

Water Alliance of La Paz County Community Meeting

March 31, 2026



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- Please update your Name on Zoom
- Please stay muted unless speaking
- Use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom to speak
- Be respectful of all viewpoints and allow others time to speak



Why We're Here Today

- Introduce Water Alliance of La Paz County
- Provide a Community Update on Groundwater in La Paz County
- Talk About our Focus for the remainder of 2026
- Answer your questions about Groundwater in La Paz County
- Gather your input and feedback about your concerns and priorities



www.walpc.org



About the Water Alliance of La Paz County

Mission: The Water Alliance of La Paz County is a Board-led advisory and advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and sustaining our groundwater resources. We work to educate, collaborate, and provide informed guidance to help ensure long-term water security for our communities.

Board Members:

- Gary Saiter, Chair
- Holly Irwin, Ad Hoc Voting Member
- Marieke McArthur, Coordinator & Clerk of the Board
- Susan Pullen, Treasurer/Secretary
- DeVona Saiter, Member
- Kari Ann Noeltner, Member
- Phil Roxworthy, Member
- James Rinehart, Member



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WALPC History



March 26-27, 2025: Rural Groundwater Resilience Workshop

April 2025-Feb 2026: Continued as a partnership with ASU Impact Water

February 2026: Board Established and Coordinator Hired

March 2026: 501c3 application submitted and pending



Arizona Water Innovation Initiative

Home Pillars Executive Committee News Blog Resources Contact



tinyurl.com/ASULaPaz



2026 Focus

Public Education on Local Aquifers

Promote Aquifer Stability in McMullen Valley

Provide Informed Input on Groundwater Management, including the Ranegras AMA

Follow us on Facebook to stay in the loop: <https://tinyurl.com/walpcFB>



Our Groundwater

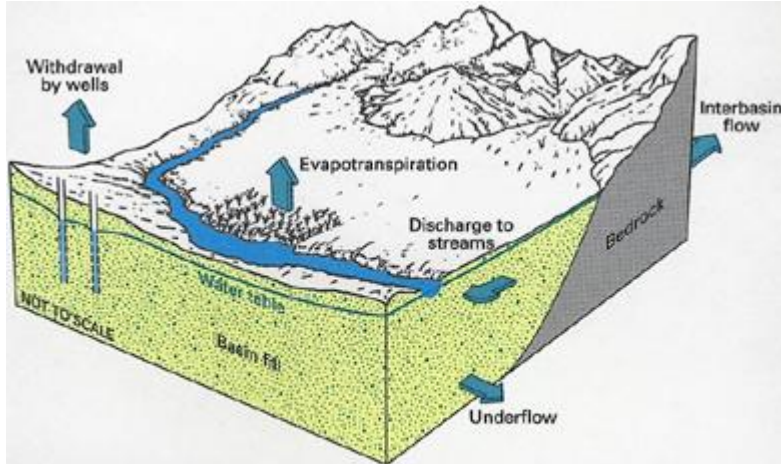


Figure 38. The Basin and Range aquifers have five principal components of ground-water discharge. Ground-water withdrawal from wells is the largest component in Arizona; evapotranspiration is the largest component in Utah.

Aquifers: Underground layers of sand, gravel, and rock that store and transmit groundwater beneath the land

Source: Primarily ancient “fossil water” from wetter climates thousands of years ago, slowly absorbed into the ground

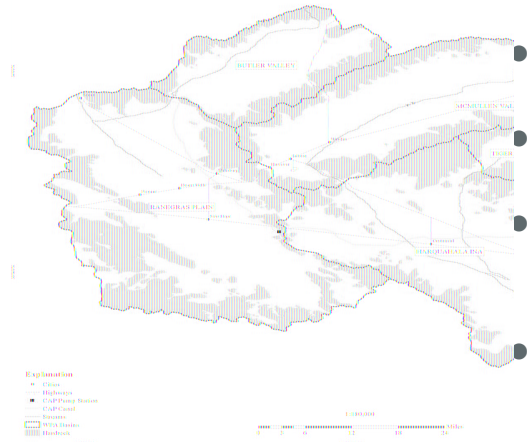
Desert Hydrology: Low rainfall, high evaporation, and hard soils limit how much water can soak in

