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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF APACHE

IN RE THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION OF
ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN THE
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM AND
SOURCE

CV 6417-400

CASE INITIATION ORDER
FOR LOWER LITTLE
COLORADO RIVER
SUBWATERSHED

CASE NAME: *In re Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed*
HSR INVOLVED: None
DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The Special Master organized a separate case to address
issues in advance of the issuance of a hydrographic survey report by the Arizona
Department of Water Resources for the Lower Little Colorado River subwatershed.
NUMBER OF PAGES: 4
DATE OF FILING: March 20, 2018

This case is initiated to address issues in the Lower Little Colorado River
subwatershed in advance of the issuance of the hydrographic survey report (“HSR”) that

1 Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) is currently preparing for the
2 subwatershed in order to expedite and more efficiently adjudicate the potential water rights
3 as determined by ADWR in the HSR.
4

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6 **IT IS ORDERED:**

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8 1. Case Designation. This case is designated *In re Lower Little Colorado*
9 *Subwatershed*, Docket No. CV 6417-400.

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11 2. Court Approved Mailing List. The initial mailing list for this case shall include
12 all persons listed on the Court approved mailing list for the Little Colorado River
13 Adjudication CV6417.

14 3. Scheduling Calendar.

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16 a. **Technical Report.** As required by the minute entry issued in CV6417-201
17 filed January 26, 2018, (“Minute Entry”) ADWR shall prepare a Technical
18 Report for the Lower Little Colorado River subwatershed that investigates
19 and analyzes the claimed stock and wildlife watering and stockpond uses and
20 their respective impact on the available water sources in the subwatershed.
21 The Technical Report shall be filed with the Clerk of the Apache County
22 Superior Court on or before **May 31, 2019.**¹ Objections to the Technical
23 Report shall be filed with the Clerk of Apache County Superior Court within
24 180 days of the date that ADWR files the report.

25
26 ¹ In conjunction with filing the Technical Report, ADWR shall comply with all notice
27 requirements set forth in the Minute Entry.
28

1 **b. Water Rights Ownership Report.** The Arizona State Land Department
2 shall file a report setting forth its position on the ownership of water rights
3 related to the state land interspersed with and leased to the Hopi Tribe or the
4 United States on behalf of the Hopi Tribe in the Lower Little Colorado River
5 subwatershed including the Aja Ranch, Clear Creek Ranch, Drye Ranch, Hart
6 Ranch, and Dobell Ranch (collectively “the Hopi Ranches”). The report
7 shall be filed by **December 3, 2018.**

8 **c. Water Rights Ownership Joint Report.** The Arizona State Land
9 Department, the Hopi Tribe and the United States on behalf of the Hopi Tribe
10 shall file a joint report setting forth their respective positions as to ownership
11 of water rights for stock watering, stockpond or domestic purposes on the
12 Hopi Ranches. The report shall specifically identify each claim for which
13 the parties are in agreement as to the ownership of the associated water right.
14 As to each claim for which the parties are not in agreement as to the
15 ownership of the water right, the report shall include:

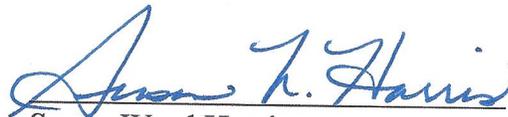
- 16 i. the point of diversion and the place of use;
- 17 ii. whether the water right was perfected under A.R.S. §37-321.01;
- 18 iii. the date or dates upon which the state land commissioner was
19 afforded the opportunity to resolve the claim; and
- 20 iv. a brief description of the reason that a dispute exists as to
21 ownership of the water right
- 22
- 23
- 24

25 The joint report shall be filed by **December 9, 2019.**

1 d. **Progress report.** The Arizona Department of Water Resources shall file a
2 progress report for the Preliminary Lower Little Colorado Subwatershed
3 HSR on **December 16, 2019**. The Progress Report shall specifically identify
4 any additional information required by ADWR from the Hopi Tribe or the
5 United States on behalf of the Hopi Tribe to analyze their respective
6 amended Statements of Claimant for water in the Lower Little Colorado
7 subwatershed.

8 e. **Status Conference.** A status conference will be held on **January 13, 2020**.
9 The status conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court of
10 Arizona, Courtroom 301, 201 West Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003-
11 2202. Instructions for telephonic participation: 602-506-9695 (toll free
12 number), Participant Pass Code 163622#.

13
14 f. **Preliminary Lower Little Colorado River Subwatershed HSR.** As set
15 forth in the Minute Entry, ADWR shall file a preliminary Lower Little
16 Colorado River Subwatershed HSR no later than **May 31, 2021**.

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20 Susan Ward Harris
21 Special Master

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23 The original of the foregoing was mailed
24 to the Clerk of the Apache County
25 Superior Court for filing and distributing a
26 copy to all persons listed on the Court
27 approved mailing list for the Little
28 Colorado River Adjudication Civil No.
6417.