

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 2014  
MAG Office Building  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Randy Gottler, Phoenix, Chair	Richard Sacks for Suzanne Grendahl, Scottsdale
Barbara Chappell, Avondale, Vice Chair	David McNeil, Tempe
Roger Klingler for Arnold Coronado, Buckeye	Reyes Medrano for Mark Berrelez, Tolleson
Anupa Jain, Chandler	Kevin Chadwick, Maricopa County
Jamie McCullough for Larry Dobrosky, El Mirage	Henry Day, Arizona Public Service Company
Mark Horn, Gilbert	Jim Kudlinski, Salt River Project
Javier Setovich, Glendale	* Summer Waters, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Mark Seamans, Goodyear	Sherrie Logg for Michael Byrd, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Daniel Cleavenger, Mesa	* Carole Coe Klopatek, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
# Michael Weber, Peoria	Glenn Stark, Gila River Indian Community
Greg Homol, Queen Creek	
Christine Nunez for Terry Lowe, Surprise	

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments	Jared Carr, EPCOR Water
Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of Governments	Mike Worlton, EPCOR Water
Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments	Brent Stoddard, City of Glendale
Frank Metzler, EPCOR Water	Craig Johnson, City of Glendale
Troy Day, EPCOR Water	Tom Gill, City of Glendale
Andy Brown, EPCOR Water	Chris Hagen, City of Tolleson
	Ray Jones, Aricor Water Solutions
	Heather Finden, City of Phoenix

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) was conducted on Tuesday, October 21, 2014. Randy Gottler, City of Phoenix, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. Michael Weber, City of Peoria, attended the meeting via telephone conference call.

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments, indicated that the MAG Regional Council has approved revisions to the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures that include a change to quorum requirements. The language was provided at Committee member places. Ms. Hoffman stated that if a member agency is absent for three consecutive meetings, that member shall no longer be considered a member for purposes of calculating the number constituting a quorum.

She noted that at such a time as the member does attend a meeting, that person will immediately again be considered a member for purposes of calculating the quorum. In no event may the quorum consist of less than one-third of the voting members of the Committee. Ms. Hoffman indicated that this revision was approved by the MAG Regional Council in August 21, 2013 and this is now the fourth Committee meeting since that date.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Gottler provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG or items on the agenda for discussion, but not for action. According to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out comment cards, which are available on the tables adjacent to the doorways inside the meeting room. Citizens are asked not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. Chair Gottler noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of the August 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the August 21, 2014 meeting. Roger Klingler, City of Buckeye, moved and Barbara Chappell, City of Avondale, seconded, and the motion to approve the August 21, 2014 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

4. MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility

Javier Setovich, City of Glendale, provided opening statements on the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility (WVRWRF). He stated that the City of Glendale staff and the City Council are thrilled to once again see economic activity and development in Glendale and the region. Mr. Setovich indicated that the MAG 208 Process is critical to the communities and facilitates the goals of local government control while incorporating a regional approach with all of the stakeholders. He noted that at the last WQAC meeting on August 21, 2014, several questions and comments were presented on the 208 Plan Amendment for the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Setovich indicated that the City of Glendale took these comments very seriously and was committed to studying, researching, and evaluating each of the comments before returning to the Committee. The City has brought the responses today.

Mr. Setovich discussed that Glendale has attempted to address all of the questions and concerns with each of the stakeholders through one-on-one meetings and outreach by EPCOR Water. In addition, shortly after the last Committee meeting, at the beginning of September, the Glendale City Manager invited the entire West Valley Managers group to meet with her so they could hear directly from the City and see the data and fact-based responses to the concerns raised at the August 21, 2014 Committee meeting. The City Manager restated the City's support for a thorough, transparent process and a commitment to address all of the concerns on the 208 amendment. Mr. Setovich added that the City Manager asked the communities to share any additional concerns on the amendment so that Glendale may address them. He indicated that it has been over 45 days since that offer and no additional feedback has been received. Mr. Setovich noted that the City is ready to move forward.

Mr. Setovich stated that with the additional time to reflect, research and reassess, Glendale is even more supportive of moving forward with the sponsorship of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Setovich commented that the amendment identifies a solution that is: fiscally responsible; benefits Glendale and surrounding communities; supports plan development of the area resulting in sustainable growth; and translates regional growth into West Valley jobs.

