

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
113th Congress Disclosure Form
As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g) and
the Rules of the Committee on Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power Legislative Hearing on:
H.R 4924 (Gosar), the “Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014”

September 19, 2014

For Individuals:

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Email Address:
4. Phone Number:

* * * * *

For Witnesses Representing Organizations:

1. Name: Thomas Buschatzke
2. Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: Arizona Department of Water Resources
3. Business Address: 3550 N. Central Avenue, 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85012
4. Business Email Address:
5. Business Phone Number:

For all Witnesses

Name/Organization Arizona Department of Water Resources

Title/Date of Hearing: Legislative hearing on: **H.R 4924 (Gosar)**, the “Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014”

September 19, 2014

a. Any training or educational certificates, diplomas or degrees or other educational experiences that are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

Bachelor of Science, Geology. State University of New York, Cortland.

b. Any professional licenses, certifications, or affiliations held that are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

None

c. Any employment, occupation, ownership in a firm or business, or work-related experiences that relate to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

I have over 32 years of experience working on Arizona water rights, management, planning and policy issues. I have participated in the negotiations of four Congressionally approved tribal water rights settlements and several additional tribal settlements that are in process. I have experience working with the Endangered Species Act and in putting together compliance programs under Section 7 and 10 of the Act.

I currently manage the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), Water Planning Division which includes Colorado River and Tribal liaison duties. I have participated in Hualapai settlement negotiations with the parties that resulted in the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, and the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014. I oversee ADWR staff that sit on the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan Steering Committee.

d. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the Department of the Interior that you have received in the current year and previous four years, including the source and the amount of each grant or contract.

None

e. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by you against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were filed.

None

f. A list of all federal lawsuits filed against you by the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit, the subject matter of the lawsuit, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits were filed.

None

g. Any other information you wish to convey that might aid the Members of the Committee to better understand the context of your testimony.

Based upon my work experience I understand the importance to tribes, the federal government and the State of Arizona of quantifying tribal water rights by settlement rather than through costly and protracted litigation with uncertain outcomes and potentially problematic results. I also understand the value to resource users of working within the Endangered Species Act to create programs like the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program to achieve compliance with the “take” provisions and other aspects of the Act.

Witnesses Representing Organizations

Name/Organization Arizona Department of Water Resources

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h. Any offices, elected positions, or representational capacity held in the organization(s) on whose behalf you are testifying.

Assistant Director for Water Planning, Arizona Department of Water Resources

i. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the *Department of the Interior* that were received in the current year and previous four years by the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract for each of the organization(s).

Bureau of Reclamation provided grant monies to ADWR for stream gages, flood control purposes and related equipment. The amount averages \$30,000 per year for each of the last 5 years.

j. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by the organization(s) you represent at the hearing against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were filed for each of the organization(s).

None

k. A list of all federal lawsuits filed against the organization(s) you represent at the hearing by the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit, the subject matter of the lawsuit, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits were filed.

None

l. For tax-exempt organizations and non-profit organizations, copies of the three most recent public IRS Form 990s (including Form 990-PF, Form 990-N, and Form 990-EZ) for each of the organization(s) you represent at the hearing (not including any contributor names and addresses or any information withheld from public inspection by the Secretary of the Treasury under 26 U.S.C. 6104)).

N/A