IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

IN RE THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN THE GILA RIVER SYSTEM AND SOURCE	W1-00-001234 (Consolidated) **Contested Case No. W1-11-002864** **ORDER INITIATING CONTESTED CASES AND SETTING DEADLINES**

CONTESTED CASE NAME: *In re ASLD–Reece Wheeler*

HSR INVOLVED: San Pedro Hydrographic Survey.

DESCRIPTIVE SU MMARY: The Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court is directed to initiate contested cases W1-11-002864. Arizona State Land Department shall declare the claims that it intends to pursue no later than **December 14, 2026,** and file any supplementary documents no later than **February 1, 2027.** The Arizona Department of Water Resources shall draft abstracts no later than **March 1, 2027.** Comments to the abstracts must be filed no later than **March 15, 2027.**

NUMBER OF PAGES: 6

General Explanation

This order opens a case to determine rights to use water on land owned by the Arizona State Land Department ("ASLD"). In this contested case, ASLD statements of claimant ("SOC") 39-6734 for water uses in the Winkelman Subwatershed of the San Pedro River Watershed. The Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR") investigated the claims and prepared watershed file report ("WFR") **114-04-014**, published in the San Pedro River Hydrographic Survey Report ("HSR").

After ADWR issued the WFR, objections were filed to the findings made in the WFR by **Arizona State Land Department, Gila River Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, and Tonto Apache Tribe**.

Claimant and Landowners

WFR 114-04-014 lists the ASLD as the owner of the lands investigated. ASLD records indicate that the lands investigated currently comprise ASLD lease parcel 05-1421. A map depicting the places of use identified in the WFR is included as Attachment A. The public records of ADWR do not contain any assignments of the SOC listed in the WFR. Further, neither the state or any lessees appear to have filed any additional SOCs since the issuance of the HSR.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Case Initiation. This order initiates contested case W1-11-2864

2. **Declaration.** ASLD shall review all SOCs relevant to this contested case and declare to the Court by **December 14, 2026**, the claims that it intends to pursue in this contested case.

3. **Adjudication Filings.** ASLD shall confer with ADWR and file any supplementary adjudication filings, such as amendments or assignments, with ADWR by **February 1, 2027.**

4. Draft Abstracts. ADWR shall file draft abstracts for claims eligible for summary adjudication by **March 1, 2027.** The Parties shall file any comments on the draft abstracts by **March 15, 2027.**

5. Parties. The litigants in this contested case are the claimant, current landowner, and all parties who filed objections to the watershed file report. The objectors are Arizona State Land Department, Gila River Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, and Tonto Apache Tribe.

6. Objections. Copies of objections filed to this case can be found under the

respective case names and numbers on the following website: http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/whatsNew.asp.

7. Court Approved Mailing List.

A. The initial Court Approved Mailing List for this case shall include all persons listed on Attachment B to this order. The list may be modified only by filing a motion with the Special Master. Litigants are responsible for using the current Court-approved mailing list.

B. A copy of any pleading filed with the Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court in this case shall be served upon each person listed on the Court Approved Mailing List.

D. The Clerk of the Court will send copies of all minute entries and orders issued in this case to the parties listed on the Court Approved Mailing List.

E. Claimants who would like to receive courtesy copies of minute entries and orders may request inclusion on an email list by sending a request to emily.natale@jbazmc.maricopa.gov.

Signed this 15th day of October 2026.

