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9 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA**  
10 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF APACHE**

11 IN RE THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION  
12 OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN  
13 THE GILIA RIVER SYSTEM AND  
14 SOURCE

15 Contested Case Nos. W1-00-001234  
16 and  
17 W1-00-000106

18 **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF  
19 WATER RESOURCES' NOTICE OF  
20 FILING THE ADDENDUM TO THE  
21 VERDE RIVER WATERSHED  
22 SUBFLOW ZONE DELINEATION**

23 Special Master Sherri Zendri

24 **CONTESTED CASE NAME:** *In re Subflow Technical Report, Verde River Watershed*

25 **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:** The Arizona Department of Water Resources' ("ADWR")  
26 provides notice of filing its Addendum to the Verde River Watershed Subflow Zone  
Delineation ("2025 Verde Subflow Addendum" or "Addendum").

**NUMBER OF PAGES:** Five and one-page attachment

**DATE OF FILING:** December 15, 2025

1 **I. Purpose of This Notice**

2 ADWR is sending this Notice to persons who are on the Court-Approved Mailing  
3 List for this contested case, and a Notice of Publication, in the form of a mailer, has been  
4 sent to all Claimants (persons who filed a Statement of Claimant or “SOC”) within the  
5 Verde River Watershed. More information regarding this Notice and the 2025 Verde  
6 Subflow Addendum can be found on ADWR’s website: <https://azwater.gov/adjudications>.

7 In Arizona, most wells are presumed to be pumping groundwater.<sup>1</sup> However, wells  
8 located inside the lateral boundaries of the subflow zone of a river are presumed to be  
9 pumping underground water known as subflow, unless a well owner can show that it is  
10 more probable than not that the well is pumping groundwater.<sup>2</sup> Subflow is part of the surface  
11 stream, and wells pumping subflow are subject to the same rules of appropriation as the  
12 surface stream itself.<sup>3</sup> Certain wells located outside the boundaries of the subflow zone may  
13 also be subject to this Court’s jurisdiction based on projected impacts of the well’s pumping  
14 on the surface stream.<sup>4</sup>

15 On March 5, 2025, following an August 2024 evidentiary hearing, the Court filed its  
16 Order Granting Admission of Additional Exhibits into Evidence and Order for ADWR to  
17 Revise Subflow Zone Delineation for Portions of the Verde River Mainstem and Tributaries  
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20 <sup>1</sup> *In re Gen. Adjudication of All Rights to Use Water in the Gila River Sys. & Source* (“Gila  
21 *IV*”), 198 Ariz. 330, 335, 9 P.3d 1069, 1074 (2000).

22 <sup>2</sup> See [Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law](#), *In re the Revised Subflow Delineation for*  
23 *the San Pedro River Watershed*, Contested Case No. W1-103, July 13, 2017 at 3.

24 <sup>3</sup> *Maricopa Cty. Mun. Water Conservation Dist. No. 1 v. Southwest Cotton Co.*, 39 Ariz.  
25 65, 97, 4 P.2d 369, 380-81 (1931).

26 <sup>4</sup> Wells located outside the boundaries of the subflow zone having cones of depression that  
cause 0.1 foot of drawdown or more at the subflow zone boundary under steady-state  
conditions are subject to the jurisdiction of this Court, even if only part of the well’s  
production is appropriable water. See, *In re Gen. Adjudication of All Rights to Use Water*  
*in the Gila River Sys. & Source* (“Gila *IP*”), 175 Ariz. 382, 391, 857 P.2d 1236, 1245 (1993).

