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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. **W1-11-002767**

**ORDER INITIATING CONTESTED
CASE AND SETTING DEADLINES**

CONTESTED CASE NAME: *In re Forest Service – Clopton*
HSR INVOLVED: San Pedro Hydrographic Survey.
DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court is directed to initiate W1-11-002767. 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: 8

General Explanation

This order opens a case to determine rights to use water on land owned by the United States Forest Service. In this contested case, C. Zay and Dorothy Clopton filed Statements of Claimant (“SOCs”) 39-3351, 39-3352, and 39-11761, and the United States Forest Service (“USFS”) filed Statements of Claimant (“SOCs”) 39-8182. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) investigated the claims and prepared Watershed File Report (“WFR”) 113-14-012, published in the San Pedro River Hydrographic Survey Report (“HSR”). A copy of the WFR is attached as Attachment A.

1 The WFR describes two stock watering uses.

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

5
6 **Claimant and Landowners**

7 WFR 113-14-012 lists the USFS as the owner of the land investigated. USFS
8 records indicate that the property investigated currently comprises the “Fresno” allotment
9 of the Coronado National Forest. A map depicting the allotment is attached as
10 Attachment B. The public records of ADWR do not contain any assignments of the SOC
11 listed in the WFR. Further, neither USFS nor lessees appear to have filed any additional
12 SOCs since the issuance of the HSR.

13
14 **IT IS ORDERED:**

15 **1. Case Initiation.** This order initiates contested case W1-11-002767.

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

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

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

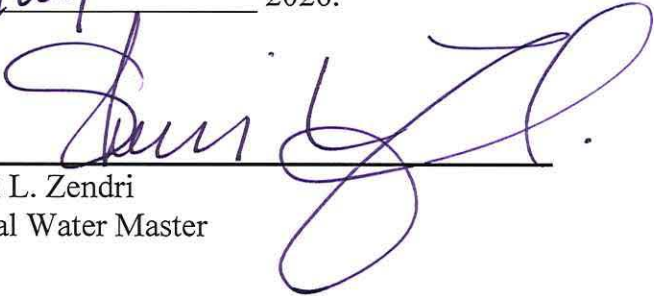
24 **5. Objections.** Copies of objections filed to this case can be found under the
25 respective case names and numbers on the following website:
26 [http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudi](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/whatsNew.asp)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

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6. Court Approved Mailing List.

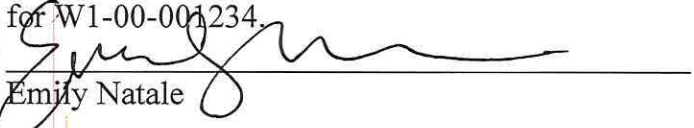
- A. The initial Court Approved Mailing List for this case shall include all persons listed on Attachment C to this order. The list may be modified only by filing a motion with the Special Master. Litigants are responsible for using the current Court-approved mailing list.
- B. A copy of any pleading 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	113-14-012	CLOPTON, C. ZAY & DOROTHY	FRESNO

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
10-1002304.2100							1911			
36-0016923		STOCK	.32	SWSE24	14OS	18OE	1890	SWSE24	14OS	18OE
		REC/FISH/WLDF								
36-0064062		STOCK	3.00	SWSE24	14OS	18OE	1905	SWSE24	14OS	18OE
36-0064064		STOCK	.80				1905	NESW25	14OS	18OE
39-0003351	QUE.RECD	STOCK	3.00	SESWSE24	14OS	18OE	1905	SESWSE24	14OS	18OE
39-0003352	QUE.RECD	STOCK	.80	SWNESW25	14OS	18OE	1905	SWNESW25	14OS	18OE
39-0008182		STOCK	.23	SWSE24	14OS	18OE	1890	SWSW24	14OS	18OE
		REC/FISH/WLDF	.10							
39-0011761		STOCK	3.00				1905	SWSE24	14OS	18OE

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
10-1002304.2100	IRRIGATION	NONE		
	DOMESTIC	NONE		
	STOCK	NONE		
36-0016923	STOCK	SPRING		SW001
	WILDLIFE	SPRING		
36-0064062	STOCK	SPRING		SW001
36-0064064	STOCK	SPRING		SW002
39-0003351	STOCK	SPRING		SW001
39-0003352	STOCK	SPRING		SW002
39-0008182	STOCK	SPRING		SW001
	WILDLIFE	SPRING		
39-0011761	STOCK	SPRING		SW001

U S E S

PWR #	LOCATION SECTION TWNP RNGE	SUPPLIED BY DIVERSIONS	WATER SOURCES	PHOTO DATE	SOURCE CHANGE	FACILITY NAME
SW001	SESWSE24 14OS 18OE		SURFACE WATER		NO	FRESNO SPRING
SW002	NESW25 14OS 18OE		SURFACE WATER		NO	BEAR CREEK SEEP

