. That equates to a 760,000 AF cut to Arizona each year, which will reduce CAP M&I subcontracts by 20%. Additionally, Nevada will contribute 100,000 acre-feet and Arizona and California each will contribute at least 300,000 acre-feet to leave in Lake Mead through 2028. While Arizona's reductions are the greatest it has ever experienced, they would be more draconian if California was not willing to take reductions and contribute system conservation under the Lower Basin Proposal.

The Final EIS modeling shows that even the preferred alternative may not stabilize the system in very dry years. If that happens, Reclamation indicated it would take emergency measures to stabilize the system, which could include reduced releases from Lake Powell (that would put Lake Mead at greater risk of dead pool) and additional Lower Basin reductions.

Reclamation is expected to release its Record of Decision, which will confirm operations for 2027 and 2028, before the August 12th Management Board meeting.

AMWUA staff will provide its analysis of the Final EIS and its impacts to the Colorado River system and to Arizona at the August 12th Management Board meeting.

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss the Colorado River situation, Final EIS, and post-2026 impacts to Arizona.

AMWUA MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

August 12, 2026

Arizona Water Banking Authority Firming Responsibility

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Sustainable Water Management

Promote policies and actions to sustain and safeguard members' water resources by preparing for Colorado River reductions and managing a stressed aquifer.

- Work with Arizona Water Banking Authority, Central Arizona Project, and stakeholders to develop an acceptable plan for firming M&I subcontracts in 2027.

SUMMARY

In May, AMWUA and the Southern Arizona Water Users Association sent letters to the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) requesting clarification for how the AWBA would distribute credits to firm Municipal & Industrial (M&I) subcontractors with the projected 20% reduction in 2027. This request was reiterated at the AWBA Commission's June 8, 2026 meeting. As a result, there were additional discussions and meetings about the AWBA's firming responsibilities in times of shortage, which led the AWBA Commission to adopt two policies. The first policy stated that the AWBA would fully firm M&I subcontractors in 2027. The second policy stated that the AWBA would provide credits to M&I subcontractors who leave their Colorado River water in Lake Mead as part of Arizona's system conservation contribution under the Lower Basin Proposal in 2027 and 2028. The AWBA Commission has indicated that it plans to hold broader discussions about the long-term approach for AWBA firming.

AMWUA staff will provide an overview of the recent AWBA activities and the potential next steps for discussing the AWBA's firming responsibilities to M&I subcontractors through 2028 and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to discuss and ask questions about the Arizona Water Banking Authority's firming responsibilities.

AMWUA MANAGEMENT BOARD

INFORMATION SUMMARY

August 12, 2026

Post-2026 Conservation and Demand Management Update

ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

Demand Management

Help cities respond swiftly and effectively during drought and shortage by maximizing demand management.

- Translate research into emergency shortage actions to be implemented in a provider's overall demand management strategy.
- Develop Colorado River shortage strategy options to enhance members' drought preparedness plans and demand management and curtailment strategies.
- Strengthen coordinated implementation of demand management actions across members and increase engagement in state and national policy discussions.

SUMMARY

AMWUA staff has been working with its members' conservation and water resources teams to increase conservation actions that would be beneficial with Colorado River reductions after 2026. AMWUA staff give an update on the development of an outdoor watering schedule, coordination on water waste efforts, and analyzing how to enhance demand management for Commercial Industrial and Institutional (CII) users, including data centers and cooling towers.

RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss AMWUA's current conservation and demand management efforts.