A wide-angle, high-angle photograph of the Arizona State House of Representatives. The room is large and formal, with rows of dark wood desks and chairs arranged in a semi-circle. Many representatives are seated at their desks, some looking towards the front of the chamber. The walls are dark wood-paneled, and the floor is a light blue carpet. The lighting is bright and even.

TODAY Discussion and possible direction regarding creating a Water Improvement Grant Program per **A.R.S. § 11-254.09**.

Background:

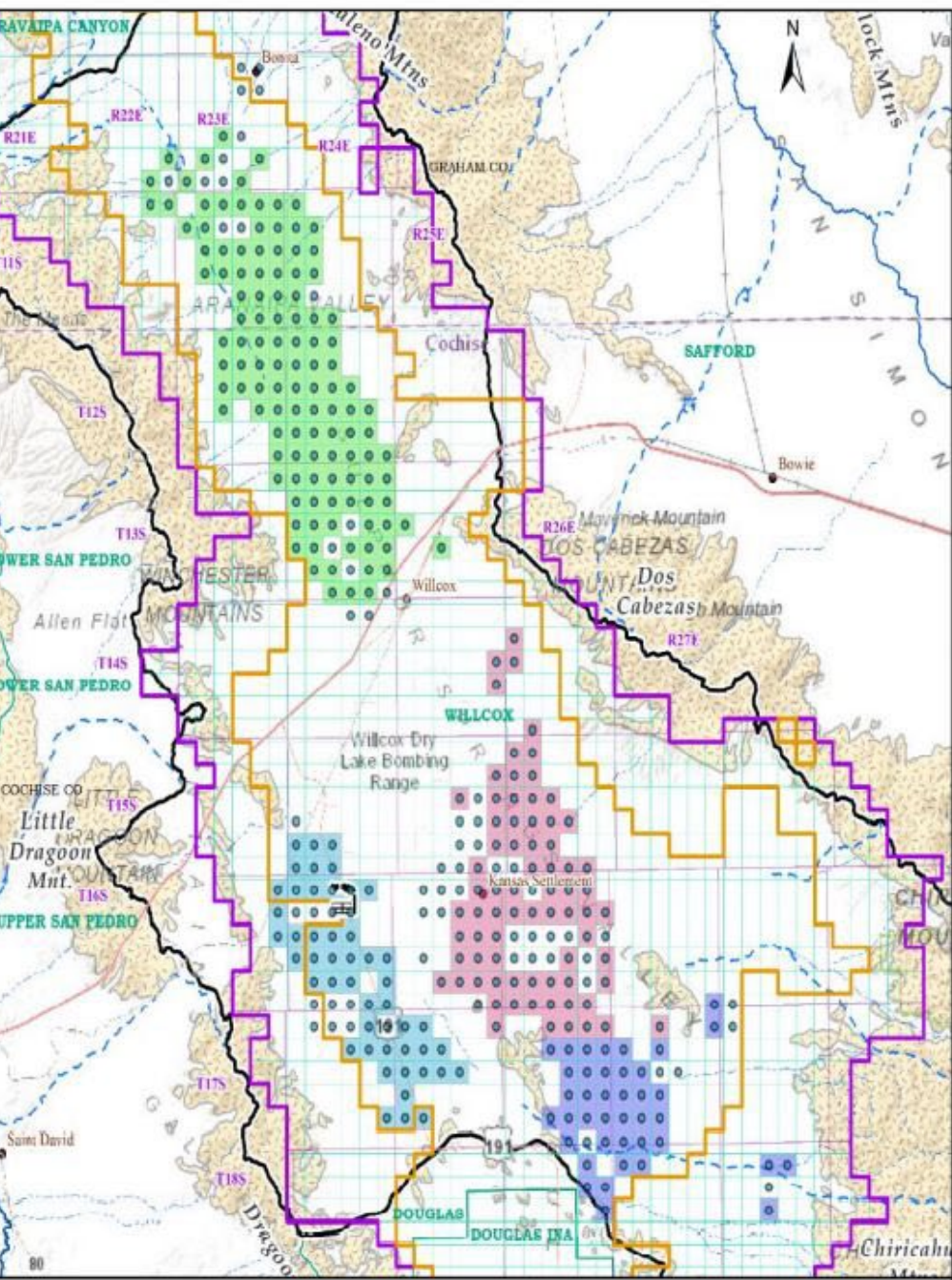
There is much need for assistance to property owners whose wells have gone dry due to the drought or excess agricultural pumping. This is a statute that allows designation of an entity to distribute funds to help those with low-income or fixed-income, who have lost water in our rural areas.

Proposed Outcome: Collect and have private funds available to address wells going dry based on need.

Arizona State House of Representatives

11-254.09. A. The board of supervisors may establish a program to allow persons to make gifts, grants or donations for the purpose of providing financial assistance to qualified owners of residential real property for making improvements to an existing drinking water well or providing for a water delivery system for the residence.

