

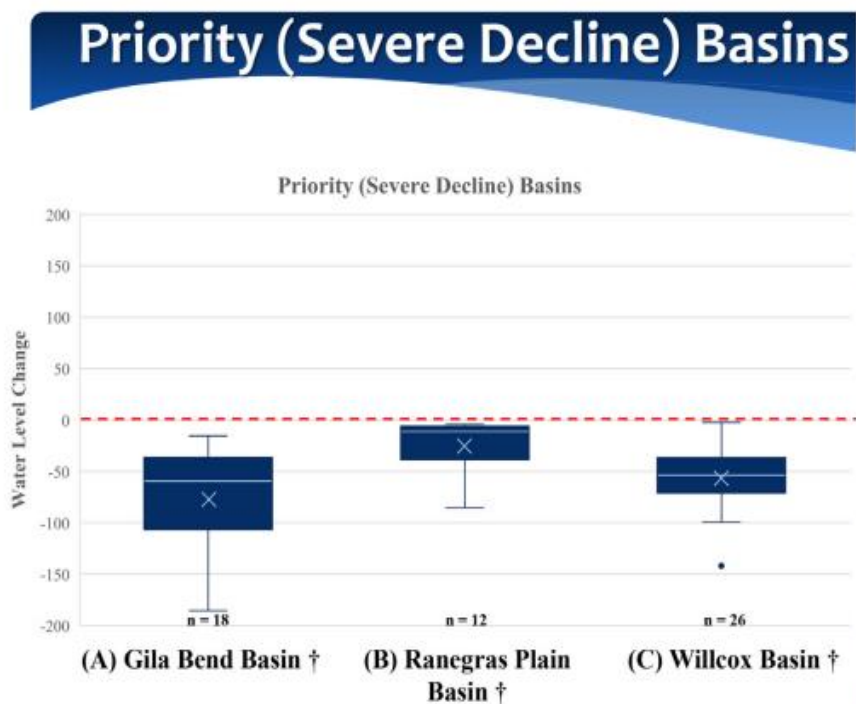


How do we get to **yes**?

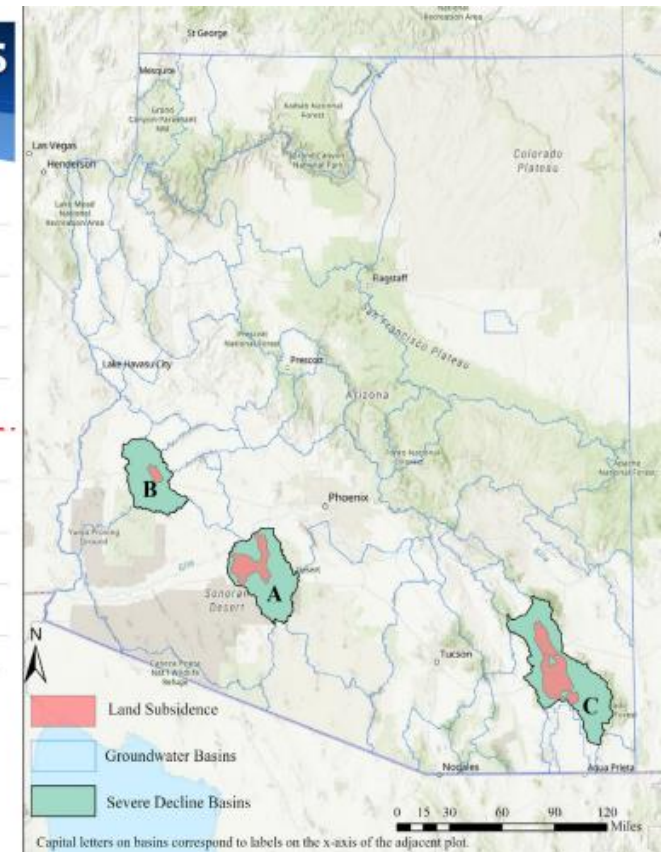
Finding win-wins in rural groundwater basins

Outside AMAs: Status report

- There are essentially **no ground rules** on water use.
- Some basins are showing signs of steep **aquifer decline**.
- More groups are **pressing for action**.



† Basin with subsidence



The good news

We agree on the problem:

- Basins with no regulation need **more tools** to manage their sole source of water.
- AMAs and INAs are not the best solutions. We need a **middle-ground option**.

And the solution:

- Must be **flexible**. Not all basins are the same.
- Must be **locally focused**. Not a top-down edict from the state.



The not-so-good news

2 things complicate negotiations:

- **A deep sense of distrust.** Many farmers feel their way of life is under attack.
- **Politics.** Politicians and interest groups are trying to score points, using water policy as a bludgeon.



SB 1221 vs. HB 2857

- Both aim to offer a locally focused, middle-ground **regulatory option**.
- How they get there is **similar in some places**, such as creating a certificate of water use that can be sold or transferred within basins.
- And **wildly different in others**, such as electing or appointing a local council to set plans.



A ray of hope

- Sens. Kerr and Sundareshan are meeting to **find common ground** in their bills.
- The goal: To **meld the bills** into one that can win support of the House, Senate and governor.
- Other groups are talking about where they could **compromise**.



What if we don't get to yes?

- The Gila Bend **AMA threat** (let's hope this isn't the way).
- More **legislation** next year (if we remain at the table)?
- A **pivot**: What can basins do that doesn't require a law change?



In the meantime

- **Don't hold out** for the deal you love. Take the one you can live with, for the greater good.
- **A win-win** will probably be an imperfect deal.
- **Let lawmakers know** where compromise can (and can't) be made. Be as specific as possible.
- **Pressure them** to keep meeting and looking for common ground.





Questions?