

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Request for Information (RFI)

### Why is WIFA issuing the RFI?

This RFI is WIFA's first step to identify future water demands and develop a list of potential augmentation opportunities to increase water supplies for the state of Arizona. The RFI seeks input and ideas for potential water augmentation from all interested parties.

### Will specific projects be selected solely from the information submitted in response to the RFI?

No, the purpose of the RFI is only to gather initial input. Actual projects or programs will be selected through future proposal submission processes.

### What type of information does the RFI seek?

We're looking for any input the responders want to provide on potential additional sources of water supply either within or outside of the state of Arizona.

### How much information does WIFA want responders to provide?

To manage and adequately review the initial responses and not be too burdensome for the responders, we ask that your submittals be limited to 25 pages. References and links to supporting documents and data can be included. Other information guiding the development of responses is presented in the RFI, which is available on WIFA's [Long-Term Water Augmentation Fund landing page](#). Remaining questions can be directed to Chelsea McGuire at [cmcguire@azwifa.gov](mailto:cmcguire@azwifa.gov).

### How much water augmentation is WIFA seeking to help fund?

WIFA has not yet identified a target volume of additional water. We will coordinate with our sister agencies in state government and with water suppliers and users to gather input on future needs across a range of potential supply and demand scenarios.

### Can I communicate with WIFA during this process?

Yes. We encourage respondents to attend our industry forum to meet with WIFA, learn more, ask questions, and share any ideas. This forum will be held **Wednesday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. MST** at **WIFA's offices, 100 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Phoenix**. Virtual participation will be available through Zoom. More information will be available on the [LTWAF Landing Page](#) and WIFA's [Public Meetings](#) page.

Additionally, respondents are encouraged to request a one-on-one meeting to discuss their responses and provide further input to WIFA. WIFA may hold as many one-on-one meetings as necessary but does not guarantee a one-on-one meeting and will determine each meeting at its discretion.

### What is the outcome of the RFI?

The information obtained through this RFI will help WIFA identify and prioritize potential water augmentation opportunities, which may result in future competitive solicitation(s).

## LTWAF – General

### **If WIFA has been directed by the legislature to seek opportunities to import water from beyond the State, how does this interface with the ongoing interstate Colorado River management negotiations?**

WIFA's role is only to help fund potential projects and programs. We are not involved in interstate and federal water management discussions. WIFA will continue to coordinate closely with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and the Central Arizona Project (CAP) to get their input and direction on these issues.

### **How much funding does WIFA currently have to support the LTWAF program?**

In 2022, the Arizona Legislature committed \$1 billion to the LTWAF as part of a holistic approach to securing Arizona's water future. So far, a total of \$522,200,000 has been appropriated to WIFA for that purpose. Another \$333,000,000 is budgeted for allocation in FY2025. At the direction of the WIFA Board, WIFA is requesting the Legislature appropriate the additional \$144 million, re-establishing the overall commitment of \$1 billion.

The total commitment amount can be used to cash fund a project and programs, support a bond program, and/or enhance financial capacity (loans) for a project(s) depending on the opportunities.

### **What role(s) does WIFA anticipate the private sector might play in identifying and implementing projects and programs under the LTWAF?**

The authorizing legislation for WIFA's LTWAF allows WIFA to enter into Public-Private-Partnerships (P3) to deliver water supply opportunities according to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§ 49-1213. Financial assistance through the LTWAF can include loans to eligible entities and credit enhancements purchased for an eligible entity's bonds or other forms of indebtedness.

### **Will WIFA consider purchases of mainstem Colorado River water to meet future municipal, industrial, and commercial water needs off-river?**

No. WIFA is statutorily prohibited from purchasing mainstem Colorado River water or rights to mainstem Colorado River water for the purposes of transfer (see ARS 49-1210(A)). Moreover, a key element in the authorizing legislation for the LTWAF is the direction to see *NEW* water supplies, not to obtain and transfer existing water supplies.

### **Will WIFA consider the potential environmental effects of additional water supply development through the LTWAF and, if so, how?**

Yes, WIFA will consider the potential environmental effects of proposed water supply projects and programs. We will look for project and program configurations that avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential adverse effects in that order of priority. Challenges associated with obtaining needed federal, state, local, and other permits and approvals will also be considered.

## How will WIFA address or incorporate the current and future needs of tribal nations regardless of whether these needs have been quantified and/or adjudicated?

WIFA welcomes the input of all 22 federally recognized tribal nations with lands in Arizona on their needs and on their ideas for potential water sources.

### Where can I go to get more information on:

- WIFA's programs, policies, and legislative authorizations? Visit [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov) or contact Chelsea McGuire, Assistant Director – External Affairs at [cmcguire@azwifa.gov](mailto:cmcguire@azwifa.gov).
- Arizona's future water demand projections? Visit [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov) or [www.arizonawaterfacts.com](http://www.arizonawaterfacts.com).
- Colorado River management and the status of the ongoing interstate/federal discussions? Visit [www.azwater.gov/crm](http://www.azwater.gov/crm) or <https://usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/>.
- The adequacy of Arizona's groundwater supplies? Visit [www.azwater.gov/aaws](http://www.azwater.gov/aaws).