Mr. Setovich indicated that the Draft 208 Plan Amendment plays an important role in maintaining water resources in the local area, which is an absolute necessity and will prove to be essential for future regional discussions. He indicated that the City encourages the Committee to evaluate the amendment based on facts and data. He stated that Glendale assures the Committee that this is an excellent solution that brings value to all parties in the region. He asked for support of the 208 Amendment based on the facts, the responsibilities of the Committee, and the benefits of the project.

Frank Metzler, EPCOR Water, provided an overview of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility. He stated that he is a project manager for EPCOR Water and is responsible for the delivery of the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility for EPCOR, the City of Glendale, and Maricopa County.

Mr. Metzler stated that the area to be served by the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility is approximately 17 square miles at the western end of the Glendale Municipal Planning Area and includes unincorporated Maricopa County lands. The service area is bound by Peoria Avenue on the north, Camelback Road on the south, Litchfield Road is the approximate eastern boundary, and Citrus Road on the west. He showed the justifications within a three mile radius of the area to be served, which were requested to provide letters of no objection as part of the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process. Within the proposed service area, EPCOR Water has obtained signed agreements with 18 landowners for approximately 3,600 acres of land to provide water and wastewater service. Mr. Metzler indicated that the proposed West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility will be located in the southeast corner of the service area on a 40 acre lot that will be provided by the Loop 303 landowners at no cost to EPCOR. The ultimate build-out capacity of the WVRWRF will be eight million gallons per day (mgd). Mr. Metzler reported that the initial capacity of the facility is proposed to be 150,000 gallons per day (gpd) that will be expanded to 500,000 gpd when service needs expand. He indicated that the facility will then be scalable to expand in 500,000 gpd increments as necessary.

Mr. Metzler discussed the amendment timeline. He stated that EPCOR began preparing the amendment in Fall 2013. The Draft 208 Plan Amendment was sent to Glendale, Maricopa County, and MAG in December 2013. The amendment was also sent to municipalities within a three mile radius for letters of no objection. All letters of no objection were received from the municipalities by April 2014. Mr. Metzler indicated that the City of Glendale and Maricopa County provided sponsorship of the amendment in May 2014. In May, a presentation on the Draft 208 Plan Amendment was provided to the MAG WQAC. At the meeting, the Committee authorized a public hearing for the Draft 208 Plan Amendment. In August 2014, the WQAC conducted a public hearing for the Draft 208 Plan Amendment and had an open discussion on the amendment. At the August meeting, the WQAC voted to table the amendment pending further discussion, coordination, and outreach on the concerns that were expressed. Mr. Metzler stated that in September 2014, Glendale and EPCOR worked diligently to reach out to MAG WQAC members with that had expressed concern and conducted one-on-one meetings with interested members. There was also a West Valley City Managers meeting conducted in Glendale in September. In October 2014, letters from Central

Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR), Liberty Utilities, and EPCOR Water were provided to MAG addressing the concerns raised at the public hearing. A third presentation is being provided to the Committee today seeking approval to forward the amendment to the MAG Management Committee.

Mr. Metzler provided the following benefits for the Loop 303 Project: proposed wastewater service area is at the western end of the Glendale Municipal Planning Area; regulated water and sewer service will help foster economic development of the Loop 303 Corridor and contribute to the growth of Glendale's economy; and recharging and reusing the reclaimed water from the WVRWRF is consistent with Glendale's long-range sustainable water supply plan.

Mr. Metzler addressed questions and concerns raised at the previous Committee meeting. One of the questions was how the new wastewater service area will affect existing EPCOR customers. He indicated that there is no impact to existing customers. The new service area will have its own tariff that will be set by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Mr. Metzler added that the facility and collection system will be funded by developer advances, contributions, and private capital.

