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6 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA**
7 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTIES OF MARICOPA AND APACHE**
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9 IN RE THE GENERAL
10 ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO
11 USE WATER IN THE GILA RIVER
SYSTEM AND SOURCE

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

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

**ORDER DENYING UNITED STATES’
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE
LATE RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS
TO SPECIAL MASTER’S MARCH 25,
2024, REPORT**

16 **CONTESTED CASE NAME:** *In re HSR Sequencing*

17 **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:** This Order denies the United States’ motion for leave to
18 file a late response to objections to the Special Master’s March 25, 2024, Report.

19 **NUMBER OF PAGES:** 2

20 On March 25, 2024, the Special Master filed a report¹ recommending an
21 approximately 10-year plan for Hydrographic Survey Reports (“HSRs”) in the Gila River
22 General Stream Adjudication and the Little Colorado River General Stream Adjudication.
23 The deadline for written objections to the report was September 23, 2024. On December
24 18, 2024, the United States (“U.S.”) filed a *Motion for Leave to File a Response to*
25 *Objections* (“Motion”), in which the U.S. requested permission to file a response to
26 comments filed by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) and the

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28 ¹ W1–W4, Report of the Special Master on Amendments to the Watershed Boundary Map and
Sequencing for Future Hydrographic Survey Report Development (March 25, 2024).

1 objections filed by the Tonto Apache Tribe ("TAT"). Both the ADWR and the TAT filed
2 their documents to the Special Master's Report by September 23, 2024. The U.S. states
3 that it did not file the Motion earlier because there was no objection to the Special
4 Master's Report, and the U.S. was conferring with parties. Motion at 1.

5 While this Court encourages the parties to work together, timeliness is essential.
6 Three months is simply overdue.

7 **IT IS ORDERED** that the US Motion for Leave to File is DENIED.²

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9 DATED this 8th day of January 2025.

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12 Sherri L. Zendri
13 Special Water Master
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16 On January 8, 2025, the
17 original of the foregoing was delivered to the
18 Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court for
19 filing and distributing a copy to all persons
20 listed on the Court-approved mailing lists for
21 Case No. CV 6417 and to the Clerk of the
22 Maricopa County Superior court for filing and
23 distributing a copy to all persons listed on the
24 Court-approved mailing list for Case No. W-1,
25 W-2, W-3, W-4

26 
27 Emily Natale
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² While the Court denies the U.S.'s request for leave to file a formal response to ADWR's comments and the Tonto Apache Tribe's objections, the United States may raise its concerns regarding the adjudication of the Verde Wild and Scenic Rivers should the Court evaluate ADWR's proposed redrawing of the Verde Canyon-Lower Verde Valley border. W1-W4 and CV 6417, ADWR's Comments on the Special Master's March 25, 2024 Report at 3-4 (Sept. 23, 2024).