

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 10, 2025

Contested Case No. W1-11-3068  
In re: Robert M. and Jennie L. Hickson

Contested Case No. W1-11-3076  
In re: Mary Evelyn Madrigal

Contested Case No. W1-11-3077  
In re: Jose Luis Garcia

Contested Case No. W1-11-3078  
In re: Willard M. and Faye Daniel

Contested Case No. W1-11-3083  
In re: Pat V. and Nancy L. Chester

**MINUTE ENTRY**

Courtroom 301 – Central Court Building

9:31 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, Jose L. and Mary E. Garcia, are present on their own behalf (and assisted by their daughter, Christina Castro)
- Brette A. Pena on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community (“GRIC”)

- Joe Sparks and Jana Sutton on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Robyn Interpreter 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
- Kathryn Ust on behalf of Salt River Project (“SRP”)
- J. Brown observing on behalf of the St. David Irrigation District
- Kaitlyn Smith observing on behalf of American Smelting and Refining Company (“ASARCO”)
- Denise Riden on behalf of the Cochise County Attorney’s Office
- Candace French observing on behalf of the Navajo Nation
- Rosemary Avila on behalf of the Tonto Apache Tribe

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

The Court notes that it has not received any notice of interest for two of the five cases being held today. Ms. Castro indicates that her parents are interested in water rights for all five cases but did not understand that they needed to send that Notice in.

The Court inquires what water is being used and for what use.

Ms. Castro explains that some properties have fire damage from about five years ago and the wells on those properties are not in use. There are three wells that are being used for domestic use and watering the few trees on their property.

The Court addresses the property owners regarding the purpose of this proceeding.

Mr. Garcia states that some of his wells were registered but at that time he did not own the Chester or Hickson properties and he is unsure if those were previously registered by someone else.

The Court explains that the property owners will need to accomplish the following:

1. Register the wells in use
2. File their Statement of Claimant for each property
3. Provide basis of right
4. Address any objections filed to the original claims

The Court encourages the parties to obtain documentation regarding the historical use of water on the properties. If the wells are post June 1919, it is likely that they will need to get a permit. The parties may reach out to ADWR for assistance in locating the registration and permits in the event that they are not able to locate the historical documentation.

Mr. Garcia states that they just purchased another property on June 6<sup>th</sup> across the street from the Daniels’ property and provide the following parcel number: 300-26-04506.

The Court will research this parcel to see if it was included in ADWR's original investigation and whether it is appropriate to include.

The Court addresses the parties regarding objections. The Court will include a link in today's minute entry so the parties can review the original objections along with contact information for ADWR. The Court encourages the parties to meet with ADWR at which time they will report back to the Court. The Court will then determine the next steps in this matter and send a notice out to the parties by mail.

9:59 a.m. Matter concludes.

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

**LATER:**

Objections for these cases can be found at the following locations:

W1-11-3068 -

<https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/docs/3068OBJ.pdf>

W1-11-3076 -

<https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/docs/3076OBJ.pdf>

W1-11-3077 -

<https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/docs/W1-11-3077-Objections.pdf>

W1-11-3078 -

<https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/docs/3078OBJS.pdf>

W1-11-3083 -

<https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/docs/W1-11-3083-Objections.pdf>

A separate order will be forthcoming that initiates a case for the most recent property Mr. Garcia purchased. That order will include comprehensive instructions for the next steps for the Garcias regarding all the related cases.