



# 2022 Legislative Priorities

## Water for Arizona Coalition

The Water for Arizona Coalition (WAC) supports the Legislature addressing critical water policy issues that will help ensure all Arizona communities have water and economic security now and into the future. Our 2022 priorities will focus on the following.

- **Protect rural groundwater:** Rural Arizona communities should be able to plan and manage their water resources to secure their future. Right now, throughout rural Arizona, groundwater pumping can occur even if it dries up neighboring wells and drains the aquifer. Counties outside of Active Management Areas (AMAs) need more tools to manage their precious water resources. Stewarding groundwater in rural Arizona will help communities prevent the drying up of wells, rivers, and springs, all of which rely on groundwater.
- **Increase public funding and capacity for sound water management:** Attracting, hiring, and retaining groundwater modelers, engineers, hydrologists, policy experts, and other water professionals has been a perennial concern for our state agencies since the 2008 Great Recession. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) need additional funding to adequately fulfill their responsibilities ensuring the sustainability and quality of our water supplies. We also need continued investment in ADWR and the court system to advance the General Stream Adjudication process, which will provide more certainty over who has the rights to what amount of water. And finally, ADEQ needs the ability to increase fees for their services (fees today are the same as they were in 2008) to ensure they can carry out their statutory duties to protect Arizona's water quality.
- **Protect groundwater in the Active Management Areas:** WAC supports the extension of the 5th Management Plan as well as authorization of a 6th Management Plan to ensure the Arizona Department of Water Resources can continue to manage and enforce the provisions of the Groundwater Management Code. WAC will defend against shortsighted proposals that would weaken groundwater protections adopted in the Groundwater Management Code.

*The Water for Arizona Coalition is comprised of Arizonans who support policies and innovative practices to ensure a reliable water supply to meet the state's needs. Collectively, we have over 60,000 Arizona members, as well as hundreds of hunter, angler, business, and outdoor recreation partners around the state. Learn more at: [waterforarizona.com](http://waterforarizona.com).*

