

# **UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION**

## **Watershed Restoration and Recharge Policy Initiative**

### **RECITALS**

The Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition (Coalition) was formed by the Town of Chino Valley, Town of Prescott Valley, City of Prescott, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, and Yavapai County in acknowledgement of the importance of the Verde River and their joint stewardship of the Upper Verde River Watershed Area (Watershed Area).

The Coalition has since engaged in collaborative efforts to help protect the Verde River by recommending Best Management Practices (BMPs) that protect the base flow of the Upper Verde River and contribute to safe yield in the Prescott Active Management Area. These BMPs include an aquifer recharge pilot project.

The Coalition desires now to expand these efforts by reaching out to other land and water resource stakeholders and large-scale private landowners to collaboratively increase water supplies through a concerted watershed restoration and aquifer recharge effort within the Watershed Area.

### **INITIATIVE**

The Executive Board of the Coalition hereby recommends that the Coalition now apply its resources to significantly expand its efforts to encourage watershed restoration efforts that lead to increased aquifer recharge in the Watershed Area. This will involve reaching out to and coordinating with other partners to research and implement a broad-ranging program of Watershed Area restoration and forest and rangeland management. These efforts would include identification of and application for funding, project development and administration, legislation, and public relations. Potential partners include the U.S. Forest Service, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Northern Arizona University, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Arizona State Land Department, large-scale private landowners and others.

The preliminary goal is to increase groundwater recharge from 2% of total precipitation to 3% of total precipitation. It is believed that this would generate up to 20,000 acre-feet per year of additional water supplies across the Big Chino subbasin and Prescott Active Management Area (PrAMA), and will greatly ameliorate the current overdraft of 10,000 acre feet in the PrAMA. This goal is subject to modification and refinement as research and program administration mature.

Specific initial actions by the Coalition include: (a) adoption of resolutions by individual Coalition member boards and councils, and (b) Coalition staff and Technical

Advisory Committee contacts and cooperation with potential partners to design and implement agreements, scientific research, capital projects, and legislative efforts, and identify funding sources and apply for funding.

RECOMMENDED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, by the Executive Committee of the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition, in accordance with §§4 & 16 of its June 8, 2006 Intergovernmental Agreement.

---

, Chair