

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

June 24, 2025

CLERK OF THE COURT
A. Parmar
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: July 8, 2025

In re: William P. Ullrich
Contested Case No. W1-11-1303

MINUTE ENTRY

Courtroom 301 – Central Court Building

10:30 a.m. This is the time set for a Status Conference to determine whether the property owners are interested in pursuing water rights before the Special Water Master Sherri Zendri.

The following parties/attorneys appear virtually through Court Connect:

- Property Owners, Mary and Charles Graf, are present on their own behalf
- Property Owners, Katherine and Leo Salwei, are present on their own behalf
- Property Owners, Shirley L. Bayham-Hicks and Perry L. Hicks, are present on their own behalf
- Kathryn Ust on behalf of Salt River Project (“SRP”)
- Brette Pena on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community (“GRIC”)
- Joe Sparks and Jana Sutton on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Alexandra Corcoran-Shannon (paralegal for Susan Montgomery) observing on behalf of the Yavapai Apache Nation and observing for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Laura Boyer and David Gehlert on behalf of the United States Department of Justice

- J. Brown on behalf of the St. David Irrigation District
- Candace French on behalf of the Navajo Nation
- Kaitlyn Smith observing on behalf of American Smelting and Refining Company (“ASARCO”)

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

The Court requests an update from the property owners.

Mr. Graf explains that both of his wells are registered but only one is in use. He has filled out the Statement of Claimant. In regard to the basis of right, he knows the well was used for domestic use dating back to 1909 but has documentation that the well was used in 1917 and has provided that to ADWR with his amended Statement of Claimant on June 4th, filing# 39-5925. He has not reviewed the objections yet. The Special Master notes that there is a link to the objections in the Special Master’s previous Minute Entry.

LET THE RECORD REFLECT that the Hicks and Salwei families are present in today’s hearing but unable to communicate with the Court due to technical issues.

Discussion is held regarding how to proceed. The Special Master will review what the Grafts have filed and will determine the next steps. If there are no issues with the documents, the Special Master will ask ADWR to prepare a draft abstract.

10:45 a.m. The Hicks and Salweis appear by phone and are able to communicate with the Court.

Mr. Hicks explains that his wife went to ADWR to file a Statement of Claim and was told that they need an assignment and amendment. He explains that their dug well is registered but not included in this case at this time. He requests an additional 30 days to file the Statement of Claimant.

IT IS ORDERED that ADWR will set up a meeting with the Hicks in order to determine the location of the wells and what wells are part of this adjudication. ADWR will provide that information to the Special Master so that she may determine the next steps.

LET THE RECORD REFLECT that Mrs. Hicks provides her telephone number on the record. The Special Master’s Judicial Assistant will provide the number to ADWR so the agency can reach out to the Hicks and schedule the meeting.

Mrs. Salwei informs the Special Master that her well is registered and has not received any requests from ADWR to amend her SOC’s. The Special Master explains the basis of right to Mrs. Salwei and inquires if she has provided that to ADWR. Mrs. Salwei believes she has.

Once the Special Master reviews ADWR's report of the meeting with the Hicks family and the other property owners' SOC's, she will provide further instruction as to the next steps in this proceeding.

11:05 a.m. Matter concludes.

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

LATER:

Mr. Graf indicated additional documentation regarding evidence of pre-1919 water usage was submitted to ADWR as part of the assignment of his statement of claimant, presumably # 39-5925. As of this minute entry, ADWR had not completed the processing of the assignment. Regardless, a statement of claimant must be paired with a valid basis of right. Therefore, to claim a pre-1919 water right, the statement of claim ("36" filing) must document pre-1919 water usage.

IT IS ORDERED that all property owners must file with ADWR, and present copies to the Special Master, final versions of all claims that they intend to pursue no later than **September 30, 2025.**"

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that ADWR will schedule a virtual meeting with the Hicks no later than **September 1, 2025.** ADWR shall contact the Office of the Special Master to receive the telephone number for Mrs. Hicks. A summary of that meeting shall be filed with the Court no later than **October 10, 2025.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that ADWR will include in the summary of the meeting with the Hicks, a map of the entire study area for WFR # 111-24-CB-029. The map shall include the locations of any wells associated with water rights claims in this contested case.

Once the Special Master reviews ADWR's summary report and the locations of wells associated with water rights claims, a separate order will be sent for the next steps.