

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER**  
**THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)**  
**ITS ROLE WITHIN THE VERDE RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP**

Title II requires the Partnership to deliver plans and reports as summarized in the following table:

PREPARE PLAN FOR WATER-RESOURCES STUDIES TO FULFILL BASIN-WIDE WATER-RESOURCE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT NEEDS THAT IDENTIFIES:

- Objectives;
- Tools needed (e.g., hydrologic models, monitoring networks);
- Completed, current, and new studies needed;
- Cost and duration of proposed studies and analyses.

VERDE VALLEY WATER BUDGET (14 MONTHS; USGS AND ADWR)

- Inflow and outflow of surface water and ground water;
- Annual consumptive water use;
- Changes in ground-water storage;
- Potential long-term consequences of various water-use scenarios<sup>1</sup> on ground-water levels and Verde River flows.

PRELIMINARY REPORT (16 MONTHS)

Preliminary report based on work above to be submitted to Secretary of Agriculture, Governor of Arizona, and Verde Valley communities.

FINAL REPORT (4 YEARS)

- Summarize results of preceding water-resource assessments;
- Identify areas of the Basin that are determined to have ground-water deficits or other current or potential water-supply problems;
- Identify long-term water-supply management options within the Basin;
- Identify water-resource analyses and monitoring to support the implementation of management options.

Fulfillment of the charges to the Partnership under Title II clearly requires the involvement of those responsible for water-management decisions. In meeting these requirements, the TAG's fundamental task is to provide unbiased technical and scientific guidance for those who will be responsible for water-management decisions affecting the Verde River Basin. A substantial part of the TAG's work is to develop scopes of work and funding plans with Federal or State agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey,

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<sup>1</sup> The Center for Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA; for information about SAHRA, see <http://www.sahra.arizona.edu/>), which is housed at the University of Arizona, gives a definition of "scenarios" taken from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "A scenario is a coherent, internally consistent and plausible description of a possible future state of the world." According to SAHRA, scenarios take into account the interaction of many different components of a complex system, including the climate and environment, but also demographics, different aspects of the economy, policies and regulations, and even changing life-styles and expectations. Only some components may be within a community's ability to control, but all have the possibility of changing, in uncertain ways, in the future, especially over 20, to 50, or even 100 years. Scenarios are not forecasts or predictions; nor do they project the "most likely" alternative. Instead, they look at a number of plausible, and sometimes even unlikely, alternatives for the future -- as a way to understand impacts stemming from alternative conditions, to assess potential risks and opportunities, and to identify ways to respond to risks and opportunities.

Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Water Institute, or others that might include paid consultants with appropriate capabilities. The TAG is an arm of the Partnership, and scopes of work and funding requests originating from the TAG necessarily require vetting by the Partnership.

It is expected that the TAG will work with the consulting agencies, providing information and review as the work proceeds. However, reports completed by agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey and the Arizona Department of Water Resources are not subject to approval by either the TAG or the Partnership.

In order to provide the best support to the Partnership, the TAG has identified four areas of interest: (1) hydrology; (2) habitat; (3) land use, population, and economics; and (4) climate. Members of the TAG must be people who have the necessary tools by virtue of training and/or professional experience to provide critical support in one or more of these areas of interest. The TAG itself is well suited to judge the qualifications of nominees for TAG membership. The key is technical or scientific capability appropriate to the scope of the Partnership's reporting objectives under Title II. Accordingly, the TAG will do initial screening of new TAG members to ensure they are qualified. Recommendations for qualified nominees will then be referred to the Implementation Committee for approval.

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