IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF APACHE

 IN RE: THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM AND SOURCE

No. 6417

APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER FOR SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS TO APPROVE AN INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT AND STIPULATION

Descriptive Summary: In accordance with the Administrative Order issued by the Supreme Court of Arizona on September 27, 2000, in which the Court adopted special procedures for the approval of Indian water rights settlements, this is an application for an order for special proceedings to approve an Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement dated June 7, 2002, as amended, and a Stipulation dated March 1, 2006, to which the undersigned are parties. The Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation settle the claims to federally reserved and other water rights in the Little Colorado River Basin in Arizona by the Zuni Indian Tribe and the United States for the benefit of the Zuni Indian Tribe.

Statement of Claimant Numbers: Salt River Project: 39-82193 through 39-82206 and 39-87393; United States for Zuni Indian Tribe: 39-91736 through 39-91752; the Lyman Water Company: 39-89196; Round Valley Water Users' Association: 39-89112; Town of Eagar: 39-84465 through 39-84471; Arizona Game and Fish Commission: 39-80693, 39-80963, 39-83748, 39-83751, 39-83753, 39-83757, 39-83758, 39-83761, 39-83766, 39-88135, 39-88136, 39-88146, 39-88147, 39-88148, 39-88149, 39-88273, 39-88275, 39-88277, 39-88280, 39-88600, 39-89158, 39-89160, 39-89292, 39-89293, 39-89297, 39-89298, 39-91712, 39-92045, 39-92046; Arizona State Land Department: 39-86042, and numerous others; Arizona State Parks Board: 39-03-84421; St. Johns Irrigation & Ditch Company: 39-85024; City of St. Johns: 39-89123 through 39-89126 and 39-91702 through 39-91706; Town of Springerville: 39-84149; Tucson Electric Power Company: 39-080889 through 39-080913.

Date of Filing: Original sent by overnight mail for filing on March 1, 2006.

Number of Pages: 8; Exhibit A – 11; Exhibit B – 5; Exhibit C - 7

In accordance with the Administrative Order issued by the Supreme Court of Arizona on September 27, 2000, in which the Court adopted special procedures for the approval of Indian water rights settlements, this is an Application for an Order for Special Proceedings to obtain a final Judgment and Decree approving the Zuni Indian Tribe Water

Rights Settlement Agreement of 2002, as amended ("Settlement Agreement") and a Stipulation dated March 1, 2006.

The Applicants are the Zuni Indian Tribe ("Tribe"), the United States of America in its capacity as trustee for the Tribe, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, the Arizona State Land Department, the Arizona State Parks Board, St. Johns Irrigation & Ditch Company, the Lyman Water Company, Round Valley Water Users' Association, Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Tucson Electric Power Company, the City of St. Johns, the Town of Eagar, and the Town of Springerville. The Applicants are also parties to the Settlement Agreement and to the Stipulation.

The Settlement Agreement settles the rights of the Tribe and of the United States for the benefit of the Tribe to underground water and to surface water from the Little Colorado River and its tributaries in Arizona, as these terms are defined by the Settlement Agreement. The Stipulation, which summarizes and incorporates the terms of the Settlement Agreement, is attached as Exhibit A to this Application. The Settlement Agreement is attached as Exhibit 1 to the Stipulation. A proposed Judgment and Decree, which is substantially similar to the proposed Judgment and Decree attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit 11.9, is attached as Exhibit B to this Application.

An Order for Special Proceedings to Approve the Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation should be issued for the following reasons:

- 1. Special circumstances prevent the consideration of the Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation in the normal course of the Adjudication. The Tribe's claims, which were filed by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe, are based on the federal reserved water rights doctrine. These claims are not subject to the doctrine of prior appropriation as are other state based water rights.
- 2. The water rights claims of the United States for the benefit of the Zuni Indian Tribe, which are described in statement of claimant numbers 39-91736 through 39-91752, are within the jurisdiction of the Court under the principles of <u>Arizona v. San Carlos Apache</u>

<u>Tribe of Arizona</u>, 463 U.S. 545 (1983) and <u>United States v. Superior Court</u>, 144 Ariz. 265, 697 P.2d 658 (1985).

