ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Global Sustainability Solutions Services

Town of Gila Bend Aquifer Study

THE PROBLEM Understanding long-term water availability is essential for responsible government planning and economic development efforts. Through a strategic focus on streamlined permitting, the Town of Gila Bend, AZ has captured a significant number of utility-scale solar energy projects. Some of these projects have implications on water resources, either reducing water usage versus previous agricultural use of the land or possibly increasing water usage as compared to previously undeveloped land. Gila Bend was preparing to update its General Plan and needed knowledge regarding its water supply and flow characteristics in order to make infrastructure planning decisions, identify appropriate industries to recruit for further economic development and determine the long range population level that the town can sustainably support with its water supply.

THE PARTNER The Town of Gila Bend, AZ

THE SERVICE The Walton Global Sustainability Solutions Services generated a policymaker-friendly report regarding existing hydrological studies and climate change forecasts to understand the current and potential future characteristics of Gila Bend's surface water and groundwater basin, flows and volumes. in order to assist the town to address their questions and inform their decision-making process.

THE SOLUTION Global Services conducted site surveys and researched available technical resources in order to address key issues around the aquifer including information on volumetric study, geological characteristics, groundwater flows, surface water recharge, impacts of climate change on groundwater resources and future study potential and recommendations.

THE OUTLOOK Gila Bend policymakers are now equipped with information to best inform decisions on planning, growth and economic development based on the water available to meet such needs now and in the future.

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