

Arizona Water Quality Management Plan and Streamlining of the 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process



MAG Regional Council
September 24, 2014

Background

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

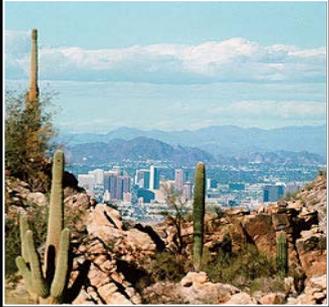
- In 1974, the Governor designated MAG as the Regional Water Quality Management Planning Agency for Maricopa County (Section 208 of the Clean Water Act). MAG prepares the 208 Water Quality Management Plan.
- There are two major elements in the MAG 208 Plan:
 - Point Source - preferred wastewater treatment system to serve the wastewater treatment needs of the area over a twenty year time period.
 - Nonpoint Source – regional surface and groundwater quality, and the federal and state program activities designed to control nonpoint source pollution.



Background

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- **The MAG 208 Plan is the key guiding document used by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Maricopa County in granting permits for wastewater treatment plants in the MAG region.**
 - **Consistency is required for the Aquifer Protection Permit and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.**
 - **Consistency is required for the Approval to Construct issued by the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department.**



Wastewater Treatment Facility Permits and Approvals Linked to the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan

MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan

Includes the desired wastewater treatment configuration for the region

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Permits that Require Consistency with the MAG 208 Plan

- Aquifer Protection Permit (APP)
- Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (AZPDES)
- Reclaimed Water Permit (requires an APP)

Arizona Department of Water Resources Permits that Require an Aquifer Protection Permit

- Underground Storage Facility Permit
- Water Storage Permit

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department Approvals that Require Consistency with the MAG 208 Plan

- Approval to Construct
- Approval of Construction

Arizona Corporation Commission Approval that Requires an Aquifer Protection Permit

- Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CC&N)

Notes:

- MAG is not a regulatory agency and does not issue permits for wastewater treatment facilities.
- The permits and approvals listed in this flowchart do not include all permits and approvals necessary for construction and operation of a wastewater treatment facility.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Proposed 208 Process Streamlining

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- ADEQ is proposing to issue permits without first receiving MAG review and approval for the facility.
- According to ADEQ, MAG could continue to conduct its 208 Process to make the region aware of changes.
- MAG would include facilities in an inventory that would be used to annually update the 208 Plan.
- ADEQ would move forward with issuing permits for facilities, which would be prior to their inclusion in the 208 Plan.



Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Proposed 208 Process Streamlining

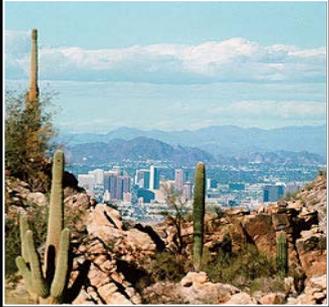
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- ADEQ would determine consistency based on 208 Plan goals, processes, and the proposed wastewater treatment options table.
- The wastewater treatment options table has been designed by ADEQ and used in rural 208 Plans.
- By removing the need to amend the 208 Plan, ADEQ would be able to issue its permits faster.



Concerns with the 208 Streamlining Approach Proposed by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

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- The 208 streamlining approach would result in facilities being permitted prior to MAG review and approval.
- The MAG 208 Review Process is critical since the cities and the County are back-to-back where reuse, recharge, discharge, and Superfund sites may cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- MAG has made efforts to streamline the MAG 208 Plan Amendment and Small Plant Review and Approval Processes.



MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Process



MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan

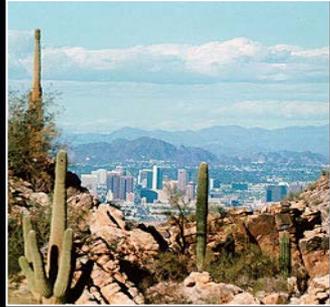
Small Plant Review and Approval Process

For Facilities with an Ultimate Capacity of 2 Million
Gallons Per Day or Less, with No Discharge



MAG Management Committee Comments on the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Proposed 208 Process Streamlining

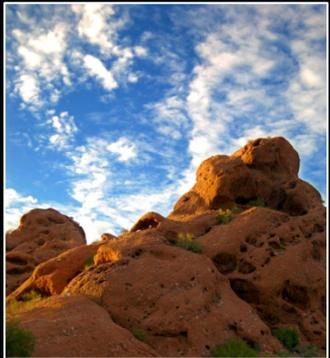
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- **MAG's designation as the Regional Water Quality Management Planning Agency gives the cities and towns the ability to control their own destiny with regard to water.**
- **There are ways to make the process more efficient; but giving up the ability to control water resources would not be in the best interest of the state or the communities.**
- **Eliminating the MAG 208 Process would greatly impact the ability to plan for future growth. The process is fundamental to our ability to manage and control development and environmental quality.**

MAG Management Committee Comments on the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Proposed 208 Process Streamlining

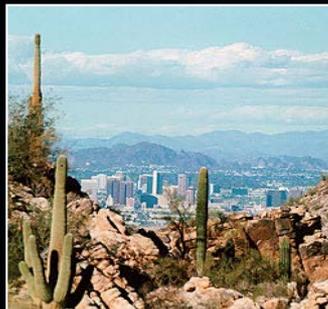
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- Losing the input of the local governments in the process would have severe repercussions. Facilities could be built that may otherwise not be included in the MAG 208 Plan.
- The MAG region is different than rural areas of Arizona and this needs to be recognized.
- The MAG 208 Process provides the MAG member agencies an opportunity to raise concerns and have them addressed.
- Current ongoing efforts to coordinate regionally would be moot if cities and towns lose local control.

Status of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Proposed 208 Process Streamlining

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- ADEQ is in the process of incorporating comments into the wastewater treatment options table and revising goals and objectives for the Arizona Water Quality Management Plan.
- Comments from the MAG Management Committee and MAG Regional Council will be conveyed to ADEQ.
- It is anticipated that ADEQ will continue discussions on its proposed 208 streamlining approach at the State Water Quality Management Working Group meeting on October 14, 2014.



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