



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

**ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION  
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

***Wednesday, December 11, 2024***

**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: 845 3218 4774**  
(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 from the November 13, 2024 Meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: January 15, 2025
3. 2025 Legislative Session and Potential Legislation
4. Messaging the Municipal Perspective for the 2025 Legislative Session
5. Post-2026 Colorado River Operational Guidelines
6. 2025 AMWUA Management Board Chair and Vice-Chair

**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 Management Board. Members of the AMWUA Management Board 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](http://www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings), or by request.

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**Arizona Municipal Water Users Association**

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## MANAGEMENT BOARD

*MEETING MINUTES*

**NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

**HYBRID MEETING**

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Serio, Glendale, Chair  
Craig Caggiano for Tara Ford, Tempe, Vice Chair  
Kirk Beaty, Avondale  
John Knudson, Chandler  
Eric Braun for Jessica Marlow, Gilbert  
Ray Diaz for Barbara Chappell, Goodyear  
Chris Hassert, Mesa  
David Burks, Peoria  
Nazario Prieto for Troy Hayes, Phoenix  
Kevin Rose, Scottsdale

### OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Aarons, Aarons Co.	Harry Cooper, AMWUA	Christen Monti, Aarons Co.
Michelle Barclay, AMWUA	Kathy Ferris, AMWUA	Michael Monti, Aarons Co.
Paul Bergelin, AMWUA	TyeNesha Fields, AMWUA	John Newman, CAP
Cynthia Campbell, Phoenix	Simone Kjolsrud, Chandler	Haley Rahlf, Goodyear
		Warren Tenney, AMWUA

### A. Call to Order

Mr. Serio called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

### B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. [Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.](#)
2. [2024 Legislative Agenda](#)

Mr. Tenney highlighted the key priorities proposed in the 2025 legislative agenda, which emphasize securing Arizona's water future. The agenda encourages legislators to understand the foundational role of water security in supporting communities and the economy. It advocates for investments in new water supplies, such as advanced purification systems and infrastructure expansion like Bartlett Dam. The agenda also supports legislation to protect the sustainability of groundwater resources, stabilize the Colorado River system, and enhance water efficiency and conservation practices. The agenda supports legislation to ensure the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality are effective in meeting their statutory responsibilities.

Mr. Serio called for a motion to recommend the 2025 legislative agenda for approval by the AMWUA Board of Directors. Mr. Knudson made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beaty.

Barry Aarons provided his perspective on the recent elections that resulted in the Republicans gaining a few more seats in the State Senate and House. He discussed the outcomes of the leadership elections in the Arizona Legislature, with Steve Montenegro being elected as Speaker of the House and Warren Petersen remaining Senate President, and how that could impact water legislation. He acknowledged the role that InterGovs will contribute to the session. Mr. Aarons cautioned about potential increases in water bills during the upcoming legislative session and being prepared for various scenarios.

### 3. [Update on Post-2026 Colorado River Operating Guidelines](#)

Paul Bergelin provided an update on the uncertainties surrounding the Post-2026 guidelines for the Colorado River due to the delay in the Bureau of Reclamation's Draft Environmental Impact Analysis and the ongoing negotiations between Upper and Lower Basin States. The Colorado River Compact, established in 1922, is becoming more of a central point emphasized by the Lower Basin States. The Compact allocates 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF) annually to each basin and requires that the Upper Basin States are not to cause the river's flow at Lee Ferry to fall below 75 MAF over a rolling, ten-year period. Mr. Bergelin referenced the additional federal frameworks provided by the 1956 Colorado River Basin Storage Act and the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act that support the Compact. The Lower Basin States have emphasized the importance of incorporating the Colorado River Compact into the Bureau of Reclamation's NEPA analysis.

Cynthia Campbell presented Phoenix's considerations regarding storage in Lake Mead for Reclamation to factor in managing post-2026 guidelines. Phoenix proposed transitioning from the current Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) program to a Reservoir Storage Account (RSA) model. The RSA would provide operational neutrality and prioritize conservation while supporting dam operations and hydropower. Ms. Campbell also proposed pre-approvals for specific types of conservation projects and outlined voluntary transfer mechanisms to mitigate shortages effectively.

