



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

50-year Agreement supports regional water resource stability initiatives and aquifer preservation

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The governing bodies of Metro Water, the Town of Marana and the Town of Oro Valley unanimously approve a 50-year Intergovernmental Agreement supporting regional water resource stability initiatives and aquifer preservation.

The agreement provides a framework for Metro Water, the Town of Marana, and the Town of Oro Valley to partner in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Northwest Recharge, Recovery, and Delivery System (NWRDRS). The agreement also includes provisions that allow for water to be wheeled to other providers, such as Flowing Wells Irrigation District and Tucson Water.

Since 2013, Metro Water, the Town of Marana and the Town of Oro Valley have been working collaboratively to advance NWRDRS. For years, the project partners have been storing Central Arizona Project water (CAP) at facilities in Avra Valley located in the north Marana area. This renewable water supply will be recovered and transported through the NWRDRS system to a shared storage facility. From there, Metro Water, the Town of Marana and the Town of Oro Valley will independently deliver the water to their respective water service areas through independent transmission mains.

NWRDRS enhances the ability of the northwest water providers to provide safe, reliable water to customers while reducing water level declines, which in the northwest portion of Pima County have declined about two feet per year over the past ten years.

NWRDRS benefits current and future Metro Water, the Town of Marana and the Town of Oro Valley water customers by increasing the ability of the northwest water providers to directly utilize renewable water supplies and reduce groundwater pumping, particularly in less reliable areas of the Tucson aquifer. Customers also benefit by the NWRDRS since the partners will be sharing in the cost of the design and construction, as well as sharing in the ongoing operations, maintenance and capital replacement costs.

NWRDRS is anticipated to be operational in 2025.