



Protecting McMullen Valley's Water Future

Community Information Session

Hosted by McMullen Valley Water Defenders

Centennial Community Center
Wenden, Arizona



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La Paz County Supervisor





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LD30 Arizona House Candidate





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McMullen Valley Water Defenders



Our Basin Faces a Critical 5-to-1 Overdraft



Arizona Dept. of Water Resources

5 : 1

Critical Overdraft Ratio

- **5 acre-feet pumped out** for every **1 acre-foot entering** the basin naturally.
- Represents a **massive, unsustainable water deficit** threatening long-term regional stability.
- Immediate impact: **Neighbors' residential wells** are already running dry and being impacted.

Urgent Groundwater Action Required

Where is the Water Going?



What's the current status of the basin & what can be withdrawn?

- **Down to 1,200 feet** there's roughly **3 million acre-feet of water remaining**
- ADWR cited **57,000 acre-feet of withdrawal** annually, but WAM changed to less intensive crops reducing the draw to **30,000 acre-feet of withdraw annually**.
- Through an agreement with the AZ State Land Trust, a new pipeline into the McMullen Valley means **a new potential 44,000 acre-feet withdrawals for the Bagdad Mine**.

THIS IS SIMPLY UNSUSTAINABLE

HB2758 2.0 in 2027



If passed by the Arizona Legislature

- **33,000 acre-feet of our water** could be transferred and sold to central Arizona
- This would accelerate the depletion of our basin & allow for **no community input** on how the water is used.

An AMA is our only chance to have a voice in how our groundwater is managed.

107,000

Acre-feet of withdrawal per year

OUTSIDE CORPORATE INTERESTS ARE DRAINING OUR WATER



OUTSIDE CORPORATE PROFITEERS INDUSTRIAL PUMPERS

Our basin is the target of speculators and industrial pumpers depleting local groundwater reserves.

WALL STREET SPECULATION

WATER ASSET MANAGEMENT

~13,000

ACRES PURCHASED BY NY HEDGE FUND

Actively lobbying state and regional decision-makers to pump and sell local groundwater directly to Phoenix.

Our community deserves **to have a voice in our water future** and to protect our long-term security.

ADWR PROJECTS COMPLETE BASIN DEPLETION BY 2075

Table 11. Summary of total demand and supply values from 2023-2075 in McMullen Valley.

	Demand			Supply			Imbalance			Resulting Water Available in Storage		
	2023	2049	2075	2023	2049	2075	2023	2049	2075	2023	2049	2075
Status Quo	-53,658	-53,658	-53,658	9,128	9,128	9,128	-44,530	-44,530	-44,530	1,274,000	116,200	-1,041,600
Climate	-53,666	-54,610	-55,553	9,130	9,208	9,283	-44,536	-45,402	-46,270	1,274,000	104,400	-1,087,800
Conservation	-51,822	-51,788	-51,755	10,921	10,915	10,911	-40,902	-40,873	-40,845	1,277,600	214,600	-847,700
Growth	-83,187	-128,999	-129,053	14,887	23,822	23,829	-68,300	-105,177	-105,223	1,250,200	-1,190,300	-3,925,500
Technology	-53,656	-53,478	-53,300	9,121	8,933	8,745	-44,535	-44,545	-44,555	1,274,000	116,000	-1,042,400

Negative numbers in the total/imbalance row indicate that the amount of water listed is being withdrawn/leaving the basin annually. All values are in AF.

2075

PROJECTED COMPLETE
BASIN DEPLETION DATE

CRITICAL THRESHOLD IN ~30 YEARS

Average groundwater depth drops below the average well depth of 573 feet.

STATUS QUO PUMPING IMPACT

Unchecked groundwater extraction continues to accelerate basin-wide withdrawals.

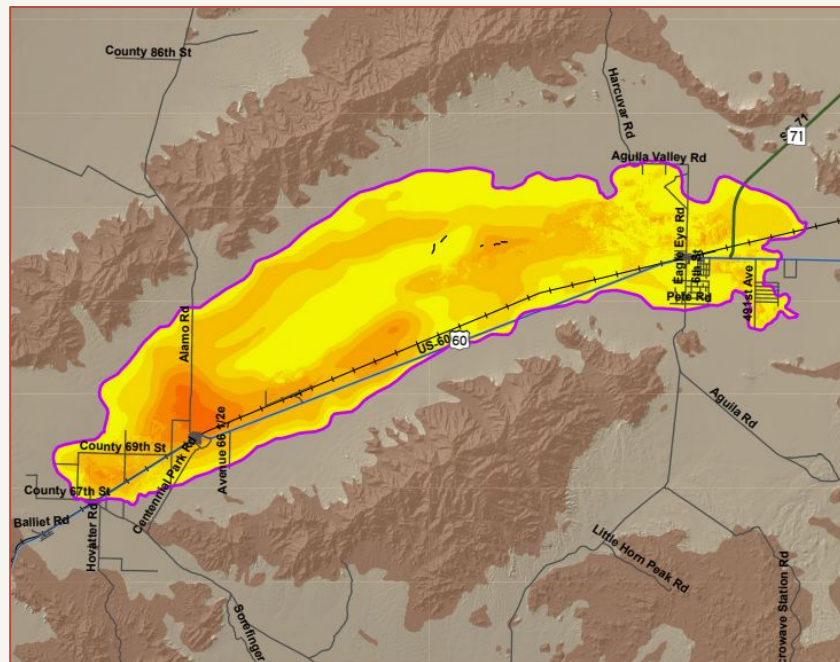
MASSIVE DEFICITS CAUSE THE GROUND TO SINK



Subsidence is causing land to sink.

