



CWAG 2016 CANDIDATE FORUM QUESTIONS

1. State Policy:

The Arizona Groundwater Management Act administers only 13% of the state, mainly in urban Active Management Areas. Meanwhile, rural areas struggle with growing water needs that threaten rivers and aquifers. As a legislator or supervisor, what will you do to improve groundwater management outside of AMAs, especially in the Big Chino Valley?

2. Regulation:

Voluntary water conservation typically reduces usage by only a few percent, which, although helpful, is only a small part of what could be saved. What is your view of establishing mandatory conservation for new development in the State or County?

3. Verde River:

Scientific studies by the US Geological Survey show that groundwater pumping in the Big Chino will diminish the base flow of the upper Verde River. As an elected legislator or supervisor, what will you do to protect the base flow of the upper Verde?

4. Regional Policy:

The Arizona Department of Water Resources, Prescott, and Prescott Valley plan to increase water supplies through expensive infrastructure projects. However, they have not examined other alternatives. There are no comprehensive studies comparing importation, aggressive conservation, augmentation using rainwater harvesting, storm water recharge, and advanced recycling technologies. Before spending hundreds of millions of taxpayer money on importation projects, would you support a comprehensive study to identify the optimal solutions?

5. Regulation:

Although Yavapai County residents share a common groundwater supply, local water users compete for more water instead of cooperatively managing our water resources. What is your view of a regional water district with sufficient authority to manage groundwater sustainably and protect the Verde River?