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	39-0003351 39-0008182 39-0011761	36-0016923 36-0064062	1890 FILING 36-16923	SURFACE WATER: SAN PEDRO RIVER
SW002	39-0003352	36-0064064	1905 FILING 36-64064	SURFACE WATER: SAN PEDRO RIVER
NONE	NONE	10-1002304.2100		

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
SW002							SEE VOLUME 1 - GENERAL ASSESSMENT

FILINGS AND DECREES

FILINGS 39-3351 & 39-3352 - UNIFORM QUESTIONNAIRES WERE RECEIVED WHICH REFLECT INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED IN THE ORIGINAL STATEMENTS OF CLAIMANT.
FILING 10-1002304.21 CLAIMS IRRIGATION, DOMESTIC, AND STOCKWATERING USES FROM GOAT RANCH CANYON.
NO USES WERE FOUND AT THE CLAIMED LOCATION.

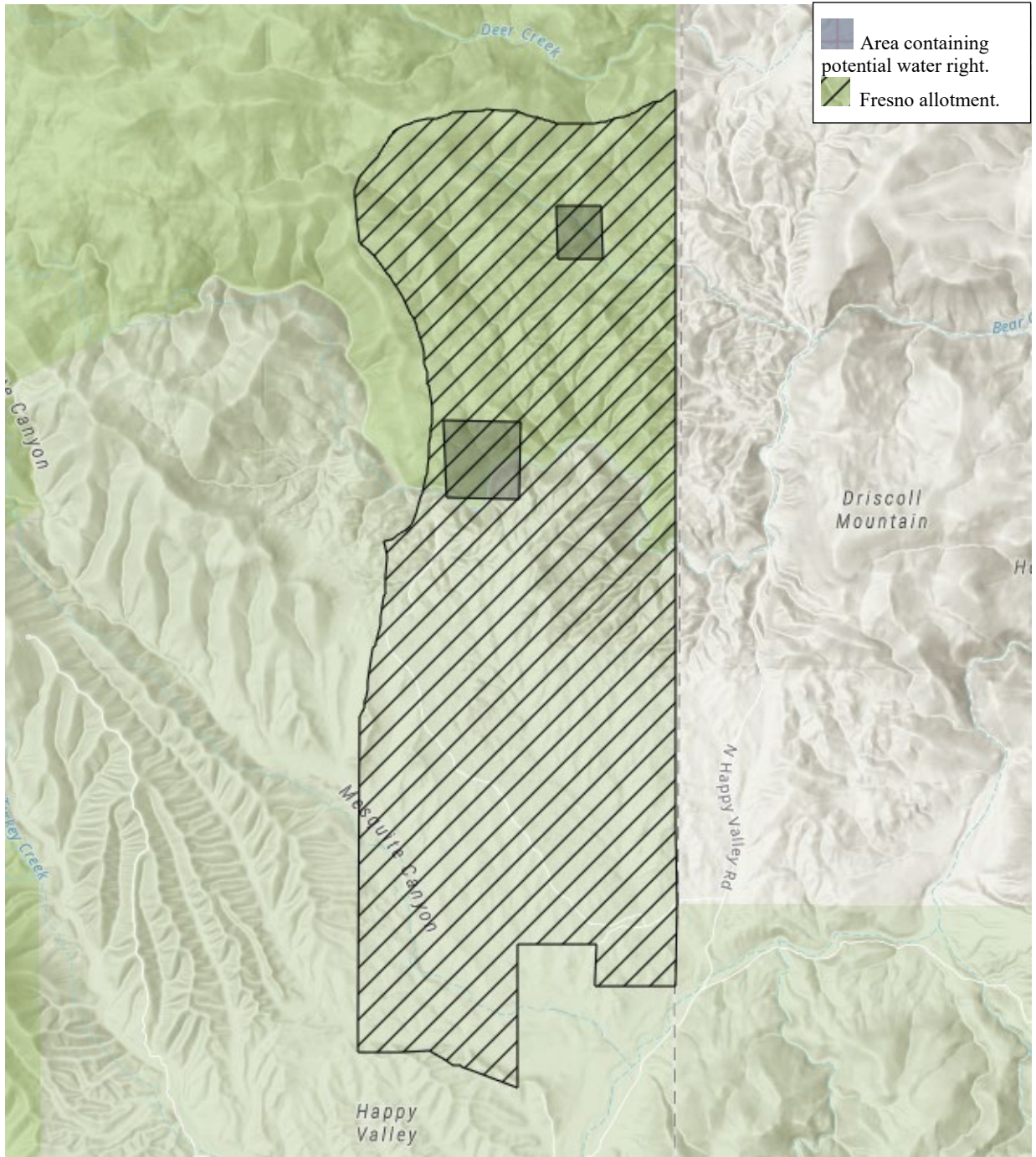
USES AND RESERVOIRS

SW1 - STOCKWATERING AND WILDLIFE USES FROM FRESNO SPRING.
SW2 - STOCKWATERING USE FROM BEAR CREEK SEEP.

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ATTACHMENT B

Map Illustrating Area Investigated in WFR



ATTACHMENT C

Initial Court-Approved Mailing List

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