- 3. The claims of the United States for the benefit of the Tribe, which are described in statement of claimant numbers 39-91736 through 39-91752, are the subject of the Settlement Agreement. All parties to the Settlement Agreement, other than the United States, the Tribe, and the State of Arizona, are claimants in this adjudication proceeding whose claims are adverse to statement of claimant numbers 39-91736 through 39-91752 by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.
- 4. The terms of the Settlement Agreement were approved, ratified and confirmed by the United States Congress in the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act, Public Law 108-34, 117 Stat. 788 (2003) ("Settlement Act").
- 5. Section 9(a) (12) of the Settlement Act and Paragraph 3.1.K of the Settlement Agreement provide that the Settlement Agreement will not be effective unless it is approved in this proceeding on or before December 31, 2006.

The Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation should be approved for the following reasons:

- 1. The Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation are fair, adequate, reasonable, and consistent with applicable law, considering all of the circumstances surrounding the settlement and all of the consideration provided under the settlement.
- 2. The water rights of the Tribe and the United States for the benefit of the Tribe that are resolved by the Settlement Agreement and described in the Stipulation are no more extensive than the Tribe or the United States for the benefit of the Tribe would have been able to prove at trial.
 - 3. The Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation were reached in good faith.
- 4. The Settlement Act is consistent with the requirements of the United States Constitution.

Copies of the Settlement Agreement, the Stipulation and the proposed Judgment and Decree will be mailed to and available for inspection in the offices of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Clerks of the Superior Court in every Arizona County located within the Little Colorado River System and Source promptly upon issuance of the Order for Special Proceedings.

Attached as Exhibit C to this Application is a proposed form of order directing that special proceedings be conducted to approve the Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation, and to adjudicate the federally reserved and other water rights of the Tribe and of the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

WHEREFORE,

The Applicants request that this Court enter an Order for Special Proceedings to Approve an Indian Water Rights Settlement and a Stipulation, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit C to this Application.

The Applicants also request that this Court approve the Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation and enter a final judgment and decree, consistent with the proposed Judgment and Decree attached hereto as Exhibit B and which is substantially in the form of the proposed Judgment and Decree attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit 11.9, adjudicating the water rights of the Tribe and the United States for the benefit of the Tribe to the water supplies within its jurisdiction as provided by the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The Judgment and Decree shall be binding upon all parties to the Little Colorado River Adjudication except to the extent that the express terms of the Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation provide that non-signing parties will not be bound by the Settlement Agreement and the Stipulation.

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1	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 1st day of mule, 2006.
2	INSTED STATES DEPARTMENT OF BISTISS
3	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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3 4	By: Dan Heap, President
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13	Improvement and Power District
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21	Attorney for Tucson Electric Power Company
22	
23	ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY of the foregoing mailed via overnight delivery on this day of
24	, 2006 for filing to:
25	Cloubs of the Anacha County Superior Court
26	Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court Attn: Water Case 6417 70 West Third South
27	8t. Johns, AZ 85936

1	ST. JOHNS IRRIGATION & DITCH CO.
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4	By: Dan Heap, President
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24	March, 2006 for filing to:
25	Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court
26	Attn: Water Case 6417
77	70 West Third South St. Johns, AZ 85936

1	AND COPIES of the foregoing sent via first-class mail
2	on March 1, 2006 to:
3	The Hon. Eddward P. Ballinger, Jr.
4	Judge of the Superior Court 18380 N. 40 th St., Ste. 120 Phoenix, AZ 85032
5	Thounx, AZ 03032
6	AND COPIES of the foregoing sent via first-class mail
7	AND COPIES of the foregoing sent via first-class mail this day of would, 2006 to all parties appearing on the Court-approved mailing list for this Adjudication dated June 15, 2005
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$\begin{tabular}{l} EXHIBIT\ A\\ to\\ APPLICATION\ FOR\ SPECIAL\ PROCEEDINGS \end{tabular}$

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF APACHE

4 IN RE: THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN

OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER THE LITTLE COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM AND SOURCE

1.3

No. 6417

STIPULATION AND REQUEST FOR ENTRY OF JUDGMENT AND DECREE

THIS STIPULATION, dated this 1st day of March, 2006, is entered into among the Zuni Indian Tribe, the United States of America in its capacity as trustee for the Zuni Indian Tribe, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, the Arizona State Land Department, the Arizona State Parks Board, St. Johns Irrigation & Ditch Company, the Lyman Water Company, Round Valley Water Users' Association, Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Tucson Electric Power Company, the City of St. Johns, the Town of Eagar, and the Town of Springerville.

