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Central Arizona Governments

## Amending the CAG 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan

### Environmental Planning

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Green Valley Park in Payson, Arizona uses a man-made lake not only as a community enhancement, but also as a reclaimed water retention basin.

### Is an Amendment to the CAG 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWWQMP) required?

If you meet one of the criteria below, an amendment is typically required:

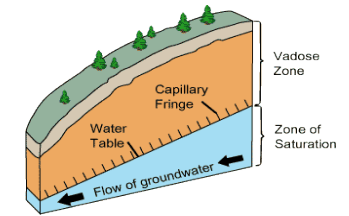
- The establishment of a new, or the expansion of an existing Service/ Planning Area and/or Designated Management Agency
- Creation of a new, or change to an existing Arizona Pollution Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) discharge point(s)
- A major change is eminent within a service area boundary, such as an increase in population, not addressed in an existing 208 plan
- Proposed construction and permitting for a new wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), regardless of the funding sources, which is inconsistent with the existing AWWQMP
- An expansion of an existing WWTF, or changes in effluent quality or reuse, recharge, or disposal methods
- Changing or adopting new site-specific water quality standards, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), or other major changes affecting regional water quality planning

There are some plans that may go through an expedited process, such as the reassignment of a service area to another company, or annexation. Contact CAG for more information.

### Water Quality Planning Standards in the CAAG Region

The CAG Regional Council has developed a set of standards for Water Quality Management Planning. These include:

- Cooperation with local jurisdictions to foster and create Regional solutions to water quality issues
- The creation of Regional wastewater treatment facilities, rather than numerous, small facilities or large on-site collection systems
- The elimination of package plants
- Treating effluent to A+ quality standards
- The reclamation of effluent for reuse and recharge, rather than discharge
- The reduction in discharge points, and ensuring discharges are beneficial or not destructive to adjacent areas
- Encouraging all municipalities to obtain Designated Management Agency status



Vadose zone diagram.

# CAG 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Process

## Step 1: Contact CAG & receive Amendment Information Package

If you need to begin the 208 Amendment process, are not sure if an amendment is required, or have questions, contact CAG and obtain an information package. This includes documentation relevant to 208 planning, pertinent excerpts from the CAG 208 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWWQMP), and details on submitting your plan. You may also set up a meeting with CAG to discuss your project further, and receive general guidance on proceeding with the 208 process. If a proposed plan is within the current planning boundary of a city, town, sanitary district, improvement district, or with a Designated Management Agency (DMA), you will need to contact that agency before proceeding with the CAG process.



Riparian area along the Gila River in Pinal County

## Step 2: Contact ADEQ for documentation and schedule pre-application meeting/submit permit applications

Contact the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Water Quality Management (WQM) Planning Coordinator, and receive information for permitting, including the Continuing Planning Process and other documentation required to apply for ADEQ permits. You may also check the ADEQ website for information on specific permits at [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov).

After reading all documentation, you should set up a pre-application meeting with ADEQ, which includes all permit writers in the Department. They will be able to answer any questions you may have, discuss specific requirements, submittal process, and time frames required for various permits. Remember, some of these permits can take six months or more to process after the receipt of a complete application. It is suggested

the applicant prepare and submit the appropriate applications in a timely manner. **Please note:** Although you may apply for ADEQ permits at this point in the process, the permit will not be processed until 208 conformance is achieved.

## Step 3: Draft the Amendment and submit to CAAG

Start working on a draft of the amendment. CAG has a standardized amendment format that must be used. CAG can provide copies of previously approved documents to use as an example. Please follow the format - it includes all aspects required by the 208 process. If a section does not apply to you, you may omit it. If you have questions about the draft or what should or should not be included, do not hesitate to call CAG. We are here to help you!

Once the draft is complete, submit a minimum of five copies (or more if requested by CAG), along with relevant application fees. The application package will not be read until fees are remitted.

## Step 4: Jurisdictional Support, CAG, and ADEQ Review

In order for CAG to review a proposed amendment, neighboring jurisdictions must be contacted. The applicant must petition any neighboring jurisdictions potentially affected by the plan, including Native American Communities and/or jurisdictions in other counties, for a letter of support or no objection. CAG can assist in this process or set up meetings to help the you along. **CAG cannot and will not begin a review until all letters are received.**

For those looking to create or expand a DMA, CAG will set up a meeting with all neighboring jurisdictions, including County staff. This is required for DMA establishment or expansion to ensure all parties understand the proposed plan.

Once all required jurisdictions give support, CAG will create a tentative time table and begin a formal review. CAG and ADEQ will concurrently review the plan. CAG mainly concentrates on planning issues, whereas ADEQ focuses more on regulatory issues. CAG will provide a written report, detailing comments made by CAG and ADEQ, and any changes that will need to be made. **All comments/changes must be ad-**

**ressed. Failure to do so will result in a delay in your plan!**

## Step 5: Public Review/Hearing

Once CAAG is satisfied with the draft amendment, staff will begin the public review process. CAG will instruct you on the number of copies of the draft to print, as well as providing an electronic version of the draft, in PDF format, including all mapping. The hard copies will be disseminated to all neighboring jurisdictions and other concerned parties. A copy of the draft will also be placed on the CAG website for public review.

CAG must hold at least one Public Hearing to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the plan. A notice will be placed in a local newspaper at least 45 days prior to the Public Hearing, and copies of the draft will be available for review for a minimum of 30 days prior to the Public Hearing. The Hearing will be held in or near the proposed area to be served. The applicant will be required to give a presentation during this Hearing.

Following the Hearing, CAG will compile an addendum to the plan, documenting the public participation process. This includes a list of all neighboring jurisdictions contacted, public notice information, and comments filed during the review period and Public Hearing.

## Step 6: Present to Committees

After the Public Hearing, the applicant must give a presentation to the Environmental Planning Committee (EPC), CAG's technical review committee, made up of environmental, health, and water/wastewater professionals within the Region. EPC will make a recommendation to the CAG Regional Council. This recommendation may contain a list of changes that must be made prior to Regional Council deliberation.

After EPC recommendation, the CAG Management Committee (made up of city/town and county managers) will review the plan, and either concur with EPC recommendations, or make further recommendations. They, as well as EPC may also table the item if deemed necessary.

The CAG Regional Council, once receiving recommendations

from both Committees, will either approve or deny the application, send it back through committees for further review, or make changes.

Once Regional approval is received, the Amendment goes to the State Water Quality Working Group, who provides recommendation to ADEQ.

## Step 7: Submission to ADEQ

After all committees have provided recommendations and all changes have been made, CAG will submit the plan, now a Final Draft, to ADEQ for certification by the ADEQ Director, designate for the Governor of Arizona. This process can take anywhere between four to six weeks, or more, depending on the various ADEQ departments' ability to expedite the process.

## Step 8: Submission to EPA

Upon certification by ADEQ, a submission package is created and submitted to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX in San Francisco. If the ADEQ WQM Coordinator does not receive a written reply within 120 days, the amendment is automatically approved. **Note:** a DMA creation or expansion must receive written approval from EPA, rather than an automatic approval without documentation.



Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR)

## Step 9: Documentation

The WQM Regional Coordinator will provide copies of all letters of approval to the applicant and CAAG upon request. The applicant must keep a copy of the approved Amendment on premises. All amendments are public record and available for review upon request. The applicant is required to provide CAG with an annual progress report on the progression of the facility/utility.