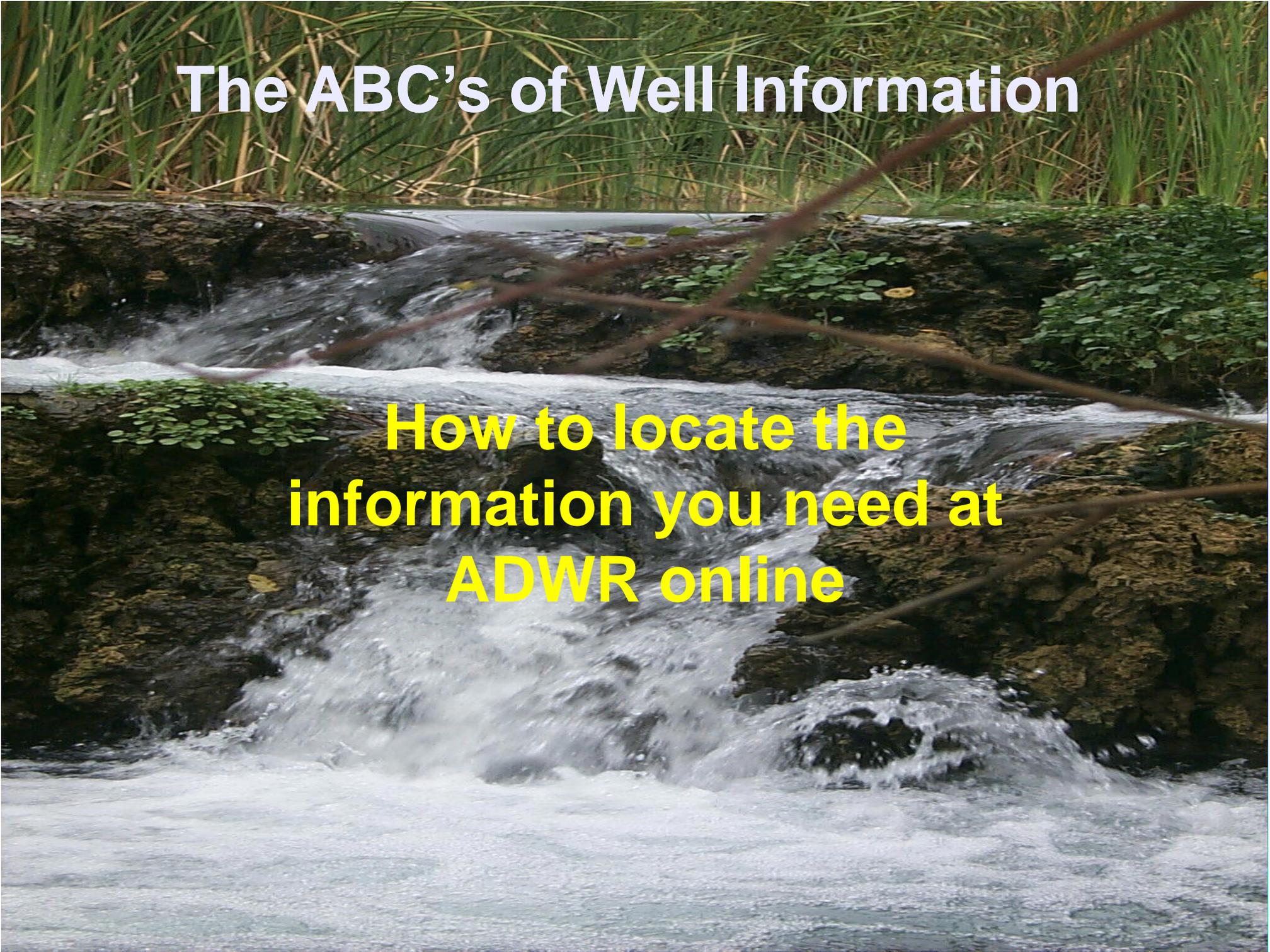


# The ABC's of Well Information

How to locate the  
information you need at  
[ADWR online](#)



# Purpose

Due to ADWR's Reduction In Force (RIF) the department's goal is to assist the public with a general understanding of well information and how to find this information online using the Wells 55 online search wizard.

# Learning Objectives

- Understanding Township, Range and Section/Legal Land Descriptions
- Determining and understanding Cadastrals from Township, Range and Section Information
- How to Locate Township, Range and Section/Legal Land Descriptions
- Understanding Basic Well Information Relating to Property
- Relationship on the Sale of Property and Well Information
- Types of Water Rights
- Utilizing the online Wells Search Wizard

# Understanding Township, Range and Section aka Legal Land Descriptions

Legal Land descriptions are different from Book, Map, Parcel.

Townships run North and South AND Ranges run East and West.

Normal townships and ranges will have 36 sections which are each a mile square so you have 36 square miles in a Township and Range.

# Legal Land Descriptions

How to locate Township, Range and Section (TRS), also referred to as (legals).

There are several places to find TRS (legals).

If you have the “Book, Map, and Parcel” (BMP) access the County Assessor’s web site and enter the “BMP” in the “New Parcel” search window.

# Key Websites

## Arizona County Assessor Websites

For the purpose of this of training, we'll focus on [www.maricopa.gov/accessor](http://www.maricopa.gov/accessor)



Keith E. Russell  
MAI



Maricopa  
County  
Assessor

QUICK LINKS ...



[Contacts](#)

\*Parcel Search:



[Advanced Search Options](#)

[\\*Market Overview](#)

[\\*Residential Similar Property Search](#)

No Parcel Number? Use Advanced Search Options.

\*(A parcel number is needed to use these Features)

<p>Office of the Assessor</p>	<p>Seniors Valuation Protection</p>	<p>Maps</p>	<p>Forms</p>	<p>Reports Data Sales</p>	<p>Real Property</p>	<p>Personal Property</p>	<p>Photo Gallery</p>
-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------	--------------	---------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

Select a picture for your area of interest

**Welcome!**

Thank you for visiting the Maricopa County Assessors Web site. Please refer to our [News/Press Release](#) page for important information from the Assessors. This site is designed to serve the public with a variety of factual and information items. Please spend some time browsing the site to see all of the different options available to the public. We are committed to continuing to improve and upgrade this site. If you have comments or questions about the information which is available please contact the Maricopa County S.T.A.R. Center at 602-506-3406.





Keith E. Russell  
MAI



Maricopa  
County  
Assessor

QUICK LINKS ...



[Contacts](#)

\*Parcel Search:

[Advanced Search Options](#)

[\\*Market Overview](#)

[\\*Residential Similar Property Search](#)

No Parcel Number? Use Advanced Search Options.

