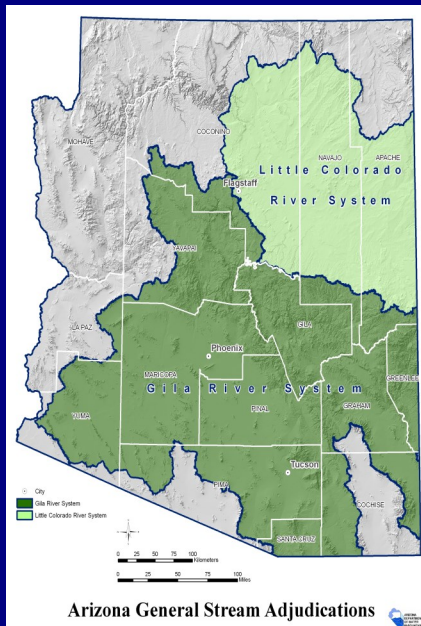


Arizona General Stream Adjudications

The Little Colorado River and Gila River System boundaries



This brochure provides information concerning the New Use Summons you have just received and the steps you need to take to file a claim to protect your water rights in the Arizona General Stream Adjudications. For more information concerning the adjudication of water rights and New Use Summons, please visit the ADWR website at www.azwater.gov/azdwr under “Programs” then “Adjudications.” Additional information concerning the adjudication process may be found at www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication, which is a website maintained by the Special Master for the adjudications.



Phone: 1-866-246-1414
Fax: 602-771-8689
Revised: 7/10/2013



New Use Summons and

Filing a Claim for your Water Rights



What is a New Use Summons?

A New Use Summons is from the Arizona Superior Court that adjudicates water rights for watersheds in the Gila River System and the Little Colorado River System. The summons directs you to make any claims to water rights that you may have by filing the appropriate court-approved forms. These forms are known as Statements of Claimants (SOCs), and are filed with ADWR. You do not need to appear in court to file SOC's.

Why did I receive a New Use Summons?

You received a New Use Summons because ADWR's records indicate that you may have initiated a new water use by applying for a surface water right or notice of intent to drill a new well or by filing a late well registration.

What do I need to file?

For each type of water use, you must file an SOC that describes your claimed water right. There is a separate form for each type of use (domestic, irrigation, stockpond and other uses), and the form you need to file depends on your type of water use. You may be required to file more than one form.

The SOC forms may be downloaded from <http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/SurfaceWater/Adjudications/PermitsFormsApplications.htm>

To receive by mail, complete the attached card and return it to ADWR. The watershed in which your water use is located is indicated on this card. If you have any questions, you may call 1-866-246-1414.

What happens if I do not file?

If you do not file an SOC, you may lose your water rights, and you may be prevented from claiming those water rights later. This could happen even though you have received a permit, certificate, or other approval from ADWR.

Should I file an SOC if I use water from a well?

The adjudication process may include water uses from wells, depending upon the location of the well and other factors. ADWR provides reports to the adjudication court that identify all uses of water within a particular watershed, including uses from wells. If the court determines that your well should be included in the adjudication process and you do not file an SOC, you could lose your right to withdraw and use water from that well.

How long do I have to file?

You should file your SOC within 90 days of receipt of the New Use Summons. However, you may also file your SOC after the initial 90-day period, as long as the court has not entered a final decree. Upon filing an SOC, you will be entitled to receive notification of adjudication activities that may affect your water rights.

Is there a fee for filing?

Yes. The filing fee for an individual is \$20.00 and the filing fee for a corporation, municipal corporation, the State or any political subdivision, or an association or partnership is two cents for every acre-foot of water claimed per year, or \$20.00,

whichever is greater. Multiple uses from the same source only require one fee. The filing fee may be paid by cash (in person), by credit card, or by check or money order made payable to the "Arizona Department of Water Resources."

Why does this process exist?

By state law, the Arizona Superior Court must quantify and prioritize existing water rights claimed in the Gila River and Little Colorado River watersheds. These proceedings are known as general stream adjudications. Any person or entity that uses or makes claim to use water on property within these watersheds, including water uses from a well, potentially may be affected by the general stream adjudications. The final court decrees will establish the nature, extent and relative priority of claimed water rights, including important characteristics such as the location of the points of diversion and the places of use, the types of water uses, the quantity of water used, and the date of priority.

How is ADWR involved?

ADWR provides technical assistance to the Arizona Superior Courts and informs potential claimants about the general stream adjudications by mailing out the New Use Summons. After SOC's are filed, ADWR enters the information into a database, and then forwards the fees and the original SOC's to the Superior Courts. ADWR retains copies of the SOC's for its records.