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

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

W1-00-001234 (Consolidated)
Contested Case No. **W1-11-002735**

**ORDER INITIATING CONTESTED
CASE AND SETTING DEADLINES**

CONTESTED CASE NAME: *In re Forest Service – Nature Conservancy*
HSR INVOLVED: San Pedro Hydrographic Survey.
DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court is directed to initiate W1-11-002735. The United States Forest Service shall file with the Special Master a statement declaring the claims that it intends to pursue later than **June 22, 2026**, and file draft abstracts no later than **July 24, 2026**. Comments to the abstracts must be filed no later than **August 7, 2026**.
NUMBER OF PAGES: 7

General Explanation

This order opens a case to determine rights to use water on land owned by the United States Forest Service (“USFS”). In this contested case, USFS filed statement of claimant (“SOC”) 39-8080. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) investigated the claims and prepared watershed file report (“WFR”) 113-13-002, published in the San Pedro River Hydrographic Survey Report (“HSR”). A copy of the WFR is attached as Attachment A. A map illustrating the area investigated in the WFR is attached as Attachment B. The WFR describes a stock watering use in section 23 of

1 T11S, R20E.

2 After ADWR issued the WFR, objections were filed to the findings made in the
3 WFR by the Gila River Indian Community, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Tonto
4 Apache Tribe, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

5
6 **Claimant and Landowners**

7 WFR 113-13-002 lists the USFS as the owner of the land investigated. The public
8 records of ADWR do not contain any assignments of the SOC listed in the WFR. Further,
9 neither USFS nor lessees appear to have filed any additional SOCs since the issuance of
10 the HSR.

11
12 **IT IS ORDERED:**

13 **1. Case Initiation.** This order initiates contested case W1-11-002735.

14 **2. Declaration.** USFS shall review all SOCs relevant to this contested case and
15 declare to the Court no later than **June 22, 2026**, the claims that it intends to
16 pursue in this contested case.

17 **3. Draft Abstracts.** USFS shall file draft abstracts for claims eligible for summary
18 adjudication no later than **July 24, 2026**. The parties shall file any comments
19 to the draft abstracts by **August 7, 2026**.

20 **4. Parties.** The litigants in this contested case are the current landowner, lessees,
21 and all parties who filed objections to the watershed file report.

22 **5. Objections.** Copies of objections filed to this case can be found under the
23 respective case names and numbers on the following website:
24 [http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudi](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/whatsNew.asp)
25 [cation/whatsNew.asp](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/whatsNew.asp).

26 **6. Court Approved Mailing List.**

27 A. The initial Court Approved Mailing List for this case shall include all
28 persons listed on Attachment C to this order. The list may be modified only

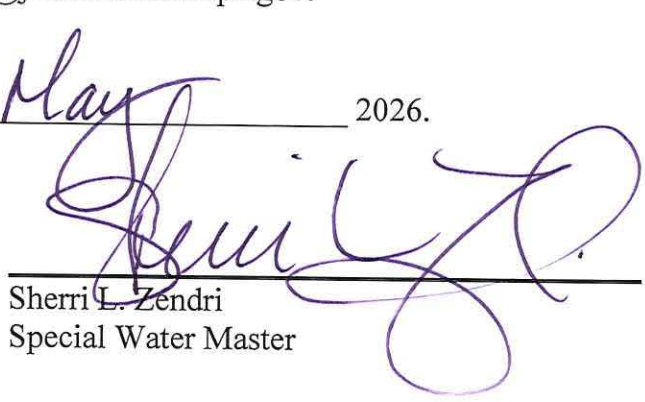
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by filing a motion with the Special Master. Litigants are responsible for using the current Court Approved Mailing List.

B. A copy of any pleading filed with the Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court in this case shall be served upon each person listed on the Court Approved Mailing List.

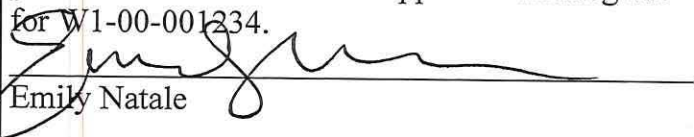
C. The Clerk of the Court will send copies of all minute entries and orders issued in this case to the parties listed on the Court Approved Mailing List.

D. Claimants who would like to receive courtesy copies of minute entries and orders may request inclusion on an email list by sending a request to emily.natale@jbazmc.maricopa.gov.

Signed this 15th day of May 2026.


Sherri L. Zendri
Special Water Master

On May 15, 2026, the original of the foregoing was delivered to the Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court for filing and distributing a copy to all persons listed on the Court-approved mailing list for this contested case, a copy of which is attached, and to all persons listed on the Court-approved mailing list for W1-00-001234.



Emily Natale

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ATTACHMENT A
Watershed File Report

LAND OWNER	WATERSHED FILE REPORT NUMBER	LESSEE/ALLOTTEE	LEASE-PERMIT ID
FS - CORONADO	113-13-002	AZ. CHAP. NATURE CONSERV.	REDFIELD

A P P L I C A B L E F I L I N G S A N D D E C R E E S

CLEARLY STATED INFORMATION FROM FILINGS AND DECREES

FILING NUMBER	FILING STATUS	USES	QUANTITY IN AFA	USE LOCATION SECTION	TWNP	RNGE	CLAIM DATE	DIVERSION LOCATION SECTION	TWNP	RNGE
36-0012408		STOCK REC/FISH/WLDF	.50	SENW23	110S	200E	1890	SENW23	110S	200E
39-0008080		STOCK REC/FISH/WLDF	.35 .15	SENW23	110S	200E	1890	SENW23	110S	200E

D W R A N A L Y S I S O F F I L I N G S A N D D E C R E E S

FILING NUMBER	USES CLAIMED OR REFERENCED	USES FOUND BY DWR	APPLIES TO DIVERSIONS	APPLIES TO PWR NUMBERS
36-0012408	STOCK WILDLIFE	SPRING		SW001
39-0008080	STOCK WILDLIFE	SPRING		SW001

U S E S

PWR #	LOCATION SECTION	TWNP	RNGE	SUPPLIED BY DIVERSIONS	WATER SOURCES	PHOTO SOURCE DATE	CHANGE	FACILITY NAME
SW001	SWNENW23	110S	200E		SURFACE WATER		NO	UNNAMED

P W R S U M M A R Y

PWR #	APPLICABLE ADJ FILINGS	APPLICABLE PRE FILINGS	*APPARENT FIRST USE DATE* DATE BASIS FOR DATE	WATER SOURCES AND CLASSIFICATIONS
SW001	39-0008080	36-0012408	1890 FILING 36-12408	SURFACE WATER: SAN PEDRO RIVER

Q U A N T I T I E S O F U S E

PWR #	QUANTIFICATION TYPE	ACRES	CROP TYPE	EFF	WATER DUTY	ESTIMATED VOLUME	REMARKS
SW001							SEE VOLUME 1 - GENERAL ASSESSMENT

E X P L A N A T I O N

USES AND RESERVOIRS

SW1 - STOCKWATERING AND WILDLIFE USES FROM AN UNNAMED SPRING.

ATTACHMENT C

Initial Court-Approved Mailing List

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