\*(A parcel number is needed to use these Features)

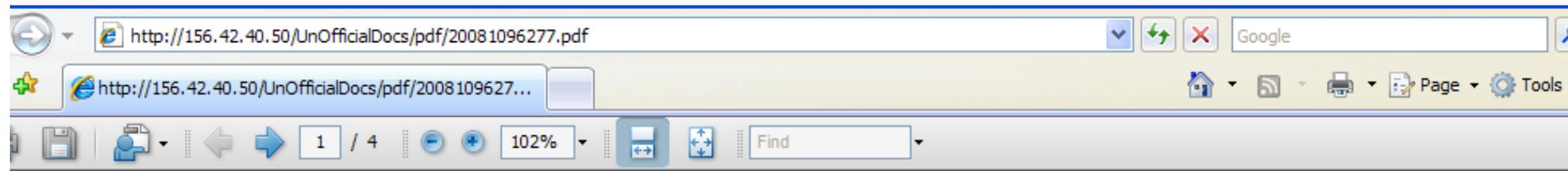
<b>Office of the Assessor</b> 	<b>Seniors Valuation Protection</b> 	<b>Maps</b> 	<b>Forms</b> 	<b>Reports Data Sales</b> 	<b>Real Property</b> 	<b>Personal Property</b> 	<b>Photo Gallery</b> 
--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---

Select a picture for your area of interest

**Welcome!**

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OFFICIAL RECORDS OF  
**Unofficial  
Document**

Recording Requested by:  
First American Title Insurance Company National  
Commercial Services  
When recorded mail to:  
Triple G Farms, L.L.C.  
29115 W. Broadway Road  
Buckeye, AZ 85326

---

*2 of 3*

**SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED**

File No. **NCS-376681-PHX1 (nm)**

For the consideration of TEN AND NO/100 DOLLARS, and other valuable considerations, I or we,

**Larlin Holding Limited Partnership, an Arizona limited partnership**, the GRANTOR does hereby convey to

**Triple G Farms, L.L.C., an Arizona limited liability company**, the GRANTEE

the following described property situate in **Maricopa County, Arizona:**

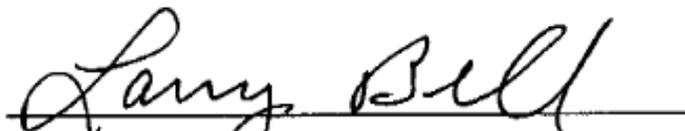
20081096277

File No.: **NCS-376681-PHX1**  
**(nm)**  
A.P.N.: **506-36-013B**

Warranty Deed - continued

Larlin Holding Limited Partnership, an  
Arizona limited partnership

By: Bellico Management SW, LLC, an  
Arizona limited liability  
company, General Partner

  
By: Larry Bell, Managing Member



Next Page

20081096277

File No.: **NCS-376681-PHX1**  
**(nm)**  
A.P.N.: **506-36-013B**

Warranty Deed - continued

### **EXHIBIT "A"**

PARCEL NO. 1:

THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST OF THE GILA AND SALT RIVER BASE AND MERIDIAN, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

PARCEL NO. 2:

THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST OF THE GILA AND SALT RIVER BASE AND MERIDIAN, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

PARCEL NO. 3:

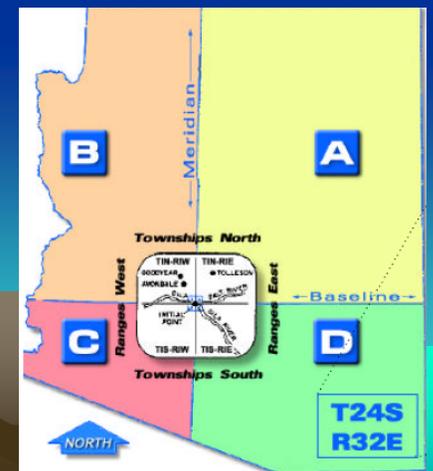
THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER AND THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST

# Cadastrals/Legal Land Descriptions

## How to determine and understand them.

- AZ State is split into 4 unequal areas by the intersecting of the Townships and Ranges.
- The intersection point is Baseline Road & Meridian Road where the Gila and Salt Rivers intersect.

- Cadastrals = Legal Land Descriptions



To determine the area of the State you are in or the “Quadrant” (A, B, C or D) look at your Township direction and the Range direction

*Townships run north and south.*

*Ranges run east and west.*

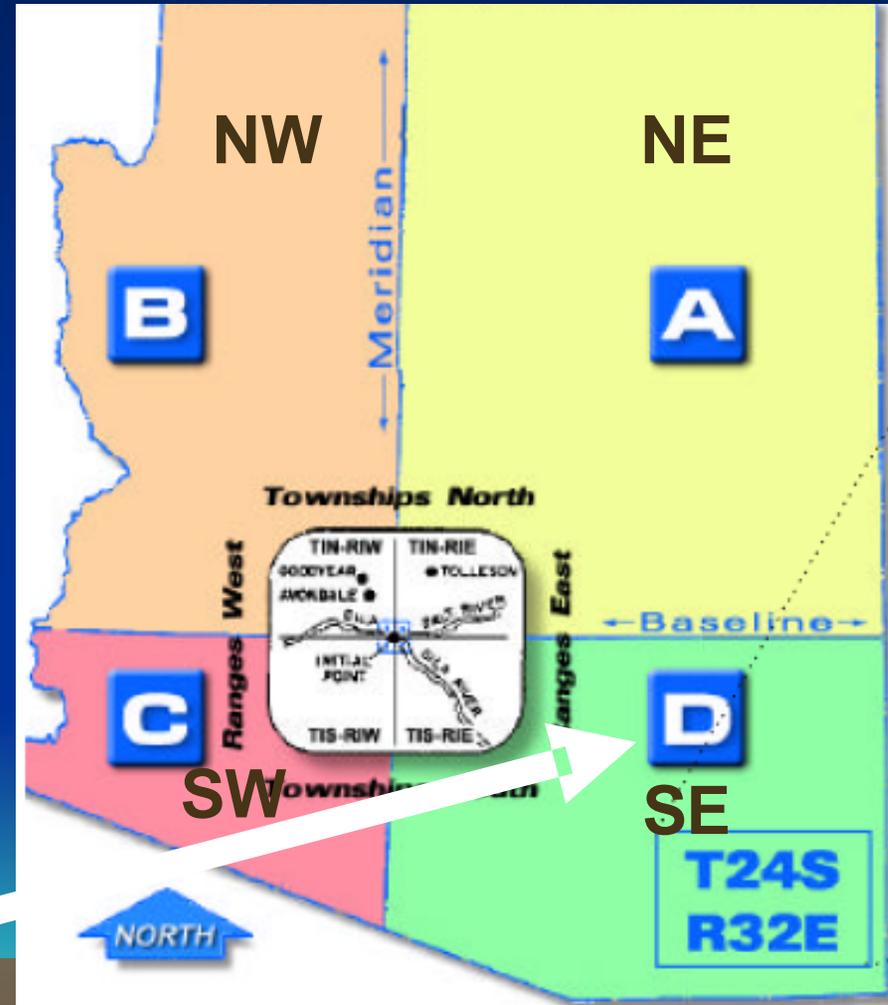
Example:

