



Starlight Water Company System Fact Sheet

Current Company Infrastructure Assets

Water mains 6-inch pipe	approx. 34.5 miles
Fire Hydrants	244
Wells approximately 800' deep	4
Pressure pumps	6 large, 6 small
Water capacity	4 tanks total; Cap 1,340,000 gal
Generators	3 (no generator at Starlight Pines Ranchettes)
Pump House	4
Various control valves	Lots of them, most are underground
Current connections	704
Potential connections	1706

All systems are interconnected to allow water to be diverted between subdivisions in case of maintenance issues.

Subdivisions Served

Starlight Pines Ranchettes
Pine Canyon
Timber Ridge Ranch
Starlight Pines
Tamarron Pines
Blue Ridge Estates

Rates

Rates have not been raised since 2003. The Arizona Corporation Commission approves rates. Starlight Water Co. rates are due for an increase.

Purchase Cost

Proposed new Blue Ridge Water Improvement District would purchase Starlight Water Company (SWC) through financing provided by the State-sponsored Water Infrastructure Financial Authority (WIFA).

- Estimated rate increase if Blue Ridge Water District purchases SWC – \$20 / mo.
- Estimated rate increase if a private water company purchases SWC – UNKNOWN but higher rates are more likely and more frequent when based on a for-profit business model

Water System Control

Starlight Water Company, a private company making money for its owners
Blue Ridge Water Improvement District, governed by a locally elected board of directors

Water Quality

The State of Arizona monitors water monthly to ensure clean safe water.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requires all water companies to perform an in-depth water analysis once a year.

The Arizona Corporation Commission requires private water companies to submit annual reports.

The State of Arizona requires water districts to submit water quality reports.

General Comparison of Private Water Company and Water District

Topic	Private Water Company	Water District
Type of entity	Owned by developer or investor	Political subdivision of the State
Established	ACC ¹ by application	County BOS ² by petition
Formation method	ACC Order	County resolution
Managed by	Private company	Directors elected landowners
Votes for board	Per bylaws	Landowner and residents per ARS
ACC rate and service regulation	Yes	No
ADEQ regulation	Yes	Yes
Action by board	Bylaws govern	Statutes govern
Service area	ACC approves CC&N ³ & ACC must approve extension	County establishes initial boundary & Water District board can extend
Securing financing	Typically private loans repaid through water rates	Eligible for grants & below market rate loans (appx. 2-3% lower)
Assessments	Not applicable	Yes, can be for beneficiaries only
Time to form	9 – 12 months	3 – 6 months
Tax Authority	No	Yes
Condemnation power	Yes	Yes
Nonprofit	Yes, but typically for-profit	Yes
Board meetings public	No	Yes
Tax exempt bond financing available	No	Yes
Public records laws	Do not apply	Apply
Public procurement	Do not apply	Yes (but not Procurement Code)
Tax exempt property	Pays property and central taxes	Exempt from real and personal property
Liability protection from landowners	Yes	Yes
Engineering & construction expenses	As necessary via private contract	Water District must study and plan improvements and bid construction contracts generally
Join wastewater provider	No (separate books)	Yes
Revenues	A 10% profit on investment or expenses + 10% profit	Usually covers expenses and a cushion for a sinking fund to address extraordinary costs

¹ Arizona Corporation Commission

² Board of Supervisors

³ Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (service area)