

SAVE THE DATE!

ARIZONA WATER LAW 101

Please mark your calendars for another Verde Valley Arizona Water Law 101 virtual workshop to equip our community leaders and citizens with information and resources about the laws that govern use of our community's most vital natural resource.

**Tuesday,
November 9
@ 4 PM**

Register for the virtual workshop online [here](#)

*For questions, contact:
Alesia Ash at aash@email.arizona.edu or
Krista Avenenti at kristaavenenti@email.arizona.edu*

Program:

Surface Water

Brief history & overview of Arizona's surface water laws, including the prior appropriations doctrine, characteristics of water rights, and adjudication of rights. The discussion will introduce the things to know about surface water and water rights when purchasing a property located near a river, stream, or wash, and will identify resources for additional information.

Groundwater

Brief overview of hydrologic fundamentals and Arizona's groundwater laws, including the legal definition of groundwater, Groundwater Management Act, and the interaction between surface water and groundwater laws. The discussion will introduce the things to know about groundwater when purchasing a property with a well, and will identify resources for additional information.

Federal Reserved Water Rights

Brief history & overview of federal reserved water rights, including characteristics of federal reserved water rights, interaction between federal reserved water rights and state water rights, adjudication, and enforcement. The discussion will introduce considerations for residents related to federal reserved water rights, and will identify resources for additional information.

Water Info for Landowners & Homebuyers

Additional information for landowners, homebuyers, and residents, including: understanding water supply disclosures, finding out if a water provider serves an area, what to look for related to wells and surface water rights, what information to file with the state related to water and wells, how to drill a new well, and resources for additional information.

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Program Speakers:



Fred Breedlove is an attorney at Snell & Wilmer. Fred focuses his practice in water, public lands, and natural resources. His experience includes water rights transactions (groundwater, surface water, and Colorado River entitlements), land and natural resource management, federal Indian law, energy project siting, cultural resources, and government relations. Fred has represented land developers, landowners, ranchers, farmers, private water and energy utility businesses, government agencies, and investment firms. Fred has worked closely with ranchers and farmers to address resource management concerns including cultural resources, water availability, endangered species, travel management, grassland restoration, invasive species, and environmental contamination.

Fred's full bio is available [here](#).



Jocelyn Gibbon is the principal of Freshwater Policy Consulting, LLC. She leads Freshwater's work to provide strategic guidance, policy research and analysis, and project support to community groups, non-profits, foundations, and others navigating the world of water and natural resource policy, education, and advocacy. Jocelyn has been studying and working in the world of natural resource law, policy, and advocacy for about fifteen years. A lawyer and editor by training, she previously worked as an environmental and water law attorney in the Phoenix office of Squire Sanders, LLP, and on Arizona and Colorado River water policy issues as a member of Environmental Defense Fund's Colorado River team.

Jocelyn's full bio is available [here](#).



Susan Montgomery is a founding partner of Montgomery & Interpreter, PLC. She provides legal representation and strategic policy advice to Tribal governments, Tribal enterprises, and private business on Federal Indian law, water law, cultural resource protection, and environmental law. For two decades, Susan has represented federally recognized Indian Tribes in Arizona's ongoing water rights litigation, known as the "General Stream Adjudication." She also provides advice to Tribal governments on a wide array of water policy and management decisions that focus on the need to support Tribal water security in Arizona. Additionally, Susan provides legal counsel and policy advice to the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., (ITCA), an inter-tribal consortium of 21 Arizona Tribes. Her work includes assisting ITCA on a wide range of Indian law matters, including the ITCA Tribal Water Systems program, sacred site protection, and the Tribal Leaders Water Policy Council.

Susan's full bio is available [here](#).



Matthew Rojas is a partner at Perkins Coie. Matthew counsels municipal and industrial clients on complex natural resource and environmental issues. Matthew's experience includes the acquisition, transfer and wheeling of surface and groundwater rights in the Southwest. He has managed environmental permitting and compliance work for utility and infrastructure projects such as solar and wind farms, power lines and pipelines on private, state and federal lands.

Matthew's full bio is available [here](#).