Mr. Metzler responded to the question of whether Glendale and EPCOR Water considered other regional wastewater treatment solutions. He noted that other options were considered, however no other options satisfied all of the evaluation criteria that were set at the beginning of the process. Any option that send the effluent out of the Glendale Municipal Planning Area is not an acceptable water resource management option for the City of Glendale. Mr. Metzler commented that if there was the possibility to send effluent to another municipality, the initial investment costs required to design and build new conveyance facilities for effluent to the 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue interceptor are extremely high. In addition, the current and projected operations and maintenance costs for conveying the effluent are not competitive. Mr. Metzler added that there is no unallocated excess capacity in the 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue interceptor; paid expansion would have to occur to convey wastewater flows.

Mr. Metzler discussed the question of whether effluent can be sent to an existing regional wastewater reclamation facility for treatment. He mentioned that sending the effluent to another option results in a net loss to the long term water supply for Glendale and possibly the West Valley as a whole; the net loss would be approximately 9,000 acre feet per year at buildout in 2045. He noted that the area does not have a designation of assured water supply. Mr. Metzler added that on-site recharge will help ensure the physical availability of groundwater resources. He stated that local reuse of reclaimed water reduces demand on groundwater and limited Central Arizona Project supplies for the area.

Mr. Metzler responded to the concern regarding the proximity of the two recharge facilities, and the Phoenix-Goodyear Airport Superfund Site North and South plumes. Liberty Utilities and CAGR had expressed concerns at the last WQAC meeting about the proximity of their new proposed recharge facility and the WVRWRF. As proposed, the recharge basins would be approximately 4,000 feet apart. He stated that CAGR, Liberty Utilities, and EPCOR Water met on September 23, 2014 to discuss the recharge concerns. Mr. Metzler stated that CAGR, Liberty Utilities, and EPCOR Water jointly agreed to address these issues within the framework and jurisdiction of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) groundwater recharge program. He added that both Liberty Utilities and EPCOR Water have filed Underground Storage Facility applications with ADWR since the last MAG WQAC meeting. Mr. Metzler reported that EPCOR reached out to the City of Goodyear and are coordinating with responsible parties for the Phoenix-Goodyear Airport Superfund Site North and South plumes to evaluate potential hydrologic interactions between the

WVRWRF recharge site and the plumes while working through the Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) process.

Mr. Klingler thanked Glendale for their commitment to addressing the concerns and getting everyone together to answer the questions. He also commended EPCOR Water, Liberty Utilities, and CAGRD for agreeing to resolve concerns at ADWR. Mr. Klingler stated that he agrees with Mr. Setovich that this was a good process and that the cities worked it out amongst themselves. He noted that there was good, thorough discussions and the concerns were addressed. He stated that had the process been done another way he is unsure if there would have been as good of discussion, and a basis for the future of West Valley water and wastewater issues that will need to be addressed together. Mr. Klingler commended everyone who was involved in the process and resolution.

Jamie McCullough, City of El Mirage, stated that she has a comment to read on behalf of Larry Dobrosky, El Mirage Deputy City Manager. “It is the City of El Mirage’s understanding that the potentially impacted communities have had an opportunity to express their concerns to both Glendale and EPCOR. To our knowledge, Glendale has been responsive to those concerns. El Mirage therefore supports the Glendale’s MAG 208 Amendment application.”

Mr. Setovich thanked the City of Buckeye and the City of El Mirage for their comments. He stated that the opportunity to reassess the application was beneficial to better the product and demonstrate the value of the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process.

Mr. Setovich made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the West Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Kevin Chadwick, Maricopa County, seconded the motion. The motion passed with Reyes Medrano, City of Tolleson, voting no and Henry Day, Arizona Public Service Company, abstaining.

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

Ms. Hoffman reported on an effort by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to update the State Water Quality Management Plan, which had previously been completed in 1979. As part of that process, ADEQ is also proposing to streamline the 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process. Ms. Hoffman stated that this process is conducted by five councils of governments in Arizona, as well as Yuma, LaPaz and Mohave Counties. She noted that ADEQ is streamlining various processes in order to issue permits faster.

Ms. Hoffman reported that currently, the 208 streamlining process being proposed by ADEQ would result in the issuance of permits for wastewater treatment facilities without first going through the MAG 208 Process and receiving MAG Regional Council approval. In 1974, MAG was designated by the Governor as the Regional Water Quality Management Planning Agency for Maricopa County in accordance with Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. It is in this capacity that MAG prepares the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan.