WHEREAS,

1. Certain water rights claimed by the Zuni Indian Tribe ("Tribe") and the United States for the benefit of the Tribe ("United States") are to be permanently settled by agreement among the parties to this Stipulation ("Parties"). The terms of the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Agreement of 2002, as amended, ("Settlement Agreement") were approved, ratified and confirmed by the United States Congress in the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act, Public Law 108-34, 117 Stat. 788 (2003) ("Settlement Act"). A copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Stipulation and is incorporated herein by reference. The terms that are used in this Stipulation and defined in Article 2 of the Settlement Agreement have the meaning set forth in the Settlement Agreement. A proposed Judgment and Decree, which is substantially in the form of the

proposed Judgment and Decree that is attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit 11.9, is attached as Exhibit B to the Application for an Order for Special Proceedings to Approve an Indian Water Rights Settlement and Stipulation.

- 2. The purpose of the Settlement Agreement is to resolve water rights litigation and to provide resources to restore wetlands and the Sacred Lake on the Zuni Heaven Reservation. The Reservation was authorized by Congress to protect and to recognize long-standing religious and sustenance activities by the Tribe on certain lands along the Little Colorado River and the Zuni River in the vicinity of St. Johns, Arizona. Public Law 98-498, 98 Stat. 1533 (1984), as amended by Public Law 101-486, 104 Stat. 1174 (1990).
- 3. The primary benefits of the Settlement Agreement for the Tribe and the United States are a resolution of litigation; a recognition of the Tribe's water rights; the restoration of a wetland area and lake that have special significance to the Tribe; the fulfillment of the United States' trust responsibility to the Tribe; and a waiver of the State parties' claims against the Tribe and the United States as well as a waiver of the Tribe's claims against the United States.
- 4. The primary benefits of the Settlement Agreement for the State of Arizona and other non-federal parties are a resolution of litigation; the Tribe's and the United States' agreement not to object to existing surface water and underground water uses; the facilitation of State programs to rehabilitate streams, enhance riparian habitats, protect fish and wildlife resources, and provide recreational opportunities; and a waiver of the Tribe's and the United States' claims against the non-federal parties.
- 5. As described in Paragraph 1.7 of the Settlement Agreement, the Tribe will use at least 5,500 acre feet of surface water per annum for wetland restoration on the Reservation in accordance with the Settlement Agreement. The Tribe will use existing surface water rights appurtenant to its fee lands, and, within the scope of the Settlement Agreement, it has the right to acquire up to 3,600 acre feet of water per annum of existing court decreed upstream surface water. The Tribe may sever and transfer its water rights for use on the Reservation in

accordance with the Settlement Agreement and State law. The Tribe's existing surface water rights are described in abstracts, which are attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits 4.1.A (1) et seq.. The Tribe's abstracted rights will be adjudicated along with other claimants' rights in the normal course of the adjudication. The Parties have agreed not to object to the attributes of the Tribe's water rights described in these abstracts as set forth in Paragraph 4.2.A of the Settlement Agreement.

- 6. For wetland restoration purposes on the Reservation, the Tribe will receive an appropriation of 5,500 acre feet per annum from the unappropriated flows of the Little Colorado River with a priority date of August 28, 1984 as described in Paragraph 4.6.B of the Settlement Agreement and in the abstract attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit 4.6.B.
- 7. As provided in Paragraphs 4.6 (D) and (E) of the Settlement Agreement, the Tribe or the United States may purchase surface water rights from willing sellers in the Norviel Decree area. The Tribe, the United States and the Lyman Water Company have executed a Water Right, Entitlement and Perpetual Delivery Agreement ("Entitlement and Delivery Agreement"). Pursuant to the Entitlement and Delivery Agreement, the Tribe and the United States for the benefit of the Tribe shall hold all right, title and interest to a permanent water right and entitlement to receive, on an annual basis, twelve percent (12%) of LWC Delivered Water as defined in Paragraph 5 of the Entitlement and Delivery Agreement, at the priority date of Lyman Reservoir under the Norviel Decree. Twelve percent (12%) of LWC Delivered Water has historically provided 972 AFA of water. Nothing in the Entitlement and Delivery Agreement restricts, enlarges or otherwise determines the subject matter jurisdiction of any state or federal court. A copy of the Entitlement and Delivery Agreement is attached to this Stipulation as Exhibit 2 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- 8. The Lyman Water Company and St. Johns Irrigation Company have prepared abstracts of their surface water rights, which are attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits 4.1.C (1) et seq. The companies' abstracted rights will be adjudicated along with

other parties' rights in the normal course of the adjudication. The Parties have agreed not to object to the attributes of the companies' water rights described in these abstracts as set forth in Paragraph 4.2.C of the Settlement Agreement.

