

Senate Engrossed House Bill

historical water use; subsequent AMA

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2025

# HOUSE BILL 2203

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 45-402, 45-416, 45-452, 45-463, 45-464, 45-465 AND  
45-476, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE GROUNDWATER CODE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 45-402, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 45-402. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Accounting period" means the calendar year, except such other  
7 twelve-month period as may be otherwise agreed on by the director and the  
8 owner of a farm or a district on behalf of its landowners.

9 2. "Active management area" means a ~~geographical~~ GEOGRAPHIC area  
10 that has been designated pursuant to article 2 of this chapter as  
11 requiring active management of groundwater or, in the case of the Santa  
12 Cruz active management area, active management of any water, other than  
13 stored water, withdrawn from a well.

14 3. "Animal industry use" means the production, growing and feeding  
15 of livestock, range livestock or poultry, as ~~such~~ THOSE terms are defined  
16 in section 3-1201. Animal industry use is included in the term and  
17 general treatment of industry in this chapter, unless specifically  
18 provided otherwise.

19 4. "City" or "town" means a city or town incorporated or chartered  
20 under the constitution and laws of this state.

21 5. "Conservation district" means a multi-county water conservation  
22 district established under title 48, chapter 22.

23 6. "Convey" means to transfer the ownership of a grandfathered  
24 right from one person to another.

25 7. "Date of the designation of the active management area" means:

26 (a) With respect to an initial active management area, June 12,  
27 1980.

28 (b) With respect to a subsequent active management area, the date  
29 on which the director's order designating the active management area  
30 becomes effective as provided in section 45-414 or the date on which the  
31 final results of an election approving the establishment of the active  
32 management area pursuant to section 45-415 are certified by the board of  
33 supervisors of the county or counties in which the active management area  
34 is located.

35 8. "Exempt well" means a well that has a pump with a maximum  
36 capacity of not more than thirty-five gallons per minute and that is used  
37 to withdraw groundwater pursuant to section 45-454.

38 9. "Expanded animal industry use" means increased water use by an  
39 animal industrial enterprise on the land in use by the enterprise on June  
40 12, 1980 or on immediately adjoining land, excluding irrigation uses.

41 10. "Farm" means an area of irrigated land that is under the same  
42 ownership, that is served by a water distribution system common to the  
43 irrigated land and to which can be applied common conservation, water  
44 measurement and water accounting procedures.

1        11. "Farm unit" means:

2        (a) With respect to areas outside an active management area and  
3 with respect to an active management area other than the Santa Cruz active  
4 management area, one or more farms that are irrigated with groundwater and  
5 that are contiguous or in proximity to each other with similar soil  
6 conditions, crops and cropping patterns.

7        (b) With respect to the Santa Cruz active management area, one or  
8 more farms that are irrigated with water, other than stored water,  
9 withdrawn from a well and that are contiguous or in proximity to each  
10 other with similar soil conditions, crops and cropping patterns.

11       12. "Grandfathered right" means a right to withdraw and use  
12 groundwater pursuant to article 5 of this chapter based on the fact of  
13 lawful withdrawals and use of groundwater before the date of the  
14 designation of an active management area.

15       13. "Groundwater basin" means an area that, as nearly as known  
16 facts allow as determined by the director pursuant to this chapter, may be  
17 designated so as to enclose a relatively hydrologically distinct body or  
18 related bodies of groundwater, which shall be described horizontally by  
19 surface description.

20       14. "Groundwater replenishment district" or "replenishment  
21 district" means a district that is established pursuant to title 48,  
22 chapter 27.

23       15. "Groundwater withdrawal permit" means a permit issued by the  
24 director pursuant to article 7 of this chapter.

25       16. "Initial active management area" means the Phoenix, Prescott or  
26 Pinal active management area established by section 45-411, the Tucson  
27 active management area established by section 45-411 and modified by  
28 section 45-411.02 and the Santa Cruz active management area established by  
29 section 45-411.03.

30       17. "Integrated farming operation" means:

31       (a) With respect to land within an irrigation non-expansion area,  
32 more than ten acres of land that are contiguous or in close proximity,  
33 that may be irrigated pursuant to section 45-437, that are not under the  
34 same ownership and that are farmed as a single farming operation.

35       (b) With respect to land within an active management area, two or  
36 more farms that are contiguous or in close proximity, that collectively  
37 have more than ten irrigation acres and that are farmed as a single  
38 farming operation.

39       18. "Irrigate" means to apply water to two or more acres of land to  
40 produce plants or parts of plants for sale or human consumption, or for  
41 use as feed for livestock, range livestock or poultry, as ~~such~~ THOSE terms  
42 are defined in section 3-1201.

43       19. "Irrigation acre" means an acre of land, as determined in  
44 section 45-465, subsection B, to which an irrigation grandfathered right  
45 is appurtenant.

1       20. "Irrigation district" means a political subdivision, however  
2 designated, established pursuant to title 48, chapter 17 or 19.

3       21. "Irrigation grandfathered right" means a grandfathered right  
4 determined pursuant to section 45-465.

5       22. "Irrigation non-expansion area" means a ~~geographical~~ GEOGRAPHIC  
6 area that has been designated pursuant to article 3 of this chapter as  
7 having insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for  
8 the irrigation of the cultivated lands at the current rate of withdrawal.