Township, Range, Section

24S

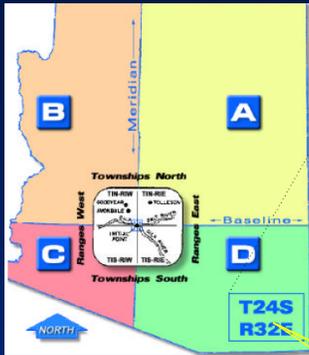
32E

28

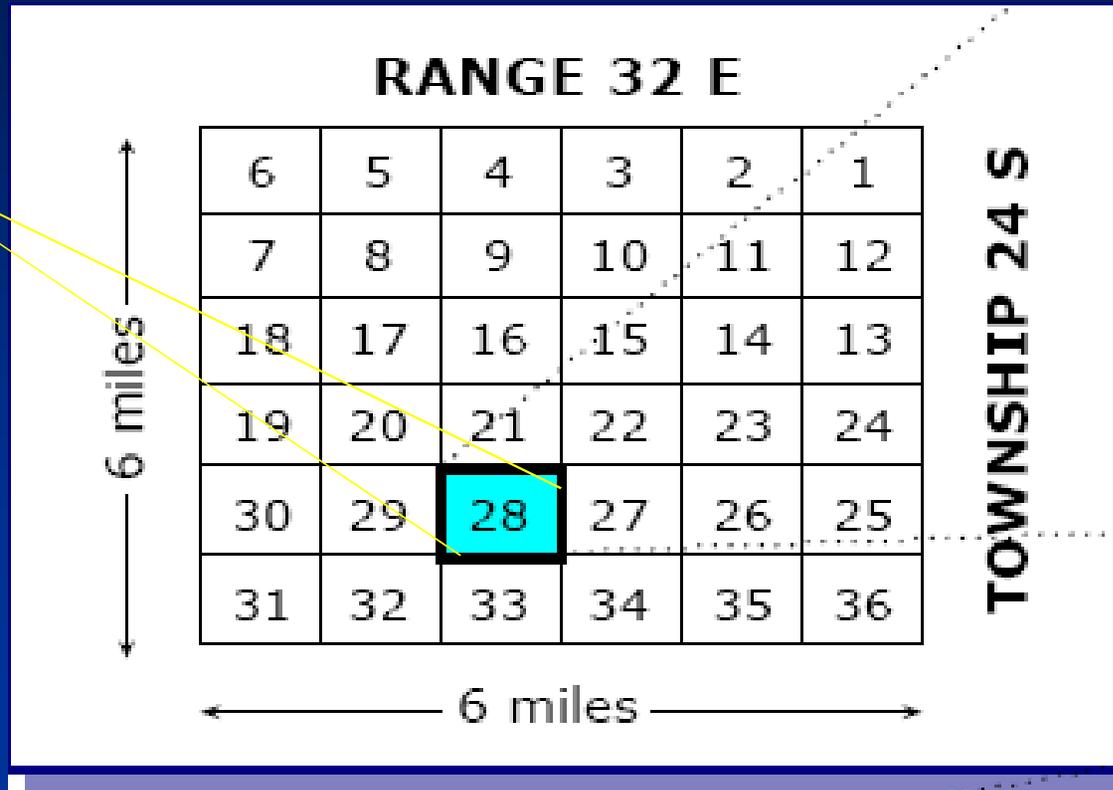


What Quadrant?

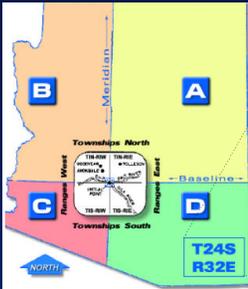
# “SECTION”



Once you determine quadrant, the next step is the section.



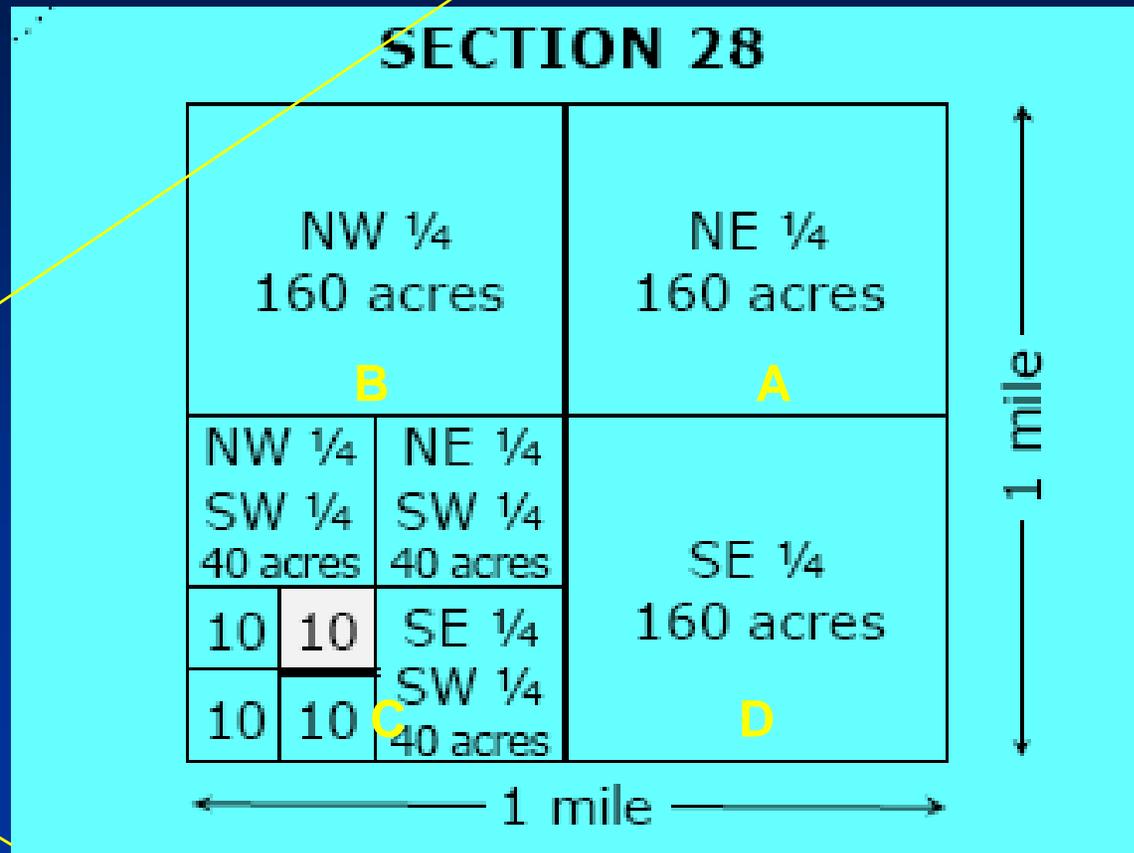
- Each township is divided into 36 equal parts called *sections*.
- Each section is approximately one square mile, about 640 acres.
- Each 640 acre section can be subdivided into four 160-acre quarters.