1 (“March 2025 Subflow Order”).<sup>5</sup> In the March 2025 Subflow Order, the Court ordered  
2 ADWR **not** to provide additional subflow zone delineation mapping for: Big Chino Wash  
3 downstream of its confluence with Partridge Creek<sup>6</sup> and the lower portion of Partridge  
4 Creek<sup>7</sup>. The Court, however, “ordered that ADWR will reevaluate the mapping termination  
5 for all tributaries analyzed in the Remainder Report and extend portions of the subflow zone  
6 improperly terminated.”<sup>8</sup> Additionally, the Court “ordered that ADWR will reevaluate the  
7 mapping termination for Williamson Valley Wash and extend the subflow zone for that  
8 stream were improperly terminated.”<sup>9</sup> Finally, the Court “ordered that ADWR  
9 file...[r]evisions to the subflow zone delineation around Bartlett and Horseshoe Lakes  
10 pursuant to the October 24, 2023, Order Granting Partial Summary Judgment re Objections  
11 to Subflow Delineation Report for Verde Mainstem and Sycamore Canyon Subwatershed”  
12 and “[r]evisions to the subflow zone delineation around Watson Lake, Granite Basin Lake,  
13 Sullivan Lake, and Willow Creek Reservoir pursuant to the minute entry filed January 22,  
14 2024.”<sup>10</sup>

15 After the Special Master reviews ADWR’s 2025 Verde Subflow Addendum, she will  
16 file her final report on the Verde River subflow zone (“Final Report”). Once the Special  
17 Master files her Final Report, parties may file objections to the Addendum, if any exist,

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19 <sup>5</sup> [Order Granting Admission of Additional Exhibits into Evidence and Order for ADWR to](#)  
20 [Revise Subflow Zone Delineation for Portions of the Verde River Mainstem and](#)  
21 [Tributaries](#), March 5, 2025, *In re Subflow Technical Report, Verde River Watershed*,  
22 Contested Case No. W1-00-000106. After the issuance of the March 2025 Subflow Order,  
23 the Court approved an extension requested by ADWR, making the 2025 Verde Subflow  
24 Addendum due for filing on or before December 15, 2025. ([Order Granting Extension of](#)  
25 [Time](#), March 26, 2025, *In re Subflow Technical Report, Verde River Watershed*, Contested  
26 Case No. W1-00-000106).

<sup>6</sup> March 2025 Subflow Order at 17, ln.7-9.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 18, ln. 20-22.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 20, ln.3-5.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 21, ln.5-7.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 22, ln. 1-7.

1 with the Water Judge. The Water Judge will then consider the Final Report and any  
2 objections before finalizing the Verde River subflow zone.<sup>11</sup>

### 3 **II. Copies of the 2025 Verde Subflow Addendum**

4 The 2025 Verde Subflow Addendum is available for viewing and download from  
5 ADWR's website, under the Reports section of the Adjudications Division page, at  
6 <https://azwater.gov/adjudications>. A hard copy of the Addendum may also be inspected on  
7 site at ADWR's offices located at 1110 W. Washington St., Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007,  
8 or purchased by contacting ADWR. See **Section III**.

### 9 **III. ADWR's Contact Information**

10 Requests for copies of the 2025 Verde Subflow Addendum should be directed to  
11 ADWR at 602-771-8634 or 1-866-246-1414 (toll-free within Arizona) or  
12 [adjudications@azwater.gov](mailto:adjudications@azwater.gov). Due to the volume of calls and emails that ADWR receives, it  
13 may be necessary to leave a message. ADWR will respond to calls and emails as quickly as  
14 possible, which can take more than one business day.

15 **DATED** this 15th day of December, 2025.

16 ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
17 RESOURCES

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20 Karen J. Nielsen, Deputy Counsel

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<sup>11</sup> See *id.* at 21, ln. 12-18.

1 **ORIGINAL** of the Notice sent  
2 by first-class mail on December 15, 2025, to:

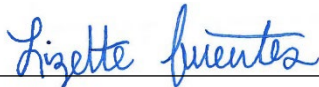
3 Clerk of Maricopa County Superior Court  
4 Attn: Water Case  
5 601 W. Jackson Street  
6 Phoenix, Arizona 85003

7 **ORIGINAL** of the 2025 Verde Subflow Addendum  
8 uploaded to the Clerk of the Court's ShareBase.