9       23. "Irrigation use" means:

10       (a) With respect to areas outside an active management area and  
11 with respect to an active management area other than the Santa Cruz active  
12 management area, the use of groundwater on two or more acres of land to  
13 produce plants or parts of plants for sale or human consumption, or for  
14 use as feed for livestock, range livestock or poultry, as ~~such~~ THOSE terms  
15 are defined in section 3-1201.

16       (b) With respect to the Santa Cruz active management area, the use  
17 of water, other than stored water, withdrawn from a well on two or more  
18 acres of land to produce plants or parts of plants for sale or human  
19 consumption, or for use as feed for livestock, range livestock or poultry,  
20 as ~~such~~ THOSE terms are defined in section 3-1201.

21       24. "Irrigation water duty" or "water duty" means the amount of  
22 water in acre-feet per acre that is reasonable to apply to irrigated land  
23 in a farm unit during the accounting period, as determined by the director  
24 pursuant to sections 45-564 through 45-568 or as prescribed in section  
25 45-483.

26       25. "Member land" means real property that qualifies as a member  
27 land of a conservation district as provided by title 48, chapter 22.

28       26. "Member service area" means the service area of a city, town or  
29 private water company that qualifies as a member service area of a  
30 conservation district as provided by title 48, chapter 22.

31       27. "Non-irrigation grandfathered right" means a grandfathered  
32 right determined pursuant to section 45-463, 45-464, 45-469 or 45-472.

33       28. "Non-irrigation use" means:

34       (a) With respect to areas outside an active management area and  
35 with respect to an active management area other than the Santa Cruz active  
36 management area, a use of groundwater other than an irrigation use.

37       (b) With respect to the Santa Cruz active management area, a use of  
38 water, other than stored water, withdrawn from a well, other than an  
39 irrigation use.

40       29. "Person" means an individual, public or private corporation,  
41 company, partnership, firm, association, society, estate or trust, any  
42 other private organization or enterprise, the United States, any state,  
43 territory or country or a governmental entity, political subdivision or  
44 municipal corporation organized under or subject to the constitution and  
45 laws of this state.

1           30. "Private water company" means:

2           (a) With respect to areas outside an active management area and  
3 with respect to an active management area other than the Santa Cruz active  
4 management area, any entity that distributes or sells groundwater, except  
5 a political subdivision or an entity that is established pursuant to title  
6 48 and that is not regulated as a public service corporation by the  
7 Arizona corporation commission under a certificate of public convenience  
8 and necessity. A city or town is not a private water company.

9           (b) With respect to the Santa Cruz active management area, any  
10 entity that distributes or sells water, other than stored water, withdrawn  
11 from a well, except a political subdivision or an entity that is  
12 established pursuant to title 48 and that is not regulated as a public  
13 service corporation by the Arizona corporation commission under a  
14 certificate of public convenience and necessity. A city or town is not a  
15 private water company.

16           31. "Service area" means:

17           (a) With respect to a city or town, the area of land actually being  
18 served water, for a non-irrigation use, by the city or town plus:

19           (i) Additions to such area that contain an operating distribution  
20 system owned by the city or town primarily for the delivery of water for a  
21 non-irrigation use.

22           (ii) The service area of a city, town or private water company that  
23 obtains its water from the city pursuant to a contract entered into before  
24 the date of the designation of the active management area.

25           (b) With respect to a private water company, the area of land of  
26 the private water company actually being served water, for a  
27 non-irrigation use, by the private water company plus additions to such  
28 area that contain an operating distribution system owned by the private  
29 water company primarily for the delivery of water for a non-irrigation  
30 use.

31           32. "Service area of an irrigation district" means:

32           (a) With respect to an irrigation district that was engaged in the  
33 withdrawal, delivery and distribution of groundwater as of the date of the  
34 designation of the active management area, the area of land within the  
35 boundaries of the irrigation district actually being served water by the  
36 irrigation district at any time during the ~~five~~ TEN years preceding the  
37 date of the designation of the active management area plus any areas as of  
38 the date of the designation of the active management area within the  
39 boundaries of the irrigation district that contain an operating system of  
40 canals, flumes, ditches and other works owned or operated by the  
41 irrigation district. The service area may be modified pursuant to section  
42 45-494.01.

43           (b) With respect to an irrigation district that was not engaged in  
44 the withdrawal, delivery and distribution of groundwater as of the date of  
45 the designation of the active management area:

1 (i) The acres of member lands within the boundaries of the  
2 irrigation district that were legally irrigated at any time from  
3 January 1, 1975 through January 1, 1980 for initial active management  
4 areas or during the ~~five~~ TEN years preceding the date of the designation  
5 of the active management area for subsequent active management areas.

6 (ii) Any areas of land that contain an operating system of canals,  
7 flumes, ditches and other works owned or operated by the irrigation  
8 district for the withdrawal, delivery and distribution of water, except  
9 that additional areas containing an operating system of canals, flumes,  
10 ditches and other works owned or operated by the irrigation district may  
11 not be added after December 31, 2027.

12 33. "Stored water" means water that is stored underground for the  
13 purpose of recovery pursuant to a permit issued under chapter 3.1 of this  
14 title.

15 34. "Subbasin" means an area that, as nearly as known facts allow  
16 as determined by the director pursuant to this chapter, may be designated  
17 so as to enclose a relatively hydrologically distinct body of groundwater  
18 within a groundwater basin, which shall be described horizontally by  
19 surface description.

20 35. "Subsequent active management area" means an active management  
21 area established after June 12, 1980 pursuant to article 2 of this  
22 chapter.

