



SOUTHERN ARIZONA WATER USERS ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 35481  
TUCSON AZ 85740-5481

May 5, 2016

MEMBERS

*Avra Water Co-op*

*BKW Farms*

*Community Water Company  
of Green Valley*

*FICO/Farmers Water Co.*

*Flowing Wells Irrigation District*

*Green Valley Domestic Water  
Improvement District*

*Kai Farms*

*Marana Water*

*Metro Water District*

*Oro Valley Water Utility*

*Pima County Regional Wastewater*

*Red Rock Utilities*

*Sahuarita Water Company*

*Town of Sahuarita  
Wastewater Utility*

*Tucson Water Department*

The Honorable Doug Ducey  
Office of the Governor  
State of Arizona  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85021

RE: SB 1268 – adequate water supply requirements; municipalities

Dear Governor Ducey:

On behalf of the Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA), I would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns regarding SB 1268, relating to adequate water supply requirements.

As you are likely aware, SB 1268, among other provisions, removes the requirement that cities and towns comply with county ordinances requiring a proposed subdivision located outside of an Active Management Area (AMA) to demonstrate an adequate water supply before the final plat can be approved.

While SAWUA appreciates that this legislation impacts water planning outside of our respective member jurisdictions, we have concerns about the precedent that such legislation will have in undermining the integrity of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act. Due to the long-term vision of Arizona policymakers, Arizona has avoided the water crisis that has occurred in California. Accordingly, despite the good intentions of the legislation, the measure jeopardizes Arizona's ability to develop, execute and maintain water management policies and practices that will effectively manage our limited water resources across all corners of the state.

It is important to note that the legislation appears to be in conflict with your recently issued Executive Order establishing the Arizona Water Initiative to conduct an analysis of the 22 planning areas identified in the Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability Report released in 2014. In addition, the legislation is also counter to the goals and objective of your Water Augmentation Council, which, as you are aware, will investigate long-term water augmentation strategies, additional water conservation opportunities and funding and infrastructure needs to help secure water supplies for Arizona's future.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Accordingly, for these and other reasons, SAWUA respectfully would like to encourage your consideration of vetoing SB 1268.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this and other matters of mutual concern and interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Kmiec".

John Kmiec  
President

cc: Kirk Adams, Chief of Staff  
Danny Seiden, Deputy Chief of Staff for External Affairs and Policy Development  
Victor Riches, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Budget  
Hunter Moore, Natural Resources Policy Advisor



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*Town of Sahuarita  
Wastewater Utility*

*Tucson Water Department*

RE: SB 1400 – NOW: county water supply provision; renewal

Dear Governor Ducey:

On behalf of the Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA), I would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns regarding SB 1400, relating to the renewal of county water supply provisions.

As you are likely aware, SB 1400, among other provisions, requires a county adequate water supply provision to expire five years after the effective date of the most recent unanimous adoption by a county board of supervisors. Future water adequacy ordinances will be renewed or extended on a five-year cycle. In contrast, the existing law allowed municipal governments located outside an existing Active Management Area to adopt an ordinance requiring new subdivisions to have sufficient groundwater, surface water or effluent of adequate quality to satisfy the needs of the proposed use for at least 100 years.

While SAWUA appreciates that this legislation impacts water planning outside of our respective member jurisdictions, we have concerns about the precedent that such legislation will have in undermining the integrity of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act. Due to the long-term vision of Arizona policymakers, Arizona has avoided the water crisis that has occurred in California. Accordingly, despite the good intentions of the legislation, the measure jeopardizes Arizona's ability to develop, execute and maintain water management policies and practices that will effectively manage our limited water resources across all corners of the state.

With respect to the recent amendment adopted in the House, the amendment removed the expiration of a county adequate water supply provision every five years with a new provision that requires a unanimous vote by the county board of supervisors in order to rescind the provision upon a five-year review. While the amendment is an improvement, SAWUA concerns remain, as water management requires a long-term commitment and should not be subject to the risk of short-term considerations.

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It is important to note that the legislation appears to be in conflict with your recently issued Executive Order establishing the Arizona Water Initiative to conduct an analysis of the 22 planning areas identified in the Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability Report released in 2014. In addition, the legislation is also counter to the goals and objective of your Water Augmentation Council, which, as you are aware, that will investigate long-term water augmentation strategies, additional water conservation opportunities and funding and infrastructure needs to help secure water supplies for Arizona's future.

Accordingly, for these and other reasons, SAWUA respectfully would like to encourage your consideration of vetoing SB 1400.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this and other matters of mutual concern and interest.

Sincerely,



John Kmiec  
President

cc: Kirk Adams, Chief of Staff  
Danny Seiden, Deputy Chief of Staff for External Affairs and Policy Development  
Victor Riches, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Budget  
Hunter Morre, Natural Resources Policy Advisor