



April 30, 2015

Via Email to voconnell@azwater.gov

Ms. Virginia O'Connell
Arizona Water Banking Authority
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

RE: ALTERNATIVES FOR MEETING LEGISLATIVE TRANSFERS FROM THE AWBA FOR FY 2016

Dear Ms. O'Connell:

AMWUA has reviewed the *Alternatives for Meeting Legislative Transfers from the AWBA for FY 2016*. We prefer Alternative 1, in which transfers are taken from all three Active Management Areas (AMA) withdrawal fee subaccounts on a proportional basis.

Given the two alternatives, we believe the costs of the required transfer should be borne by all the AMAs, if not the whole state. It should be noted that the Phoenix AMA has borne 85% of the previous fund transfers.

With the looming possibility of shortages of Colorado River water in the near future, we are concerned that the legislature would transfer funds that were meant to be used to store water underground to alleviate shortages. While we steadfastly support an adequately funded Department of Water Resources, as a statewide entity that benefits all of Arizona, the Department of Water Resources should be sustained by General Fund appropriations and not at the expense of the Water Bank.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these transfers. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Ferris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small blue dot above the letter "i" in "Ferris".

Kathleen Ferris
Executive Director