Ms. Hoffman stated that there are two major elements of the MAG 208 Plan: the Point Source element and the Nonpoint Source element. The Point Source element describes the preferred wastewater treatment system to serve the wastewater treatment needs of the area over a twenty-year time period. The Nonpoint Source element primarily describes the regional surface and groundwater quality, and the federal and state program activities designed to control nonpoint source pollution.

Ms. Hoffman noted that the MAG 208 Plan is the key guiding document used by ADEQ and Maricopa County Environmental Services in granting permits for wastewater treatment plants in the MAG region. Consistency with the MAG 208 Plan is required for the Aquifer Protection Permit and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit issued by ADEQ. Consistency is also required for the Approval to Construct issued by the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department.

Ms. Hoffman displayed a chart of the wastewater treatment facility permits and approvals that are linked to the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan. She noted that permits issued by ADEQ that require consistency with the 208 Plan include the Aquifer Protection Permit and the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The Reclaimed Water Permit from ADEQ requires an Aquifer Protection Permit, which needs 208 Plan consistency. Ms. Hoffman noted that the Underground Storage Facility Permit and the Water Storage Permit issued by the Arizona Department of Water Resources require the Aquifer Protection Permit from ADEQ, which requires 208 Plan consistency. Approvals from Maricopa County Environmental Services that require consistency with the 208 Plan include the Approval to Construct and the Approval of Construction. The Arizona Corporation Commission requires the Aquifer Protection Permit from ADEQ and therefore, consistency with the 208 Plan, to obtain the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity. Ms. Hoffman noted that the permits and approvals she listed are the ones linked to the 208 Plan, but are not all that are required for the construction and operation of a wastewater treatment facility.

Ms. Hoffman stated that ADEQ is looking to streamline processes including the 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process in order to issue permits faster. The 208 streamlining approach currently proposed by ADEQ would result in the issuance of its permits for new facilities, expansions, surface water discharges, and service area changes without first going through the 208 Process and receiving Regional Council approval. Ms. Hoffman indicated that according to ADEQ, MAG could continue to conduct a 208 process to make the region aware of changes; however, it would not be linked to permitting. Ms. Hoffman stated that ADEQ is proposing that MAG include facilities in an inventory that would be used to annually update the 208 Plan. Ms. Hoffman said that meanwhile, ADEQ would be issuing permits for the facilities in the inventory before the facilities become part of the MAG 208 Plan.

Ms. Hoffman discussed that ADEQ would no longer use the wastewater treatment configuration identified in the Point Source element of the 208 Plan to determine 208 consistency. Instead, ADEQ would determine consistency based on the MAG 208 Plan goals, processes, and proposed wastewater treatment options table. Ms. Hoffman stated that the options table was designed by ADEQ and included in rural 208 Plans. A copy of an options table was included in the meeting materials. If a new facility is consistent with the options table and the 208 Plan goals and processes, ADEQ would begin to issue the permits. Ms. Hoffman stated that by removing the need to amend the 208 Plan for changes such as new facilities, expansions, surface water discharges, or service area changes, ADEQ would then be able to issue its permits faster.

Ms. Hoffman stated that MAG staff has expressed concern about the current 208 streamlining approach proposed by ADEQ. She remarked that the streamlining approach would result in facilities being permitted before MAG decides whether or not to include them in the 208 Plan. Ms. Hoffman stated that the options table may work in the rural areas, but the MAG region is significantly different. This region consists of numerous cities and towns and the county that are back-to-back, where reuse, recharge, discharge and Superfund sites cross jurisdictional boundaries. Ms. Hoffman stated that the MAG 208 Process provides an opportunity to review facilities and discharges for

environmental impacts on a regional basis, before permits are issued. In addition, MAG has made efforts to streamline the MAG 208 Plan Amendment and Small Plant Review and Approval Processes.

