



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Gail Griffin (R-19)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Governor Signs Representative Gail Griffin's Emergency Measure to Grant Extension of Time for Douglas Residents to Apply for Grandfathered Groundwater Rights

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs today signed [HB 2016](#), legislation sponsored by State Representative Gail Griffin, Chairman of the House Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee, granting a six-month deadline extension for a person to claim a grandfathered right to withdraw or receive and use groundwater in the Douglas Active Management Area (Douglas AMA). The legislation, which was approved with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House and Senate, includes an emergency clause causing it to take immediate effect upon the Governor's signature. With the enactment of Representative Griffin's bill, the deadline to file a claim application with the Arizona Department of Water Resources moves from March 1, 2024, to September 1, 2024.

Statement from Representative Gail Griffin:

**"The designation of an Active Management Area in the Douglas groundwater basin created significant uncertainty for many people in the Douglas area and will impose new regulations that will take away people's ability to use groundwater for farming and to maintain a rural way of life. Recognizing grandfathered private property rights to groundwater that was being used prior to the designation of the Active Management Area is essential to maintaining the long-term economic health and property tax base of the county and to providing certainty for individual groundwater users in the basin."**

**"Residents in the Douglas basin must navigate a complex web of red tape to obtain a grandfathered right, and this makes it challenging for residents to take the steps necessary to defend their own interests. The passage of House Bill 2016 as an emergency measure will immediately give the residents of Douglas the additional time they need to secure grandfathered rights and obtain certainty for their future."**

A link to file an online application is available here: <https://www.azwater.gov/ama/douglas-ama>.

*Gail Griffin is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 19, which includes areas of Greenlee, Graham, Cochise, and eastern Pima Counties. Griffin chairs the House Natural Resources, Energy & Water Committee and is co-chair of the Joint Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committee on Water Security.*

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