TOWNSHIP (N/S)	RANGE (E/W)	SECTION	160 ACRE	40 ACRE	10 ACRE
24S	32E	28	SW ¼	SW ¼	NE ¼

RANGE 32 E						TOWNSHIP 24 S
6	5	4	3	2	1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
18	17	16	15	14	13	
19	20	21	22	23	24	
30	29	28	27	26	25	
31	32	33	34	35	36	

6 miles (vertical dimension)  
6 miles (horizontal dimension)



Each 160-acre quarter is further subdivided into four 40-acre quarters

Each 40-acre quarter is further subdivided into four 10-acre quarters

Each 160-, 40- and 10-acre quarter is designated as the northeast, northwest, southwest, or southeast quarter (a, b, c, d respectively)

# Quarter, Quarter, Quarter

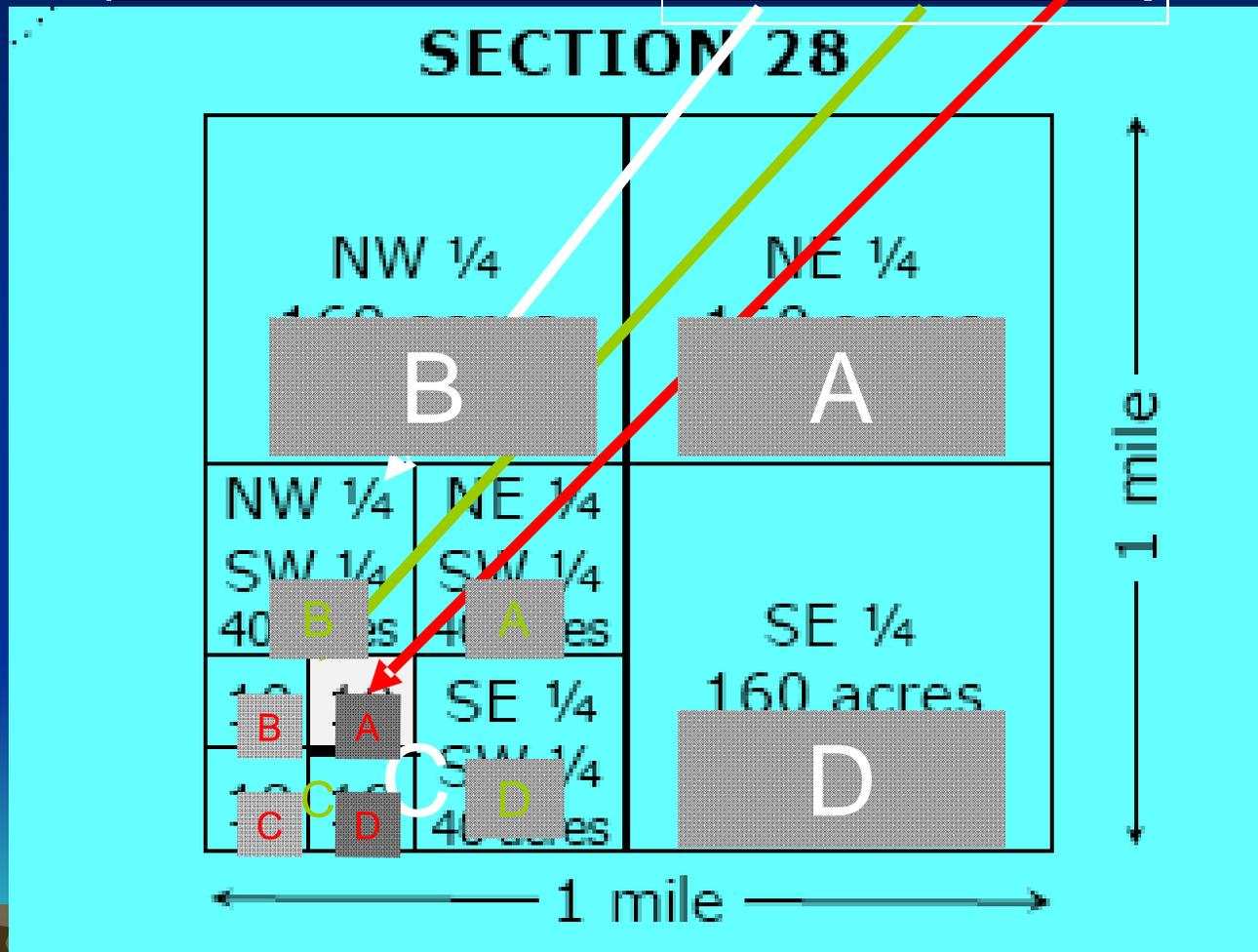


RANGE 32 E					
6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

6 miles

TOWNSHIP 24 S

TOWNSHIP (N/S)	RANGE (E/W)	SECTION	160 ACRE	40 ACRE	10 ACRE
24S	32E	28	SW ¼	SW ¼	NE ¼

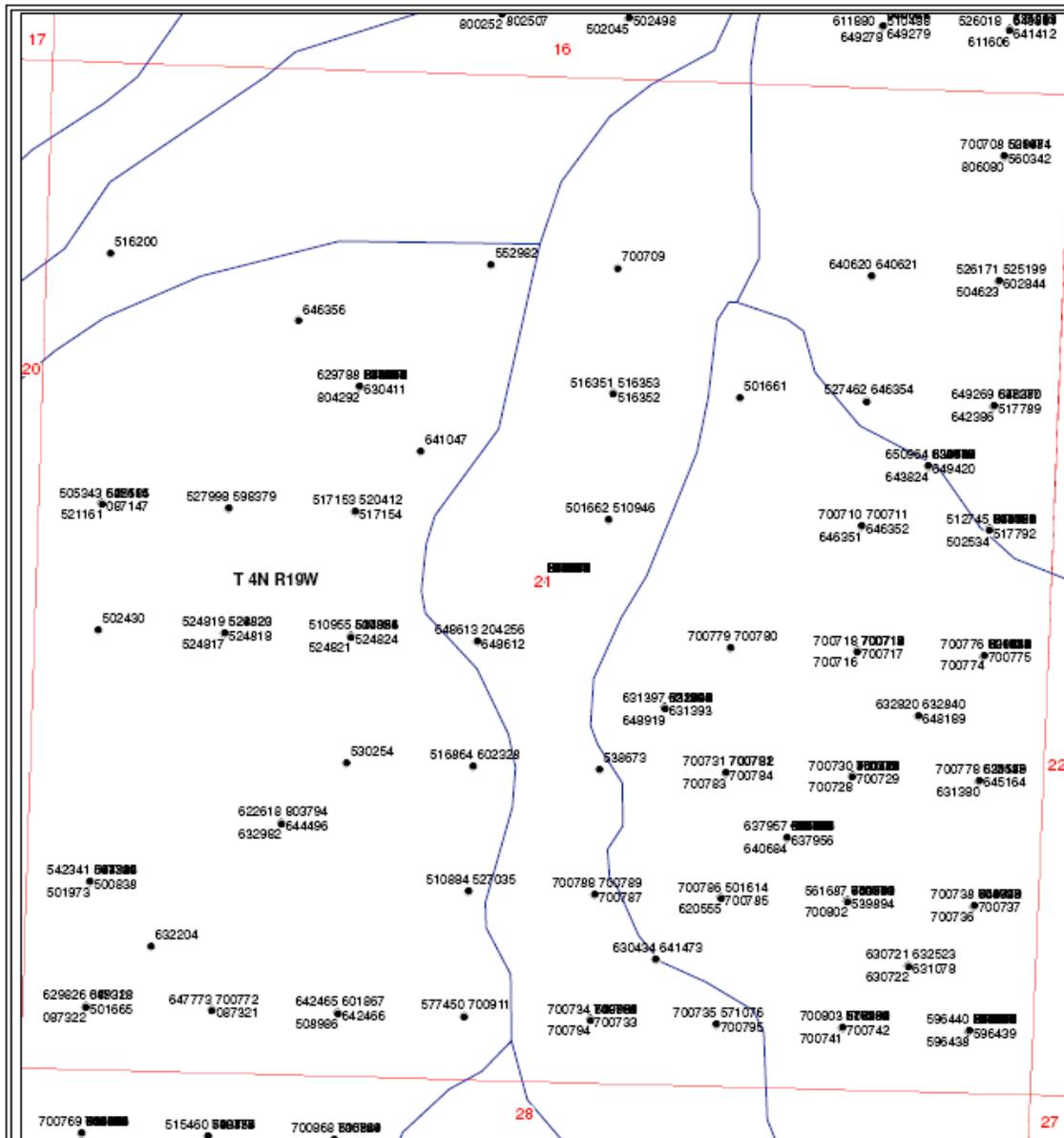


160 qtr, 40 qtr, 10 qtr refers to the quadrant it resides in after each subdivision