Mr. Knudson asked can you give some additional examples of conservation methods that might warrant an RSA? Ms. Campbell responded The proposal advocates expanding recognized water conservation methods for agricultural users beyond fallowing fields to include practices like crop shifting, infrastructure improvements (e.g., canal lining), and modernized irrigation techniques (e.g., drip irrigation). These methods aim to enhance water efficiency and create storage opportunities, which are currently limited to fallowing under existing guidelines.,

### 4. [First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Report](#)

The financial report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025 was presented, showing a favorable budget variance of \$41,041. Mr. Tenney noted that this variance is expected to decrease as vacant positions are filled. The report included statements of revenues and expenses as well as the balance sheet.

Mr. Braun made the motion to recommend that the AMWUA Board accept the quarterly financial statements, seconded by Mr. Hassert and approved without opposition.

### 5. [Nominating Committee for Board Chair and Vice Chair for 2025](#)

Mr. Tenney outlined the process for electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the AMWUA Management Board. Candidates must meet specific qualifications, including consistent attendance and prior service on the Management Board.

Mr. Serio announced that he, Tara Ford and Troy Hayes would be the nominating committee to identify qualified candidates for these leadership positions. The committee will present recommendations at the December 11th meeting.

### **C. Member Reports**

Members provided updates on developments in their respective municipalities. Mr. Rose shared information about Scottsdale's recent election, emphasizing the importance of securing council support to advance critical water-related initiatives. Mr. Caggiano reported that Tempe signed on to the advanced purification feasibility study.

### **D. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Tenney shared about visiting the Tokyo Metropolitan Waterworks Museum. His report included historical context, engineering challenges, and the city's old and modern approach to water quality management and supply.

### **E. Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were requested.

### **F. Adjournment**

Mr. Serio called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was approved without opposition at 11:39 a.m.

**MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**INFORMATION SUMMARY**  
**December 11, 2024**

## 2025 Legislative Session and Potential Legislation

### ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

#### Legislation

Effectively advocate with one voice at the Legislature.

- Monitor, analyze and clarify state and federal legislation of interest to our members.
- Engage with legislators to inform them about the issues important to AMWUA including identifying and working with legislators to champion water issues.

*Strategic Plan: Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Reinforce Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy*

### SUMMARY

The 2025 legislative session will begin on January 13, 2025. It is anticipated that water will continue to be a key focus of the Legislature.

At the December 2, 2024, meeting of the Governor's Water Policy Council, ADWR introduced the State's proposal for the Ag-to-Urban concept. ADWR stated that this concept was worth pursuing because it could reduce groundwater pumping if done correctly. To that end, ADWR discussed seven "guardrails" that would be necessary for this concept, which include limiting this program's scope of agricultural lands within a Designated provider's service area, requiring 3/5 years of past use, requiring additional conservation measures on any converted acreage, and sunseting the program after a certain period of time. There are other guardrails, such as the conversion rate and portability of groundwater, that ADWR is still refining. ADWR said it intends to have a broad stakeholder process, including additional Council meetings, to develop the final Ag-to-Urban proposal which would then be adopted through a rulemaking process. Rep. Griffin responded that she would pursue this concept through legislation.

Also, ADEQ is expected to introduce legislation regarding its oversight in the treatment process for Advanced Water Purification. CAWCD is considering legislation to modify how it calculates CAGR's annual membership dues to maintain their stability and equity. We anticipate that the Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona will introduce legislation to work around the new ADAWS rules and the Phoenix AMA groundwater model.

AMWUA staff will provide an overview about these issues.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is requested that the AMWUA Management Board ask questions and discuss potential water legislation for the 2025 legislative session.

## MANAGEMENT BOARD

### INFORMATION SUMMARY

December 11, 2024

# Messaging the Municipal Perspective for the 2025 Legislative Session

## ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

### Legislation

Effectively advocate with one voice at the Legislature.