23 36. "Subsidence" means the settling or lowering of the surface of  
24 land that results from the withdrawal of groundwater.

25 37. "Transportation" means the movement of groundwater from the  
26 point of withdrawal to the point of use.

27 38. "Type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right" means a  
28 non-irrigation grandfathered right associated with retired irrigated land  
29 and determined pursuant to section 45-463, 45-469 or 45-472.

30 39. "Type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right" means a  
31 non-irrigation grandfathered right not associated with retired irrigated  
32 land and determined pursuant to section 45-464.

33 40. "Water district" means an active management area water district  
34 that is established under title 48, chapter 28 and that has adopted an  
35 ordinance or resolution to undertake water district groundwater  
36 replenishment obligations as defined and used in title 48, chapter 28,  
37 article 7.

38 41. "Water district member land" means real property that qualifies  
39 as water district member land of a water district as provided by title 48,  
40 chapter 28.

41 42. "Water district member service area" means the service area of  
42 the city, town or private water company that qualifies as a water district  
43 member service area of a water district as provided by title 48,  
44 chapter 28.

1        43. "Well" means a man-made opening in the earth through which  
2 water may be withdrawn or obtained from beneath the surface of the earth  
3 except as provided in section 45-591.01.

4        Sec. 2. Section 45-416, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
5 read:

6        45-416. Limitation on number of irrigated acres

7        A. If the director initiates the procedure for designating a  
8 subsequent active management area or the board of supervisors calls an  
9 election to establish an active management area, an irrigation user may  
10 irrigate within the proposed active management area only acres of land  
11 ~~which~~ THAT were legally irrigated at any time during the ~~five~~ TEN years  
12 preceding the date of the notice of the initiation of designation  
13 procedures or the call for the election.

14        B. The limitation on the acres ~~which~~ THAT may be irrigated shall  
15 continue in effect until the director makes a final determination pursuant  
16 to section 45-414 or the final results of an election to establish an  
17 active management area pursuant to section 45-415 are certified by the  
18 board of supervisors of the county or counties in which the proposed  
19 subsequent active management area is located.

20        Sec. 3. Section 45-452, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
21 read:

22        45-452. No new irrigated acreage in active management areas;  
23        central Arizona project water; exemption

24        A. In an initial active management area, except as provided in  
25 subsections B, H, I and J of this section and sections 45-172, 45-465.01  
26 and 45-465.02, only acres of land ~~which~~ THAT were legally irrigated at any  
27 time from January 1, 1975 through January 1, 1980, ~~which~~ THAT are capable  
28 of being irrigated, ~~which~~ THAT have not been retired from irrigation for a  
29 non-irrigation use pursuant to section 45-463 or 45-469 and for which the  
30 irrigation grandfathered right has not been conveyed for a non-irrigation  
31 use, ~~may~~ be irrigated with any groundwater, effluent, diffused water on  
32 the surface or surface water, except that this does not prohibit  
33 irrigation with surface water used pursuant to decreed or appropriative  
34 rights established before June 12, 1980. In an initial active management  
35 area, land ~~which~~ THAT was not irrigated at any time from January 1, 1975  
36 through January 1, 1980 is deemed to have been in irrigation if the  
37 director finds that either of the following applies:

38        1. In areas of an initial active management area not designated as  
39 critical groundwater areas under prior statutory law ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the  
40 date of the designation of the active management area, land is deemed to  
41 have been in irrigation if substantial capital investment has been made  
42 for the subjugation of such land for an irrigation use including on-site  
43 irrigation distribution facilities and a well or wells the drilling and  
44 construction of which were substantially commenced ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the  
45 date of the designation of the active management area.

1        2. In areas of an initial active management area ~~which~~ THAT were  
2 designated as critical groundwater areas under prior statutory law, land  
3 is deemed to have been in irrigation if substantial capital investment has  
4 been made in the twelve months before June 12, 1980 for the improvement of  
5 the land and on-site irrigation distribution facilities, including the  
6 drilling of wells, for an irrigation use. This paragraph does not allow  
7 irrigation of land ~~which~~ THAT could not have been legally irrigated under  
8 prior statutory law.

9        B. In an initial active management area, a person who owns acres of  
10 land ~~which~~ THAT may be irrigated pursuant to subsection A of this section  
11 may apply to the director to permanently retire all or a portion of such  
12 acres from irrigation and to irrigate conjunctively with central Arizona  
13 project water the same number of substitute acres. The director may  
14 approve the substitution of acres if the director determines that all of  
15 the following exist:

16        1. The substitute acres were legally irrigated during the period of  
17 September 30, 1958 to September 30, 1968, or such other period as the  
18 United States secretary of the interior may designate.

19        2. The acres to be retired from irrigation and the substitute acres  
20 are located outside of the exterior boundaries of the service area of a  
21 city, town or private water company and such acres are located within the  
22 same irrigation district and the same ~~sub-basin~~ SUBBASIN.

23        3. The substitution of acres is necessary to enable the irrigation  
24 district within which the acres are located to more efficiently deliver  
25 central Arizona project water.

26        4. Central Arizona project water available to the irrigation  
27 district within which the acres are located will be adequate to supply the  
28 substitute acres.

29        5. The substitution of acres will benefit the management of the  
30 active management area in which the acres are located.

