

VERDE RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP

October 20, 2009

Town and City Councils
Verde Valley and Prescott AMA

Dear Council members:

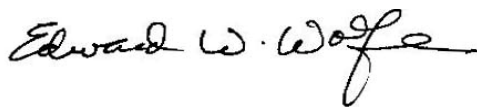
The attached file—Hydrology Science Plan to Support Title II of the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005—has been recently updated by the U.S. Geological Survey in coordination with the Verde River Basin Partnership. This plan is the cornerstone of a renewed effort by the Partnership to obtain federal funding for the USGS work in support of Title II.

While designed to meet the schedule of deliverables specified in Title II, the Hydrology Science Plan aims to produce the best possible scientific guidance to assist public officials in their decisions about water management in the upper and middle Verde watersheds.

The plan has been updated to take advantage of the important advances represented in the Northern Arizona regional groundwater model, developed by the U.S. Geological Survey in collaboration with the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee. Specifically, modifications to the earlier (2006) USGS-VRBP Hydrology Science Plan are largely directed toward strengthening the regional groundwater model and increasing its predictive capability by filling some critical gaps that have been identified during the model development.

This updating of the plan represents nicely a way in which science advances.—i.e., current work defines new questions, and examination of those questions in turn strengthens the science. It's likely that the Hydrology Science Plan will evolve in exactly the same way as the work progresses. As that happens, the Partnership looks forward to input from and coordination with the Water Advisory Committee with the ultimate goal of producing in a timely way the best scientific support for those officials who bear the responsibility for formulating water-resource policy.

The Verde River Basin Partnership would certainly welcome your support in obtaining the federal funds promised by Title II to support this important work.



Ed Wolfe, Chair
Verde River Basin Partnership Coordinating Committee