- Engage with legislators to inform them about the issues important to AMWUA including identifying and working with legislators to champion water issues.

*Strategic Plan: Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Reinforce Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Pursue Post-2025 Water Policy*

### Enhanced Communication

Advance how AMWUA conveys the municipal perspective on water, stays in front of water issues, and better communicates and personalizes the impact to the average citizen.

- Engage with regional partners, agencies, and media to facilitate the coordination of consistent messaging to educate the public and decision-makers on a variety of topics, including the implications of reduced Colorado River water and groundwater challenges.

*Strategic Plan: Educate – Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Excel as an Expert and Resource, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Interconnect Disciplines*

## SUMMARY

We anticipate another active legislative session for water due to the unmet demand projected in the Phoenix AMA groundwater model, rural groundwater management, and the anticipated reduction in Arizona's Colorado River allotment after 2026. In preparation for the session, we have sought to elevate the importance of water security so that state leaders prioritize actions that support, not harm, the AMWUA cities' ability to deliver water to 3.7 million residents and businesses critical to the national economy. AMWUA staff would like to review messaging that has been developed to convey to Legislators the importance of legislation that upholds the water security AMWUA's members provide. This messaging is consistent with the 2025 legislative agenda that was adopted last month by the AMWUA Board of Directors.

The key audience for this messaging is legislators, so we have worked to keep the language straightforward and concise. As we did with our previous Colorado River Shortage Awareness Campaign, the messaging is to provide key points on which we can be consistent and coordinated as we work with the Legislature. We received productive input and feedback from the InterGovs and the Water Resources Advisory Group.

The first attachment is the brief on water security, which serves as our umbrella message. The second attachment is an example of additional fact sheets that provide additional information. The second attachment is specifically about the anticipated reductions to Colorado River water and why it matters. AMWUA staff is developing additional fact sheets about the implication of reduced groundwater availability, Advanced Water Purification, and the expansion of Bartlett Dam.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is requested that the AMWUA Management Board ask questions and discuss the messaging to convey the municipal perspective on water to the Legislature.

*Attachment – Water Security Brief*

*Attachment – Water Security and Colorado River Fact Sheet*



## **WATER SECURITY**

### **THE BEDROCK OF OUR THRIVING COMMUNITIES AND THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR ECONOMY**

#### **WHAT IS WATER SECURITY?**

The assurance that residents and businesses have access to clean, reliable water. This is the direct result of the AMWUA cities' planning and investment of billions of dollars in their water resources and infrastructure.

#### **WHY WATER SECURITY MATTERS**

- It is the foundation of our thriving economy and vibrant communities.
- It gives residents and businesses the confidence to make Arizona their permanent home.

#### **THE CHALLENGES**

Arizona is facing converging water challenges that threaten its water security.

- The AMWUA cities have spent billions of dollars to utilize surface water sources and significantly reduce their groundwater pumping. However, their supply of Colorado River water will decrease after 2026, when new cuts will be established.
- Cities will need to offset those anticipated reductions to Colorado River water.
- The Phoenix-area aquifer is stressed and cannot support additional groundwater pumping. Failure to protect the aquifer will jeopardize the ability of the AMWUA cities to meet the water needs of their communities.

#### **THE SOLUTIONS**

Our water challenges require prudent solutions.

- Arizona must prioritize developing and investing in new water supplies to ensure long-term water security. This includes supporting immediate projects like Advanced Water Purification and expanding Bartlett Dam.
- Protect our stressed aquifers to ensure the sustainability of limited groundwater.

#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- The water security we provide is vital for Arizona's resilience and economic prosperity.
- Water security requires a continuous commitment to planning and investment.
- State leaders and municipal water providers must work together on policies that protect our water security.

