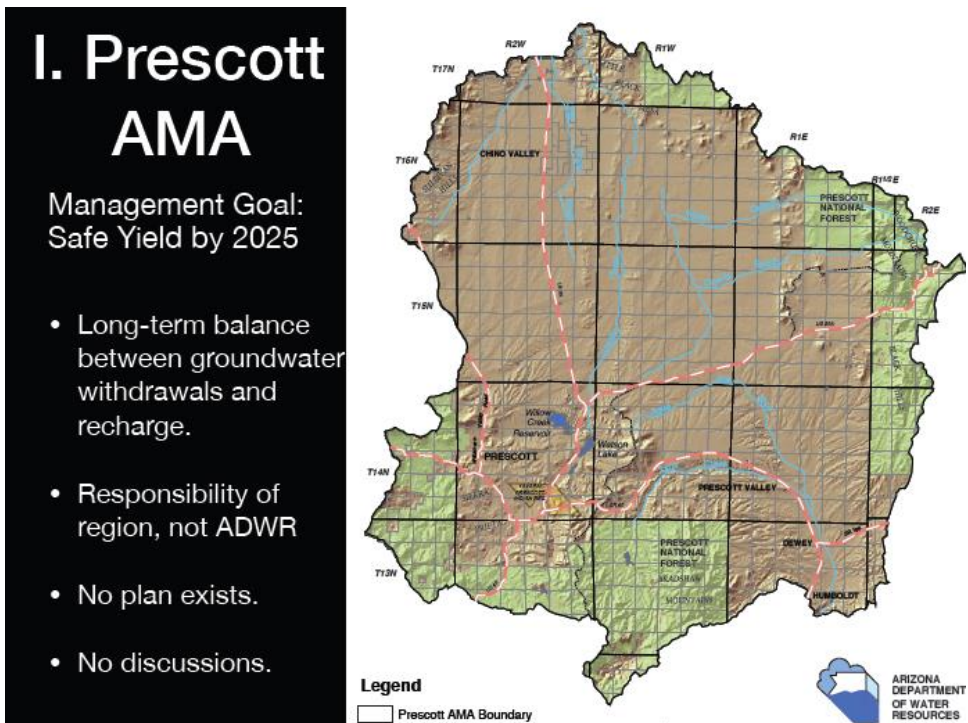


# 2019 Candidate Forum Questions

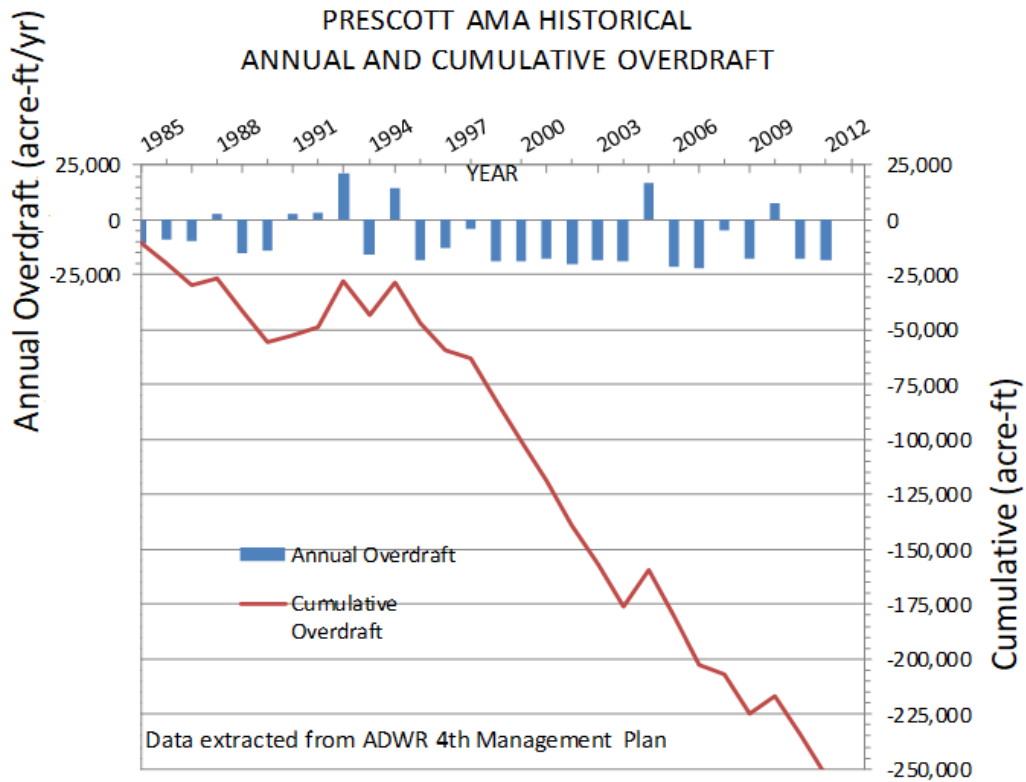
## I. Prescott AMA - Safe Yield

**A. Introduction:** Consultants Woodard and Dishlip have affirmed the City's previous water management strategies. Both reports allege that the City can grow for decades to exceed 80,000 at "buildout," meaning full development of all areas near or in the city limits, by relying on current "legally available water" supplies, without the Big Chino Pipeline. The AMA map (slide I-1) shows that Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, and Yavapai County all share a common water supply and management responsibility. Neither the consultants nor the City has mentioned the management goal of the AMA: Safe Yield by 2025.

This graph (slide I-2) is part of the Arizona Department of Water Resources 4th Management Plan for the Prescott Active Management Area. ADWR last reported the overdraft in 2012 as over 