



## **CWAG Position on New Annexations**

Approved by the CWAG Board: 4/9/18

The Mission of CWAG is to protect the Verde River and to achieve a sustainable water supply in the Prescott Active Management Area. We are concerned that new development will increase the overdraft and move the Active Management Area away from safe yield. All annexation and development agreements should include provisions that minimize the impact on our aquifer.

Landscaping water use is significant (for example, about thirty percent of Prescott's groundwater pumping) and can be greatly reduced by using established and proven methods: drought-tolerant plants and rainwater harvesting. Water applied to landscapes is lost to evaporation and thus not available for recharge or reuse. Reducing landscape water use directly curtails groundwater pumping and decreases the overdraft of our aquifer.

After careful study and consideration of the effects on our water resources and the character of our community, CWAG recommends that:

- The municipalities negotiate with developers so that all landscaping for homes, medians, and common areas use drought-tolerant plants, working towards the goal that no municipal water be used outdoors for landscape irrigation.
- Every new building permit use recognized best management practices that require a landscaping plan and a water budget showing that the proposed landscaping can be supported by a specified (non-groundwater) water source, such as a rainwater harvesting system.
- Consistent with the provisions of Prescott's Proposition 400, all wastewater must be permanently recharged and no wastewater can be recovered and used by the residents, builders, and developers.
- The municipalities require all new construction to comply with the EPA WaterSense standards for interior use.
- The municipalities maintain transparency and opportunity for public participation in public hearings for all land use decisions.

By adopting the above recommendations, the municipalities will assure that new development will have minimum impact on the Prescott Active Management Area overdraft, thus extending the useful life of our groundwater resource.