# How to write the Cadastral Location

TOWNSHIP (N/S)	RANGE (E/W)	SECTION	160 ACRE	40 ACRE	10 ACRE
24S	32E	28	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	NE $\frac{1}{4}$

D 24-0-32-0-28CCA

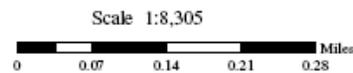


**ADWR 55 WELL FINDER**

**OVER 300 WELLS IN ONE SECTION**

**Legend**

- Well Locations
- ~ Streams
- ▭ Arizona
- ▭ Townships
- ▭ Sections
- ▭ County



Map Printed: 3/15/2010 12:35:49 PM



2007 State of Arizona, Department of Water Resources  
 For more information about this map contact:  
 Arizona Department of Water Resources  
 Water Resources Information Central  
 3550 North Central Ave  
 Phoenix, AZ 85012  
 Phone: (602) 771-8500 or 1-800-352-8488

U:\Work space\Hydrology\GIS\Project\PMF\Project4  
 Map\PMF\_ArcReader\WellFinder.PMF  
 Topographic map source: U.S. Geological Survey

# Converting Legal Descriptions to Cadastral

This is what you will see on the deed for a piece of property:

Example:  
Legal Description

*the SW quarter of the NE  
quarter of the SE quarter of  
Section 4, Township 1N,  
Range 8E.*



# Why are Cadastrals so Important?

Accessing ADWR's Imaged Records



## Entering Cadastral Location in the Imaged Records Database

- Legal Land Description: The SW quarter of the NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 4, Township 1N Range 8E will translate into the Cadastral Location like this: A-1-0-8-0-4DAC

Where A = Quadrant of the state. This is derived from the township and range directions:  
Township 1N Range 8E (NE = A, NW = B, SW = C, SE = D)

1 = Township

0 = Represents a whole Township. Occasionally there is a  $\frac{1}{2}$  Township, and a 5 needs to be entered instead. The 0 or 5 must be entered, or search results will not appear.

8 = Range

0 = Represents a whole Range. Occasionally there is a  $\frac{1}{2}$  Range, and a 5 needs to be entered instead. The 0 or 5 must be entered, or search results will not appear.

4 = Section

D =  $\frac{1}{4}$  section, 160 acres

A =  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the  $\frac{1}{4}$  section, 40 acres

C =  $\frac{1}{4}$  section of the  $\frac{1}{4}$  section of the  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 10 acres

Letters are not case sensitive, Be sure to enter the dashes as shown in the example.

If the  $\frac{1}{4}$  sections are not known, just enter a wildcard (\*) in their place? Ex. A-1-0-8-0-4\*. This search finds all wells in section 4. The wildcard character can be used anywhere within the Location or Well number.

# ***What is the Cadastral?***

***The SW quarter of the NE quarter of the  
SE quarter of Section 4, Township 1N,  
Range 8E.***

***A 1-0-4-0-8DAC***

# Understanding Basic Well Information Relating to Property

- Relationship on the sale of property and well information
- What water rights are attached to the property (Irrigation Grandfathered rights; Surface Water Rights, Statement of Claimants)
- Split Land Parcels
- Information on Shared Wells



# Relationship on the Sale of Property and Well Information

- When a piece of property has a well on it, the change of ownership on the *property* does NOT carry over to the ownership of the well.
- The NEW owner must use ADWR form, 55-71A, Change of Well Information, for a change of ownership. (Form located at [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov).)
- If there is more than one well being transferred from one owner to one owner, you may send a form for EACH well at the same time with only one \$10.00 fee.

# Types of Water Rights

- **Irrigation Grandfathered Rights** - right to withdraw and use groundwater within an AMA based on the fact of lawful withdrawals and use of groundwater prior to the AMA's designation.
- **Surface Water Rights** - Early in its history, Arizona adopted the doctrine of prior appropriation to govern the use of surface water. This doctrine is based on the tenet of "first in time, first in right" which means that the person who first puts the water to a beneficial use acquires a right that is better than later appropriators of the water.
- **Statement of Claimant** - Property owned that is located within lands drained by either the Gila River or Little Colorado Rivers and their tributaries and the use of water on this property may be affected by on-going court proceedings known as the Gila River Adjudication and the Little Colorado River Adjudication.

# What Water Rights Are Attached to the Property

- When you are doing the due diligence for a piece of property there may be several different types of water rights attached to that property.
- Before closing, research should be done to find any and all water rights attached to the property. If this information is not found on the ADWR website then complete a Public Information Request (form found at [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov)) and submit it to ADWR Information Management.
- Whatever types of water rights are attached to a piece of property need to be conveyed to the NEW owner of the property.

# Split Land Parcels

- To find the history for a parcel of land you can go to the County Assessor's website, [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov), click on assessor/parcel information and search by book, map, parcel number. This information will identify land splits. Why? To determine if there could be possible shared well information on property.



This is an example of the detective work it takes to finding a shared well.

Select Maps

Default - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.maricopa.gov/Assessor/ParcelApplication/Default.aspx?ID=304-54-003-D

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Google Search

Share Sidewiki Check Translate AutoFill maricopa county assessors Sign In

Default

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Maricopa County Assessor

QUICK LINKS ... Home Contacts \*Parcel Search: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [GO]

[Advanced Search Options](#) [\\*Market Overview](#) [\\*Residential Similar Property Search](#)  
No Parcel Number? Use Advanced Search Options. \*(A parcel number is needed to use these Features)

Advanced Parcel Search

Office of the Assessor Parcel Search Results  
Seniors Valuation Protection  
Maps  
Forms  
Reports / Data Sales  
Real Property  
Personal Property

Parcel Search Results for Parcel: 304 54 3 D

[New Search](#)

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602-506-3406

Internet 100%

Click on  
“New Parcel  
Lookup”

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Gis - Maps - Windows Internet Explorer" with the URL "http://www.maricopa.gov/Assessor/Maps.aspx". The page header includes the Maricopa County Assessor's name, Keith E. Russell, and the county seal. A navigation menu on the left lists various services, with "New Parcel Lookup" highlighted. The main content area features a "GIS Interactive Maps" section with a "More Details" button and several links: "Getting Started", "Map Guide Hints", "GIS Map ID Search", "About Map IDs", "GIS County Growth Demo", "GIS Links", "Cad Levels", and "New Parcel Lookup". A red arrow points to the "New Parcel Lookup" link.

