

Draft AWBA Preliminary 2021 Plan of Operation

According to the Bureau of Reclamation’s August 2020 24-Month Study, which sets the annual operations for Lake Mead and Lake Powell in 2021, Lake Mead will operate in the Normal or ICS Surplus Condition. In addition, Lake Mead is projected to begin the year between 1,075 feet and 1,090 feet, a Tier Zero condition under the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan. As a result, Arizona must contribute 192, 000 acre-feet in water savings to Lake Mead in 2021. These contributions will largely come from excess CAP water supplies. Therefore, it is anticipated there will be no water available to CAWCD’s Statutory Firming Pool that is utilized by the AWBA. Consequently, the 2021 Plan focuses on other methods for developing credits. The following tables, which are a component of the AWBA’s Annual Plan of Operation, represent the Preliminary Plan for 2021.

Although water storage is not included in the 2021 Preliminary Plan, the AWBA utilizes CAP water rates identified in Table 3 as factors in pricing credit purchases.

Table 3. 2021 Water and Facility Rates

Recharge Rates	Cost per Acre-foot
CAWCD delivery rate for AWBA	\$213.00
Groundwater Savings Facility operator cost share rate ¹	
Phoenix and Pinal AMAs	\$34.00
Tucson AMA	\$16.00
Underground Storage Facility rate paid by AWBA	
CAWCD – Phoenix Facilities	\$13.00
CAWCD – Tucson Facilities	\$15.00
Tucson Water - Clearwater Facilities	\$19.20

¹ This rate is paid directly to CAP by the GSF operators and is not available as revenue to the AWBA

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Table 4. Funding for 2021 Annual Plan of Operation

Funding Source	Estimated Funds Available		Estimated Funds Utilized		Estimated Credits (AF)	
	AWBA	CAWCD	AWBA	CAWCD	Water Storage	Developed Credits
Withdrawal Fees¹						
Phoenix AMA	\$693,900	-	\$693,900	-	0	2,450
Pinal AMA	\$0	-	\$0	-	0	0
Tucson AMA	\$143,900	-	\$143,900	-	0	590
Water Storage Tax²						
Phoenix AMA	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000	0	16,640
Pinal AMA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0
Tucson AMA	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$6,000,000	0	25,380
General Fund	\$0					
Phoenix AMA		-	\$0	-	0	0
Pinal AMA		-	\$0	-	0	0
Tucson AMA		-	\$0	-	0	0
	Total Funds Available		Total Funds Expended		Total Credits	
	\$10,837,800		\$10,837,800		0	45,060

¹ Phoenix AMA funds are used to develop Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Firming credits at \$254.40/af pursuant to the AWBA's IGA with the Gila River Indian Community executed May 20, 2019; a component of Arizona's Implementation Plan for the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan. Developed credits include a 10% loss factor.

² Funds reserved by the CAWCD Board of Directors for LTSC purchases.

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Table 5. Projected Goals and Obligations Achieved through 2021

Location and Objective	Funding Source	Estimated Goal	Non-Credit Goal Achieved	Credits Accrued (AF)	Goal Achieved	
CAP M&I Firming Phoenix AMA Pinal AMA Tucson AMA	Water Storage Tax (4¢ <i>Ad valorem</i>) collected by County	1,566,000 AF		1,586,615	101%	
		243,000 AF		234,731	97%	
		864,000 AF		525,992	61%	
On-River M&I Firming¹	General Fund	420,000 AF		403,830	96%	
Indian Settlement Obligations: GRIC Firming ² <i>up to 15 KAF/yr</i>	General Fund Withdrawal Fees	350,000 AF ³		171,424	49%	
0						
	171,424					
Future Settlements - <i>up to 8.7 KAF/yr</i>	General Fund Withdrawal Fees	200,000 AF ³		0	N/A	
Federal Assistance (SAWRSA)- <i>\$3 million</i>	General Fund Tucson W/Fees Cost of Services ⁴		\$3,000,000	34,102	100%	
				\$2,338,171		28,481
				\$630,490		5,621
			\$31,339	n/a		
Southside Repl. Bank - <i>15 KAF direct delivery</i>	General Fund Pinal W/Fees			15,000	100%	
				1,342		
				13,658		
Groundwater Management⁵ Phoenix AMA Pinal AMA Tucson AMA	Withdrawal Fees collected by AMA			251,411	N/A	
417,453				N/A		
107,322				N/A		
Other: Interstate Banking - SNWA	Agreement with Nevada			613,846	N/A	
Shortage Reparations	Agreement with Nevada	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	109,489	N/A	
Pinal Redirect Credits ⁶	N/A			14,125	N/A	

¹ By resolution passed in 2002, the AWBA established on-River firming as the highest priority of use for credits accrued through expenditure of general fund appropriations. Pursuant to the Agreement to Firm dated February 4, 2005, a total of 230,280 acre-feet of credits were transferred to the AWBA long-term storage subaccount for MCWA in 2005. An additional 25,894 acre-feet of credits have been reserved under Exhibit C of the Amended Agreement to Firm, dated December 8, 2010, for a total of 256,174 acre-feet.

² Credits developed pursuant to methods identified under IGA for satisfying firming obligations to the Gila River Indian Community. Credits include 88,313 AF and 17,077 AF of LTS credits accrued at the Gila River Indian Irrigation and Drainage District GSF in the Phoenix and Pinal AMAs, respectively; 44,000 AF of Firming Credits; and 22,034 Af of GRIC ICS Firming credits.

³ Based on estimates from the Indian Firming Study Commission Report dated January 6, 2006.

⁴ Expenditures include \$14,883 and \$16,456 deducted for payment of cost of services for FY08 and FY09, respectively.

⁵ Withdrawal fees could be utilized in addition to 4¢ ad valorem tax revenues for M&I firming if needed to reach firming goals and for Indian settlement obligations in the absence of general fund appropriations.

⁶ Credits accrued from water provided to Pinal AMA GSFs at full cost to the GSF operators.