SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

October 29, 2026

CLERK OF THE COURT
C. Lockhart
Deputy

SPECIAL WATER MASTER
SHERRI ZENDRI

In Re: *Benny H. and Frances Clark*
Contested Case No. W1-11-002395

FILED: November 5, 2026

In Re: The General Adjudication Of All Rights to Use Water in the Gila River System and Source
W1-00-001234 (Consolidated)

Status Conference

MINUTE ENTRY

Central Court Building – Courtroom 301 VC-CV

10:01 a.m. This is the time set for a virtual Status Conference before Special Water Master Sherri Zendri.

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

- Landowner Robert Clark is present on his own behalf.
- Katrina Wilkinson on behalf of the Salt River Project ("SRP")
- Laurel Herrmann on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- John Burnside on behalf of BHP Copper
- Guss Guarino and Alexa Penalosa on behalf of the United States Department of Justice
- Garrett Perkins observing for the St. David Irrigation District
- Karen J. Nielsen and Lena Zeebuyth on behalf of the Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR")
- Radiance Campbell on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community ("GRIC")
- Rhett Billingsley on behalf of the American Smelting and Refining Company ("ASARCO")

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

The Special Water Master thanks the ADWR for the draft abstract filed earlier in the month.

Discussion is held with claimant regarding the discrepancies in documentation identified by ADWR on the draft abstracts.

1) The statement of claimant (SOC) does not reflect the same property ownership as indicated in county land records.
2) There is no evidence to support the claimed priority of 1862.
3) The water quantities claimed appear high.

Discussion was held regarding where Mr. Clark may find additional documentation to support his pre-1919 priority claims. Mr. Clark expresses concern of the ability to find older documents. Ms. Wilkinson suggests Mr. Clark try to get a copy of the complete land-patent file and Mr. Billingsley suggests contacting the Bureau of Land Management.

The Special Master explains the difference between priority dates before 1919 versus after. Further discussion is held with claimant regarding the priority dates '36' filings and '39' filings. The dates provided cannot be substantiated with the information provided by the claimant. Further documentation is requested by the Special Water Master.

The Special Master explains the stockpond is eligible for summary adjudication procedures. Discussion is held regarding the domestic claim which is not eligible for summary adjudication at the current quantity being claimed. Discussion is held regarding the irrigation claim which is also not eligible for summary adjudication.

Mr. Clark is encouraged to meet with ADWR again.

IT IS ORDERED setting a status conference for **Thursday, February 25, 2027, at 10:00 a.m.**

10:41 a.m. Matter concludes. statements of claimant

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