

SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

WATER COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 9:30 AM

SRP Administration Building
1500 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85288

Committee Members: Paul Rovey, Chair; Randy Miller, Vice Chair; and Casey Clowes, Krista O'Brien, Mark Pace, Jack White Jr., and Leslie C. Williams

Call to Order

Roll Call

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following agenda item(s) will be considered as a group by the Committee and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these item(s) unless a Committee Member requests, in which event the agenda item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as a separate item CHAIR PAUL ROVEY
 - Request for approval of the minutes for the meetings of June 17, 2025.
2. Arizona Agriculture to Urban Program CHRISTA McJUNKIN and JASON BARAN

Informational presentation regarding a briefing on SB1611, which establishes the Arizona Agriculture to Urban Program, and a summary of the Program and ramifications for agricultural water use and development in the Phoenix and Pinal Active Management Areas.
3. Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer and Designees JIM PRATT
4. Future Agenda Topics CHAIR PAUL ROVEY

The Committee may vote during the meeting to go into Executive Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3), for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with legal counsel to the Committee on any of the matters listed on the agenda.

The Committee may go into Closed Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §30-805(B), for records and proceedings relating to competitive activity, including trade secrets or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information.

Visitors: The public has the option to attend in-person or observe via Zoom and may receive teleconference information by contacting the Corporate Secretary's Office at (602) 236-4398. If attending in-person, all property in your possession, including purses, briefcases, packages, or containers, will be subject to inspection.



THE NEXT WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

08/12/2025

MINUTES
WATER COMMITTEE
SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND
POWER DISTRICT

DRAFT

June 17, 2025

A meeting of the Water Committee of the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (the District) convened at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from the Hoopes Board Conference Room at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona. This meeting was conducted in-person and via teleconference in compliance with open meeting law guidelines. The District and Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (the Association) are collectively known as SRP.

Committee Members present at roll call were R.C. Arnett, Chair; and M.J. Herrera, K.J. Johnson, K.H. O'Brien; and L.D. Rovey of the Association.

Committee Members absent at roll were S.H. Williams, Vice Chair; and N.R. Brown and S.D. Kennedy.

Also present were Vice President C.J. Dobson; Board Members P.E. Rovey and J.M. White Jr.; Council Chair J.R. Shelton; Council Vice Chair B.E. Paceley; Council Liaisons M.L. Farmer and M.C. Pedersen; Council Members M.G. Rakow and C. Resch-Geretti; J. Ashby, I.R. Avalos, J.D. Coggins, T. Cooper, A.C. Davis, J.M. Felty, O.A. Galvan, S.M. Glover, L.F. Hobaica, C.M. Jovanovic, B.J. Koch, C.M. McJunkin, M.S. Mendonca, L.A. Meyers, N.J. Mullins, B.F. Pane, J.M. Pratt, J.R. Schuricht, C.M. Sifuentes-Kohlbeck, P.B. Sigl, M. Stiles, R.R. Taylor, and K.J. Tilghman of SRP; and Paul Bergelin of Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA).

In compliance with A.R.S. §38-431.02, Andrew Davis of the Corporate Secretary's Office had posted a notice and agenda of the Water Committee meeting at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Chair R.C. Arnett called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

Chair R.C. Arnett requested a motion for Committee approval of the Consent Agenda, in its entirety.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M.J. Herrera and seconded by Board Member K.J. Johnson, the Committee unanimously approved and adopted the following item on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Water Committee meeting on May 20, 2025, as presented.

Corporate Secretary J.M. Felty polled the Committee Members on Board Member M.J. Herrera's motion to approve the Consent Agenda, in its entirety. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES:	Board Members R.C. Arnett, Chair; and M.J. Herrera, K.J. Johnson, and K.H. O'Brien	(4)
NO:	None	(0)
ABSTAINED:	None	(0)
ABSENT:	Board Members S.H. Williams, Vice Chair; and N.R. Brown and S.D. Kennedy	(3)

Verde Reservoirs Sediment Mitigation Project (VRSMP)

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Leslie A. Meyers, SRP Associate General Manager and Chief Water Resources and Services Executive, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to update on the VRSMP where SRP, the Bureau of Reclamation, and regional water users are studying options to recover lost water storage capacity on the Verde River Reservoir system and other purposes to improve water supply resiliency in the region. They introduced Kyle J. Tilghman, SRP Director of Water Strategy.

Continuing, K.J. Tilghman said that the VRSMP's feasibility study began in October 2022. They stated that the purpose of the feasibility study is to explore alternatives for the following: 1) restore lost storage capacity from sediment accumulation at Horseshoe Reservoir; 2) mitigate future reservoir sediment accumulation; and 3) ensure water supply resiliency through increased surface water yield from the Verde River reservoir system.