Office of the Assessor  
Seniors Valuation Protection  
Maps  
Forms  
Reports / Data Sales  
Real Property  
Personal Property

Microsoft Windows  
Your Operating System: Windows  
Browser Platform: Microsoft Internet Explorer

More Details

**GIS Interactive Maps**  
This version of MapGuide only works with Microsoft Windows and Internet Explorer 5 or higher (IE5, IE6, IE7+)

IF you have trouble with the version above, please try our JavaViewer.  
[GIS Interactive Maps JavaViewer](#)

[Getting Started](#)

[Map Guide Hints](#)

[GIS Map ID Search](#)

[About Map IDs](#)

[GIS County Growth Demo](#)

[GIS Links](#)

[Cad Levels](#)

[New Parcel Lookup](#)

Enter your  
parcel number  
and click on  
“submit”

Default - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.maricopa.gov/Assessor/NewParcel/Default.aspx

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QUICK LINKS ... Home   Contacts \*Parcel Search:     (GO)

[Advanced Search Options](#) [\\*Market Overview](#) [\\*Residential Similar Property Search](#)  
No Parcel Number? Use Advanced Search Options. \*(A parcel number is needed to use these Features)

GIS/Maps

- Office of the Assessor
- Seniors Valuation Protection
- Maps
- Forms
- Reports / Data Sales
- Real Property
- Personal Property

### New Parcel Search Options

This information is being provided as a service to cities and developers primarily for the issuance of building permits.

**By Parcel Number:**

Book	Map	Parcel	Split	
504	36	037	x	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

**By Subdivision:**

Subdivision Name	City	
<input type="text"/>	- Name Not Defined	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

**By MCR Number:**

MCR Number	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

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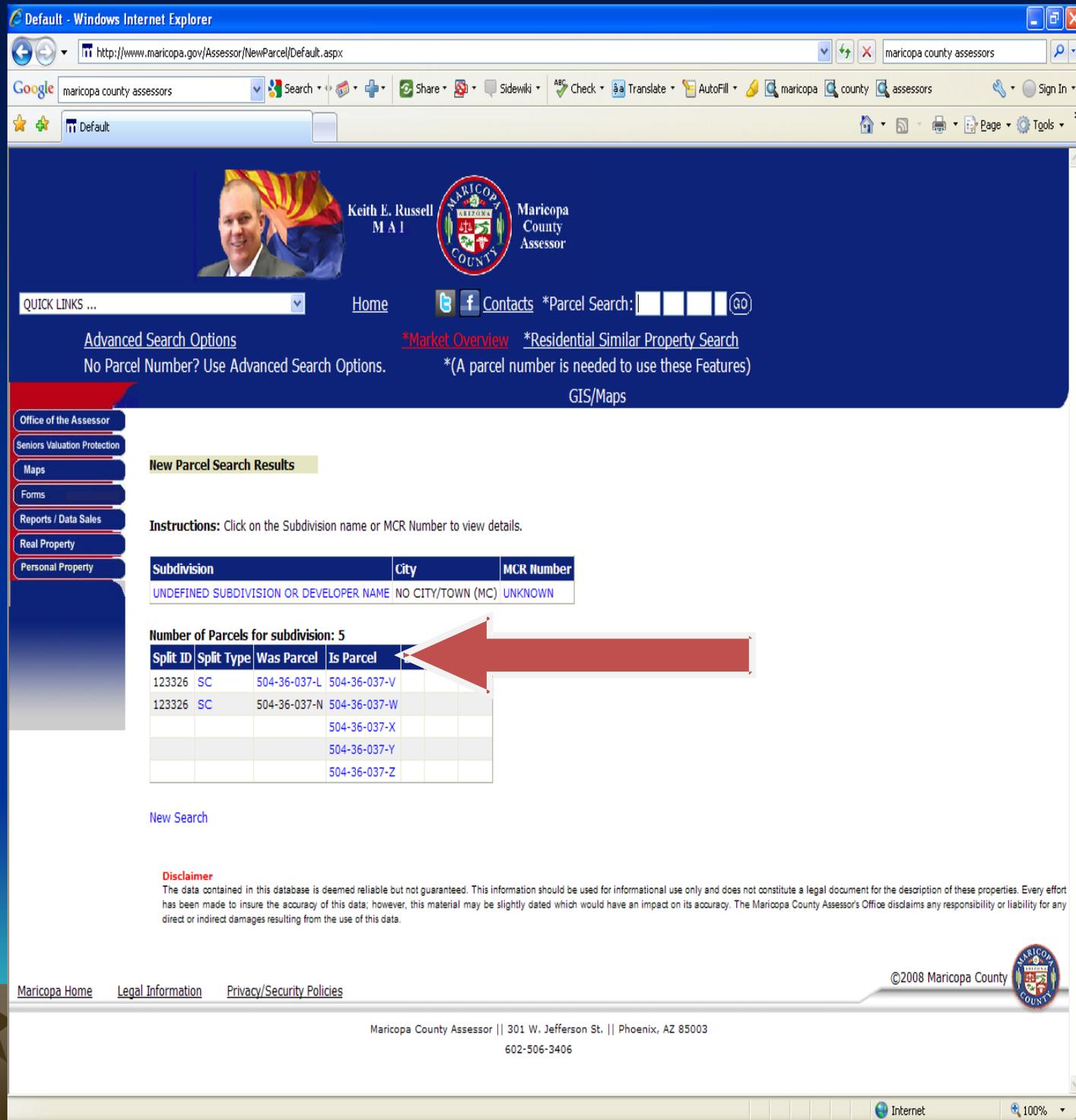
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602-506-3406

Internet 100%

Take a look at the “Was Parcel and Is Parcel.” This is the start to find where your parcel came from.

Notice in the “Was” parcel 504-36-037L is in blue, click that because it goes even further back. See next attachment



Default - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.maricopa.gov/Assessor/NewParcel/Default.aspx

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QUICK LINKS ... Home

Advanced Search Options No Parcel Number? Use Advanced Search Options.

\*Market Overview \*Residential Similar Property Search  
\*(A parcel number is needed to use these Features)

GIS/Maps

Office of the Assessor  
Seniors Valuation Protection  
Maps  
Forms  
Reports / Data Sales  
Real Property  
Personal Property

**New Parcel Search Results**

**Instructions:** Click on the Subdivision name or MCR Number to view details.

Subdivision	City	MCR Number
UNDEFINED SUBDIVISION OR DEVELOPER NAME	NO CITY/TOWN (MC)	UNKNOWN

Number of Parcels for subdivision: 5

Split ID	Split Type	Was Parcel	Is Parcel
123326	SC	504-36-037-L	504-36-037-V
123326	SC	504-36-037-N	504-36-037-W
			504-36-037-X
			504-36-037-Y
			504-36-037-Z

New Search

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As you can see parcel 504-36-037 X came from 504-36-037L,

Default - Windows Internet Explorer  
http://www.maricopa.gov/Assessor/NewParcel/Default.aspx?swType=was&book=504&map=36&item=37&split=L  
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QUICK LINKS ... Home Contacts \*Parcel Search: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] (GO)  
[Advanced Search Options](#) \*Market Overview \*Residential Similar Property Search  
No Parcel Number? Use Advanced Search Options. \*(A parcel number is needed to use these Features)  
GIS/Maps

Office of the Assessor  
Seniors Valuation Protection  
Maps  
Forms  
Reports / Data Sales  
Real Property  
Personal Property

**New Parcel Search Results**

**Instructions:** Click on the Subdivision name or MCR Number to view details.

Subdivision	City	MCR Number
UNDEFINED SUBDIVISION OR DEVELOPER NAME	NO CITY/TOWN (MC)	UNKNOWN

Number of Parcels for subdivision: 3

Split ID	Split Type	Was Parcel	Is Parcel	Lot Area	Block
118861	SC	504-36-037-C	504-36-037-K		
118861	SC	504-36-037-J	504-36-037-L		
			504-36-037-M		

New Search

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602-506-3406

Internet 100%

504-36-037L  
split came  
from 504-36-  
037 C & D.

