

1 Karen J. Nielsen (Bar No. 034648)
2 Arizona Department of Water Resources
3 Legal Division
4 1110 W. Washington St., Suite 310
5 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
6 Telephone: 602-771-8472
7 Fax: 602-771-8687
8 knielsen@azwater.gov

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 LITTLE COLORADO RIVER**
14 **SYSTEM AND SOURCE**

Contested Case No. CV 6417-400

15 **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF**
16 **WATER RESOURCES' NOTICE OF**
17 **FILING THE SUBFLOW ZONE**
18 **DELINEATION FOR THE LOWER**
19 **LITTLE COLORADO RIVER**
20 **SUBWATERSHED**

Special Master Sherri Zendri

21 **CONTESTED CASE NAME:** *In re Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed*

22 **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:** The Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR")
23 provides notice of filing its Subflow Zone Delineation for the Lower Little Colorado River
24 Subwatershed ("2025 LLCR Subflow Report"), provides information on filing an
25 objection(s) to the 2025 LLCR Subflow Report, and gives information on viewing the 2025
26 LLCR Subflow Report.

NUMBER OF PAGES: Five and three-page attachment

DATE OF FILING: September 5, 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”) and all Non-
5 claimant Water Users (persons who ADWR has identified as currently using water within
6 the Lower Little Colorado River subwatershed).

7 In Arizona, most wells are presumed to be pumping groundwater.¹ 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.² 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.³ 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.⁴

15 On December 6, 2022, the Court requested ADWR to “file its report and maps
16 delineating the subflow zone for the Lower Little Colorado River subwatershed (“the
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20 ¹ *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 ² 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 ³ *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 ⁴ 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 II”), 175 Ariz. 382, 391, 857 P.2d 1236, 1245 (1993).

1 Report”) by September 5, 2025.”⁵ Pursuant to that order, ADWR is providing notice of
2 filing its Subflow Zone Delineation for the Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed.

3 After objections to this Report have been filed (see **Section II**, below), the Court will
4 conduct proceedings to resolve objections and delineate the lateral boundaries of the
5 subflow zone for the Lower Little Colorado River subwatershed.

6 **II. Objections to the 2025 LLCR Subflow Zone Report**

7 Only Claimants (persons who have filed an SOC) may file an objection to the 2025
8 LLCR Subflow Zone Report but are not required to do so. An objection must state in clear
9 and concise language the legal and/or factual reasons for the objection with a brief
10 description of the evidence to support those reasons. Additional information or
11 documentation may be attached to the Objection Form (**Attachment A**). The Objection
12 Form can also be found on ADWR’s website at <https://adwr.info/2025LLCRSubflowRpt>.

13 The original and two copies of the Objection Form (including any attachments) must
14 be sent to the Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court at P.O. Box 365, St. Johns, AZ
15 85936 or filed in person at the courthouse located at 70 West 3rd Street South, Saint Johns,
16 AZ 85936. Objections must be *received* by the Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court
17 no later than **March 4, 2026**.

18 Persons who file objections will be notified of further court proceedings concerning
19 the 2025 LLCR Subflow Report.

20 Shortly after the objection period closes, ADWR will post copies of the objections
21 on ADWR’s website. Copies may also be obtained by contacting ADWR. See **Section IV**.

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24 ⁵ [Order to Determine Subflow Zone for Lower Little Colorado Subwatershed and Order](#)
25 [Establishing Deadlines for Filing Report and Objections](#), *In re the General Adjudication of*
26 *All Rights to Use Water in the Little Colorado River System and Source*, Contested Case
No. CV 6417-400, at 2.

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III. Copies of the 2025 LLCR Subflow Report

The 2025 LLCR Subflow Report is available for viewing and download from ADWR’s website, under the Reports section of the Adjudications Division page, at <https://adwr.info/2025LLCRSubflowRpt>. A hard copy of the 2025 LLCR Subflow Report may also be inspected on site at ADWR’s offices 1110 W. Washington St. Suite 310 Phoenix, AZ 85007 or purchased by contacting ADWR. See **Section IV**.