9 **COPIES** of the Notice and the 2025 Verde  
10 Subflow Addendum sent by electronic mail  
11 on December 15, 2025, to:

12 [water@jbazmc.maricopa.gov](mailto:water@jbazmc.maricopa.gov)

13 **COPIES** of the Notice sent by first-class mail  
14 on December 15, 2025, to all parties on the  
15 Court-Approved Mailing List for Contested  
16 Case Nos. W1-00-001234 and W1-11-000106,  
17 and Notice of Publication, in the form of a  
18 mailer (**Attachment A**) has been sent to all  
19 Claimants in the Verde River Watershed.

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# **ATTACHMENT A**

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

On December 15, 2025, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) released the 2025 Addendum to the Verde River Watershed Subflow Zone Delineation (“2025 Verde Subflow Addendum” or “Addendum”). ADWR filed the 2025 Verde Subflow Addendum with the Maricopa County Superior Court in the Gila River General Stream Adjudication Contested Case No. W1-00-000106, *In re Subflow Technical Report, Verde River Watershed*.

ADWR filed the 2025 Verde Subflow Addendum pursuant to an order from the Adjudication Court. The Addendum revises portions of the subflow zone delineations found in ADWR’s December 2021 Subflow Zone Delineation Technical Report for the Verde River Mainstem & Sycamore Canyon and April 2023 Subflow Zone Delineation for the Remainder of the Verde River Watershed (collectively, “the Verde River Subflow Zone Delineation Reports”).

ADWR is legally required to provide notice of its subflow zone reports to Claimants (persons who have filed a Statement of Claimant). You received this notice because you, or someone who previously lived at your address, claimed a water right in the general stream adjudication for water use on a property located within the Verde River Watershed.

The Verde River Subflow Zone Delineation Reports, including the Addendum, are available on ADWR’s website. After filing the Addendum, the Special Master will consider the Verde River Subflow Zone Delineation Reports and file a final report on the Verde River Subflow Zone, which will then be submitted to the Water Judge. Parties may file objections with the Water Judge *after* the Special Master files the final report.



## VIEW:

### THE VERDE RIVER SUBFLOW ZONE DELINEATION REPORTS:

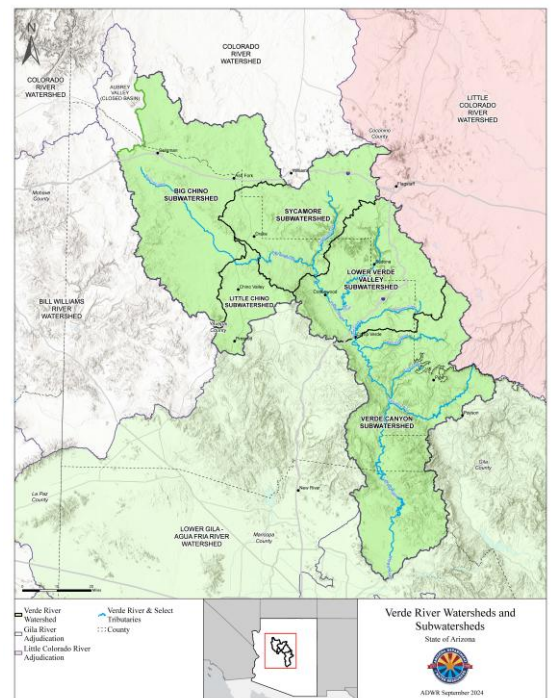
<https://azwater.gov/adjudications>

### IN PERSON AT ADWR AT:

1110 W. Washington St. Suite 310  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

## CONTACT ADWR:

866-246-1414 (TOLL FREE) OR  
602-771-8634



The Verde Subflow Zone Delineation Reports do not analyze individual water uses or claims. ADWR is preparing Hydrographic Survey Reports (“HSRs”) for the Verde River Watershed that will address water rights and claims in more detail.