Recharge: Occurs slowly during larger storm events, especially through washes where water can infiltrate deeper. Mountain fronts are the areas where recharge primarily occurs

tinyurl.com/walpcResources



Our Aquifers

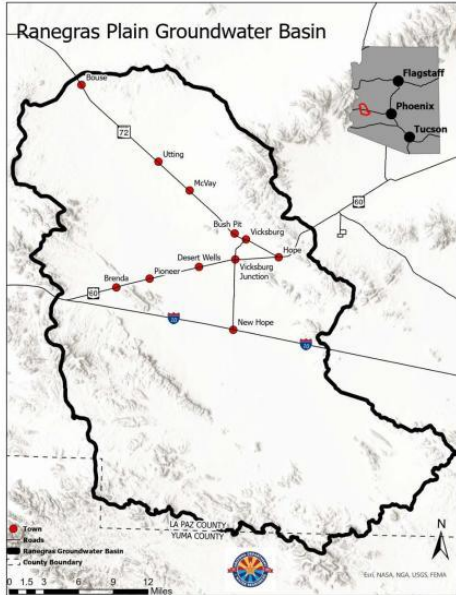


- **Ranegras Basin:** The basin is largely agricultural, with farming being the dominant water user.
- **McMullen Valley Basin:** Primary local aquifer supporting residents and agriculture.
- **Butler Valley Basin:** Rural basin historically used for groundwater withdrawal, including transport for use outside the area.
- **Harquahala Basin:** Groundwater is used primarily for agriculture with limited residential well use, and rules are in place to prevent expansion of irrigated farming
- **Tiger Wash Basin:** Smaller basin with limited data, but part of the broader regional groundwater system influencing overall supply.

<https://tinyurl.com/lapazaquifers>



Ranegras AMA



Goal: protect long-term groundwater supply for the basin

- Designated as an Active Management Area (AMA) by ADWR
- Triggered by concerns about groundwater decline
- Formal process includes data review and public input
- Requires monitoring, reporting, and conservation measures
- May include limits on groundwater pumping
- ADWR developing a long-term management plan
- Ongoing opportunities for community input

tinyurl.com/RanegrasAMAinfo



Transportation Basins



What is it?

- Designated areas where groundwater can be legally pumped and transported to another region
- Arizona law allows the creation of Groundwater Transportation Basins
- Enables movement of water from rural areas to other parts of the state

Why it matters in La Paz County

- Local communities rely on groundwater
- Aquifers have limited recharge
- Additional pumping for export may affect long-term availability

<https://tinyurl.com/yn3a9m7w>



Proposed Legislation: HB 2758

HB 2758

- Bill under consideration in the Arizona Legislature
- Addresses groundwater management and potential water transfers

Geographic Focus

- McMullen Valley, La Paz County
- ~3,000 residents rely on local groundwater wells

McMullen Valley Groundwater Use vs. Recharge (ADWR Estimate)

- Use: 41,417 acre-feet/year
- Recharge: 1,019 acre-feet/year
- Annual Deficit: 40,398 acre-feet
- ~99.8% of groundwater is used by agriculture & large facilities; ~0.2% by residents

What the Bills Would Allow

- Transfer of groundwater to other regions, including urban areas

Public Participation

- Residents may provide input by contacting state legislators



tinyurl.com/HB2758



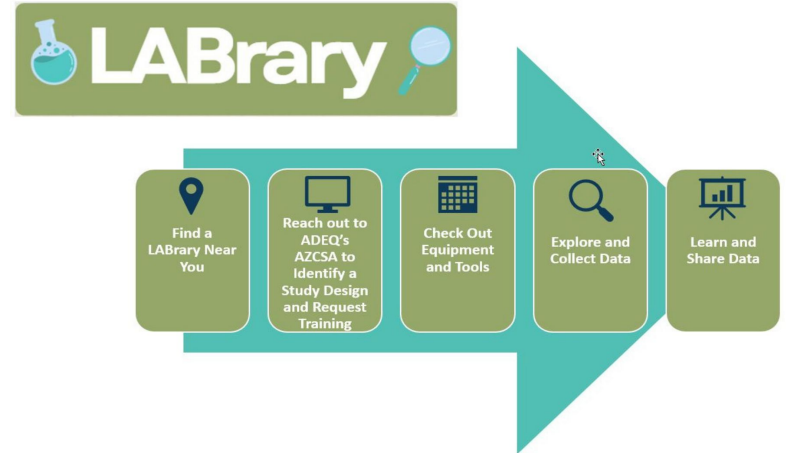
Education: LABrary



Check Out Tools: Borrow equipment to track water quality and groundwater levels or educational purposes. Free training available upon request.

Explore & Collect Data: Collect water samples, or monitor surface and groundwater.

Learn & Share: Use the data for educational purposes, or reporting.



tinyurl.com/ASULABrary



Discussion



Southwest
Decision
Resources



- *What concerns or questions do you have about groundwater?*
- *What are you seeing or experiencing locally?*
- *What information would be useful to you?*

What's Next

- Virtual Community Meetings to Continue Quarterly
- In-Person Workshop in the Fall when 'snowbirds' return
- Partnership development
- Formation of working groups
- Continued Education and Outreach



Stay in Touch

Email:

lapazwateralliance@gmail.com

Join our Email List to stay up to date

tinyurl.com/walpcNewsletter



Water Alliance of La Paz County

