



Pima Association of Governments Scope of Work Task Force

Designated Planning Agency and Designated Management Agency Definitions

Councils of Government/Designated Planning Agency

The identification and role of Designated Planning Agencies (DPAs) is outlined in the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) Continuing Planning Process document. In Arizona, Councils of Governments (COGs) were established by Executive Order 70-2, and were subsequently designated the areawide planning agencies for the purposes of water quality planning. The COGs provide a vehicle through which local governments may participate in the water quality management process. They provide technical assistance to local entities in the preparation, amendment and update of Areawide Water Quality Management Plans and promote and ensure adequate public participation and adequacy of the plan amendments. All major regional policy decisions are reviewed and approved by the COG decision-making bodies, regional boards, comprised of local elected official.

Designated Management Agency

According to the ADEQ's Continuing Planning Process document, a Designated Management Agency (DMA) is an entity with adequate resources, authority and desire to implement and enforce portions of a Water Quality Management Plan. The Governor, in consultation with the DPA for the region, designates the DMAs for specific areas of the state. DMAs will vary in their specific characteristics, but they all share the following attributes:

- Appropriate legal authority;
- Financial solvency including, if appropriate, the ability to raise revenue through taxes or fee collection and the ability to incur short- and or long-term indebtedness;
- Administrative competence with the organizational resources, personnel resources, equipment and facilities necessary to provide administrative and management support;
- Technical competence with the personnel resources, equipment and facilities needed to carry out the required technical water quality management activities;
- Public acceptability so that the DMA will be recognized and accepted as a legitimate entity; and

- Political accountability so that leadership of the management agency is accountable to the public served within the agency's management area.

Several DMAs have already entered into water quality management or planning contracts, intergovernmental agreements or MOUs with ADEQ. Existing Areawide Water Quality Management designations, pursuant to the CWA, Section 208, will remain in force, as long as the agencies continue to meet their designated/delegated responsibilities.

Precedent for establishment of a new DMA in PAG's planning area.

Pima County was designated as the sole DMA in the PAG planning area in 1980 by resolution 78-12-07, which states, "Pima County will be the sole management and operating agency of sewerage systems in the designated Pima Association of Governments Planning Area." In 1999, the PAG Regional Council approved a 208 amendment designating the Town of Sahuarita as the DMA for areas within the incorporated boundaries of the Town of Sahuarita excluding those areas already served by Pima County. In March, 2006, the boundary was expanded to include areas annexed by the Town. In addition, the Town and Pima County agreed on a Joint Planning area which included the portions of Pima County surrounding the Town's boundaries. Within the Joint Planning Area, wastewater provision responsibility is decided jointly by the Town of Sahuarita and Pima County. Either Pima County or the Town of Sahuarita will receive the flows based on the whether it is **practical, technically feasible, and economically feasible to route the flows** to their area.