

**ARIZONA WATER BANKING
AUTHORITY Final Special Meeting
Summary**

**February 10, 2025
Arizona Department of Water Resources
(Virtual Meeting)**



AUTHORITY MEMBERS
Thomas Buschatzke, Chair
Mark Clark, Vice-Chair
Eric Braun, Secretary
Mark Taylor
Joseph Olsen

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS
The Honorable Warren Petersen
The Honorable Steve Montenegro

I. Welcome

Chair Tom Buschatzke and Commission members Joseph Olsen, Mark Taylor and Eric Braun attended virtually. Commission member Mark Clark, and *ex-officio* members Senate President Warren Petersen and Speaker of the House Steve Montenegro were not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Discussion and potential action to approve a purchase and sale agreement for long-term storage credits in the Phoenix active management area, incorporating it into the 2025 Annual Plan of Operations.

Rebecca Bernat began by addressing whether the Water Banking Authority Annual Plan of Operation (APO) for 2025 would need to be formally amended should the opportunity arise to purchase long-term storage credits (LTSCs) that were not explicitly accounted for in the APO. This question was raised in the previous Commission meeting. A memo was presented, which describes that the APO does not need to be amended as it contemplates opportunities unknown at the time of approval.

The credit purchase under consideration is a single-year purchase of LTSCs from Vidler Water Co. The AWBA is looking at purchasing 11,850.40 acre-feet (AF) of LTSCs, located at New Magma Irrigation and Drainage District Groundwater Savings Facility (11,180.25 AF) and Agua Fria Managed Underground Storage Facility (670.15 AF). The price for this purchase would be \$533.50/AF, and the total cost \$6,322,188.40. Staff at the Central Arizona Water Conservation District have agreed to present this funding request at the March 6th Board Meeting. The credits under consideration are Central Arizona Project LTSCs.

Chair Buschatzke asked for questions or comments from the Commissioners. There were none. A motion was entertained.

Commissioner Olsen provided a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Braun seconded.

Chair Buschatzke made a call to the public to address the Commission regarding this motion. There were no requests to speak.

Chair Buschatzke asked for further discussion from the Commission. There was none. A vote was called.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. Call to the Public

As a call had already been made, Chair Buschatzke reminded members and the public of upcoming meeting dates and concluded the AWBA meeting, thanking Dr. Bernat and AWBA staff for the work done on this agreement.

Future Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.