

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acre-feet - volume of water is measured in acre-feet. It is the amount of water sufficient to cover one acre to a depth of one foot. One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons of water.

Active Management Area (AMA) - Active Management Areas in Arizona were established to provide long-term management and conservation of limited groundwater supplies. In order to accomplish this, the AMAs administer state laws, explore ways of augmenting water supplies to meet future needs, and routinely work to develop public policy in order to promote efficient use and an equitable allocation of available water supplies.

Artificial Recharge - water put back into the aquifer through means other than natural sources, such as rain or river run-off. One example of artificial recharge is aquifer management programs.

Canal - a natural or artificial watercourse of perceptible extent, with a definite bed and banks to confine and conduct continuously or periodically flowing water.

Cone of Depression - a localized area in the aquifer which is significantly depressed (lower) from the area directly around it. An example of this is the area around a discharging well where the aquifer has been lowered, and possibly dewatered, by pumping.

Depth to Groundwater - the distance from the land surface to the top surface of the groundwater.

Direct injection wells - wells that are used to inject water into the aquifer.

East Valley Water Forum (EVWF) - is a partnership of tribal, public and private water agencies and interested stakeholders involved in water resource management planning in the East Salt River Valley of Arizona.

Exempt Wells - a well having a pump with a maximum capacity of not more than thirty-five gallons per minute which is used to withdraw groundwater pursuant to Section 45-454 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.

Groundwater Savings Facilities (GSF) – is a facility in an Active Management Area or an Irrigation Non-expansion Area at which groundwater withdrawals are eliminated or reduced by recipients who use in lieu water on a gallon-for-gallon substitute basis for groundwater that otherwise would have been pumped from within that Active Management Area or Irrigation Non-expansion Area.

Infrastructure – all water storage, transmission, wells, distribution, filtration, water treatment plants, water reclamation plants, recharge, or recovery structures or facilities.

Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA) – an area designated an Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA), is restricted from increasing the number of irrigated acres in that area.

Lateral – a channel that conveys water from a canal to a point of use.

Long-Term Storage – the concept of long-term water storage, with respect to the East Valley Water Forum, incorporates the following elements: appropriate water source including Plan 6, Salt River Project, RWCD, Central Arizona Project, effluent, and rights/ownership; required permits; a saving and storage facility with water storage; actual long-term storage and a water bank accounting system; and a method of recovery.

Mounding – a localized area in the aquifer in which groundwater levels are significantly higher than the area directly around it.

Overdraft – when groundwater pumped out of the aquifer exceeds the amount of water which is put back into the aquifer.

Recharge/Vadose Zones Wells – the vadose zone is the subsurface zone between the water table (aquifer) and the land surface. Wells in these areas generally are associated with irrigation districts. Recharge usually occurs in the process of agricultural irrigation.

Recovery Well – is a well used to recover water that has been stored or saved underground pursuant to a water storage permit.

Reclaimed Water – wastewater that has been highly treated. Reclaimed water is frequently used to irrigate crop land, golf courses and parks. It is also frequently used for certain industrial uses.

Rivers and Streams – a general term for any natural facility for conveying water.

Safe-Yield - the maximum dependable draft that can be made continuously upon a source of water supply over a given period of time during which the probable driest period, and therefore period of greatest deficiency in water supply, is likely to occur.

Underground Storage Facilities (USF) - permitted facilities designed to store water in the aquifer. There are two different types of USF projects: managed and constructed. A constructed USF allows water to be stored in an aquifer by using some type of constructed device, such as a vadose zone recharge well or percolation basin. A managed USF allows water to be discharged to a streambed where the water percolates into the aquifer without the assistance of any constructed devices.

Water Reclamation Plant - a facility that treats wastewater from domestic and/or industrial sources by a combination of physical, chemical, and biological processes with the intended purpose for the effluent produced by this facility to be incorporated back into the water resources management program of a community, e.g. golf course and parks irrigation, aquifer restoration and water storage for future use.

Water Storage Permit - allows a permittee to store water at either a permitted USF or GSF. Types of water that may be permitted for storage are Colorado River water, including CAP water, decreed and appropriative surface water, and effluent.

Water Treatment Plant - is a facility that treats water from lakes, streams, and other renewable source waters by a combination of physical and chemical processes.