



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

ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

August 27, 2026 – 11:00 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: 865 3483 4377
(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 25, 2026 Meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: September 24, 2026 @ 11:00 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. Executive Director's Report

D. Future Agenda Items

E. 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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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
June 25, 2026
HYBRID MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Scott Anderson, Gilbert, President
Mayor Mark Freeman, Mesa, Vice President -
Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, Phoenix, Secretary/Treasurer
Councilmember Matt Orlando, Chandler
Councilmember Bart Turner, Glendale
Councilmember Laura Kaino, Goodyear
Councilmember Jennifer Crawford, Peoria
Councilmember Nikki Amberg, Tempe

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson, Avondale
Mayor Lisa Borowsky, Scottsdale

AMWUA STAFF PRESENT

Tyenesha Fields, AMWUA	Rhett Larson, AMWUA	Sheri Trapp, AMWUA
Michelle Barclay, AMWUA	Warren Tenney, AMWUA	Aly Slobodzian, AMWUA
Dr. Caitlyn Hall, AMWUA		

A. Call to Order

Mayor Scott Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Approval of the Minutes from the May 28, 2026, Meeting

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bart Turner, seconded by Mayor Mark Freeman, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the May 28, 2026 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

2. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.

4. Overview of Secure Water Arizona Program

Mayor Anderson explained that Agenda Item #4, Overview of Secure Water Arizona Program would be presented first due the presenter having a scheduling conflict.

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 based on voluntary participation with willing buyer and willing transactions. The program includes three primary components: an Emergency Reserve to provide short term assistance during water shortages, a Reduction Offset Program to develop projects that create additional water supplies for Priority 4 users, and a Water Sharing Sandbox to encourage innovative water conservation and water sharing partnerships.

Mr. Wilson noted that SWAP would be implemented in phases, beginning with the establishment of the Emergency Reserve and initial pilot projects, followed by expanded governance and broader statewide participation. He concluded that the program is designed to promote collaboration, develop new water sharing opportunities, and improve Arizona's long term water security.

Councilmember Bart Turner asked how the Water Sharing Sandbox would function and whether it would consist of a shared pool of water. Mr. Wilson explained that the program would not create a physical reservoir of water. Instead, participating entities would fund individual water conservation projects, with the resulting water savings allocated to those funding the projects. In response to additional questions, Mr. Wilson explained that several legal mechanisms could facilitate water transfers under future Colorado River operating guidelines and that water would likely be conveyed through the Central Arizona Project canal using the existing System Use Agreement.

Councilmember Nikki Amberg asked whether the program could eventually expand beyond Arizona municipalities to include tribes or water users in neighboring states. Mr. Wilson responded that SWAP is currently envisioned as an Arizona based program but acknowledged there may be future opportunities to incorporate projects involving out of state water supplies, such as desalination, if they prove beneficial.

Mayor Mark Freeman asked whether the program would focus solely on Central Arizona Project water or include other water sources. Mr. Wilson replied that the

program is primarily focused on Central Arizona Project water, with limited use of long-term storage credits to support the Emergency Reserve Program.

3. Colorado River Operations and Impacts for Arizona

Mr. Tenney reviewed the current hydrology for the Colorado River and the anticipated federal actions that are supposed to be made known at the end of July. He emphasized that Arizona must prepare for a future with significantly less Colorado River water by investing in new water supplies, expanding infrastructure, and improving conservation efforts. He also stressed the importance of the Arizona Water Banking Authority providing a clear plan for using stored water credits to offset future municipal and industrial subcontract shortages. He concluded by noting that AMWUA will continue advocating for full access to those credits while advancing conservation initiatives, water supply planning, and collaborative programs such as the Secure Water Arizona Program.

Councilmember Nikki Amberg asked whether Arizona would still be required to repay the federal loan used to construct the Central Arizona Project if the federal government allowed the canal to go dry. Rhett Larson responded that the federal government would likely maintain that repayment obligations remain in effect despite any reductions in water deliveries. He added that such action would likely result in legal challenges by the affected states and noted that allowing the canal to go dry could also damage the infrastructure, requiring additional rehabilitation costs before water deliveries could resume.

5. ASU Groundwater CuRVE Project

Sarah Porter, Director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University, presented research examining the long-term impacts of Colorado River shortages on groundwater conditions in the Phoenix Active Management Area. She explained that the study evaluated how reduced Central Arizona Project supplies would increase groundwater pumping while simultaneously reducing groundwater recharge, creating significant long-term stress on the aquifer.

Ms. Porter reported that the modeling found groundwater cannot serve as a long-term replacement for Colorado River water. Under each of the different shortage scenarios, groundwater pumping increased substantially, aquifer levels declined across most of the Phoenix Active Management Area, and existing groundwater infrastructure would be strained. She noted that while eliminating agricultural groundwater pumping in the Phoenix area would improve aquifer conditions, it would not fully resolve the projected aquifer declines.