Basin loses capacity to hold recharged water.

Permanent structural damage to our aquifer.



Total Land Subsidence in the McMullen Valley - ADWR

INACTION THREATENS OUR LOCAL ECONOMY AND FAMILIES



Local wells are running dry.

No requirement for developers to guarantee a water supply for new housing.

No economic development without water.

Property values will plummet.



An AMA Secures Our Groundwater Future



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

Arizona-based solution for sustainable management with local input.

CORPORATE LIMITS

Stops out-of-state corporations and others from expanding operations without a conservation plan in place.

LOCAL PROTECTION

Protects local wells, families, and businesses.

WATER RETENTION

Keeps more of our groundwater in our basin.

An AMA Invites Local Input



Key Local Control Mechanisms

- Establishes a local advisory council.
- Community works with ADWR to set groundwater management goals.
- Tailored conservation programs.
- **Takes power away from those who want to exploit our precious groundwater for profit and puts it locally where it should be.**

AMAs Protect Existing Local Farmers



PROTECTING LOCAL BUSINESSES



"Grandfathered access"

allow existing pumpers to continue operations.

RESTRICTING EXPANSION



ACREAGE CONTROL

Freezes new irrigated acreage.



CORPORATE LIMITS

Prevents new wells from being drilled with no oversight

Fact Check: AMAs Protect Property Rights



MYTH

AMAs violate property rights.

FACT

Property rights are worthless if wells go dry.

AMAs protect everyday residents and those developing 5 or fewer homes have no assured water supply requirements.

FACT CHECK: AMAs Are Not Government Overreach



MYTH

AMAs create massive government regulation & red tape.

FACT

Opportunists and profiteers exploit our current lack of rules.

AMAs establish a protective framework against outside exploitation.

FAMILY WELLS ARE EXEMPT FROM AMA STRUCTURES



✓ EXEMPT FROM AMA

FAMILY & CRUCIAL WELLS

Family and crucial wells are exempt.

>35
gal/min

⚠ SUBJECT TO AMA STRUCTURES

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL

01

INDUSTRIAL WELLS

Large-scale industrial wells become subject to AMA structures.

02

COMMERCIAL WELLS

Measuring and reporting begins for large capacity commercial wells.

What Farmers in an AMA Are Saying



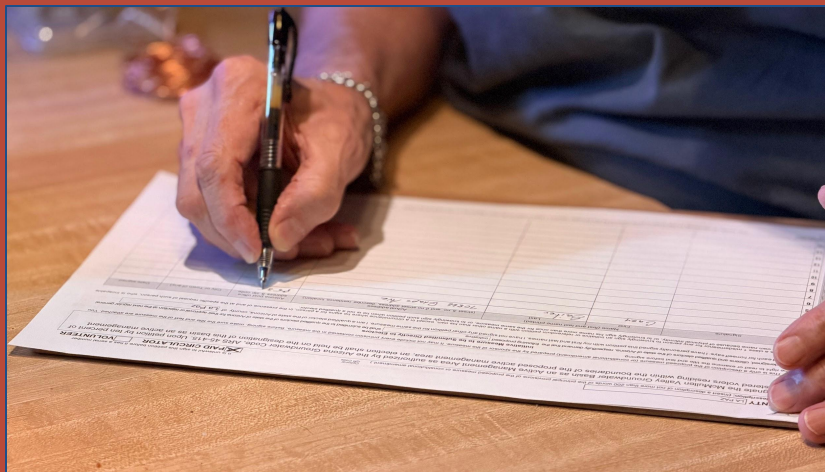
Ed Curry - Chili Farmer
Curry Seed & Chile Co.

“When they started drilling really deep, that got my attention. I had wells I was not even using, and they were going down. Fast.

This AMA is a new beginning for the Willcox Basin, and we must continue to work together to move forward to protect our groundwater supplies.”



SIGN THE PETITION FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION



HISTORIC MILESTONE

FIRST EVER SPECIAL ELECTION

For an Active Management Area in Arizona.

CAMPAIGN STATUS

GRASSROOTS PETITION DRIVE LAUNCHED

Community mobilization is officially underway to secure local water governance.

TARGET ELECTION DATE

MARCH 9, 2027

FIELD CANVASSING LOCATIONS

WENDEN • SALOME • AGUILA

Volunteers are actively gathering petition signatures across all three towns.



Questions