1 2 3 4 5 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA 6 7 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA 8 IN RE THE GENERAL 9 W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4 (Consolidated) ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN THE GILA 10 RIVER SYSTEM AND SOURCE 11 Contested Case No. W1-11-0040 12 13 ORDER INITIATING CONTESTED CASE AND SETTING INITIAL 14 **CONFERENCE** 15 CONTESTED CASE NAME: *In re BLM – National Audubon Society* 16 HSR INVOLVED: San Pedro Hydrographic Survey. 17 18 DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The Clerk of Maricopa County Superior Court is directed to initiate W1-11-0035. BLM is ordered to notify lessee(s) of this proceeding. Initial 19 conference set for July 24, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. BLM is further ordered to file a status report concerning BLM objections by July 17, 2024. 20 NUMBER OF PAGES: 13 21 22 **General Explanation** 23 This order opens a case to determine rights to use water on land managed by the 24 Bureau of Land Management. 25 The first step in this case is an initial conference with the Court, scheduled for July 26 24, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to determine if landowners are interested in pursuing potential 27 water rights. Interested Parties MUST attend the scheduled initial conference if they plan 28

to pursue potential water rights. Failure to appear at the initial conference could result in the dismissal of the case and the loss of water rights associated with the properties.

In this case, twelve (12) Statements of Claimant ("SOCs"), 39-6239, 39-6240, 39-6241, 39-6242, 39-6243, 39-6244, 39-6245, 39-6246, 39-6247, 39-13805, 39-13806, and 39-13807, were filed by the United States Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") to assert claims to use water on land in Section 28 of Township 21S, Range 18E.

The first step in this case will be an initial conference, where landowners will state whether they intend to pursue water rights.

Additional background information on the process for determining water rights in Arizona can be found on Attachment A.

Details of the Case

The SOCs filed claims for rights to use surface water for wildlife watering purposes.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR") investigated the claims made by the Claimants and prepared Watershed File Report ("WFR") No. 111-19-025, published in the Final San Pedro Watershed Hydrographic Survey Report (1991) ("San Pedro HSR"). The WFR recorded that surface water from the Babocomari River was being used for stockpond and instream stock watering purposes. A copy of the WFR is attached as Attachment B.

After ADWR issued the WFR, objections were filed to the findings made in the WFR by the BLM, the Gila River Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation of the Camp Verde Indian Reservation.

Claimant and Landowners

The WFR lists the BLM as the owner of the property investigated and National Audubon Society as the lessee. According to information provided by ADWR, the land

IT IS ORDERED:

investigated for WFR 111-19-025 appears to comprise portions of sections 27 and 28 of Township 21S, Range 18E.

A copy of a map, provided by ADWR, showing the boundaries of the investigation area is attached as Attachment C.

The public records of the ADWR do not contain any assignments of the SOC listed in the WFR, and landowners and lessees do not appear to have filed any SOCs since the issuance of the San Pedro Hydrographic Survey report.

To pursue water rights, a property owner must file a Statement of Claimant and present to the Court evidence of the existence of a water right on their property. This evidence may include the WFR. If either the property owner proves to the Court the existence of water rights on their property or enters into a valid settlement approved by the Court, the Court will recognize enforceable water rights in a "Final Decree." Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 45-257(B).

This is an Order from the Court. All parties must comply with the following instructions. The failure to obey this, or any, court order may result in the dismissal of this case and the loss of any potential water rights associated with the properties mentioned in this Order. If you have questions regarding this order or any of the attachments, please contact the General Stream Adjudication, Office of the Special Water Master, at (602) 372-4115. Please note that staff can only answer administrative questions and cannot provide legal advice.

1. <u>Case Initiation.</u> This contested case shall be known as *In re BLM – National Audubon Society*, and it will resolve claims to appropriable water asserted in Statements of Claimant 39-6239, 39-6240, 39-6241, 39-6242, 39-6243, 39-6244, 39-6245, 39-6246, 39-6247, 39-13805, 39-13806, and 39-13807, as well as objections that were filed to Watershed File Report No. 111-19-025.

- 2. <u>Initial Conference.</u> An initial conference shall be held on **July 24, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.** to determine whether current landowners intend to pursue claims for water rights. The conference will be held using the Court Connect program. Instructions for Court Connect are attached as Attachment E. If you receive this order by email, click on the red box "Join Court Connect Hearing" on the attached instructions to make an appearance. If you do not receive this order by email, log into the Court Connect program on the internet by typing https://tinyurl.com/specialwatermaster. If you do not have access to the internet, you may attend telephonically using the telephone number and access code included in the instructions for Court Connect.
- 3. <u>Parties</u>. The litigants in this contested case are the original claimants, the current landowners and lessees, and any party who filed an objection to the Watershed File Report. BLM shall notify any current lessee(s) of this proceeding. The objectors in this case are the Bureau of Land Management, the Gila River Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation of the Camp Verde Indian Reservation.
- 4. <u>Objections</u>. Copies of the objections filed to WFR No. 111-19-025 can be found under the case number W1-11-0040 on the following website: http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/whatsNew.asp.
- 5. <u>Status Report.</u> To the extent that an objection may be resolved by amending a Statement of Claimant, BLM shall amend the Statement of Claimant. BLM shall file a status report by **July 17, 2024.**
- 6. Court-Approved Mailing List.
 - A. The initial Court-approved mailing list for this case shall include all persons listed on Attachment D to this order. The list may be modified only by filing a motion with the Special Master to amend

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the Court-approved mailing list. 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.
- Claimants wishing to be added or removed from the mailing list shall C. file a motion with the Special Master. Parties allowed to intervene will be automatically added to the Court-approved mailing list.
- The Clerk of the Court will send copies of all minute entries and D. 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.

