

1. **Name of the Agency:** Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Title and its heading: 18, Environmental Quality
Chapter and its heading: 4, Department of Environmental Quality – Safe Drinking Water
Article and its heading: 8, Technical Assistance
Section and its heading: R18-4-803, Master Priority List

2. **The public information relating to the listed statute:**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 49-358, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (Department) has developed a water system compliance assistance program to assist public water systems in complying with state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding safe drinking water. As of March 12, 2019, there are 1,516 public water systems (PWS) in operation in Arizona. Of this universe of water systems, 1,449 (96%) are classified as “small water systems” serving 10,000 or fewer persons. Historically, these small-and medium-sized public water systems have accrued the vast majority of Arizona’s reported drinking water violations (e.g., contaminant exceedance violations, no certified operator, missed monitoring). The capacity development program works to ensure that public water systems possess the technical, managerial and financial capacity to operate in accordance with all the drinking water rules and regulation. Capacity development also reaches out to “small public water systems” needing technical assistance which is provided by the Department or through third party contractors.

3. **Draft Master Priority List**

Public water systems are identified for technical assistance on the basis of the Master Priority List (MPL) which is updated annually in March. The criteria used to determine the need for assistance include the measures used in determining the technical, managerial and financial (TMF) capacity of existing PWSs. Additional criteria include the public water system’s score on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT), system classification type, population served, and violations history. Technical assistance contracts are typically awarded to prepare one of several deliverables: a TMF capacity assessment of the water system, an evaluation of compliance options for water systems with maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations or the design of a treatment system to address an ongoing MCL violation. As funding is available, the Department will award technical assistance to those PWSs with the highest MPL rankings and who are willing to work with the Department and its technical assistance providers. The Water Infrastructure Financing Authority (WIFA) also uses the MPL to identify possible candidates for additional technical assistance and/or financial assistance (e.g., low interest loans, technical assistance design grants, forgivable principle).

Pursuant to A.A.C. R18-4-803(D), the Department is publishing this Notice of Public Information in the *Arizona Administrative Register (A.A.R.)* and will hold a public meeting/oral proceeding to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the Master Priority List. The Draft Master Priority List can be viewed on the ADEQ Calendar beginning on April 3, 2020 at <http://azdeq.gov/notices>

Beginning April 3, 2020, the 30-day public review and the written and comment period begins. At the completion of the public review period, the public meeting will be held on May 4, 2020. Following the meeting, the Department will formulate a response to submitted comments and consider modifications to the MPL in response to those comments. If no comments are received, the MPL becomes final on May 4, 2020. If comments are received and changes are made, the revised MPL will be re-published in the *A.A.R.*, along with a summary of comments received and the Department's response to those comments.

4. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate:

Name: Linda Taunt, Capacity Development & Technical Assistance Coordinator
Address: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
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Phoenix, AZ 85007
Email: taunt.linda@azdeq.gov
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5. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:

An oral proceeding will be held on:

Date: Monday, May 4, 2020

Time: 9:30am

Place: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 W Washington Street, Room 5100B
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Department will accept written comments on the Draft FY21 MPL until close of business on May 4, 2020.