Ms. Hoffman displayed a graphic of the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Process. She noted that the MAG process is typically conducted in six months or less. First, the jurisdiction in which the facility will be located requests an amendment to the MAG 208 Plan. Once the amendment is ready, a meeting of the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee is called. She explained that the Committee meets as needed so there is no delay waiting for the next scheduled meeting. Ms. Hoffman stated that the Committee reviews the amendment and authorizes a public hearing, which, according to federal regulations, must be advertised 45 days in advance. She explained that to expedite the process, the Committee conducts the public hearing and makes a recommendation to the MAG Management Committee at the same meeting. The Management Committee then makes a recommendation to the MAG Regional Council and the Regional Council takes action on the amendment. Following Regional Council action, the State Water Quality Management Working Group makes a recommendation to ADEQ. ADEQ certifies the amendment is consistent with the State 208 Water Quality Management Plan and MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan and submits it to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Ms. Hoffman stated that MAG also has the Small Plant Review and Approval Process which is for facilities with an ultimate capacity of two million gallons per day or less, with no surface water discharge. Ms. Hoffman stated that this MAG process is shorter, taking approximately one-and-one-half months. First, the jurisdiction in which the facility will be located makes the request. Then the Water Quality Advisory Committee reviews the small plant and makes a recommendation to the Management Committee. There is no public hearing. Ms. Hoffman stated that the Management Committee reviews the recommendation and makes a recommendation to the MAG Regional Council who takes official action on the small plant. ADEQ certifies consistency with the State 208 Plan and MAG 208 Plan. Upon the approval letter from ADEQ, the developer submits plans and specifications, and a copy of the approved design concept to the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department for review and issuance of the Approval to Construct.

Ms. Hoffman stated that a presentation on the proposed streamlining was provided to the MAG Management Committee on September 10, 2014. She said that several members expressed concern with the streamlining approach and expressed support for the MAG 208 Process. Ms. Hoffman provided some of the comments received: "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." "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."

Ms. Hoffman indicated that a presentation on the proposed streamlining was then provided to the MAG Regional Council on September 24, 2014. She said that several members also expressed

concern with the streamlining approach and expressed support for the MAG 208 Process. Ms. Hoffman provided some of the comments received: “This is not streamlining; this is hurting the cities.” “The communication amongst the jurisdictions is very important. The cities work on the issues together.” “The proposed streamlining approach would be an intrusion on areas that are growing.” “We would be extremely upset if we were to lose any kind of local control.” “We have a regional process that is working. What is the reason for streamlining?” “ADEQ may just want control over the 208 process and to not involve the cities.” “It would be helpful to hear from ADEQ on why they are streamlining the 208 Process. If there are valid issues, they should present them and we could see if there are ways to accommodate.”

Ms. Hoffman reported that following the MAG Regional Council meeting, MAG staff met with ADEQ on October 1, 2014 to discuss the concerns raised by the Management Committee and Regional Council on the proposed streamlining approach. ADEQ indicated that they have made a commitment to reduce permitting time for its customers, the regulated community. The ADEQ goal is to reduce permitting time by 50 percent. As a result of this meeting, MAG staff agreed to work cooperatively with ADEQ to explore possible streamlining options for the 208 Process that will preserve MAG review and approval before permits are issued. Ms. Hoffman noted that the cities and towns and the region have been streamlining processes in order to become more efficient and globally competitive.

Mr. Klingler inquired if ADEQ mentioned a time frame. Ms. Hoffman responded that ADEQ did not address a time frame. She stated that ADEQ proposed streamlining the process in order to issue permits faster. Ms. Hoffman stated that ADEQ will be working with MAG. It is anticipated that a meeting to discuss the streamlining will be scheduled soon. Mr. Klingler requested clarification that ADEQ will not move ahead with streamlining until they have discussed it with MAG. Ms. Hoffman replied that is her understanding.

David McNeil, City of Tempe, asked if there would be a formal change in authority through an ADEQ process and would it be a process where the State 208 Plan would be approved. Ms. Hoffman responded that there have only been discussions at the State Water Quality Management Working Group meetings and at this point the Arizona Water Quality Management Plan update has not been drafted. She stated that there have been discussions on changing what is meant by “consistency” and that the change would likely not be a rule change. Consistency is currently determined by the Point Source element; the change to the definition of consistency would be to determine consistency by the overall process and goals of the 208 Plan.