18,000 acre-feet per year (for comparison, in 2018 Prescott pumped 6,760 acre-feet). According to published ADWR data, the accumulated overdraft from 1985 through 2012 was more than 250,000 acre-feet. New population growth will continue to increase the overdraft, move us further away from safe yield, and deplete our stored groundwater. Also, the overdraft causes groundwater levels to fall at a current rate of 2.5 ft/yr (ADWR data, slide I-3) which reduces the groundwater in storage. There is now no safe yield plan and no regional effort to plan for safe yield.



Slide I-1

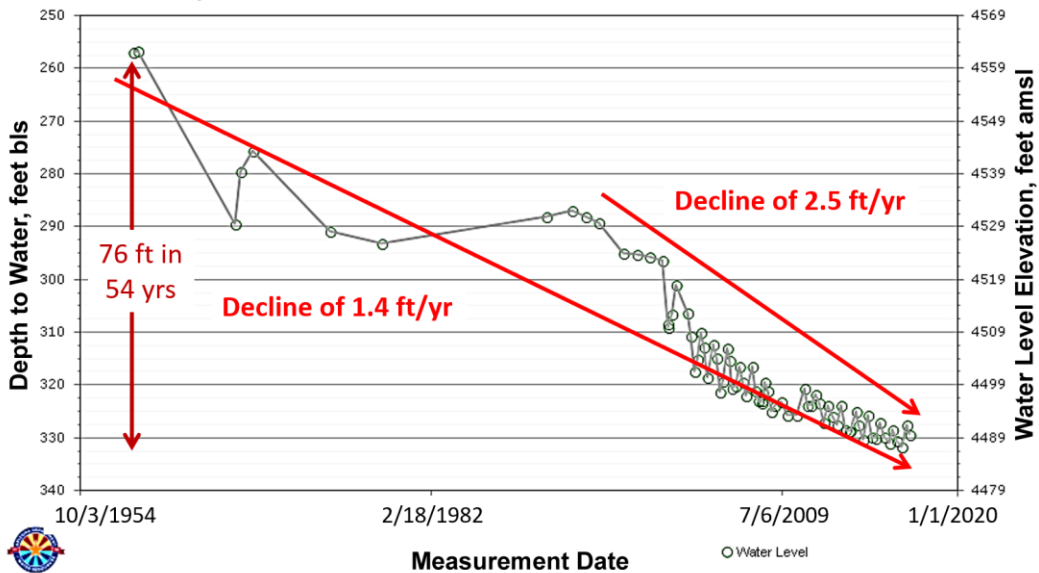


Slide I-2

### Arizona GroundWater Monitoring Site Hydrograph

Local ID	Site ID	Registry ID	Latitude NAD27	Longitude NAD27	Alt. (ft amsl)	Water Use	Well Depth (ft)	Case Dia. (in)	Drill Date	Latest WL Date	DTW (ft)	WL Elev. (ft)
B-16-02 28DDC	344357112280901	628072	34° 43' 51.9"	112° 28' 8.7"	4818.71	UNUSED	605	16	10/31/1958	6/12/2019	329.4	4489.38