IV. ADWR’s Contact Information

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

DATED this 5th day of September 2025.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER
RESOURCES



Karen J. Nielsen, Deputy Counsel

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ORIGINAL of the Notice and two copies of the 2025 LLCR Subflow Report sent by first-class mail on September 5, 2025, to:


Clerk of Apache County Superior Court
70 West Third Street South
St. Johns, Arizona 85936

COPIES of the Notice and the 2025 LLCR Subflow Report sent by first-class mail on September 5, 2025, to:

Honorable Scott Blaney
Maricopa County Superior Court
East Court Building
101 West Jefferson St., Suite 411
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Special Master Sherri Zendri
Maricopa County Superior Court
Central Court Building
201 West Jefferson St., Suite 3A
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2205

COPIES of the Notice and Objection Form sent by first-class mail on September 5, 2025, to all parties on the Court-Approved Mailing List for Case No. CV6417-400, and Notice of Publication, in the form of a mailer (**Attachment B**), has been sent to all Claimants and Non-claimant Water Users in the Lower Little Colorado River subwatershed.



ATTACHMENT A

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

IN THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION
OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN
THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER
SYSTEM AND SOURCE

Case No. CV6417-400

**OBJECTION TO THE SUBFLOW
ZONE DELINEATION REPORT FOR
THE LOWER LITTLE COLORADO
RIVER SUBWATERSHED**

Special Master Sherri Zendri

OBJECTOR

Name (printed) _____
Mailing Address _____

Telephone No. _____
Statement of Claimant No. 39- _____

STATEMENT OF OBJECTION

Please reference the portion of the report to which you are objecting, explain the reasons for the objection below (or in a separate attachment), and complete the next page.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On this ____ day of _____, 202__, I certify that the original Objection and two copies were sent by first class mail, or hand delivered, to:

Via First Class Mail:

Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court
P.O. Box 365
St. Johns, Arizona 85936

Via Hand Delivery:

Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court
70 West 3rd South
St. Johns, Arizona 85936

If you mail your objection to the court, please allow additional time for mailing, so that your objection will be received by the court by **March 4, 2026.**

Signature of Objector or Representative

If this objection is being submitted by a Representative of the Objector, please provide the following information below or by attachment:

Name of Representative (printed)_____

Mailing Address of Representative_____

Telephone Number of Representative_____

ATTACHMENT B

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

On September 5, 2025 the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) released the Subflow Zone Delineation Report for the Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed (“2025 LLCR Subflow Report”) for inspection and comment. The 2025 LLCR Subflow Report was filed with the Apache County Superior Court in the Little Colorado River Adjudication Contested Case No. CV6417-400, *In re Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed*.

The purpose of the 2025 LLCR Report is to provide information and a series of maps that delineate the subflow zone for the Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed.

ADWR is legally required to provide notice of its subflow zone reports to Claimants (persons who have filed a Statement of Claimant) and for non-claimant water users in the Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed. You received this notice because you, or someone who previously lived at your address, claimed a water right in the General Stream Adjudication or was identified by ADWR as using water within the Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed.

Only Claimants may file an objection to the 2025 LLCR Subflow Report but are not required to do so. Objections must be filed using the Objection Form available on ADWR’s website. The original and two copies of the Objection Form (including any attachments) must be received by the Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court no later than March 4, 2026.



VIEW:

**THE 2025 LLCR SUBFLOW REPORT,
FAQS, OBJECTION FORM, AND OTHER
INFORMATION ONLINE AT:**

<https://azwater.gov/adjudications>

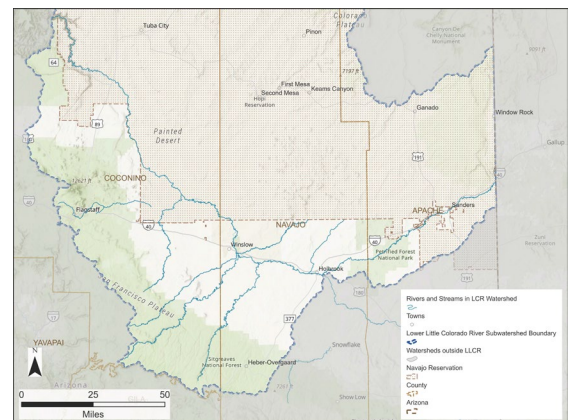
**THE 2025 LLCR SUBFLOW REPORT CAN
ALSO BE VIEWED IN PERSON AT ADWR
AT:**

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

FILE:

**OBJECTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO
THE COURT NO LATER THAN MARCH 4,
2026**

**CONTACT ADWR:
866-246-1414 (TOLL FREE) OR
602-771-8634**



The 2025 LLCR Subflow Report does not analyze any individual water uses or claims. Individual water uses or claims will be addressed in a future Hydrographic Survey Report for the Lower Little Colorado River.