31        C. Any acres permanently retired from irrigation pursuant to  
32 subsection B of this section relinquish their irrigation grandfathered  
33 rights, and such rights are deemed to be appurtenant to the substitute  
34 acres. Groundwater withdrawn or received for the irrigation of the  
35 substitute acres pursuant to an irrigation grandfathered right shall be  
36 reduced by the amount of central Arizona project water received for such  
37 acres.

38        D. The service area of the irrigation district in which the acres  
39 are located shall be modified to permanently delete the acres permanently  
40 retired from irrigation and include the substitute acres.

41        E. If a person retires land from irrigation pursuant to subsection  
42 B of this section, groundwater shall not be withdrawn from such retired  
43 land for any purpose unless pursuant to a groundwater withdrawal permit or  
44 unless withdrawn by a city, town or private water company within the  
45 service area of such city, town or private water company.



1 F. The director may reverse the substitution of irrigated acres as  
2 provided by subsections B through E of this section under the following  
3 conditions and procedures:

4 1. Title to the retired acres and substitute acres has reverted  
5 involuntarily, or voluntarily in lieu of foreclosure or forfeiture, to a  
6 previous owner or owners of the retired and substitute acres.

7 2. The current owner of the retired acres must apply to the  
8 director in writing stating:

9 (a) The history of the original substitution of acres under  
10 subsections B through E of this section.

11 (b) The circumstances regarding the reversion of title to the  
12 current owner or owners.

13 (c) Why reversal of the substitution of acres is necessary.

14 3. The director must find that reversing the substitution of acres:

15 (a) Will benefit the management of the active management area.

16 (b) Is necessary to prevent unreasonable hardship to the current  
17 owner of the retired acres.

18 (c) Will not cause unreasonable hardship to the current owner of  
19 the substitute acres, if owned separately from the retired acres.

20 4. If the director decides to reverse the substitution of acres:

21 (a) The originally retired irrigation acres regain their original  
22 irrigation grandfathered rights, but groundwater withdrawn or received for  
23 the irrigation of those acres pursuant to an irrigation grandfathered  
24 right shall be reduced by any amount of central Arizona project water  
25 received for such acres.

26 (b) The substitute acres relinquish all irrigation grandfathered  
27 rights that were transferred to them under the original substitution of  
28 acres.

29 (c) The service area of the irrigation district in which the acres  
30 are located shall be modified to delete the substitute acres and include  
31 the originally retired irrigation acres.

32 (d) Groundwater may not thereafter be withdrawn from the substitute  
33 acres for any purpose unless pursuant to a groundwater withdrawal permit  
34 or unless withdrawn by a city, town or private water company within its  
35 service area.

36 G. In a subsequent active management area, except as provided in  
37 subsections H, I and J of this section or section 45-172, only acres of  
38 land ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ were legally irrigated at any time during the ~~five~~ ~~TEN~~  
39 years preceding the date of the notice of the initiation of designation  
40 procedures or the call for the election, ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ are capable of being  
41 irrigated, ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ have not been retired from irrigation for a  
42 non-irrigation use pursuant to section 45-463 or 45-469 and for which the  
43 irrigation grandfathered right has not been conveyed for a non-irrigation  
44 use, ~~may~~ be irrigated with groundwater, effluent, diffused water on the  
45 surface or surface water, except that this does not prohibit irrigation

1 with surface water used pursuant to decreed or appropriative rights  
2 established before the date of the notice or the call. In a subsequent  
3 active management area, land is deemed to have been in irrigation if the  
4 director finds that either of the following applies:

5       1. In areas of a subsequent active management area ~~which~~ THAT were  
6 not irrigation non-expansion areas, land is deemed to have been in  
7 irrigation if substantial capital investment has been made for the  
8 subjugation of such land for an irrigation use including on-site  
9 irrigation distribution facilities and a well or wells the drilling and  
10 construction of which were substantially commenced before the date of the  
11 notice of the initiation of designation procedures or the call for the  
12 election.

13       2. In areas of a subsequent active management area ~~which~~ THAT were  
14 irrigation non-expansion areas, land is deemed to have been in irrigation  
15 if the director finds that substantial capital investment has been made in  
16 the twelve months before the date of the notice of the initiation of  
17 designation procedures or the call for the election, for the improvement  
18 of the land and on-site irrigation distribution facilities, including the  
19 drilling of wells, for an irrigation use. This paragraph does not allow  
20 irrigation of land ~~which~~ THAT could not have been legally irrigated under  
21 section 45-437.

22       H. In an active management area, a state university engaged in the  
23 teaching and study of and experimentation in the science of agriculture  
24 may irrigate not more than three hundred twenty acres of land for such  
25 purposes with not more than five acre-feet of groundwater per acre per  
26 year. Water produced from any well pursuant to this subsection shall not  
27 be leased, sold or transported off the irrigated land operated by the  
28 state university. The right to withdraw and use groundwater pursuant to  
29 this subsection does not require a withdrawal permit, is not a  
30 grandfathered right, shall not give rise to a grandfathered right and may  
31 not be conveyed to any other user.

