

# **EPCOR**

Q & A for 3/11/2022

## **Can you address water aquapher levels in this area, as is important for the New River and Anthem area.**

The hydrogeology of the Anthem/New River area is very complex. It sits at the northern edge of the West Salt River Valley basin and transitions to the mountainous Transition Zone to the North. Anthem sits in a sort of 'micro basin' while the New River area to the North and the Desert Foothills area to the South having shallow bedrock with limited shallow aquifers. Water levels tend to be shallow to non-existent in bedrock out crop areas. With the recharge activity at Anthem water levels in the area have actually risen.

## **Is flood irrigation for residential as well as for farms a waste of water?**

Flood irrigation is less efficient than drip. However, drip irrigation on a large scale such as for farming is very expensive. State law requires certain efficiencies for farms to maximize conservation even with flood irrigation. Those requirements include lining of canals, laser leveling of fields, eliminating runoff from fields etc.

## **Are there talks about desalination and pipelines from the coast to AZ?**

The Department of Water Resources, SRP, CAP, and others have been in negotiations with the State of Sonora, and the Republic of Mexico through Reclamation and the State Department on the US side. The preferred option at this point is a desalination plant located on the northern portion of the Sea of Cortez in Mexico where the produced supply would be shared with Mexico and Arizona. Two delivery options include delivery to Mexico and a short pipeline to the Yuma area for use on the US side in Yuma and diversion via the American Canal for use in Southern California; in exchange parties in Mexico, Yuma, and California would send an equivalent portion their Colorado River allocation for use in central Arizona via the CAP canal. The second option (including sharing some of the supply in Northern Mexico) would be a more direct dedicated delivery to the Phoenix area via pipeline. The distance this pipeline would travel is actually shorter than some of the water whole-sale pipelines EPCOR currently operates in Texas, so it is a feasible concept. This second option would also be a drought proof supply which is a consideration given on-going drought conditions on the Colorado.