

SRP & BONITA CREEK WATER COMPANY AGREEMENT

General Background

- SRP and the Bonita Creek Water Company (formally “Bonita Creek Land & Homeowners’ Association”) entered into an agreement to (1) obtain a water right for water stored in C.C. Cragin Reservoir, (2) exchange water stored in C.C. Cragin with water withdrawn from Bonita Creek, and (3) provide a mechanism for Bonita Creek residents to legally withdraw water from Bonita Creek.
- The agreement provides certainty to residents of Bonita Creek that the Bonita Creek Water Company can continue to make diversions of water from Bonita Creek.

What does this agreement provide for the community?

This agreement provides an average of 15.00 acre-feet (up to a maximum of 17.45 acre-feet) of water each year. Bonita Creek Water Company and SRP calculated a projected water demand of 15.56 acre-feet at full buildout for the Bonita Creek Estates. This demand was calculated using 148 service connections, a population of 2.4 people per connection, an occupancy rate of 75%, and a per capita water usage rate of 52 gallons per person per day (“GPCD”).¹

What does this agreement mean for customers of the Bonita Creek Water Company?

The agreement does not require any action from individual customers of the Bonita Creek Water Company. Customers of the water company gain certainty knowing that their water provider has a legal basis for continuing to deliver water to its customers. Bonita Creek Water Company is responsible for a portion of the semi-annual costs tied to operate C.C. Cragin Reservoir. The semi-annual cost for 2021 was \$476.66.

What does this agreement mean for homeowners with their own wells or diversions?

Homeowners with private wells or diversions that withdraw or divert water from Bonita Creek without a water right can choose to enter into an agreement with the Bonita Creek Water Company to cover their water use. This is entirely optional - homeowners are not required to enter into an agreement with the Bonita Creek Water Company, but risk being told to stop withdrawing or diverting water from Bonita Creek by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) or the General Stream Adjudication.

Do I have to install a flow meter?

This agreement does not require customers of the Bonita Creek Water Company to install a flow meter. While the Bonita Creek Water Company does need to account for the amount of water it uses, this does not require any action from individual homeowners. Homeowners with private wells or diversion that enter into an agreement with the Bonita Creek Water Company to cover their water use, are also not required to install a flow meter. Alternative options are available for estimating water use.

¹ The number of water connections at full buildout equals the number of buildable lots; the population per connection was based on census data for Northern Gila County; the occupancy rate was estimated by the Bonita Creek Water Company, and the GPCD was calculated using the water usage reported by the Bonita Creek Water Company from 1992-2019.