32       I. In an active management area, a correctional facility under the  
33 jurisdiction of the state department of corrections may irrigate with  
34 groundwater, effluent, diffused water on the surface or surface water up  
35 to a total of ten acres of land that otherwise may not be irrigated  
36 pursuant to subsection A or G of this section if the irrigation is for the  
37 purpose of producing plants or parts of plants for consumption by inmates  
38 at the correctional facility as part of a prisoner work program and if the  
39 correctional facility notifies the director of water resources in writing  
40 of the location of the acres of land to be irrigated ~~prior to~~ BEFORE their  
41 irrigation. The actual number of acres of land that a correctional  
42 facility may irrigate pursuant to this subsection shall be calculated by  
43 subtracting the number of acres of land the correctional facility may  
44 already irrigate under subsection A or G of this section from ten. The  
45 amount of water that a correctional facility may use during a year to

1 irrigate acres of land pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed an  
2 amount calculated by multiplying the number of acres of land that are  
3 actually irrigated by the correctional facility during the year pursuant  
4 to this subsection, ~~by~~ by four and one-half acre-feet of water. The right  
5 to withdraw and use groundwater pursuant to this subsection does not  
6 require an irrigation grandfathered right, is not a grandfathered right,  
7 shall not give rise to a grandfathered right, ~~and~~ and may not be conveyed to  
8 any other user.

9 J. During the second management period, acres of land in an active  
10 management area ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ have been retired from irrigation for a  
11 non-irrigation use pursuant to section 45-463 or 45-469 or for which the  
12 irrigation grandfathered right has been conveyed for a non-irrigation use  
13 pursuant to section 45-472 may be irrigated with effluent, other than  
14 effluent recovered pursuant to a recovery well permit issued under chapter  
15 3.1 of this title or effluent given or received pursuant to a water  
16 exchange under chapter 4 of this title, and shall retain its appurtenant  
17 type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right where the following conditions  
18 are met:

19 1. The land to be irrigated lies within the boundaries of an  
20 incorporated city or town.

21 2. The governing body or manager of the city or town has consented  
22 in writing to the irrigation of the land with effluent.

23 3. The effluent proposed for irrigation of the land cannot be  
24 reasonably beneficially used otherwise.

25 4. The owner of the land gives written notice to the director of  
26 intention to irrigate the land with effluent and receives written approval  
27 from the director before commencing irrigation. The notice shall set  
28 forth the legal description of the land to be irrigated, the certificate  
29 number of the type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right appurtenant to the  
30 land, the source of effluent and the reasons the effluent cannot be  
31 reasonably beneficially used otherwise, ~~and~~ and shall be accompanied by a  
32 copy of the written consent of the city or town in which the land to be  
33 irrigated is located.

34 K. A person who may irrigate with effluent land to which a type 1  
35 non-irrigation right is appurtenant under subsection J of this section may  
36 relinquish the right to irrigate all or a portion of the land by giving  
37 the director written notice that the person relinquishes the right. The  
38 notice shall include a legal description of the acres to be relinquished.  
39 The relinquishment is effective ~~upon~~ ~~ON~~ receipt of the notice by the  
40 director.

41 L. If a person who may irrigate with effluent land to which a type  
42 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right is appurtenant under subsection J of  
43 this section conveys all or a portion of the land to a successor owner,  
44 the successor owner shall not irrigate the land ~~prior to~~ ~~BEFORE~~ providing  
45 written notification to the director of the successor owner's intention to

1 irrigate the land and receiving approval from the director pursuant to  
2 subsection J of this section.

3 M. Section 45-114, subsections A and B govern administrative  
4 proceedings, rehearing or review and judicial review of final decisions of  
5 the director under this section. If an administrative hearing is held, it  
6 shall be conducted in the active management area in which the use is  
7 located.

8 Sec. 4. Section 45-463, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
9 read:

10 45-463. Type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right associated  
11 with retired irrigated land; appurtenancy;  
12 ownership

13 A. In an initial active management area, a person who owns land  
14 ~~which~~ THAT was legally entitled to be irrigated with groundwater and who  
15 retired such land from irrigation after January 1, 1965 but ~~prior to~~  
16 BEFORE the date of the designation of the active management area in  
17 anticipation of a non-irrigation use has the right to withdraw from or  
18 receive for such land three acre-feet of groundwater per acre per year  
19 ~~upon~~ ON showing that:

20 1. The land has been held under the same ownership since it was  
21 retired.

22 2. A development plan for the proposed non-irrigation use existed  
23 at the time the land was retired.

24 B. In a subsequent active management area, a person who owns land  
25 ~~which~~ THAT was legally entitled to be irrigated with groundwater and  
26 retires such land from irrigation ~~prior to~~ BEFORE the date of the  
27 designation of the active management area in anticipation of a  
28 non-irrigation use has the right to withdraw from or receive for such land  
29 the lesser of three acre-feet of groundwater per acre per year or the  
30 average annual amount of groundwater ~~which~~ THAT was used per acre during  
31 the ~~five~~ TEN years preceding the time the land was retired ~~upon~~ ON showing  
32 that:

33 1. The land has been held under the same ownership since it was  
34 retired.

35 2. A development plan for the proposed non-irrigation use existed  
36 at the time the land was retired and is filed with the director within  
37 ninety days after the active management area is designated.

38 C. The development plan requirements of this section are deemed  
39 fulfilled if the land retired from irrigation has been described in an  
40 application for a certificate of exemption or if the land retired from  
41 irrigation is owned in conjunction with non-irrigation uses existing or  
42 for which substantial capital commitments have been incurred for the non-  
43 irrigation development of such land as of the date of the designation of  
44 the active management area.

1 D. The right to withdraw or receive groundwater pursuant to this  
2 section is a non-irrigation grandfathered right associated with retired  
3 irrigated land, ~~or~~ or a type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right.