Mr. Klingler inquired about the process of changing the definition of consistency. Ms. Hoffman replied that ADEQ is working with the council of governments through the State Water Quality Management Working Group. She stated that if there were to be a change to the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Process then the change would be brought to the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee, MAG Management Committee, and MAG Regional Council. Mr. Klingler commented on the ADEQ process of changing the definition of consistency without changing the MAG 208 Process. Ms. Hoffman indicated that ADEQ may make the change in the Arizona Water Quality Management Plan.

Ms. Chappell asked about the approval process for the Arizona Water Quality Management Plan. Ms. Hoffman responded that the State Plan has not been updated since its approval in 1979. She indicated that she could report back on the approval process for the State Water Quality Management Plan. Ms. Chappell inquired about ADEQ requesting changes outside of the MAG 208 Process. Ms.

Hoffman replied that a change to the MAG 208 Plan or process would need MAG Regional Council approval. She discussed that ADEQ approved a wastewater treatment options table for rural 208 Plans as part of their process. Ms. Chappell expressed concern about ADEQ changing their process to issue permits faster without having to go through MAG Regional Council approval. Ms. Hoffman noted that ADEQ has indicated that they will work cooperatively with MAG. She stated that ADEQ had discussed a process for the entire State, however MAG staff has indicated that a process that may work in rural areas may not work in urban areas. Ms. Chappell thanked MAG staff for working cooperatively with ADEQ.

Mr. McNeil inquired if ADEQ has identified 208 amendments as causes for permit delays. Ms. Hoffman responded that ADEQ is looking at the process on a state-wide level. She stated that they are striving to reduce permitting time by 50 percent. The 208 consistency is part of the APP Process.

Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments, discussed the ADEQ Aquifer Protection Permit Process. She stated that parallel processing has always been very important. Ms. Bauer indicated that 208 consistency used to be outside of the APP Process so that both processes could be preformed at the same time. In 2001, ADEQ streamlined its process and went through the Unified Water Rules. She noted that it was at this time that ADEQ put 208 consistency in the Aquifer Protection Permit Process. The 208 consistency component was included at the point before draft permits were issued, which still allowed for parallel processing. Since that time ADEQ has moved 208 consistency to the front end in the administrative checklist and they do not move forward until there is 208 consistency. Ms. Bauer indicated that this has elongated the process.

Ms. Bauer indicated that at the October 1, 2014 meeting, ADEQ explained that they are not opposed to parallel processing. We asked at the meeting how long the APP Process takes to complete. ADEQ indicated that the APP Process takes approximately 240 days to complete. Ms. Bauer commented that the MAG 208 Process takes less than six months. Ms. Bauer noted that it was a good meeting. She mentioned that ADEQ discussed some points at the meeting that MAG shares, including the importance of economic development. Ms. Bauer stated that MAG has an Economic Development Committee. Cities and towns have been streamlining their processes and coming before the MAG Economic Development Committee to demonstrate their efforts to become more globally competitive. She added that ADEQ is trying to be more responsive to their clients, which is primarily the private sector. Ms. Bauer noted that ADEQ has been removed from the State General Fund and now 85 percent of its funding is from fees and services. She indicated that MAG will work cooperatively with ADEQ to streamline the process where it makes sense without excluding the MAG approval process before a permit is issued.

Greg Homol, Town of Queen Creek, commented that he sits on the Central Arizona Governments (CAG) Environmental Planning Committee which discusses the CAG 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan. He stated that ADEQ has discussed streamlining in order to issue permits faster, however, it would not discontinue the 208 process with the council of governments. Mr. Homol commented on a representative from CAG also being invited to the ADEQ streamlining meeting. He stated that ADEQ indicated that they would like to work cooperatively to streamline the process while keeping the process in tact.

Chair Gottler asked if ADEQ has mentioned a time frame. Ms. Hoffman replied that ADEQ has not mentioned a specific time line. A meeting of the State Water Quality Management Working Group was scheduled for October 14, 2014; however the meeting was cancelled.

Richard Sacks, City of Scottsdale, inquired if the 208 Process is defined in an administrative rule and if it would require an administrative rule change. Ms. Hoffman responded that what ADEQ has currently proposed would not require an administrative rule change.

6. Call for Future Agenda Items

Chair Gottler asked the Committee for suggestions on future agenda items.

7. Comments from the Committee

Chair Gottler invited comments from the Committee members. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.