



SUSTAINING FLOWS COUNCIL

EDUCATION SESSION: STREAM ADJUDICATION

AZ water law and General Stream Adjudication overview, with a focus on the Verde Watershed. Leave with resources and answers to common questions.

SCHEDULE

November 21, 2025
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
[Register for Zoom Link](#)

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AGENDA

Arizona Water Law 101

Susan Montgomery (Montgomery & Interpreter, PLC)

- Surface water and groundwater law
- Federal reserved water rights

Arizona General Stream Adjudication

Special Water Master Sherri Zendri (Maricopa County Superior Court)

- Overview, history, and key players
- Status of key issues: subflow, forfeiture
- Recent updates and what's next

Role of AZ Department of Water Resources

Rachel Cook (Arizona Department of Water Resources)

- ADWR notices and communication
- Recent and upcoming reports, resources

Natural Resources Use & Management Clinic

Jennifer Wendel (University of Arizona)

- Legal services
- Outreach and education

SPEAKERS

SPECIAL WATER MASTER SHERRI ZENDRI

The Hon. Sherri Zendri was assigned as Special Water Master for the Arizona General Stream Adjudication for both the Gila and Little Colorado River Basins in March 2023. She is based in Phoenix, Arizona and has extensive experience in natural resources work, including working as a field geologist for multiple environmental consulting companies, project manager for a variety of state and federal groundwater and soil remediation sites, and serving as the Southern Arizona Regional Compliance Manager, and later Administrative Counsel, for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Geology, with a minor in Marine Sciences, from the Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Public Administration from Arizona State University, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona.

RACHEL COOK

Rachel is a Supervisor in the Adjudication Division at the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). Rachel has been with ADWR since 2018 and spent her first few years working in the Surface Water Permitting Section. Before joining ADWR, she worked with a variety of nonprofit and government agencies focusing on natural resource management. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Water Resource Economics from the University of Arizona.

SUSAN MONTGOMERY

Susan Montgomery is a founding partner of the Phoenix based Law Firm, Montgomery & Interpreter, PLC. For more than two decades, Susan has provided legal representation and strategic policy advice to Tribal governments and others on water law and water resources, federal Indian law, and environmental law. Susan also represents several federally recognized Indian Tribes in Arizona's "General Stream Adjudication," which is the legal proceeding charged with determining the surface water rights of users throughout much of Arizona. In addition to her work for Tribes in Arizona, Susan has been a board member for Arizona's Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona.

JENNIFER WENDEL

Jennifer Wendel is the Associate Director of the Arizona Adjudications Project within the Natural Resource Use and Management Clinic. Before joining the clinic, Jennifer worked as an Attorney-Advisor in the Phoenix Field Office of the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, representing agencies like the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service in land, environmental, and water matters. Prior to that, Jennifer worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the Idaho Attorney General's Office representing the Idaho Department of Water Resources in the state's general stream adjudications.