4 E. A type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right is appurtenant to  
5 the acre of retired irrigated land associated with the right, is owned by  
6 the owner of the land to which the right is appurtenant and may be leased  
7 with the land.

8 F. At the request of a city or town in the Tucson active management  
9 area that holds a type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered right under  
10 subsection A of this section, the director, in determining whether to  
11 designate or redesignate the city or town as having an assured water  
12 supply pursuant to section 45-576, shall include four and one-half  
13 acre-feet of groundwater for each acre of retired irrigated land to which  
14 the right is appurtenant, multiplied by the number of years between the  
15 year of retirement and the year of the request, minus the quantity of  
16 groundwater withdrawn from the land between June 12, 1980 and the year of  
17 the request, except that:

18 1. No groundwater may be included for any acre of retired irrigated  
19 land for any year after the land is developed for any municipal or  
20 industrial use.

21 2. The amount of groundwater that is included under this subsection  
22 shall not exceed four and one-half acre-feet for each acre of retired  
23 irrigated land to which the right is appurtenant multiplied by the number  
24 of years between the year of retirement and December 31, 2025 minus the  
25 quantity of groundwater withdrawn from the land between June 12, 1980 and  
26 December 31, 2025.

27 3. The net amount of groundwater included under this subsection  
28 shall not exceed two million acre-feet.

29 4. The city or town, before making the request of the director,  
30 shall extinguish any irrigation grandfathered rights or type 1  
31 non-irrigation grandfathered rights held by the city or town and  
32 appurtenant to land acquired or contracted for by the city or town after  
33 June 12, 1980 in the same ~~sub-basin~~ SUBBASIN.

34 G. In determining whether to designate a city or town as having an  
35 assured water supply pursuant to section 45-576, the director shall not  
36 consider the exercise of the right to withdraw groundwater under  
37 subsection F of this section to be the withdrawal of groundwater available  
38 from natural or artificial groundwater recharge.

39 Sec. 5. Section 45-464, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
40 read:

41 45-464. Type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right not  
42 associated with retired irrigated land;  
43 determination of amount; ownership; definition

44 A. In an active management area, a person who owns land from which  
45 groundwater was being legally withdrawn and used for a non-irrigation

1 purpose as of the date of the designation of the active management area  
2 has the right to withdraw annually:

3 1. If the person holds a certificate of exemption, the greater of:

4 (a) The amount of groundwater established in proceedings on the  
5 application for certificate of exemption, subject to any modification as a  
6 result of a finding on appeal of a factual mistake by the state land  
7 department or Arizona water commission in computing the amount of the  
8 authorized withdrawal, less the amount of any right obtained by the person  
9 pursuant to section 45-463.

10 (b) The maximum amount of groundwater legally withdrawn from such  
11 land and used by the person in any one of the ~~five~~ TEN years preceding the  
12 date of the designation of the active management area, less the amount of  
13 any right obtained by the person pursuant to section 45-463.

14 2. If the person does not hold a certificate of exemption, the  
15 maximum amount of groundwater legally withdrawn from such land and used by  
16 the person withdrawing the groundwater in any one of the ~~five~~ TEN years  
17 preceding the date of the designation of the active management area, less  
18 the amount of any right ~~which~~ ~~AND THAT~~ ~~has not been~~ ~~subtracted by the person withdrawing the groundwater in calculating the~~  
19 person withdrawing groundwater from such land ~~which~~ ~~AND THAT~~ ~~has not been~~  
20 subtracted by the person withdrawing the groundwater in calculating the  
21 amount of another right pursuant to this section.

22 B. If the calculation in subsection A of this section results in an  
23 amount greater than zero, that amount is a grandfathered right in addition  
24 to any right obtained pursuant to section 45-463.

25 C. For the purposes of this section, "person" includes:

26 1. A city, town or private water company ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ owns land  
27 outside of the service area of such city, town or private water company  
28 from which groundwater was being legally withdrawn for a non-irrigation  
29 use as of the date of the designation of the active management area.

30 2. A city, town or private water company withdrawing groundwater  
31 from within its service area pursuant to a certificate of exemption.

32 3. Any other non-irrigation user.

33 D. If a person has been using groundwater for less than one year  
34 during the twelve months immediately preceding the date of the designation  
35 of the active management area, the amount of the grandfathered right  
36 pursuant to this section is the annual amount determined by the director  
37 to be reasonable for a full year to meet the requirements for a facility  
38 owned by such person in existence as of the date of the designation of the  
39 active management area.

40 E. If a person has received a certificate of environmental  
41 compatibility pursuant to title 40, chapter 2, article 6.2 for the  
42 construction of an electrical generating facility within a subsequent  
43 active management area for which expenditures or financial commitments for  
44 land acquisition, water development, materials, construction or  
45 engineering in excess of ~~five hundred thousand dollars~~ \$500,000 have been

1 made before the date of the notice of the initiation of designation  
2 procedures or the call for the election for the area, the amount of the  
3 grandfathered right pursuant to this section is the annual amount  
4 determined by the director to be reasonable to meet the operational  
5 requirements for the facility for a full year.

6 F. The right to withdraw groundwater pursuant to this section is a  
7 non-irrigation grandfathered right not associated with retired irrigated  
8 land, or a type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right.

9 G. A type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right may be leased.  
10 Except as provided in subsection H of this section, the owner or lessee of  
11 a type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right may withdraw groundwater  
12 pursuant to the right only from a location within the same active  
13 management area in which the certificate of grandfathered right is issued.