- 9. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission will also prepare abstracts of its surface water rights in the manner described in Paragraph 3.1.F of the Settlement Agreement. The Commission's abstracted rights will be adjudicated along with other parties' rights in the normal course of the adjudication. The Parties will agree not to object to the attributes of the Commission's water rights described in these abstracts as set forth in Paragraph 4.2.B of the Settlement Agreement. The Parties will amend the Settlement Agreement as required by Paragraph 3.1.F of the Settlement Agreement.
- 10. No new surface water appropriations will be allowed in the Norviel Decree Area as described in Paragraph 4.3 of the Settlement Agreement.
- 11. No new reservoirs or dams will be constructed on the Little Colorado River between Lyman Dam and the western boundary of the Reservation without the written consent of the Tribe except under certain conditions described in Paragraph 4.4 of the Settlement Agreement.
- 12. The Parties will not object to the Tribe's withdrawal or use of 1,500 acre feet per annum of underground water from wells on the Zuni Pumping Lands if the water is used on those lands, in accordance with Paragraph 5.3 of the Settlement Agreement. The Zuni Pumping Lands, which are adjacent to the Reservation, are described in Exhibit 2.48 to the Settlement Agreement.
- 13. The Tribe will not object to water uses from all existing wells and from new exempt wells as set forth in Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.5 of the Settlement Agreement.
- 14. For new wells located outside the Zuni Protection Area, the Tribe and the United States will not object to the withdrawal of water from new non-exempt wells unless the withdrawal of water interferes with the Tribe's surface water rights as described in

Paragraph 5.6 of the Settlement Agreement. The Zuni Protection Area, which is adjacent to the Reservation, is set forth in Exhibit 2.48 to the Settlement Agreement.

- 15. For new wells located inside the Zuni Protection Area, the Tribe and the United States will not object to the withdrawal of water unless the Static Water Level Decline is more than 50 feet as described in Paragraph 5.7.D of the Settlement Agreement.
- 16. Any owner of land located within the Zuni Protection Area may sign a Pumping Protection Agreement and agree to limit the capacity of new wells on his or her land to a total of 500 gallons per minute for each section of land, or a prorated amount if the lands are less than one section. If a landowner enters into a Pumping Protection Agreement, the Tribe and the United States will not object to wells or withdrawals of underground water from wells on his or her land that are consistent with the terms of the Pumping Protection Agreement. The Pumping Protection Agreement Form is attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit 5.7.B.
- 17. The Tribe and the United States have also entered into agreements with Salt River Project, Tucson Electric Power Company and the Arizona State Land Department that recognize certain intended uses of underground water. These agreements are acknowledged in Section 5.8 of the Settlement Agreement.
- 18. The United States will take certain lands into trust for the benefit of the Tribe to aid its wetland restoration project in accordance with Article 6 of the Settlement Agreement. With respect to these new trust lands, the Tribe will cooperate with the State of Arizona and local governments through an Intergovernmental Agreement addressing certain environmental, water, tax and land use issues.
- 19. The Tribe will receive \$21,863,000, which will be used for water rights acquisition, and wetland restoration and maintenance in accordance with Article 7 of the Settlement Agreement. As provided by the Settlement Act, the United States will contribute \$19,250,000 for water rights acquisition, facility construction and other related costs. The State of Arizona will contribute \$1,613,000 for wetland restoration. The Salt River Project

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will contribute \$1,000,000 for restoration of the Sacred Lake and cultivation of riparian vegetation on the Reservation. In addition, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will spend up to \$6,000,000 to acquire irrigated land and water rights, which it may sever and transfer to the Tribe. Pursuant to these expenditures by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, up to 1,000 acre-feet of water per annum will be delivered to the Tribe for the benefit of wildlife.

20. As set forth in Article 8 of the Settlement Agreement, water rights made available to the Tribe under the Settlement Agreement and used on the Zuni Heaven Reservation will be held in trust by the United States in perpetuity, and will not be subject to forfeiture and abandonment. State law does not apply to water uses on the Zuni Heaven Reservation. Subject to paragraph 7.7 of the Settlement Agreement, the Tribe will use water made available to it under the Settlement Agreement on the Zuni Heaven Reservation for any use it deems advisable. The Tribe or the United States will not, however, sell, lease, transfer, or transport water made available to it for use on the Zuni Heaven Reservation to any other place; provided, however, that water may be severed and transferred from the Zuni Heaven Reservation to other Zuni Lands, if the severance and transfer is accomplished in accordance with state law. Once transferred to any lands held in fee, that water will be subject to state law.