Sherri L. Zendri
Special Water Master

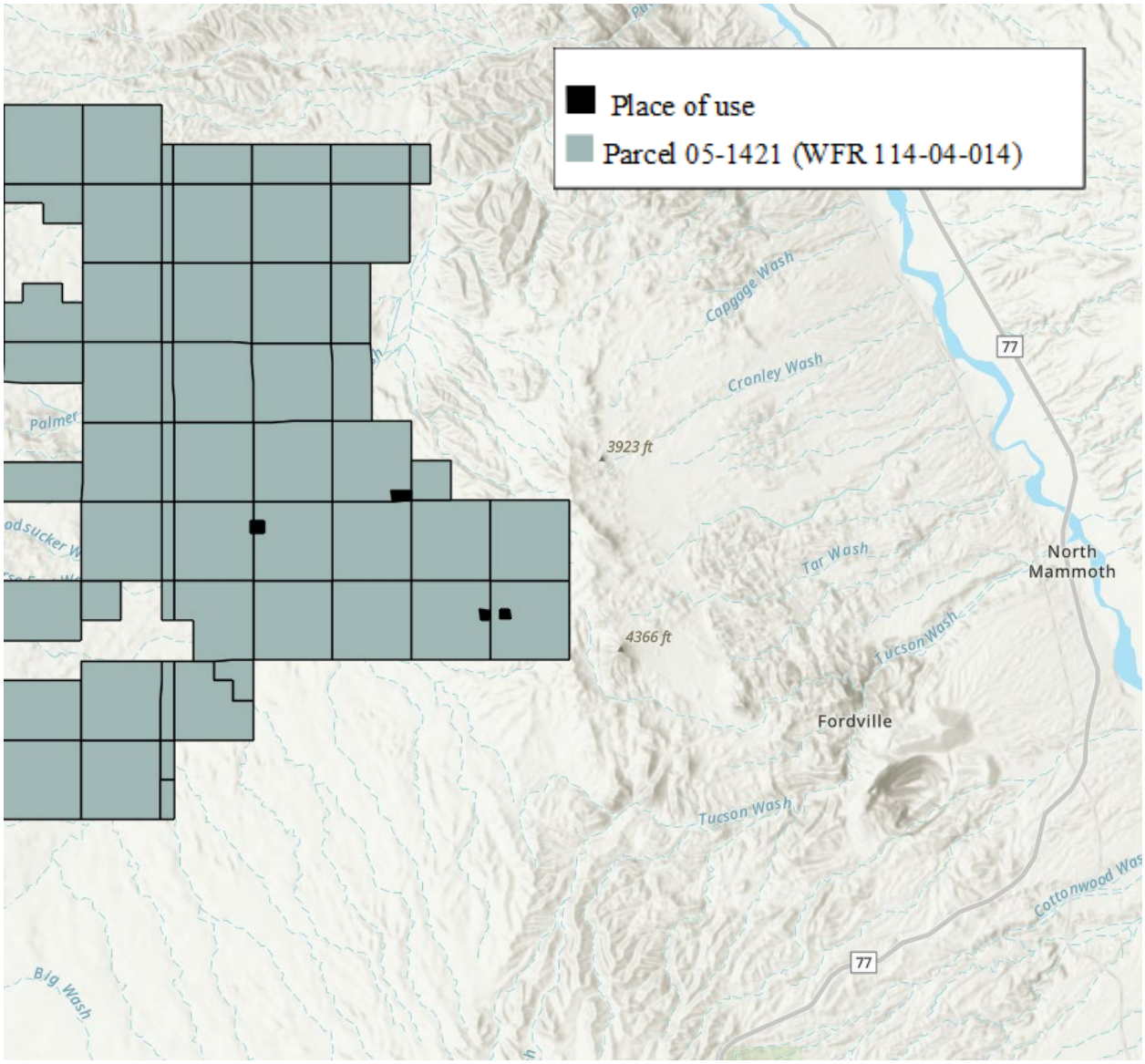
On October 15, 2026, the original of the foregoing was delivered to the Clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court for filing and distributing a copy to all persons listed on the Court-approved mailing list for this contested case, a copy of which is attached, and to all persons listed on the Court-approved mailing list for W1-00-001234.

Emily Natale

Emily Natale

ATTACHMENT A

Map Illustrating ASLD Parcels



ATTACHMENT B

Initial Court-Approved Mailing List

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Karen J. Nielsen
1110 W Washington Ste 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Clerk of the Superior Court
Maricopa County
Attn: Water Case
601 W Jackson St
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Special Master Sherri Zendri
Superior Court of Arizona
201 W Jefferson St Ste 3A
Phoenix, AZ 85003

David Jacobs, Kevin Crestin,
& Eric Wilkins
Arizona Attorney General
Natural Resources Section
2005 N Central
Phoenix, AZ 85004

A. Ritchie, J. Sutton, B. Velasco
San Carlos Apache Tribe
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 40
San Carlos, AZ 85550

Laurel A. Hermann
The Sparks Law Firm PC
7503 First St
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4573

Jeremiah Weiner
Rosette LLP
120 S. Ash Ave Se 201
Tempe, AZ 85281

Susan B. Montgomery & Robyn Interpreter
Montgomery & Interpreter PLC
3301 E Thunderbird Rd
Phoenix, AZ 8503

Gila River Indian Community
Javier Ramos & Michael Carter
Office of the General Counsel
PO Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Merrill C. Godfrey, Brette A. Pena
& Radiance Campbell
Akin Gump Straus Hauer & Feld LLP
2001 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Mark McGinnis, Michael Foy,
Katrina Wilkinson, Kathryn Ust
Salmon, Lewis & Weldon
2850 E Camelback Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85016