Now look at  
the wells  
query list  
below to see  
if you can find  
one of those  
parcel  
numbers

The screenshot shows the Maricopa County Assessor's website in Internet Explorer. The browser address bar shows the URL: <http://www.maricopa.gov/Assessor/NewParcel/Default.aspx?swType=was&book=504&map=36&item=37&split=C>. The page header includes the name Keith E. Russell, M.A.I., and the Maricopa County Assessor logo. A navigation menu includes links for Home, Contacts, and a Parcel Search box. Below the navigation, there are links for Advanced Search Options, Market Overview, and Residential Similar Property Search. A sidebar on the left contains links for Office of the Assessor, Seniors Valuation Protection, Maps, Forms, Reports / Data Sales, Real Property, and Personal Property. The main content area displays "New Parcel Search Results" with instructions to click on the Subdivision name or MCR Number. A table shows the search results:

Subdivision	City	MCR Number
UNDEFINED SUBDIVISION OR DEVELOPER NAME	NO CITY/TOWN (MC)	UNKNOWN

Below the table, it states "Number of Parcels for subdivision: 2" and shows a detailed table:

Split ID	Split Type	Was Parcel	Is Parcel	Lot	Block	Tract
106619	SP	504-36-037-A	504-36-037-C			
			504-36-037-D			

At the bottom of the page, there is a disclaimer and contact information for the Maricopa County Assessor's Office.

Run Date: 03/05/2010

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES WELL REPORT

Page: 1

Quad	Town	Range	Sect	Q160	Q40	Q10	Reg No.	Registered Full Name & Address	Well Depth	Case Depth	Case Diameter	Water Level	Pump (GPM)	Most Recent Auth. Issued:		Org. Drill Date	Reg Wtr Use	Wtr-shed	Log CRT		
														Lic No	Issue Date						
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	A	A	55 - 200051	RANDALL & TIFFANY HARRAL PO BOX 6477 PHOENIX, AZ 85005	0	0	0	0	0	671	08/28/2003		D	08			
<b>Cancelled:</b> Y <b>BMP:</b> 504-63-372																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	A	C	55 - 580377	JEFFREY EVAN WALLS 7210 S 312TH AVE BUCKEYE, AZ 85326	165	136	5	82	0	171	05/22/2000	08/07/2000	D	08	X		
<b>BMP:</b> 504-36-37D																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	A	C	55 - 592863	GLENN SNYDER 43221 N 22ND ST PHOENIX, AZ 85087	150	150	6	30	0	655	06/06/2002	06/13/2002	D	08	X		
<b>BMP:</b> 504-36-037U																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	A	C	55 - 592930	ALLEN BLANCHARD 1515 E ROYAL PALM DR PHOENIX, AZ 85020	0	0	0	0	0	655	06/07/2002		D	08			
<b>Cancelled:</b> Y <b>BMP:</b> 504-36-037P																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	A	C	55 - 212025	JAY KERR PO BOX 1681 BUCKEYE, AZ 85326	260	260	6	100	0	141	04/25/2006	05/09/2006	D	08	X		
<b>BMP:</b> 504-36-037T																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	A	C	55 - 592862	ALLEN BLANCHARD 1515 E ROYAL PALM DR PHOENIX, AZ 85020	0	0	0	0	0	655	06/06/2002		D	08			
<b>Cancelled:</b> Y <b>BMP:</b> 504-36-037S																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	A	C	55 - 592861	ALLEN BLANCHARD 1515 E ROYAL PALM DR PHOENIX, AZ 85020	0	0	0	0	0	655	06/06/2002		D	08			
<b>Cancelled:</b> Y <b>BMP:</b> 504-36-037T																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	C	A	55 - 569712	LOGAN JORGENS 12516 E 12TH AVE SPOKANE, WA 99216	120	120	6	0	0	200	07/24/1998	09/19/1998	D	08	X		
<b>BMP:</b> 504-36-032A																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	D	B	55 - 200018	ANGELA FRANKLIN 10838 E APACHE TR APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85120	105	105	6	38	0	200	08/27/2003	12/10/2003	D	08	X		
<b>BMP:</b> 504-36-037T																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	D	B	55 - 904411	GARY LEWALLEN 1350 S 174TH LN GOODYEAR, AZ 85338	140	140	6	65	0	200	03/09/2006	03/24/2006	D	08	X		
<b>BMP:</b> 504-36-106 A																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					
B	1.0	5.0	36	C	D	D	55 - 580388	RONNIE TROUP 31126 W BASELINE RD BUCKEYE, AZ 85326	120	0	5	87	0	171	05/22/2000	01/26/2001	D	08	X		
<b>BMP:</b> 504-36-37C																					
<b>Well Type:</b> EXEMPT																					

-- End Of Report --

# Shared Wells

- Shared wells are not regulated by anyone in the state of Arizona.
- A shared well is a **PRIVATE** agreement between the well owner and the parties they choose to share the well with.
- Some well agreements are written up while others are just verbal agreements. Generally, written agreements are filed with the County Recorder's office. In order to determine if there is one, always do your homework and carefully read the title report or any civil agreement regarding wells.
- If the property that the well is sitting on is sold, the new owner needs to be made aware that there is a shared well agreement in place and consult someone with expertise on what is required when this occurs.
- According to ADWR if your property houses the well you are the owner of the well.
- Sometimes a well will have its own piece of property in the middle of the parcels with an easement for each property sharing the well.
- AGAIN, NO ONE regulates shared wells in the state of Arizona. If you ask the question of how many connections or persons can be on a shared well before it would be classified as a Water Company contact the Department of Environmental Quality @ 602-771-2300

