

Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission

	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ESTIMATE	FY 2025 BASELINE
OPERATING BUDGET			
<i>Full Time Equivalent Positions</i>	2.0	2.0	2.0
Personal Services	94,600	80,900	80,900
Employee Related Expenditures	40,600	38,900	38,900
Professional and Outside Services	12,800	200,000	200,000
Other Operating Expenditures	20,200	24,200	24,200
Equipment	1,300	0	0
AGENCY TOTAL	169,500	344,000	344,000
FUND SOURCES			
General Fund	143,800	144,000	144,000
<u>Other Appropriated Funds</u>			
Arizona Water Banking Fund	25,700	200,000	200,000
SUBTOTAL - Other Appropriated Funds	25,700	200,000	200,000
SUBTOTAL - Appropriated Funds	169,500	344,000	344,000
TOTAL - ALL SOURCES	169,500	344,000	344,000

AGENCY DESCRIPTION — The Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission (ANSAC) is a 5-member body charged with determining the ownership of watercourses in the state by establishing whether the watercourses were navigable at the time of statehood. If navigable, title to the watercourse belongs to the state based on a series of court rulings. If non-navigable, the title to the watercourse belongs to the current title holder.

FOOTNOTES

1/ General Appropriation Act funds are appropriated as a Lump Sum by Agency.

Operating Budget

The Baseline includes \$344,000 and 2 FTE Positions in FY 2025 for the operating budget. These amounts consist of:

	FY 2025
General Fund	\$144,000
Arizona Water Banking Fund	200,000

These amounts are unchanged from FY 2024.

Other Issues

Statutory Changes

The Baseline would, as session law, continue to allow use of the Water Banking Fund for the commission's legal obligations.

Background

The commission is responsible for determining the navigability of state watercourses at the time of statehood. As of the last public data in November 2023, cases regarding the navigability of the Gila, Salt, and Verde Rivers have been decided in favor of the commission's findings of non-navigability, but they have all been appealed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. If they are ruled to have been navigable at the time of statehood, the watercourses are considered State Trust Land and any related proceeds from the waterbeds would be deposited in the Riparian Trust Fund, pursuant to A.R.S. § 37-1156. The monies in this fund are primarily used to acquire and maintain land adjacent to the waterbeds for conservation purposes. The agency is scheduled to sunset at the end of FY 2028, but the commission expects final court orders to be delivered in the Gila, Salt, and Verde River cases before the end of FY 2024. As a result, the need for FY 2025 resources is unclear at this point.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate
Arizona Water Banking Fund (NSA2110/A.R.S. § 45-2425)		Appropriated
Source of Revenue: General Fund appropriations and fees associated with the purchase, lease, storage, accreditation, and delivery of Colorado River water to municipalities and industrial water users.		
Purpose of Fund: To fund outside legal counsel and court reporters for court hearings.		
Funds Expended	25,700	200,000
Year-End Fund Balance	0	0