March 22, 2022

The Honorable Governor Doug Ducey  
Governor’s Office  
Arizona State Capitol Complex  
1700 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Management of Groundwater Outside of Active Management Areas (AMAs)

Dear Governor Ducey,

We are an informal working group of stakeholders that evolved from the Non-AMA Groundwater Committee of the Governor’s Water Augmentation, Innovation and Conservation Council (GWAICCC). We formed on our own volition to encourage broader, more continuous discussion of groundwater pumping concerns developing outside of Active Management Areas and how cooperative management approaches can help to sustain our remaining water supplies.

Arizona’s domestic, industrial, agricultural, economic and environmental needs for water are self-evident. As representatives of non-AMA areas and water professionals, we have participated in discussions resulting in proposed legislation that can help preserve local groundwater resources. While it is dismaying that proposed bills identifying solutions are prevented from being discussed further in the appropriate legislative body, it is life-changing for those whose water supplies continue to diminish or have dried up completely.

Year after year water managers and residents see good proposed water legislation that was stakeholder vetted yet never heard in legislative committees. Each year rural water issues continue to grow. To this end, Arizona cannot rely solely on the merits of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, and a “one size fits all” perspective is not working for water challenged areas within our state. Considerations should be given for local management or regional control of water resources that address local water issues.

Partisanship should not play a role resolving our state’s water issues when constituents of all parties have much to lose. Working together to solve water issues is imperative for the future of Arizona. As our elected officials, we encourage you to provide opportunities for proposed water bills to be discussed by all interested stakeholders at the appropriate committee and give water management proposals recognition by taking appropriate action through the legislative process.

Thank you for your support to sustain Arizona’s water supplies for all areas and interests of the state.

Sincerely,

Supporters’ acknowledgement on page 2
Kon Doba
Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Assn.

Austin Aslan
Councilor, City of Flagstaff

Kathy Ferris
Former Director, ADWR

Jamie Kelley
Mohave County Water Authority

Jen Miles
Mayor, City of Kingman

Haley Paul
Water for Arizona Coalition

Phil Goode
Mayor, City of Prescott

Jocelyn Gibbon
Water for Arizona Coalition

Don Bills
USGS (retired)

Mark Holmes
Water Advisor, Chino Valley

Donna Michaels
Supervisor, Yavapai County

Erin Young
City of Flagstaff

Clarinda Vail
Mayor, Town of Tusayan

Travis Lingenfelter
Supervisor, Mohave County