Councilmember Bart Turner asked whether the study evaluated the effects of land subsidence resulting from increased groundwater pumping and the potential impacts

on public infrastructure. Ms. Porter responded that the current study did not model subsidence but noted that Arizona Department of Water Resources staff recommended it as a future phase of the research. She also explained that the study did not account for additional groundwater impacts that could result if cities and tribes leave more Colorado River water in Lake Mead under future agreements, meaning actual aquifer declines could be more severe than those projected.

Ms. Porter concluded that Arizona must continue developing new water supplies and water augmentation projects, emphasizing that groundwater should remain an emergency backup rather than a long-term solution to Colorado River shortages.

6. 2026 Legislative Session

Aly Slobodzian, Government Relations Director, reported that the 2026 legislative session concluded with positive outcomes for AMWUA. She noted that two AMWUA supported bills were signed into law, none of the bills opposed by AMWUA were enacted, and the Fiscal Year 2027 budget preserved the Long-Term Water Augmentation Fund while increasing funding for the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Colorado River Litigation Fund.

Ms. Slobodzian also highlighted AMWUA's successful efforts to defeat legislation that would have limited municipal water management flexibility, restricted rate setting, or reduced access to Central Arizona Project water. Looking ahead, she stated that AMWUA will focus on securing Arizona Water Banking Authority firming, increasing flexibility for water providers to meet demands, and advocating for long term investments in new water supplies as Arizona prepares for post 2026 Colorado River operations.

7. Consultant Agreement with Aarons & Monti LLC

Mr. Tenney presented the proposed agreement to retain Aarons and Monti as AMWUA's legislative consulting firm for an additional year. He noted that the firm has served as AMWUA's contract lobbyist for the past 13 years and continues to provide valuable legislative expertise and support in partnership with AMWUA's Government Relations Director. The agreement maintains the current monthly fee of \$4,500 and is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Upon a motion by Mayor Mark Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Laura Kaino, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the agreement with Aarons and Monti.

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

Warren Tenney, AMWUA's Executive Director, presented the proposed agreement with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to continue the Smartscape program. He

explained that AMWUA has partnered with the University of Arizona since 2009 to provide training on water efficient landscape design, irrigation, and maintenance practices that improve outdoor water conservation. The one-year agreement totals \$48,000 and is funded through AMWUA's Conservation Efficiency budget and the Arizona Department of Water Resources Municipal Water Management Assistance Program.

Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington commented on the importance of increasing participation in water conservation efforts, noting that conservation will become increasingly important as Arizona prepares for future Colorado River reductions. She encouraged continued efforts to strengthen and expand conservation programs to help address future water supply challenges.

Upon a motion by Mayor Mark Freeman, seconded by Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the agreement with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

9. Office Refurbishment and Reimbursements per Lease Agreement

Mr. Tenney presented a proposal to replace the office carpet using lease funded office refurbishment funds. He explained that the \$31,715 project will be reimbursed by the landlord but requires Board approval because it exceeds AMWUA's \$30,000 procurement threshold. The Management Board recommended approval of the project.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bart Turner, seconded by Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the office carpet replacement project.

10. Fiscal Year 2027 AMWUA Budget

Mr. Tenney reported that no changes had been made to Fiscal Year 2027 budget since the proposed budget was presented at the May meeting. The budget totals \$1,901,717, a 1.7 percent increase over the current fiscal year. He explained that the increase reflects funding for the KTAR sponsorship while leaving the Water Policy Analyst position unfilled.

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, seconded by Councilmember Laura Kaino, the AMWUA Board of Directors unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

C. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenney reported that the Salt River Project reservoir system was 51 percent full, compared to 63 percent one year earlier, following one of the lowest runoff seasons on record.

Mr. Tenney also reported that AMWUA is expanding public outreach on Advanced Water Purification through its KTAR partnership. He stated that the effort is intended to educate the public on the safety and importance of advanced water purification as a reliable future water supply option while continuing to coordinate messaging with other water stakeholders.

D. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

E. Adjournment

Mayor Scott Anderson adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

August 27, 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, The 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.

As of the writing of this report, Reclamation has yet to release its Record of Decision and the operating guidelines for 2027 and 2028. It is anticipated that it will be released by the August 27th AMWUA Board of Directors meeting.

AMWUA staff will provide its analysis of the Final EIS, the Record of Decision, and operating guidelines for 2027 and 2028, assuming it has been released, along with the impacts of the federal decision to the Colorado River system and to Arizona at the August 27th Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

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

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

August 27, 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 Board of Directors is requested to discuss and ask questions about the Arizona Water Banking Authority's firming responsibilities.

AMWUA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION SUMMARY

August 27, 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 will 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 Board of Directors is requested to ask questions and discuss AMWUA's current conservation and demand management efforts.