# Statement of Claimant (SOC)

The Gila River and Little Colorado River General Stream Adjudications

An Owner's Placement in Line to Use Water



# Overview

## Statement of Claimants (SOC)

What are they and who should file

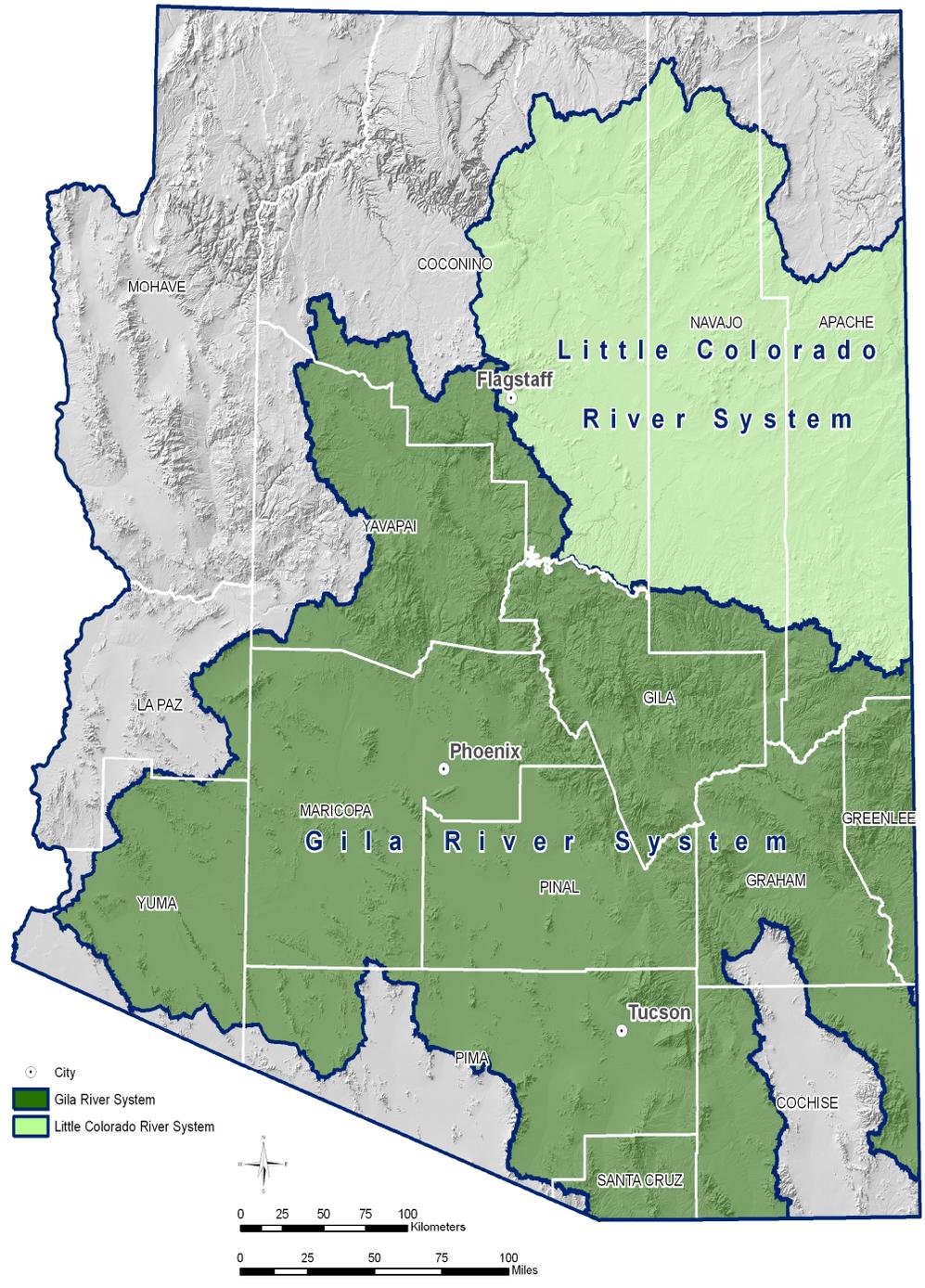
- What is a NEW Use Summons and why does someone get one?
- Where can someone find the history behind the SOC's?
- What if a person chooses not to file a Statement of Claimant?
- Where can someone find the forms for filing a Statement of Claimant?

# What is a New Use Summons?

- A new use summons is an order from either the Maricopa County Superior Court (Gila River Adjudication) or the Apache County Superior Court (Little Colorado River Adjudication) that directs a landowner to assert any claims to water rights that they may have by filing the appropriate court-approved forms. These forms are known as statements of claimants (SOCs).

# Why Does Someone Receive a New Use Summons?

- Because the property a person owns is located within lands drained by either the Gila River or Little Colorado Rivers and their tributaries, the use of water on their property may be affected by on-going court proceedings known as the Gila River Adjudication and the Little Colorado River Adjudication.



# Arizona General Stream Adjudications



# How can Someone Locate their Watershed?

- Claimants may locate their watershed by viewing or downloading the map (11.7 MB in size) on ADWR's website, [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov).
- They may also contact ADWR for assistance.



# What Does an Owner Need to File?

For EACH type of water use, an owner must file a statement of claimant (SOC) that describes the claimed water use.

The four different types of water use are:

Domestic, Irrigation, Stockpond or Other Uses

The following basins that make up the Gila and Little Colorado Systems are:

Agua Fria, Lower Gila, San Pedro, Upper Gila, Upper Salt, Upper Santa Cruz, Verde and the Little Colorado River.

There are different forms for each use for each basin.



# Does an owner need to file an SOC even though they already have a permit, certificate, or other approval from ADWR?

- Yes, a claimant must file an SOC so that the adjudication court will be aware that they are claiming a right to use water.
- Even though a claimant may have already received a permit, certificate, or other form of approval from ADWR for their water uses, an SOC must be filed for the adjudication process.
- 
- The adjudication court will ultimately determine the nature, extent, and relative priority of all water rights for which an SOC has been filed.

# Does an owner obtain a water right by filing an SOC?

- No, claimants do not obtain a right to use water by filing an SOC.
- Rights to use water must be acquired in accordance with state law.
- Under state law, in order to initiate a new use of water, or to increase the amount of water used under a current water right, you must obtain the appropriate permit, certificate, or other approval from ADWR.

# Should an Owner File an SOC if the Use of Water is from a Well?

- For each watershed, ADWR provides a report to the adjudication courts that identifies all uses of water within the watershed, including uses from a well.
- The adjudication process may include water uses from a well depending upon the location of the well and other factors.
- All persons using water or a well should file a statement of claimant - or confirm that a statement of claimant has been filed on their behalf - because a person may be pumping appropriable subflow which is subject to the Superior Court's jurisdiction in an adjudication.

# What Happens if an Owner Does Not File an SOC?

- They could lose the water right, and they may be prevented from asserting that water right later. This could happen even though they have received a permit, certificate, or other approval from ADWR.

# What if an Owner Sells the Property Where They Use the Water Right?

- The owner should contact ADWR so that the new owners may be contacted. If they sold the property and they have already filed an SOC, they should complete the form entitled “ASSIGNMENT” of statement of claimant.

# When Does a SOC have to be filed?

- Generally, a SOC should be filed within 90 days of receipt of the new use summons. However, state law allows owners to file an SOC even after the initial 90-day period. Upon filing a SOC, owners will be entitled to receive notification of adjudication activities that may affect their water rights.

# Are There Any Other SOC Requirements?

- After an owner files an SOC, they must notify ADWR of any of the following:
  - (1) a change in address;
  - 
  - (2) an assignment of SOC to another person;
  - 
  - (3) a transfer to another person of all or part of the land for which a water right has been claimed; and
  - (4) a transfer to another person of all or part of the water right claimed when the water right is severed and transferred to another parcel of land.
  -
- You must notify ADWR within 30 days of any of these changes using forms approved by the adjudication courts. Copies of the forms are available from ADWR or by downloading them from ADWR's website, [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov).

# HOW DO I CONTACT ADWR FOR FORMS OR TO ANSWER QUESTIONS?

- Forms may be downloaded from ADWR's website, [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov). See "HOW DO I DOWNLOAD FORMS?" on page 1.
- Forms are also available upon request to ADWR at the following address and telephone number:
- Arizona Department of Water Resources 3550 North Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85012 Telephone: (602) 771-8500
- You may also call this number for answers to questions you may have about the new use summons and the adjudication process.
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# Using the ADWR Wells Search Wizard

Presenter: Andy Fisher