

**SUBJECT: Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study – Annual Meeting Update**

Meeting	Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
Regional Council	January 26, 2017	Consent Information	5i

**REQUESTED ACTION/SUGGESTED MOTION**

This is an information item only.

**ASSOCIATED OWP WORK ELEMENT/GOAL**

Work Element 1611, Regional Water Resource Reliability

**SUMMARY**

PAG hosted the first Annual Public Meeting of the Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study on Nov. 30. PAG’s role in the Basin Study is stakeholder engagement to allow decision makers from the jurisdictions and diverse sectors to weigh in on public health, safety and infrastructure.

Through PAG’s WPS or EPAC, regional stakeholders have an opportunity to weigh in on the Basin Study. Interested stakeholders may contact Mead Mier, PAG Sustainability Coordinator, at [MMier@PAGregion.com](mailto:MMier@PAGregion.com). Management Committee and Regional Council are provided with updates at major progress or decision points and may be provided with presentations as desired.

Results from the first annual Public Meeting are available at [www.PAGstorm.com/meetings](http://www.PAGstorm.com/meetings). The 67 attendees included representatives from water providers and other utilities; federal, state and local governments; environmental experts, engineering and construction firms; economic development associations; agriculture companies; the University of Arizona; local environmental nonprofits and private citizens.

Participants at the Annual Public Meeting were given the opportunity to provide feedback as well as to become a Stakeholder Advisor, a role which is open to subject matter experts and community members. Stakeholder Advisors will have opportunities to provide input on key decisions, such as the formulation of water supply and demand scenarios, recommendations for adaptation measures and evaluation of these measures during the trade-off analysis. Stakeholder Advisors are asked to commit to participating throughout the course of the study, which is to be completed in 2019.

Background:

Within the last 100 years, groundwater pumping in the Tucson region increased to the

point of greatly exceeding natural replenishment. In 1993, the Central Arizona Project (CAP) began delivering Colorado River water to the Tucson region. However, there are some geographic areas where significant imbalances between supply and demand exist due to infrastructure limitations. These issues are compounded by drought and increased temperatures.

Unique to this study is consideration of water within the natural environment – an element of projected water demand which has not been developed or incorporated to this degree by previous Bureau of Reclamation Basin Studies. This is a key interest of local stakeholders and one of the primary reasons that our region was selected for the modeling, along with having existing strong partnerships and available data to plug in to the study.

Cost-share partners include the Bureau of Reclamation, PAG, Southern Arizona Water Users Association, Cortaro-Marana Irrigation District Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and the University of Arizona.

#### **PRIOR BOARD AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION**

- April 8, 2015, Regional Council Meeting, Director’s Letter of Support.
- The Management Committee reviewed this item at its Jan. 11 meeting.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

None.

#### **TECHNICAL, POLICY, LEGAL OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

None.

#### **ATTACHED ADDITIONAL BACKUP INFORMATION**

None.

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