



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session*

**AMENDED**  
FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2022

water resources; annual report  
(NOW: water; report; fees; levee)

Purpose

An emergency measure that extends the date, from July 1 to August 15, for the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to annually provide a report of the ADWR's operations to the Governor and the Legislature. Outlines ADWR fee maximums for applications. Requires the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) to distribute monies to Navajo County for the Little Colorado River Levee budget line item.

Background

The ADWR was established in 1980 for the purpose of water planning, management and regulation within Arizona. The ADWR regulates surface water in Arizona and groundwater within Active Management Areas (AMAs). AMAs are areas of Arizona where groundwater pumping was the heaviest at the time the Arizona Groundwater Management Act of 1980 was enacted and continues to require regulation of groundwater use ([ADWR](#)). *Surface water* is the waters of all sources, flowing in streams, canyons, ravines or other natural channels, or in definite underground channels, whether perennial or intermittent, floodwater, wastewater or surplus water, and of lakes, ponds and springs on the surface. *Groundwater* is water under the surface of the earth regardless of the geologic structure in which it is standing or moving ([A.R.S. § 45-101](#)). By July 1 each year, the Director of the ADWR must provide an operations report to the Governor and the Legislature with legislative recommendations and other information for the public ([A.R.S. § 45-111](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

**ADWR**

1. Requires ADWR to reduce the following application fees to not more than \$100 per application:
  - a) an application fee for a certificate of grandfathered right in an AMA established after January 1, 2022; and
  - b) an application for a notice of authority to irrigate land in an irrigation non-expansion area established after January 1, 2022.
2. Extends the date, from July 1 to August 15, for the Director of the ADWR to annually provide a report of the ADWR's operations, including operations relating to dam safety, levee repairs and other floor control activities, to the Governor and the Legislature.

3. Instructs the ADWR to publish the report on the ADWR's website.
4. Exempts ADWR from rulemaking requirements for one year.

***WIFA***

5. Requires WIFA to distribute the monies in the Little Colorado River Levee budget line item to Navajo County, rather than the City of Winslow, to reconstruct the Little Colorado River levee.

***Miscellaneous***

6. Becomes effective on signature of the Governor, if the emergency clause is enacted.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Specifies that the annual report of ADWR's operations must include operations relating to dam safety, levee repairs and other flood control activities.
2. Requires ADWR to reduce the application fees to not more than \$100 for outlined applications.
3. Exempts ADWR from rulemaking requirements for one year.
4. Requires WIFA to distribute the monies in the Little Colorado River Levee line item to Navajo County, rather than the City of Winslow, to reconstruct the Little Colorado River levee.
5. Adds an emergency clause.

House Action

NREW        2/14/23    DP        10-0-0-0  
3<sup>rd</sup> Read    2/22/23                    58-2-0

Senate Action

NREW        3/30/23    DP        7-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research

May 15, 2023

RA/slp