14 H. Beginning July 1, 1994, the holder of a type 2 non-irrigation  
15 grandfathered right issued in the Tucson active management area ~~prior to~~  
16 ~~BEFORE~~ July 1, 1994, may withdraw groundwater pursuant to the right only  
17 from a location within the same active management area in which the well  
18 or wells listed on the certificate of grandfathered right on July 1, 1994,  
19 are located. If no well is listed on the certificate of grandfathered  
20 right on July 1, 1994, the holder of the right may withdraw groundwater  
21 pursuant to the right only from a location within the same active  
22 management area in which the land from which the originating withdrawals  
23 were made is located. For ~~THE~~ purposes of this subsection, ~~the term~~  
24 "originating withdrawals" means the withdrawals of groundwater on which  
25 the issuance of a type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right was based.

26 I. If the user of a type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right is  
27 different from the owner of the right, either the owner, or the user of  
28 the right on behalf of the owner, may apply for a certificate of  
29 grandfathered right pursuant to section 45-476.

30 Sec. 6. Section 45-465, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
31 read:

32 45-465. Irrigation grandfathered right: determination of  
33 acres entitled to and amount; appurtenancy

34 A. In an active management area, a person who owns land ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~  
35 was legally irrigated in whole or in part with groundwater at any time  
36 during the five years preceding January 1, 1980 for initial active  
37 management areas or ~~WHO OWNED LAND THAT WAS LEGALLY IRRIGATED IN WHOLE OR~~  
38 ~~IN PART WITH GROUNDWATER AT ANY TIME DURING THE TEN YEARS PRECEDING~~ the  
39 date of the notice of the initiation of designation procedures or the call  
40 for the election for subsequent active management areas, ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ is  
41 capable of being irrigated and which has not been retired from irrigation  
42 for a non-irrigation use pursuant to section 45-463 or 45-469 has the  
43 right to use groundwater for the irrigation of such land as determined  
44 pursuant to subsections B and C of this section.



1        B. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, the director  
2 shall compute the maximum amount of groundwater which may be used pursuant  
3 to this section as follows:

4        1. Determine the farm units, as defined in section 45-402, within  
5 the active management area.

6        2. Determine the irrigation water duty, as defined in section  
7 45-402, for each farm unit in an active management area, pursuant to  
8 sections 45-564 through 45-568.

9        3. Determine the water duty acres for each farm within the farm  
10 unit. The water duty acres are the highest number of acres in the farm,  
11 taking land rotation into account, ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ were legally irrigated  
12 during any one year in the five years preceding January 1, 1980 for  
13 initial active management areas or ~~THAT WERE LEGALLY IRRIGATED AT ANY TIME~~  
14 ~~DURING THE TEN YEARS PRECEDING~~ the date of the notice of the initiation of  
15 designation procedures or the call for the election for subsequent active  
16 management areas.

17        4. Determine the irrigation acres for each farm within the farm  
18 unit. The irrigation acres are the acres in the farm ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ were  
19 legally irrigated at any time during the five years preceding January 1,  
20 1980 for initial active management areas or ~~THAT WERE LEGALLY IRRIGATED AT~~  
21 ~~ANY TIME DURING THE TEN YEARS PRECEDING~~ the date of the notice of the  
22 initiation of designation procedures or the call for the election for  
23 subsequent active management areas, ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ are capable of being  
24 irrigated and ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ have not been retired from irrigation for a  
25 non-irrigation use pursuant to section 45-463 or 45-469.

26        5. Multiply the water duty acres for each farm within the farm unit  
27 by the irrigation water duty for the farm unit and divide that amount by  
28 the number of irrigation acres in the farm. The result shall be the  
29 maximum amount of groundwater ~~which~~ ~~THAT~~ may be used per year for the  
30 irrigation of each irrigation acre in the farm. If the farm is located in  
31 an active management area other than the Santa Cruz active management area  
32 and is irrigated solely with groundwater, the amount of groundwater used  
33 by the farm for irrigation shall be accounted for pursuant to section  
34 45-467, subsection C. If a farm is located in an active management area  
35 other than the Santa Cruz active management area and is irrigated with a  
36 combination of surface water and groundwater, the amount of groundwater  
37 used by the farm for irrigation shall be accounted for pursuant to section  
38 45-467, subsection D. If a farm is located in the Santa Cruz active  
39 management area, the amount of water, other than stored water, withdrawn  
40 from a well and used by the farm for irrigation purposes shall be  
41 accounted for pursuant to section 45-467, subsection E or F.

42        C. A person who owns land described in subsection A of this section  
43 and whose water use on the land is regulated under a best management  
44 practices program that is adopted by the director pursuant to section



1 45-566.02, subsection F, section 45-567.02, subsection G or section  
2 45-568.02, subsection G:

3 1. Has the right to use groundwater for an irrigation use on the  
4 irrigation acres within that land as those acres are determined pursuant  
5 to subsection B, paragraph 4 of this section.

6 2. Is exempt from the provisions of subsection B of this section  
7 with respect to that land.

8 D. The right to use groundwater pursuant to this section for the  
9 irrigation of an irrigation acre is an irrigation grandfathered right and  
10 is appurtenant to that acre. An irrigation grandfathered right is owned  
11 by the owner of the land to which it is appurtenant and may be leased for  
12 an irrigation use with the land to which it is appurtenant.