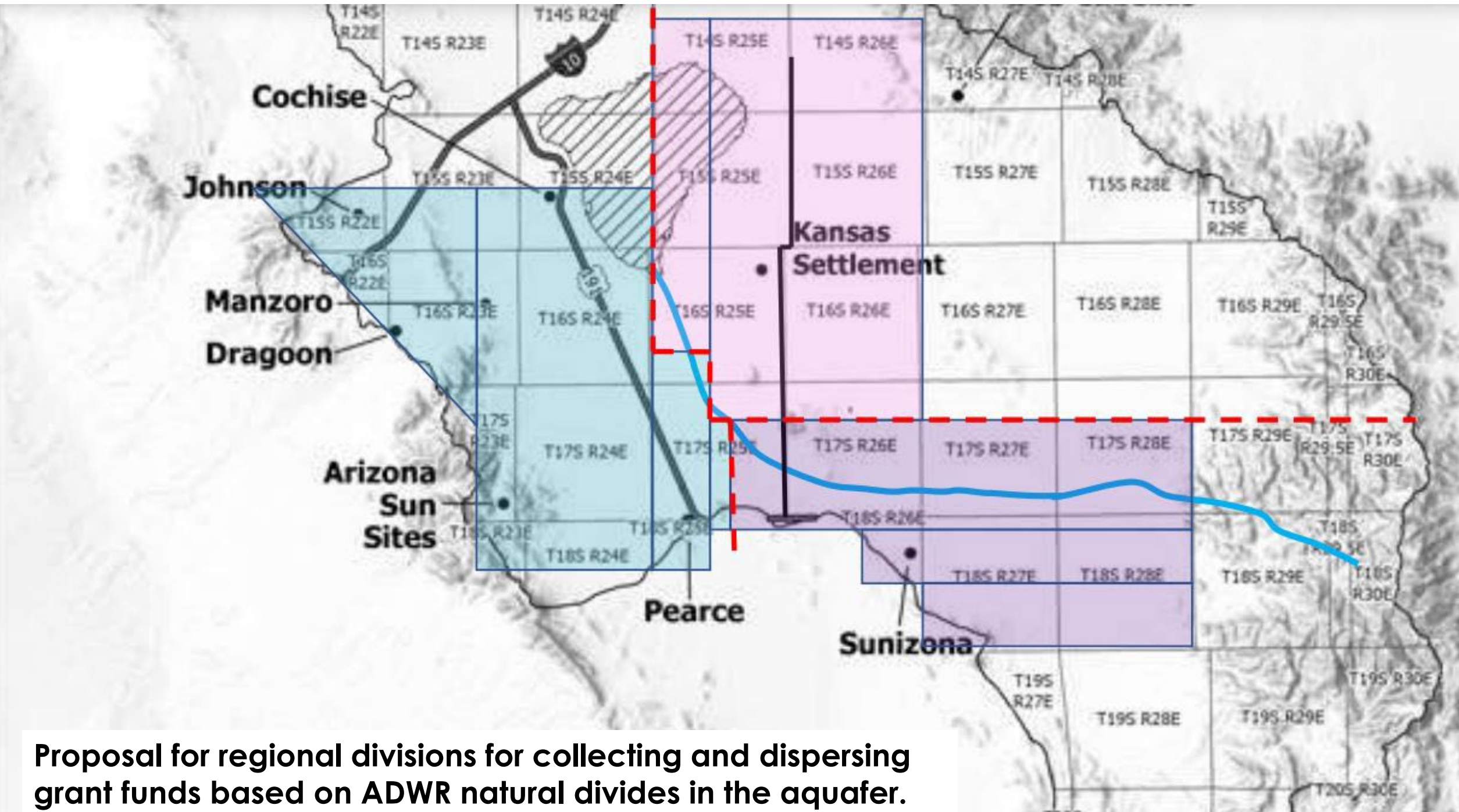




B. The board shall designate an entity to operate the program, to establish criteria for grants and to award grants as prescribed by this section. The entity may be a county agency, department or division or may be a private, nonprofit corporation as determined by the board of supervisors.

C. The program shall do all of the following:

1. Limit grant recipients to persons who are low-income or fixed-income owners of residential property.
2. Develop application criteria and criteria for awarding grants.
3. Restrict a grant recipient's use of grant monies to deepening an existing drinking water well for the recipient's residence or to plumbing or replumbing the recipient's residence for a water delivery system.



Proposal for regional divisions for collecting and dispersing grant funds based on ADWR natural divides in the aquifer.

- D. The board of supervisors may NOT use general county monies for grants under the program.
- E. The entity that operates the program shall make and submit to the county board of supervisors, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives on or before July 1 of each year a report containing a description of program operations of the preceding year, including the amount of gifts, grants or donations received and the grants awarded.



Thank you from many homeowners who are struggling with water for their homes...

- It has been a few years since this solution was announced as a possibility.
- Limited income homeowners are anxiously awaiting any possible solution.
- Business owners are providing relief as they can within their respective areas and are willing to donate to a more productive and available effort.

- **When it was suggested that a local group move ahead to create and run this program it was believed by the participants that this should be a Cochise County led effort due to:**
 - County needs to be involved in some way to help in relief efforts
 - County would be more trusted and respected as it collected and managed funds
 - Recipients would be more respectful of rules and requirements set by the county
 - More people could be reached as the program could more easily be implemented in new areas with county in control

Next steps:

- Board of Supervisors decides to pursue this endeavor as allowable by state law
- The entity who will operate the program will be identified and assigned by the Board of Supervisors
- Development of application criteria and criteria for awarding grants
- Residential and Business owners are identified in each of these proposed regions
- Public notification will be forthright and thorough and community participation will begin
- Donations will be collected from private sources and grants will be given to qualified individuals/residential projects
- Follow-up reporting to designated entities by July 1 each year.