

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
APACHE COUNTY

April 2, 2026

CLERK OF THE COURT

SPECIAL WATER MASTER
SHERRI ZENDRI

B. Powell
Deputy

FILED: April 8, 2026

In re: the General Adjudication
Of All Rights to Use Water in the
Little Colorado River System and Source
Contested Case No. CV6417-33-6436

In Re: W & J Hamilton et al.

MINUTE ENTRY

Central Court Building – Courtroom 301

10:30 a.m. This is the time set for Status Conference to discuss the progress of the claims before Special Water Master Sherri Zendri.

The following attorneys and parties appear virtually through Court Connect:

- Brian Heiserman on behalf of Earnhardt Ranches, LLC
- Mark Widerschein on behalf of the United States Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division
- Kathryn Ust observing on behalf of Salt River Project (“SRP”)
- Karen J. Nielsen on behalf of Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”)

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

The Special Master addresses Ms. Nielson regarding ADWR’s recent status report. Mr. Heiserman updates the Court that the case involves three stockponds and one well. Last week the stockpond registrations were filed with ADWR. The claimant is only

pursuing rights for the ponds. Mr. Heiserman confirms the claimant is no longer pursuing rights for the well.

The Court confirms that stockpond certifications have been applied for: three stockponds.

Discussion is held regarding whether an updated WFR is going to be needed. Stockpond #3 is not on the original claim so it may need to be amended. The Court asks if all these stockponds are *de minimis* and it is confirmed they are by Mr. Heiserman.

The Court confirms an updated WFR is needed and informs Mr. Heiserman to let the Court know when stockpond certifications are received. Then the Court can send out an order with deadlines for ADWR to produce a WFR and revised abstracts.

No concerns from the Unites States on how this will proceed.

10:38 a.m. Matter concludes.

LATER:

The Special Master erroneously noted that stockpond certificates were necessary for these claimed potential stockpond rights. Draft abstracts filed by claimant Earnhardt Ranches, LLC bases their stockpond claims on two statements of claim - # 36-200128 and #36-200129. In a February 10, 2026, filing, ADWR identified several inconsistencies and issues between the filings and requested that the Court provide direction, as well as guidance regarding inclusion of the third stockpond in the amended WFR.

IT IS ORDERED

1. Earnhardt Ranches meet with ADWR no later than **June 5, 2026**, to resolve the inconsistencies identified by ADWR in their February 10, 2026, filing.
2. Within **30 days** of the above-mentioned meeting, ADWR file an amended WFR
3. Within **45 days** of the above-mentioned meeting, ADWR file updated abstracts
4. Within **10 days** of the above-mentioned meeting, Earnhardt Ranches and ADWR file a joint notice with the Court regarding the results of the meeting and provide the Court with the dates for the deadlines listed.

A copy of this minute entry is provided to all parties on the Court approved mailing list.