

KATIE M. HOBBS
Governor



THOMAS BUSCHATZKE
Director

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
602.771.8500
new.azwater.gov

May 19, 2023

Bonita Creek Water Company LLC
Attn: Bryan Staley, President
652 N. Myrtle Point Trail
Payson, AZ 85541

RE: Field Investigation Report for Application to Partially Sever and Transfer Certificate of Water Right No. 3696.0002 (Application No. A-3906.0003) - Bonita Creek Water Company LLC., Water Service Area.

Dear Mr. Staley:

In response to the Bonita Creek Water Company LLC, ("BCWC") Application to Partially Sever and Transfer Certificate of Water Right No. 3696.0002 (Application No. A-3906.0003) ("ST Application"), the Surface Water Permitting Section of the Arizona Department of Water Resources ("Department") conducted a field investigation on March 28, 2023.

The purpose of the field investigation was to determine how water has been historically used, is currently being used, and is proposed to be used on lands within the BCWC municipal service area boundary.

The field investigation was authorized by Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) § 45-105(B)(8) and was conducted in compliance with A.R.S. § 41-1009 (Notification of Inspection and Due Process Rights). According to A.R.S. §41-1009, a copy of the Field Investigation Photo Report is enclosed with this letter.

Present during the field investigation were Paul Alder, David Keadle, Jeff Heilman, Kome Akpolo, and Dennis Alp from the Department; Rodney Held, Stan Lutz, Craig McGinnis and Christina Jovanovic from SRP; and Mr. Ken Nagy and Mr. Rick Balentine, representatives for BCWC. The notification inspection form was signed by Mr. Nagy (Water Operator for BCWC).

FINDINGS:

A) Point(s) of Diversion - The field investigation documented BCWC's water system, the subject of the ST Application. The diversionary works were confirmed as follows:

1. A primary community instream pump (originally referenced by Statement of Claim of Right No. 36-104921 (see Photo Nos.1 and 2).

B) BCWC Water Delivery/Storage Works –

1. A pump house, filtration and chlorination station and three (3) 10,000 gallon? water storage tanks were observed to be in place and in proper working condition (see Photo Nos. 3 through 7 and 9 through 12). The constructed works operate as a gravity fed system.
2. Community supply station/fire supply standpipes and pressure relief valves were also documented as part of the delivery system (see Photo Nos. 8 and 19).
3. Water service connections and metered boxes were noted to be in place with the ability to deliver water to all 148 individual lots within the entire water service area (see Photo Nos. 13 and 17). According to Mr. Nagy, the BCWC system was expanded in 2011.

C) Individual Parcels –

1. Private Surface Water Diversions - The Department learned that the Bonita Creek community, historically, had residents with creek-side lots that actively diverted surface water via private instream pumps. Two such potential diversions were observed and one documented as a representative example of the activity (see Photo Nos. 22 and 23). It is unknown how many private instream pumps may exist within the community and the total amount of water diverted. According to Mr. Nagy, as many as half of the lots along Bonita Creek have historically diverted surface water. [Note: If any undocumented surface water diversions are occurring within BCWC's municipal service area boundary, Applicant should verify and document the activity and notify the Department during the substantive review period.]
2. Private Wells – The Department learned that the Bonita Creek community, historically, has had several lots served by private wells. Two private well locations were observed and documented (see Photo Nos. 16, 23 and 24). Department records indicate there may be as many as ten (10) or more private active wells within the community.

D) Place(s) of Use – The BCWC service area is in the Southeast quarter (SE1/4), Section 31, and Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter (NW1/4SW1/4), Section 32, Township 12 South, Range 11 East, Gila County, Arizona. (See attached map of the place of use visited on March 28, 2023, as referenced in the ST Application). The following municipal water uses were observed:

1. According to Mr. Nagy, a total of 62 service connections were noted to be active within BCWC's service area at the time of investigation out of a maximum 148 potential connections. (See photo Nos. 14 and 15 showing constructed residences).
2. Domestic related small-scale landscaping areas less than one-half (0.5) acre in size (gardens/trees/lawns) were noted to be present (see Photo No. 18 as an example). No medium (0.5 to 2.0 acres) to large (above 2.0 acres) scale irrigation uses were observed within the municipal service area boundary at the time of investigation. [Note: The Department did not visit every lot in BCWC's service area or those lots which may have filed individual applications that may have irrigation uses. If any irrigation or other uses are in fact occurring within BCWC's municipal service area boundary, the Applicant should document, quantify and notify the Department of such activity.]

At this time, the Department asks that you please review this information and the attached Field Investigation Photo Report. If you feel the information contained in the report is incorrect, the Department requests that you contact us within 30 days from receipt of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me at (602) 771-8406 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



David Keadle
Surface Water Permitting Section
Water Planning and Permitting Division

ENCLOSURES

CC: Rodney Held, SRP