

Proclamation



Proclamation in Support of Water Certainty for Rural Arizonans

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Management Act was passed in 1980, allowing for the creation of active management areas to conserve, protect and allocate the use of groundwater resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, five active management areas have been created pursuant to the 1980 Act; and

WHEREAS, the active management areas have aided in Arizona being one of the fastest growing states and highly attractive to economic development, while protecting water resources for the future; and

WHEREAS, businesses are reluctant to invest in areas where they do not have water certainty; and

WHEREAS, rural areas do not have similar regulations or management options thus preventing these areas from being able to plan for the future security and reliability of their water supplies; and

WHEREAS, in some non-AMA areas, this lack of management options has resulted in over-pumping of water, declines in wells, depletion of community water supplies, land subsidence, declines in available surface water resources, and threats to the flows in rivers, streams, and springs; and

WHEREAS, many rural (non-AMA) areas are primarily or completely dependent on groundwater for drinking water and for economic development and growth; and

WHEREAS, water security is a top three issue of concern for Arizona residents regardless of political affiliation; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Water Authority proposal does not provide opportunities for water conservation and water certainty in rural Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the management of each Arizona rural groundwater basin should reflect unique local conditions and needs while being adequately supported by the state; and

WHEREAS, rural management area legislation has been proposed to allow counties to create rural management areas in certain basins and subbasins and authorize local councils to develop plans to conserve, protect, and manage groundwater resources according to local needs and aspirations.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that Honorable Governor Douglas Ducey, members of the Arizona House of Representatives, and members of the Arizona Senate provide water certainty to rural Arizona by passing legislation on rural management areas in the 2022 legislative session.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Chair of the Board, on behalf of the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, sets her hand and causes the seal of the County of Yavapai, Arizona, to be affixed on the 18th day of May 2022.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Mallory".

Mary Mallory, Chair
Yavapai County Board of Supervisor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Kapin".

Kim Kapin
Yavapai County, Clerk of the Board