

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
APACHE COUNTY

05/19/2026

CLERK OF THE COURT

SPECIAL WATER MASTER
SHERRI ZENDRI

A. Villela
Deputy

FILED: 5/21/2026

In re: the General Adjudication
of All Rights to Use Water in the
Little Colorado River System and Source

CV 6417-400

In Re: Lower Little Colorado River
Sub-Watershed
In re: Status Conference

MINUTE ENTRY

Courtroom: CCB 301 – VC – CV

10:00 a.m. This is the time set for a Status Conference before Special Master Sherri Zendri.

The following attorneys appear virtually:

- Lee A. Storey on behalf of City of Flagstaff;
- Mickael K. Foy and Mark McGinnis on behalf of Salt River Project (“SRP”);
- William Staudenmaier and John Burnside on behalf of Arizona of Public Service (“APS”);
- Mark Widerschein and Alexa Penalosa on behalf of United States;
- Brian Heiserman and Bradley Pew on behalf of Little Colorado River (“LCR”) Coalition;
- Kevin Crestin and Eric Wilkins on behalf of Arizona State Land Department (“ASLD”);
- Karen Nielsen and Dustin Rector on behalf of AZ Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”), also present is Kevin Hatter;
- Elias Ancharski is present observing on behalf of Arizona Water Company.

A record of the proceedings is made digitally in lieu of a court reporter.

Discussion is held regarding the Department of Water Resources exclusion of tribal land. ADWR states the agency excluded tribal lands because the *de minimis* report for the Lower Little Colorado River (LLCR) subwatershed, which was adopted on May 28th, 2021, explicitly excluded the Navajo reservation from the definition of the Little Colorado River subwatershed.

Discussion is held regarding Arizona of Public Service's concern that step 3 in the area west of the Joseph City lacks documentation. Mr. Staudenmaier states there was "no information provided" by ADWR. The report did not include any information on what information was used to support staff's professional judgment.

Mr. Hadder of ADWR explained the agency had very little information to use. What staff did look at was topographic maps and digital elevation data to understand the topography, as well as a general understanding of how streams and rivers behave and the pattern of the LLCR over time.

Discussion is held regarding whether or not ADWR utilized stream gauge data for the Puerco River. Mr. Hadder explains that the stream gauge data was reviewed by ADWR, but it was not included in the report because it was not helpful to the delineation exercise. He personally reviewed the data and then checked it again after the an objection regarding the data was filed.

Discussion is held regarding ADWR bringing up the 1989 report that was claimed to support decisions for the Puerco River but there were claims that ADWR failed to utilize that report to support some of their delineations for the middle reaches of Chevelon Creek and Clear Creek. ADWR explained that for both Chevelon and Clear Creek the agency primarily relied upon aerial imagery.

SRP advises the Court of preliminary discussions with respect to settlement among some of the parties.

Discussion is held regarding ADWR referring to Lake Mary as "unique." Mr. Hadder clarifies the uniqueness is simply because the agency had schematics for the dam, newspaper articles talking about the dam construction, and the Lake's importance to the City of Flagstaff.

Discussion is held regarding SRP's list of questions and concerns about methodology. Special Master Zendri reiterates that the geology in the lower Little Colorado River is very different than the geology for the San Pedro. And asks all parties to recognize that some of the things that we have done in the San Pedro may not make geologic sense for the Little Colorado River subwatershed.

Discussion is held regarding next steps to narrow and resolve issues. The parties address time frames to meet next in roughly 60 days.

IT IS ORDERED a *virtual* Status Conference on **July 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** **(time allotted: 60 minutes)** before the Honorable Sherri Zendri. The hearing shall be held virtually through Court Connect/Microsoft Teams. . . Instructions for Court Connect are attached as Attachment A. If you receive this Order by email, click on the red box “Join Court Connect Hearing” on the attached instructions to make an appearance. If you do not receive this Order by email, you may log onto the meeting using the information provided below.

Dial in: 1-917-781-4590

Access Code: 688 970 203#

Tiny URL: <https://tinyurl.com/specialwatermaster>

10:37 a.m. Hearing concludes.

A copy of this order is mailed to all persons listed on the Court approved mailing list.



Court Connect Hearing Notice for: In Re Lower Little Colorado River

This hearing will be conducted through the new Court Connect program offered by the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County. This new and innovative program allows Court participants to appear online, rather than in a physical courtroom. Hearings are preferably conducted by video conference but can also be conducted by phone. Lawyers (and self-representing litigants) are responsible for distributing this notice to anyone who will be appearing on their behalf.

All participants must use the JOIN COURT CONNECT HEARING button or the dial in information below to participate.

Participants: Please follow the steps below to participate in the remote proceeding.

1. Click the JOIN COURT CONNECT HEARING button below.
2. Enter your full name and role in name field.
3. Wait for the facilitator to admit you to the proceeding.

Remember to keep this email handy so you can use it to participate in the following proceeding.

Case Name: In Re: Lower Little Colorado River

Contested Case No. CV6417-400

Start Date/Time: July 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

JOIN COURT CONNECT HEARING

Dial-in Information: +1 917-781-4590

Private Dial-in Information: for privacy purposes, you can block your phone number by dialing *67 +1 917-781-4590

Dial-in Access Code: 688 970 203#

Tiny URL: <https://tinyurl.com/specialwatermaster>

To ensure an optimal experience, please review the brief Court Connect training prior to the hearing: [Here](#)