



**DOUGLAS A. DUCEY**  
Governor

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Director

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES**

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January 22, 2019

Ms. Lindsey Perry, Auditor General  
Office of the Auditor General  
2910 North 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 410  
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Dear Ms. Perry:

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) appreciates this opportunity to respond to the report of the Auditor General, *A Performance Audit and Sunset Review of the Arizona Department of Water Resources*. As discussed in the enclosed response, ADWR will implement the recommendations contained in the report

We appreciate the professional and collaborative approach of the Office of the Auditor General during the audit process.

Sincerely,

Thomas Buschatzke  
Director

Enclosure: ADWR Recommendation Response

**Finding 1:** Department behind schedule in adopting AMA management plans, thus delaying its assessment of progress toward achieving AMA goals and modification of plans' conservation requirements

**Recommendation 1:** The Department should comply with its statutory requirements to develop and promulgate the remaining management plans for the five AMAs.

Department Response: The finding of the Auditor General is agreed to and the audit recommendation will be implemented.

Response explanation: Completion of the management plans is underway.

**Recommendation 2:** The Department should complete a staffing analysis to determine the appropriate level of AMA staffing needed to complete the AMA management plans, including whether cross-training could help address staffing needs, and assign staff resources accordingly.

Department Response: The finding of the Auditor General is agreed to and the audit recommendation will be implemented.

Response explanation: ADWR is creating 2.0 FTE positions within the AMA group to perform work on the management plans full-time. These positions will be dedicated to completing the 4<sup>th</sup> management plans in a timely manner and promulgating the 5<sup>th</sup> management plans. As a first step, these positions will conduct the recommended staffing analysis. The Director will regularly provide direct oversight to emphasize the importance of completing the management plans. ADWR anticipates that significant stakeholder input will be needed in creation of the 5<sup>th</sup> management plans.

**Sunset Factor 2:** The extent to which the Department has met its statutory objective and purpose and the efficiency with which it has operated.

**Recommendation 3:** The Department should develop and implement written policies and procedures to routinely follow up on and collect outstanding post-project reports from well owners and well drillers.

Department Response: The finding of the Auditor General is agreed to and the audit recommendation will be implemented.

Response explanation: Preparations to implement written policies and procedures to routinely follow up on and collect outstanding post-project reports from well owners and well drillers are underway and will be completed in early 2019.

**Recommendation 4:** The Department should develop and implement written policies and procedures to follow up with nonreporting groundwater right holders in INAs, including requesting them to voluntarily report nonusage.

Department Response: The finding of the Auditor General is agreed to and the audit recommendation will be implemented.

Response explanation: The Department will develop and implement written policies and procedures to follow up with nonreporting groundwater right holders in INAs, including requesting that they voluntarily report nonusage.

**Recommendation 5:** The Department should complete and issue the report on municipal providers' water conservation programs every 3 years, as required by A.R.S. §45-563.01.

Department Response: The finding of the Auditor General is agreed to and the audit recommendation will be implemented.

Response explanation: ADWR anticipates completing the report by the end of February 2019 and issuing the report every 3 years hereafter, as required by statute.