

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

July 31, 2025

CLERK OF THE COURT
S. Ortega
Deputy

SPECIAL WATER MASTER
SHERRI ZENDRI

In Re: *John L. Barron*
Contested Case No. W1-11-3242

FILED: August 12, 2025

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

In Re: Initial Status Conference

MINUTE ENTRY

Central Court Building – Courtroom 301

10:00 a.m. This is the time set for an **Initial Status Conference** before Special Water Master Sherri Zendri to determine if the landowners are interested in pursuing potential water rights.

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

The following parties/counsel appear virtually and/or telephonically:

- John Barron and Mark Barron are present and represented by counsel, Patrick Farrell
- Garrett Perkins observing for St. David Irrigation District
- Rhett Billingsley for ASARCO
- Michael Carter for Gila River Indian Community
- Carla Consoli for Arizona Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
- Susan Montgomery for Yavapai Apache Nation and observing for Pasqua Yaqui Tribe
- Kathryn M. Ust for SRP
- Joe Sparks for San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Rosemary Avila for Tonto Apache Tribe

- John Burnside for BHP Copper
- Denise Riden observing for Cochise County

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

Discussion is held regarding water use on land previously owned by John L. Barron and land currently owned by Mark Barron.

Mr. Farrell informs the Court that the relevant well is not located on the property that the court has identified. The well owned by Mark Barron is located on the property directly north, and the APN number is 300-53-039A.

10:08 a.m. Jana Sutton for San Carlos Apache Tribe appears virtually.

The Court explains the purpose and background for these proceedings to the current landowners. The Barron well has been determined to be located within the subflow zone, an area where the groundwater is more closely related to nearby surface water than surrounding groundwater.

What is most important generally is where the water is being drawn from, where it is being applied, and the date of first use.

Mr. Mark Barron states that he is interested in pursuing water rights. He states that the well is being used for domestic purposes only. The registration number is unknown at this time. An application has also been filed for the well.

The Court explains the steps in obtaining a water right. The first step is filing a Statement of Claimant (SOC) claiming a legal right to use the water. The form can be found on the Arizona Department of Water Resources' website. The second step is to acquire a legal basis of right to the water use depending on when the owner started using the water.

The Court will contact Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR") and ask them to reach out to Mr. Farrell regarding the proper forms that need to be filled out. The Court will provide further instructions as a "Later" to this minute entry.

Based on discussions held,

IT IS ORDERED that Mr. Mark Barron shall file a Status Report by **October 31, 2025**. The Court will then set another status conference after reviewing the status report.

Further discussion is held between Court and landowners regarding water rights.

10:22 a.m. Matter concludes.

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

LATER:

In preparing watershed file report (WFR) #114-04-DBC-026, ADWR investigated only Pinal County parcel #300-53-0380. WFR #114-04-DBC-003 investigated Pinal County parcel #300-53-039A. Objections to WFR #114-04-DBC-003, will be heard in contested case W1-11-3236 (*In re Stanley & Betty C. Baron*). The Special Master will initiate this case under a separate order with the additional instructions for Mr. Mark Barron.

IT IS ORDERED that all adjudication matters concerning Pinal County parcel #300-53-039A will proceed under case **W1-11-3236**.

The purpose of this contested case, W1-11-3242, is to evaluate water rights claims pertaining **only** to Pinal County parcel #300-53-038. Current county records show that this parcel is owned by John L. Barron.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED If Mr. John Barron is interested in pursuing any potential water rights on parcel 300-53-038, he must provide written notice to the Special Master no later than **September 12, 2025**. Alternatively, if Mr. Mark Barron either owns or occupies this parcel, documentation of such must be provided to the Special Master no later than **September 12, 2025**. If documentation of interest by an appropriate landowning party is not received, this contested case will be dismissed.