

1. **Name of the Agency:** Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
**Title and its heading:** 18, Environmental Quality  
**Chapter and its heading:** 4, Department of Environmental Quality – Safe Drinking Water  
**Article and its heading:** 8, Technical Assistance  
**Section and its heading:** R18-4-803, Master Priority List

2. **The public information relating to the listed statute:**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 49-358, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (Department) has developed a water system compliance assistance program to assist public water systems in complying with state and federal laws, rules and regulations regarding safe drinking water. Currently there are 1,533 PWSs in operation in Arizona. Of this universe of water systems, 959 are classified as “community” or “non-transient, non-community” with 93% of those serving 10,000 or fewer persons. Historically, these small-and medium-sized public water systems have accrued the vast majority of Arizona’s reported drinking water violations (e.g., contaminant exceedance violations, no certified operator, missed monitoring). The compliance assistance program works to ensure that public water systems possess the technical, managerial and financial capabilities to operate in accordance with all the drinking water rules and regulation and identifies smaller public water systems needing technical assistance which is provided by the Department or by a third party consultants.

3. **Draft Master Priority List**

Public water systems are identified for technical assistance on the basis of the Master Priority List (MPL) which is updated annually in March. The criteria used to determine the need for assistance include the criteria used in determining the technical, managerial and financial (TMF) capacity of existing PWSs. Additional criteria include the water systems score on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Enforcement Targeting Tool, system classification type, population served, and violation history. Technical assistance contracts are typically awarded to conduct a TMF capacity

assessment of the water system and/or an evaluation of compliance options. As funding allows, the Department will award technical assistance to the PWSs with the highest MPL ranking. The Water Infrastructure Financing Authority (WIFA) also uses the MPL to identify possible candidates for additional technical assistance and/or financial assistance (e.g., low interest loans, planning grants) through that program.

Pursuant to A.A.C. R18-4-803(D), the Department is publishing the draft 2016 Master Priority List and will hold a public meeting to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the Master Priority List. With this publication, a 30-day public review and written comment period begins. The draft MPL can be viewed at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/index.html#capdev>

After completion of the 30-day review and comment period, the Department will formulate a response to submitted comments and consider modifications to the MPL in response to the comments. If no comments are received, the draft MPL becomes final. If comments are received, the revised MPL will then be re-published in the *Arizona Administrative Register*, including a summary of comments received and the Department's response to the comments. The final 2016 MPL will be posted on the agency's website at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/index.html#capdev>

**4. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate:**

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**5. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:**

An oral proceeding will be held on:

Date: June 27, 2016

Time: 9:30am

Place: Room 3175  
1110 W Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Department will accept written comments on the draft MPL until close of business on June 27, 2016.