



November 3, 2015

Community Development Department
City of Prescott
201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott AZ 86303

RE: Deep Well Ranches annexations (ANX 15-001 and ANX 15-002)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG) is concerned about water use in annexed areas. In the Deep Well annexation areas, most of the water used indoors will be recovered, treated, and recharged to the aquifer. This will reduce the adverse effect on the aquifer of the additional groundwater pumping to supply the annexed areas. However, water used outdoors will be lost to the atmosphere and thus will increase our aquifer overdraft and take us further from safe yield.

Based on historical City records, about 27% of annual groundwater pumping is applied to landscapes. This is lost water. The City of Prescott now has no meaningful controls on landscape water use, thus failing to take advantage of a significant opportunity to conserve groundwater. For the first increment of 450 acre-feet per year allotted to the Deep Well annexation, restrictions on landscape water use could reduce groundwater use up to 120 acre-feet per year – enough to support indoor water use for up to 500 homes.

Therefore, the Citizens Water Advocacy Group encourages the City of Prescott to begin now to consider ordinances for new construction that will minimize use of groundwater for irrigating residential and commercial landscaping, thus extending the City's ability to supply new development using the existing water portfolio.

Water Smart landscapes use less water, preserve beauty, and prevent runoff. Visit prescottwatersmart.com for tips, ideas, and examples.

Sincerely,

Christopher E. Hoy
President