- 21. Neither the Tribe nor the United States will enforce the priority of non-Norviel Decree water rights that it holds against Norviel Decree water rights pursuant to Paragraph 10.3 of the Settlement Agreement.
- 22. The State parties will execute a waiver of past, present, and future claims for injuries to water rights or water quality against the Tribe and the United States, as described in the waiver, which is attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit 11.1(revised).
- 23. The Tribe and the United States for the benefit of the Tribe will execute waivers of past, present and future claims to water rights, injuries to water rights and injuries to water

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quality, as described in the waivers, which are attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits 11.2.1, 11.2.2 and 11.2.3.

- 24. The Tribe will execute a waiver of its right to request that the United States bring past, present, and future claims of injury to water quality, and claims of interference with the trust responsibility of the United States, as described in the waivers, which are attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibits 11.2.2 and 11.3 (revised).
- 25. The water supplies that are the subject of the Settlement Agreement between the Parties are subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.
- 26. The Parties to this Stipulation have submitted the Settlement Agreement to this Court for its approval pursuant to Section 9 (a) (12) of the Settlement Act and the Arizona Supreme Court's Administrative Order dated September 27, 2000, in which the Court adopted special procedures for the approval of Indian water rights settlements.

NOW THEREFORE,

- 1. The Parties to this Stipulation request that this Court approve this Stipulation and the Settlement Agreement, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- The Parties to this Stipulation also request that after completion of the conditions set forth in Section 9 of the Settlement Act and Paragraph 3.1 of the Settlement Agreement, this Court enter a Judgment and Decree, consistent with the proposed Judgment and Decree attached as Exhibit B to the Application for an Order for Special Proceedings to Approve an Indian Water Rights Settlement and Stipulation, which is substantially in the form of the proposed Judgment and Decree attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit 11.9, adjudicating the water rights of the Tribe and of the United States for the benefit of the Tribe to the water supplies within its jurisdiction as provided by the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The Judgment and Decree shall be binding upon all parties to the Little Colorado River Adjudication except to the extent that the express terms of the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement provide that non-signing parties will not be bound by the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 15t day of Mark, 2006. 1 2 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 3 4 5 Vanessa Boyd Willard, Esq. Trial Attorney, Indian Resources Section 6 Environment and Natural Resources Division 7 999 18th St., North Tower, Ste. 945 Denver, CO 80202 8 (303) 312-7312 9 Attorney for the United States of America 10 JANE MARX, ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C. 11 12 13 14 Jane Marx, Esq. 15 2825 Candelaria Rd. NW Albuquerque, NM 87107 16 (505) 344-1176 17 Attorney for the Zuni Indian Tribe 18 19 **TERRY GODDARD** ATTORNEY GENERAL 20 21 22 By: James F. Odenkirk, Esq. (013992) 23 1275 W. Washington 24 Phoenix, AZ 85007 (602) 542-7787 25 Attorney for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission 26

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18	Marcus G. Jerden, Esq. (14490)
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21	Attorney for Tucson Electric Power Company
22	ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY of the foregoing,
23	mailed via overnight delivery on thisday of, 2006 for filing to:
24	, 2000 for fining to.
25	Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court
26	Attn: Water Case 6417 70 West Third South
27	St. Johns, AZ 85936
21	AND COPIES of the foregoing sent via first-class mail

1	ST. JOHNS IRRIGATION & DITCH CO.
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3	-
4	By: Dan Heap, President
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6	SALMON, LEWIS & WELDON, P.L.C.
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10	Alexandra M. Arboleda, Esq. (016673)
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14	THOSON ELECTRIC POWER COLD IN THE
15	TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY
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1	on Much , 2006 to:
2	The Hon. Eddward P. Ballinger, Jr.
3	Judge of the Superior Court 18380 N. 40 th St., Ste. 120
4	Phoenix, AZ 85032
5	AND CODYEG C.
6	AND COPIES of the foregoing sent via first-class mail this 15 ⁺ day of, 2006 to all parties
7	appearing on the Court-approved mailing list for this Adjudication dated June 15, 2005.
8	Adjudication dated June 13, 2003.
9	Cheryl Kilchine
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EXHIBIT 1 to STIPULATION