**Chino Valley Well, located on W Road 2 south near S Road 1 west – drilled to 605 ft**



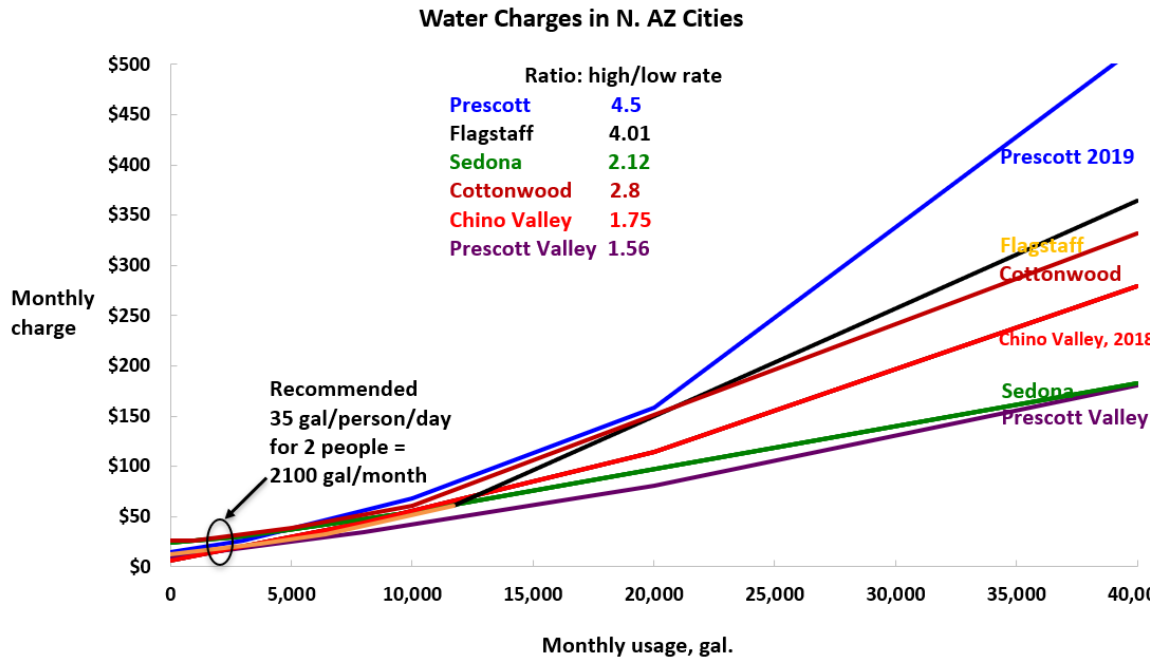
Slide I-3

## B. Questions:

1. Please comment on the City's responsibility for achieving safe yield in the Prescott Active Management Area.
2. What is your plan for balancing our growing population, increased housing density and annexation requests with our ever-increasing aquifer overdraft; and, what would be your message to the citizens of Prescott concerning their role in implementing this plan?

## II. Conservation in the Prescott AMA

**A. Introduction:** Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, and Yavapai County all share a common water supply. Prescott is making progress with water conservation and education, but the other entities could do more. Slide II-1 shows how water charges increase as you use more water. Note the ratio of high/low rates for the cities. Prescott Valley and Chino Valley have a weak block rate system. Prescott's is strong.



Slide II-1

## B. Question:

1. How will the City of Prescott, and you as a Council member, encourage and assist other AMA communities and Yavapai County to conserve water and reduce the overdraft?

## III. Sustainability action plans for Prescott

**A. Introduction:** Flagstaff and Santa Fe have adopted long-range sustainability plans that include water policies. Albuquerque adopted a water conservation plan, developed with community participation, with annual performance milestones extending to 2037. Prescott has no similar plans.

## B. Questions:

1. Should Prescott have a long-range sustainability and/or conservation plan with annual milestones? If so, what incentives or ordinances would you propose?
2. What should be the role of citizens in developing water policy?
3. The City has “penciled in” 300 acre-feet (AF) for AZ Eco development’s proposed annexation in the Dells. The market value of that water at \$30,000/AF is \$9,000,000. How do you justify to voters this subsidy for private developers, especially in the light of our growing overdraft?

## IV. Verde River & Big Chino Water Ranch

**A. Introduction:** Slide IV-1 is a Google Earth view of the upper Verde Watershed. Hydrologists agree that groundwater from the Big Chino Valley supplies over 80% of the base flow of the upper Verde River. Hydrologists further agree that legally authorized, unmitigated groundwater pumping in the Big Chino Valley will dry up the first 25 miles of the Verde River. The drivers of increased groundwater pumping are (1) expanded irrigation, (2) population growth, (3) water exports such as from the Big Chino Water Ranch, and (4) the proposed pumped storage project. The combined groundwater demand (thousands of acre-feet per year) will eliminate the year-round flow of the upper Verde River.



Slide IV-1

**B. Questions:**

1. How should Prescott and our regional partners address these 4 threats to the river?
2. The Council has recently implied that Prescott will not need to import water from the Big Chino Valley for several decades. However, Prescott Valley is expressing more immediate demands for the pipeline. How would you address the different needs of PV and COP?