The January 2019 Arizona Department of Water Resources performance audit and sunset review found that the Department was behind schedule in adopting groundwater management plans for the State's active management areas and should enhance processes for collecting or issuing some required reports. We made 5 recommendations to the Department, and its status in implementing the recommendations is as follows:

Status of 5 recommendations

Implemented

5

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes our follow-up work on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations from the January 2019 report.

Finding 1: Department behind schedule in adopting AMA management plans, thus delaying its assessment of progress toward achieving AMA goals and modification of plans' conservation requirements

1. The Department should comply with its statutory requirements to develop and promulgate the remaining management plans for the five AMAs.

Implemented at 48 months

2. The Department should complete a staffing analysis to determine the appropriate level of AMA staffing needed to complete the AMA management plans, including whether cross-training could help address staffing needs, and assign staff resources accordingly.

Implemented at 18 months

Sunset Factor 2: The extent to which the Department has met its statutory objective and purpose and the efficiency with which it has operated.

3. The Department should develop and implement written policies and procedures to routinely follow up on and collect outstanding post-project reports from well owners and well drillers.

Implemented at 30 months

4. The Department should develop and implement written policies and procedures to follow up with nonreporting groundwater right holders in INAs, including requesting them to voluntarily report nonusage.

Implemented at 18 months

5. Complete and issue the report on municipal providers' water conservation programs every 3 years, as required by A.R.S. §45-563.01.

Implemented at 6 months