

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

August 13, 2026

CLERK OF THE COURT
S. Ortega
Deputy

SPECIAL WATER MASTER
SHERRI ZENDRI

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

FILED: August 17, 2026

In Re: *ASARCO - Irrigation*
Contested Case No. W1-11-002801

In Re: Initial Status Conference

TRIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Central Court Building VC-CV – Courtroom 301

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

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

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

- Sean Hood, William Klain, and Kaitlin Smith for ASARCO
- Andrew “Guss” Guarino for the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division
- Merrill C. Godfrey for Gila River Indian Community
- Laurel Herrmann, Jana Sutton, Bernardo Velasco, and Alexander Ritchie for San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Alexander Ritchie, Attorney General for the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Jeremiah D. Weiner observing for Tonto Apache Tribe
- Michael K. Foy for SRP

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

Ms. Herrmann informs the Court that Counsel Joseph Sparks recently passed away. Ms. Herrmann stated that she will be filing a notice and adjustment to the mailing list.

The Trial beginning August 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. is affirmed.

Procedural matters are discussed. Mr. Hood states that the parties have agreed to the following:

1. A private court reporter will be employed for the trial.
2. The parties have agreed to split the trial time evenly. Each side will have one week to put on their case.
3. The parties have agreed to limit opening statements to 45 minutes each.
4. The parties have tentatively agreed to the order of witnesses and estimated time for direct and cross-examination.
5. The parties would like to arrange a time to visit the courtroom to become familiar with and test the courtroom technology.

The trial schedule is discussed. The Court notes that trial days are normally 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. with a lunch recess from noon to 1:15 p.m. and two 15-minute recesses.

The Court informs counsel that August 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. is the time tentatively set for division staff and counsel to test the courtroom technology assuming the courtroom will be available. Court staff will send an email to the parties once final confirmation on the courtroom availability is received.

Counsel may leave their trial materials in the courtroom during the two-week trial. Counsel will also be notified by court staff whether they can bring their trial materials on the Friday before trial begins.

Courtroom protocol is discussed.

Electronic exhibits are discussed. Counsel shall provide three (3) flash drives containing the trial exhibits and exhibit list: two for the courtroom and one for the clerk.

Counsel Godfrey states that the parties prefer post-trial briefing rather than closing arguments. The Court affirms.

Discussion is held regarding public access to the trial.

10:16 a.m. Counsel Susan Montgomery appears on behalf of Yavapai Apache Nation and observing for Pasqua Yaqui Tribe.

Ms. Montgomery and Mr. Weiner and their clients intend to monitor the case remotely during the trial as they are not active participants in this matter.

The Court reminds counsel not to relitigate items that have already been determined.

10:20 a.m. Matter concludes.

LATER:

The Court has received confirmation that August 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. is the time for division staff and counsel to test the courtroom technology. Additionally, counsel may drop off trial materials during this time, and they will be stored in the locked evidence closet in the courtroom. If a party is unable to drop off their trial materials during this time, please reach out to emily.natale@jbazmc.maricopa.gov to request different arrangements.