K.J. Tilghman presented a VRSMP feasibility study timeline for the federal study and the non-federal proponent activities from January 2022 through 2029, which keeps account of the steering committee activities, the Bureau of Reclamation's contractor activities, and Congressional actions. They provided a summary of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): 1) was signed into law on January 1, 1970; 2) was created in response to public sentiment that federal agencies should evaluate environmental impacts; 3) NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions; and 4) federal agencies prepare Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to evaluate the effects.

K.J. Tilghman reviewed the VRSMP EIS process as follows: 1) Notice of Intent (NOI) – two-year EIS process, begins mid-July 2025; 2) public scoping – 30-day public scoping period begins, with five public scoping meetings planned; 3) draft EIS notice of availability – draft EIS available for 45-day public review and comment (approximately one year after NOI); and 4) final EIS and feasibility report to Congress – may seek Congressional authorization on project alternative. They concluded with a discussion regarding an estimated VRSMP feasibility study NEPA timeline and an estimate for the VRSMP new Bartlett Dam alternative.

L.A. Meyers and K.J. Tilghman responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary's Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

Board Member S.D. Kennedy; Council Member E.L. Gorsegrner; V.P. Kisicki and G.A. Mingura of SRP; and Sasha Hupka of The Arizona Republic entered the meeting during the presentation.

Gila River Water Storage, LLC (GRWS)

Using a Power presentation, K.J. Tilghman stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information regarding GRWS, including background, purpose, and progress. They outlined the purpose of the 1980 Groundwater Management Act as follows: 1) water management – established the Arizona Department of Water Resources; 2) regulating groundwater – established active management areas (Phoenix, Tucson, Pinal, Prescott, Santa Cruz, and Douglas); 3) balanced growth – assured water supply program; and 4) reduction in water use – mandatory conservation requirements.

K.J. Tilghman explained that Arizona obtains its water supply from the following four sources: 41% from groundwater, 36% from the Colorado River; 18% from in-state rivers, and 5% from reclaimed water. They provided a map of the Phoenix area highlighting its water supply sources.

K.J. Tilghman quoted GRWS' purpose from its website (<https://gilawater.com>) as follows: "Gila River Water Storage provides renewable water supplies for residential, commercial and industrial development, as well as municipalities seeking additional supplies, in central Arizona." They concluded with a discussion regarding the establishment and benefits of the GRWS.

K.J. Tilghman responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary's Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees

There was no report on current events by Jim M. Pratt, SRP General Manager and Chief Executive Officer.

Future Agenda Topics

Chair R.C. Arnett asked the Committee if there were any future agenda topics. None were requested.

There being no further business to come before the Water Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

John M. Felty
Corporate Secretary



Ag to Urban Legislation

Water Committee Meeting

August 19, 2025

Christa McJunkin, Senior Director, Water Supply & System



Agenda

- Assured Water Supply Basics
- Ag to Urban Key Issues
- Final Ag to Urban Bill

Assured Water Supply Basics

- 100-year requirement to be met before new subdivisions are built
- Designations for water providers or Certificates for subdivisions
- Assured Water Supply Requirements
 - Physical, Legal and Continuous Availability
 - Consistency with Management Plan
 - Consistency with Management Goal
 - Water Quality
 - Financial Capability
- Phoenix AMA and Pinal AMA Groundwater Models
 - Unmet Demands = Halt on new Assured Water Supply approvals

Ag to Urban Key Issues

- Desire to leverage groundwater currently used for ag and to incentivize development on agricultural lands
- Negotiations in 2023-2024 resulted in SB 1172, Vetoed by Gov. Hobbs
- Key Issues
 - Proving physical availability of groundwater
 - Conversion rate from ag to urban use
 - Qualifications for the program
 - Impact on the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District's replenishment obligation
 - Prove reduction in overall groundwater use

Final Ag to Urban Bill (SB1611)

- Physical Availability Test
- Groundwater Savings Credits
 - Phoenix AMA—1.5 acre-feet per acre
 - Pinal AMA—1.0 acre-feet per acre
- Agricultural water use in 3 of 5 preceding years
- Modifications in the CAGRD's replenishment reserve target
- Applies to Certificates of Assured Water Supply applications filed before Dec 31, 2030
- ADWR estimates over 100 years
 - Phoenix AMA—7.1 million acre-feet of groundwater saved
 - Pinal AMA—2.5 million acre-feet of groundwater saved

thank you!

