

**COCHISE GROUNDWATER STEWARDS**

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[**https://cochisewaterfuture.org**](https://cochisewaterfuture.org/)

**End of August 2022 Newsletter**

**"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water."** *Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard’s Almanac, 1746*

The **C**ochise **G**roundwater **S**tewards are thankful that you have chosen to receive occasional emails from us and for your concern in preserving our *Groundwater* in the Sulphur Springs Valley.  We are a community based volunteer organization working for a sustainable water policy for all Cochise County.

**NEWS FLASH!** The Cochise County Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday morning to call the election for the Willcox and Douglas AMAs. If you live in the Willcox or Douglas Basin you will now have the opportunity to vote “YES” in November to establish an AMA in the groundwater basin where you live (Proposition 420 or 422). Kudos to everyone who worked tirelessly to make this happen over the past couple of years!! Congratulations!!

Upcoming Action Opportunities:  (Please pass this information on to your friends and neighbors. )

1) **Elfrida Community Meeting**

**September 7, 2022** at 5:30-7:00pm

Elfrida Community Center

10550 US 191, Elfrida, AZ 85610 Phone: 575-313-7799

Community Meeting regarding local *Groundwater*issues and the proposed AMA initiatives (420 & 422) for the Willcox & Douglas Basins.

2) **The Future of Groundwater in the Sulphur Springs Valley**

**Dates/Times: Sept. 15--5:30pm, Sept. 22--11:00am, Sept. 27-- 5:30pm**

Sunsites Library

Pearce/Sunsites, AZ 85625

A 90 minute in person educational session on the groundwater facts for the Sulphur Springs Valley and an overview of the AMA process. A great opportunity to get informed before the November 8 General Election. Must sign up through the Sunsites Library – call 520-826-3866.

**FYI**-

**Arizona Department of Water Resources AMA Informational Meeting in Willcox 8/16 –** Many of us were disappointed with the ADWR meeting in Willcox. It wasn’t so much what ADWR said at the meeting – it is what they didn’t say. First, they did not present any of the hydrology data regarding the current hydrological status of the Willcox and Douglas Basins. That information is critical in establishing the need for protection of the groundwater basins. Second, in their quest to be totally neutral about the AMA ballot initiative they were reluctant to make any definitive statements about the potential of the AMA to preserve our groundwater for future generations. Their most frequent answer to the many questions they were asked was either that they couldn’t answer the question definitively based on their current interpretation of the law or that they did not know the answer. This left the impression that the AMA process was so wishy-washy that you really won’t know what you are voting for when you vote “YES”. The reality is that the AMA process is very specific about what it does. Most importantly it establishes a freeze on new irrigation. (More details on what we know the AMA will do in our next newsletter).

**Cochise County Farm Bureau Anti-AMA Mailer** – We have attached a side by side rebuttal of many of the points made in the recent mailer sent out by the Cochise County Farm and Livestock Bureau. The most telling aspects of this mailer: 1) No mention of the serious groundwater issues we have in the Sulphur Springs Valley and 2) No alternative solution is proposed. The only mention of a solution is “let’s work together to create a solution.” Please note that a group of small farmers here in the Willcox Basin did just that in 2014 and it went nowhere thanks to a lack of support from our state legislators. The Farm Bureau has had seven years to come up with a solution since then but sadly they have proposed nothing.