

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

February 10, 2026

CLERK OF THE COURT
N. Johnson
Deputy

SPECIAL WATER MASTER
SHERRI ZENDRI

In Re The General Adjudication of
All Rights to Use Water in the Gila
River System and Source
W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4 (Consolidated)

FILED: February 12, 2026

In re: Bingham Sacaton Ranch
Contested Case No. W1-11-2586

MINUTE ENTRY

Courtroom 301 – Central Court Building

10:10 a.m. This is the time set for a virtual Status Conference.

The following parties/attorneys appear virtually through Court Connect:

- Property Owner, Larry Wilson (The Wilson Trust), is present on his own behalf
- Brett Pena on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community (“GRIC”)
- Joe Sparks, Laurel Hermann, and Jana Sutton on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Robyn Interpreter on behalf of the Yavapai Apache Nation

- Kathryn Ust observing on behalf of the Salt River Project (“SRP”)
- Garrett Perkins observing on behalf of C-Spear LLC and St. David Irrigation District
- Rachel Carroll-Farias observing on behalf of the Tonto Apache Tribe
- Karen Nielsen on behalf of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”)

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

There is no representative from property owner Sacaton Ranch LLC present.

The Special Master outlines the documents reviewed in preparation for this hearing. Discussion is held regarding the status of the case with respect to the Statement of Claimant. Mr. Wilson advises the Special Master that ADWR has no Statement of Claimant for the water feature on his property. Mr. Wilson further advises the Special Master of water file report No. 113-09-015 and that his water feature is listed as SW001. Discussion is held regarding Statement of Claimant No. 39-4959 and Statement of Claimant No. 39-4966. Ms. Nielsen confirms for the Special Master that the watershed file report does have the applicable adjudication filing for water feature SW001 in Statement of Claimant No. 39-4966. Procedural and logistical matters are discussed regarding the same.

The Special Master addresses Mr. Wilson regarding the two parts of the adjudication in this matter, the Statement of Claimant and the basis of right. Legal matters are discussed regarding the water feature. The Special Master encourages Mr. Wilson to confer with the stockpond team within the surface water department of ADWR. Mr. Sparks informs Mr. Wilson that the county assessor’s office may have relevant information.

For the reasons stated on the record,

IT IS ORDERED that Mr. Wilson shall have 90 days, or no later than **April 14, 2026**, to file a status report with the Court. Basic instructions for filing documents with the Court are included as Attachment A

The Court addresses Mr. Wilson regarding his status in the case.

10:35 a.m. Matter concludes.

LATER

For the convenience of property owner Larry Wilson, the following information from previous minute entries is duplicated below:

To pursue water rights, a property owner must **both** file a Statement of Claimant, and present to the Court evidence of a legal right to the water they claimed on the Statement of Claimant. Parties wishing to move forward with historical water rights claims on their property must ensure Statements of Claimant are current and that legal authorization to use water, also known as the “basis of right,” is presented to the Court.

Statement of Claimants (SOCs)

A SOC is a landowner's or lessee's ("claimant's") written statement to the Court that provides details about their water right claim. This claim to use public water is filed with the Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR"). Although a water right generally remains attached to the land, the SOC must reflect the current claimant's name and contact information as well as any changes to the original claim. The SOC as filed does not list current property owners or lessees. To update an SOC, parties may make an SOC amendment, obtain a SOC assignment from the original claimant, or file a new SOC for their use. See Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 45-254. Forms may be found on ADWR's website at:

<https://www.azwater.gov/adjudications/statement-claimant-new-use-summons-forms>

Basis of Right

To obtain a water right, a claimant must also provide a "basis of right." To begin this process, the claimant must file a document with ADWR either registering a water right, applying for a permit to appropriate water, or applying for a stockpond claim of right. See Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 45-182(A), 45-152(A), 45-273. -

If the claimed water right is for a pond constructed before 1977, less than 15 acre-feet, and used solely for watering livestock or wildlife (but not primarily for fishing or culturing of fish), the claimant should file an "application for a stockpond claim of right." Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 45-271, 45-272. If the claimed water right was constructed after 1977, or is for any other use, the claimant must file an "application for a permit to appropriate public water." Blank forms for either application may be found on the ADWR website at:

<https://www.azwater.gov/surface-water/surface-water-forms-and-documents>.

To contact ADWR:

- Statements of claimant application and processing - 1-866-246-1414
 - Email: smitchell@azwater.gov
 - website: <https://www.azwater.gov/adjudications>
- Surface Water Permitting (Basis of Rights) – (602) 771-8621
 - Email: surfacewater@azwater.gov
 - website: <https://www.azwater.gov/surface-water/surface-water-overview>

Sacaton Ranch LLC

During the October 2, 2025, status conference, Callie Murray as representative of Sacaton Ranch LLC was ordered to file no later than January 30, 2026, any final statements of claimant with ADWR. She was further ordered to send copies to all parties included in the Court-approved mailing list, including the Office of the Special Master. As of the date of this Minute Entry, the Special Master has not received anything. Furthermore, ADWR has not received any filings and there was no representation of Sacaton Ranch LLC at this February 10, 2026, status conference.

IT IS ORDERED, that if Sacaton Ranch LLC is interested in pursuing any potential water

rights it may have, a written explanation of their failure to attend the February 10, 2026, status conference, along with copies of any final statements of claimants must be filed with the Court no later than **March 13, 2026**. Should Sacaton Ranch LLC fail to file anything, the ranch will be removed from the court approved mailing list for failure to participate and any potential water rights they may have associated with this contested case will be forfeit.

Attachment A

Whenever you would like to file a document with the Court you must follow a few steps:

1. After preparing your document, make sure that your name and case number are written or typed **CLEARLY AND BOLDLY** at the top of the document. This will ensure the Clerk of Court files the document in the correct case.
2. You are going to be mailing copies of your documents to all of the other parties in your case. To ensure that the Water Master knows that you have followed this step, please include some information in your document that indicates you are sending a copy to all of the other parties, this is referred to as the Certificate of Service.
3. Attach any necessary forms or additional documents that you would like the Water Master to have access to.
4. Mail or hand deliver the original of the document(s) to the Clerk of Court. The address for the Clerk of Court can be found on the Court Approved Mailing List for your case.
5. Mail a copy of your document(s) to **every other** party on the court approved mailing list. This is **absolutely necessary** to ensure that the Water Master will receive and can consider your document.
6. An example form that you may use is included for your convenience.
7. The Court Approved Mailing List for this contested case, as of February 12, 2026, is also attached.

If you have any questions regarding the process for the filing of documents, you can reach the Judicial Assistant for the Special Water Master at 602-506-0453 or emily.natale@jbazmc.maricopa.gov. Please note that the Office of the Special Water Master cannot give legal advice but can help with procedural questions.

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Certificate of Service

On [_____], I, [_____], served a copy of this
Date Name of person filing document

[_____], and all attached pages, to all parties on the Court Approved
Title of document

Mailing List for case [_____].
Case number

Printed Name Signature

Note: It is essential that you mail a copy of your motion to EVERY other party on the Court Approved Mailing List for your case, otherwise your motion will not be considered by the Court.

Court Approved Mailing List
In re Bingham Sacaton Ranch
W1-11-002586 (13 Names)
Prepared by the Special Master
2/12/2026

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