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6 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA**
7 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTIES OF MARICOPA AND APACHE**
8

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

W-1, W-2, W-3, and W-4 (Consolidated)
and
CV 6417

13 IN RE THE GENERAL
14 ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS
15 TO USE WATER IN THE LITTLE
16 COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM AND
17 SOURCE

ORDER FOR ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER
RESOURCES TO UPDATE ONLINE
MAPS

18 **CONTESTED CASE NAME:** *none*

19 **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:** Arizona Department of Water Resources to update
20 online maps for clarity no later than **September 30, 2025**.

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

21 In May 2023, ADWR issued a report proposing the areas that will comprise future
22 hydrographic survey reports (“HSRs”) and a sequence for those HSRs.¹ In March 2024,
23 the Special Master issued a report recommending the bulk of these proposals, but
24 proposing certain modifications.² The Court approved this report in February 2025.³ In

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26 ¹W1-W4 and CV6417, Future Report Recommendations (May 25, 2023).

27 ²W1-W4 and CV6417, Report of the Special Master on Amendments to the Watershed Boundary Map and
28 Sequencing for Future Hydrographic Survey Report Development (March 25, 2024).

³W1-W4 and CV6417, Decision Concerning the Special Master’s March 25, 2024, Report (February 18, 2025).

1 accordance with the reports and decision, ADWR prepared maps titled “Watershed
2 Map,” “Hydrological Reference for the Adjudications,” and “Hydrographic Survey
3 Report Boundaries and Adjudication Areas in the State of Arizona.” The Special Master
4 orders the following clarifications:

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6 **The “Watershed Map” Should Be Revised and Retitled**

7 In its February 2025 decision, the Court adopted the Special Master's conclusion
8 that "the Proposed May 2023 Watershed Map, based on USGS expertise, is a reliable
9 hydrological reference for ADWR's technical investigations.” Accordingly, the map on
10 ADWR’s website titled “Watershed Map” is the map that the Court intends to serve as
11 the hydrological reference map and should be titled as such. Furthermore, this map can be
12 combined with the map titled “Areas Subject to a General Stream Adjudication” to create
13 a single map that includes eight- and ten-digit hydrologic units for the Little Colorado
14 River Basin and the Gila River Basin.

15 The map on ADWR’s website currently titled “Hydrological Reference for the
16 Adjudications” is redundant and should be removed.

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18 **The Map Titled “Hydrographic Survey Report Boundaries and Adjudication Areas
19 in the State of Arizona” Should Be Revised**

20 ADWR’s May 2023 “Future Report Recommendations” report lists 13 HSR
21 areas.⁴ The Court combined the Upper Little Colorado River and Lower Little Colorado
22 River HSRs and created a “Salt River Valley HSR” from portions of ADWR’s proposed
23 Lower Gila-Agua Fria River, Middle Gila River, Salt River, and Verde River HSR areas.⁵

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25 ⁴ W1-W4 and CV6417, Future Report Recommendations at 8, 9, 10, Appendix A (May 25, 2023). These
26 HSRs are the Sycamore Canyon HSR, Lower Verde Valley HSR, Little Chino Wash HSR, Big Chino
27 Wash HSR, Upper Little Colorado River HSR, Lower Little Colorado River HSR, Verde Canyon HSR,
28 Salt River HSR, Upper and Middle Gila River HSR, Lower Gila-Agua Fria River HSR, Lower Gila River
HSR, Salt River Valley HSR.

⁵ W1-W4 and CV6417, Decision Concerning the Special Master’s March 25, 2024, Report at 6–7 (February
18, 2025).

1 ADWR's "Hydrographic Survey Report Boundaries" map correctly depicts the
2 Salt River Valley HSR; however, it should also depict all the other HSR areas in the Gila
3 River Basin, as listed in the Court's February 2025 decision. The revised map should
4 include color-blocking for ALL hydrographic survey report areas.

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6 **IT IS ORDERED** that ADWR incorporate the above clarifications into its maps
7 no later than **September 30, 2025**.

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9 DATED this 13th day of August, 2025.

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12 
13 Sherri L. Zendri
Special Master

14 On August 13, 2025 the original of the
15 foregoing was delivered to the Clerk of the
16 Apache County Superior Court for filing and
17 distributing a copy to all persons listed on the
18 Court-approved mailing lists for Case No. CV
19 6417 and to the Clerk of the Maricopa County
20 Superior court for filing and distributing a copy
21 to all persons listed on the Court-approved
22 mailing list for Case No. W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4

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Emily Natale