*The ten AMWUA municipalities serve 3.7 million residents, over half of Arizona's population, but use just 11 percent of the state's water. This accomplishment results from careful planning and purposeful investments, ensuring Arizona's water security.*

## Colorado River and Water Security

### Arizona will have less Colorado River water after 2026.

- The river is producing less water due to drier and warmer conditions in the basin, which are reducing runoff from snowpack.
- In the last century, the river was allocated to deliver 16.5 million acre-feet among the seven Colorado River Basin States and Mexico. However, the river is now only producing 12.4 million acre-feet and could decline by an additional 20%.
- The federal government must adopt new guidelines before 2027 on how to distribute shortages among the seven Colorado River Basin states.
- The exact reductions to the Central Arizona Project (CAP) are unknown, but the cuts to water providers and tribes are anticipated to be at least 20%.

### Why does this matter to the AMWUA cities, and why you should care?

- Over the past four decades, the AMWUA cities have made significant investments to use surface water sources, including the Colorado River. These efforts provided the water security to build a thriving economy while considerably reducing their groundwater reliance.
- Now, these providers will need to find ways to offset Colorado River reductions, which will require new investments.
- Due to their unique water supply portfolios, these cuts will impact each water provider differently.
- To compensate for Colorado River reductions, municipal providers may need to recover water stored underground and pump groundwater set aside in their assured water supply designations.
- The AMWUA cities are vigilant about protecting our stressed and limited aquifers because allowing new users to pump groundwater will compromise their ability to serve existing residents.

### Takeaways:

- If CAP deliveries to cities are cut to zero or one water provider has difficulty meeting its communities' water demands, Arizona's economy would be severely threatened.
- The uncertainty surrounding the Colorado River requires wise decisions and solutions to safeguard our water security for present and future generations.
- Investing in new water supplies, such as Advanced Water Purification and the expansion of Bartlett Dam, is critical to meeting Arizona's current and future demands.

*The ten AMWUA municipalities serve 3.7 million residents, over half of Arizona's population, but use just 11 percent of the state's water. This accomplishment results from careful planning and purposeful investments, ensuring Arizona's water security.*

## MANAGEMENT BOARD

### INFORMATION SUMMARY

December 11, 2024

# Post-2026 Colorado River Operating Guidelines

## ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

### Colorado River Transition

Assist, monitor, and coordinate the impacts of reduced Colorado River water to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impact*

## SUMMARY

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) released short descriptions of the five alternatives it plans analyze further as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for developing the post-2026 Colorado River guidelines. None of these alternatives matched those that were submitted to Reclamation. Instead, Reclamation selected different components of the alternatives and concepts it received and combined those together to form these five alternatives. The intention seems to be to provide a broad range of analysis for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Notably, Reclamation did not identify a preferred alternative. Reclamation plans to provide additional information on the alternatives at this month's Colorado River Water Users Association meeting in Las Vegas and to release a more detailed report later this month.

Although it is difficult to determine the implications of each alternative, one concern is that they still place most of the reductions on the Lower Basin, which could jeopardize deliveries to the CAP. The CAWCD Board held a special meeting on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> to pass a resolution calling on Reclamation to analyze compliance with the Colorado River Compact as part of its NEPA analysis and to analyze the Lower Basin alternative as part of the NEPA process.

AMWUA staff will provide an update on alternatives released Colorado River negotiations and additional information on the NEPA process.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss the Colorado River negotiations.

**MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
*INFORMATION SUMMARY*  
December 11, 2024

## **2025 AMWUA Management Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

### **STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE**

Operational Principles – Facilitate our Strength in Numbers

### **SUMMARY**

The AMWUA Management Board is to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. To accomplish this, the current Management Board Chair appointed a three-member nominating committee to recommend a candidate for Chair and a candidate for Vice-Chair at the December 11, 2024 meeting.

Per the AMWUA Bylaws, the qualifications for serving as an officer are 1) serve as a member of the current Management Board for at least the immediately preceding twelve months (January 2024 – December 2024); 2) have not missed more than three Management Board meetings in the preceding twelve months; 3) be able to serve at least one year as Chair or Vice-Chair; and 4) the Chair and Vice-Chair may serve a maximum of two consecutive years in the same position.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Management Board is requested to consider and approve the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025.