

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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 public water system compliance assistance program to assist small water systems in complying with state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding safe drinking water. As of May 1, 2021, there are 1,514 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. ADEQ’s technical assistance program also reaches out to “small public water systems” needing technical, managerial or financial assistance which is provided by Department staff 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 the spring. 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 violation 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, design of a treatment system to address an ongoing MCL violation or conducting a well evaluation for possible non-treatment options. 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 virtual meeting/oral proceeding to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the FY22 Master Priority List. The Draft Master Priority List can be viewed on the ADEQ Calendar beginning on June 4, 2021 at <http://azdeq.gov/notices>

Beginning June 4, 2021, the 30-day public review and written and oral comment period begins. At the completion of the public review period, the oral proceeding will be held as a virtual meeting on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. 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 July 6, 2021. If comments are received and changes are made, notice of 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  
1110 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Email: [taunt.linda@azdeq.gov](mailto:taunt.linda@azdeq.gov)  
Telephone: (602) 771-4416 (in Arizona: 1-800-234-5677; 771-4416)

**5. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:**

Comments on the MPL can be made during the virtual meeting:

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Time: 9:00 am

Join online: [meet.google.com/kee-sshj-udz](https://meet.google.com/kee-sshj-udz)



Call in: [+1 216-505-9931](tel:+12165059931)

Access code (PIN): 278 877 255#

The Department will accept written comments on the Draft FY22 MPL until close of business July 6, 2021.

Written comments can be submitted to the person identified in #4 above.