13 E. A person who owns or leases irrigation acres may use the total  
14 amount of groundwater allowed by the irrigation grandfathered right for  
15 such acres for the irrigation of all or a portion of such acres.

16 F. If the irrigation water duty for the farm unit in which an  
17 irrigation acre is located is reduced by the director pursuant to article  
18 9 of this chapter, the amount of groundwater which may be used for the  
19 irrigation of such acre pursuant to the irrigation grandfathered right  
20 under subsection B of this section is reduced accordingly.

21 G. For ~~THE~~ purposes of this chapter, the amount of groundwater  
22 which may be used or is used is the amount of groundwater withdrawn by the  
23 groundwater user, measured at the point of withdrawal, and the amount of  
24 groundwater received by the groundwater user from an irrigation district  
25 or other source.

26 Sec. 7. Section 45-476, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
27 read:

28 ~~45-476.~~ Application for certificate of grandfathered right

29 A. Except as provided in section 45-476.01, a person claiming the  
30 right to withdraw or receive and use groundwater pursuant to a  
31 grandfathered right shall file an application for a certificate of  
32 grandfathered right with the department not later than fifteen months  
33 after the date of the designation of the active management area on a form  
34 provided by the department.

35 B. The application for a certificate of grandfathered right not  
36 based ~~upon~~ **ON** prior proceedings on a certificate of exemption shall  
37 include the following:

38 1. The name and mailing address of the applicant.

39 2. The name of the active management area within which the  
40 withdrawal of groundwater pursuant to the claimed grandfathered right is  
41 being or has been made.

42 3. If the application is for a type 1 non-irrigation grandfathered  
43 right:

44 (a) The legal description and a map of the retired irrigated land  
45 in respect of which the right is claimed.

1 (b) The date when the irrigated land was retired.  
2 (c) Such evidence as the director shall require that the retired  
3 irrigated land has been held under the same ownership since it was retired  
4 and that a development plan for the proposed non-irrigation use existed at  
5 the time the land was retired.  
6 (d) If in a subsequent active management area, the amount of  
7 groundwater used per acre for the retired irrigated land each year during  
8 the ~~five~~ TEN years preceding the time the land was retired.  
9 (e) Whether the well from which the water will be withdrawn is  
10 located in a groundwater replenishment district.  
11 4. If the application is for a type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered  
12 right:  
13 (a) The maximum amount of groundwater legally withdrawn from land  
14 owned by the applicant and used in any one year during the ~~five~~ TEN years  
15 preceding the date of the designation of the active management area.  
16 (b) If the person withdrawing groundwater from the land owned by  
17 the applicant has made an application for a type 1 non-irrigation  
18 grandfathered right, a copy of the application.  
19 5. If the application is for an irrigation grandfathered right:  
20 (a) The legal description and a map of all land owned by the  
21 applicant ~~which~~ THAT was legally irrigated at any time during the five  
22 years preceding January 1, 1980 for initial active management areas or the  
23 date of the designation of the active management area for subsequent  
24 active management areas and the highest number of acres legally irrigated  
25 with groundwater at one time in any one year during the five-year period.  
26 (b) The type of crops grown on such land and the cropping patterns  
27 used during the five-year period.  
28 (c) The irrigation methods and devices currently being used in the  
29 irrigation of such land.  
30 6. The location of each well from which groundwater is being or has  
31 been withdrawn by the applicant to irrigate such land.  
32 7. The sworn statement that the information contained in the  
33 application is true and correct to the best knowledge and belief of the  
34 applicant.  
35 8. Any other information the director may require.  
36 C. A person or ~~his~~ THE PERSON'S successor claiming the right to use  
37 groundwater pursuant to a grandfathered right, described in whole or in  
38 part by a certificate of exemption, shall file an application for a  
39 certificate of grandfathered right as provided in subsection D of this  
40 section and shall automatically be entitled to a certificate or  
41 certificates of grandfathered right for the portion of the grandfathered  
42 right claimed which is evidenced by the certificate of exemption or  
43 established by the proceedings on the certificate of exemption. Notice of  
44 the application is not required and hearings shall not be held. If the  
45 applicant claims grandfathered rights in addition to the amount of use

1 described in the certificate of exemption, application for such additional  
2 amount shall be made pursuant to subsection B of this section, and such  
3 application is subject to the notice, objection and hearing provisions  
4 applicable to applications made pursuant to that subsection.

5 D. The application for a certificate of grandfathered right based  
6 ~~upon~~ ON prior proceedings ~~upon~~ ON an application for a certificate of  
7 exemption shall include the following:

8 1. The name and mailing address of the applicant.

9 2. The name of the active management area within which the  
10 withdrawal of groundwater pursuant to the claimed grandfathered right is  
11 being or has been made.

12 3. The total amount of groundwater to be withdrawn annually under  
13 the certificate of exemption.

14 4. The number of retired irrigated acres described in the  
15 application for a certificate of exemption.

16 5. Such evidence as the director shall require that the retired  
17 irrigated land has been held under the same ownership since it was  
18 retired.

19 6. The number of the certificate of exemption and a copy of the  
20 certificate of exemption.

21 7. The sworn statement that the information contained in the  
22 application is true and correct to the best knowledge and belief of the  
23 applicant.

24 8. Any other information the director may require.

25 Sec. 8. Retroactivity

26 This act applies retroactively to from and after August 29, 2022.