2024.

Sherri L. Zendri Special Water Master

124, the original of going was delivered to the Clerk of the a County Superior Court for filing and ing a copy to all persons listed on the proved mailing list for this contested copy of which is attached, and to all listed on the Court-approved mailing list W2, W3, and W4.

ATTACHMENT A

General Background on the Water Rights Determination Process in Arizona

A general stream adjudication is a judicial proceeding to determine the quantity and priority of all water rights in a river system. Arizona is undertaking general stream adjudications of both the Gila River and the Little Colorado River systems. A river system includes surface water flowing "in streams or other natural channels," groundwater sufficiently connected to that surface water, and water subject to claims by the federal government. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 45-251(7). Recognizing and respecting water rights and the priority of such rights is important in Arizona where times of drought or water scarcity can occur.

All cases begin with the filing of a "Statement of Claimant," ("SOC") in which a property owner makes a claim for a right to use surface water on their property. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 45-254(A). This person is the "claimant." The SOCs contain, among other characteristics, a description of the source and quantity of the water used, the location of use, the location from which the water was diverted, and the date when the water was first put to use. *Id.* § 45-254(C).

After the property owner files the SOCs, the Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR") prepares a "Watershed File Report," ("WFR") in which ADWR investigates the claims in the SOCs and recommends water rights associated with the property. *Id.* § 45-256(B). ADWR compiles all WFRs for a watershed into a comprehensive Hydrographic Survey Report ("HSR") and publishes the report for public review and comment. In response, other claimants in the Adjudication may file "objections" disputing the information or recommendations in the WFR. The individuals who file objections are called "objectors."

This "contested case", one of thousands in the Gila River System, will evaluate claims asserted in specific Statements of Claimant while considering objections to the WFR that reported ADWR's initial inspection of those claims.

ATTACHMENT B

Watershed File Report

AS OF 10/11/91

WATERSHED FILE REPORT NUMBER

LESSEE/ALLOTTEE

LEASE-PERMIT ID

BLM - PHOENIX DISTRICT

111-19-025

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PHOTO ID - 5-7,9 (84)

LAND OWNER

QUAD 1 - O'DONNELL CANYON

APPLICABLE FILINGS AND DECREES

CLEARLY STATED INFORMATION FROM FILINGS AND DECREES

FILING NUMBER	FILING STATUS USE	:S	QUANTITY IN AFA	USE LO	CATION TWNP R		CLAIM DATE	DIVERSION SECTION	LOCA	TION RNGE
33-0094874	APPLICA. REC	/FISH/WLDLF	.40	SWSENE28	2105	80E	1989	SWSENE28	2105	180E
38-0095335	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		NESWSE28	210S 1	.80E	1960	NESWSE28	2105	180E
38-0095336	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		NWSWSE28	2105 1	180E	1960	NWSWSW28	2105	180E
38-0095337	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		NWSWNW28	2105 1	180E	1959	NWSWNW28	210\$	180E
38-0095338	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		SWNWNW28	210S 1	180E	1959	SWNWNW28	2105	180E
38-0095339	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		SWNWNW28	2105	180E	1959	SHNMNM58	210\$	180E
38-0095340	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		SWNWNW28	2105	180E	1959	SWNWNW28	2105	180E
38-0095341	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		NENWNW28	210S	180E	1959	NENWNW28	2105	180E
38-0095342	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		SESWNW28	210 S	180E	1961	SESWNW28	2105	180E
38-0095343	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		NWNWSW28	2105	180E	1961	NWNWSW28	2105	180E
38-0095344	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		SENESE28	2105	180E	1960	SENESE28	2105	180E
38-0095345	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		NENWSW28	2105	180E	1960	NENWSW28	2105	180E
39-0006239	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	.03	NWSWNW28	2105	180E	1959	NWSWNW28	2105	180E
39-0006240	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	.03	SWNWNW28	2105	180E	1959	SWNWNW28	2105	180E
39-0006241	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	.38	SWNWNW28	210\$	180E	1959	SWNWNW28	2105	180E
39-0006242	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	.50	SWNWNW28	2105	180E	1959	SWNWNW28	210\$	180E
39-0006243	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	1.30	NENWNW28	2105	180E	1959	NENWNW28	2105	180E
39-0006244	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	1.00	NWNWSW28	2105	180E	1961	NWNWSW28	2105	180E
39-0006245	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	2.04	SESWNW28	2105	180E	1961	SESWNW28	2105	180E
39-0006246	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	.08	NWSWSE28	2105	180E	1960	NWSWSE28	2105	180E
39-0006247	QUE.RECD REC	C/FISH/WLDLF	28.00	NESWSE28	2105	180E	1960	NESWSE28	2105	180E
39-0013805	REC	C/FISH/WLDLF		SENESE28	2105	180E	1989	SENESE28	2105	180E
39-0013806	REG	C/FISH/WLDLF		NENWSW28	2105	180E	1989	NENWSW28	2105	180E
39-0013807	RE	C/FISH/WLDLF		SWSENE28	2105	180E	1989	SWSENE28	2105	180E

DWR ANALYSIS OF FILINGS AND DECREES

FILING NUMBER	USES CLAIMED OR REFERENCED WILDLIFE	USES FOUND BY DWR SPRING	APPLIES TO DIVERSIONS	APPLIES TO PWR NUMBERS
38-0095335	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE		SP001
38-0095336	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE		SP002
38-0095337	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE		SP005
38-0095338	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE		SP004

DWR ANALYSIS OF FILINGS AND DECREES (CONTINUED) 111-19-025

FILING NUMBER	USES CLAIMED OR REFERENCED	USES FOUND BY DWR	APPLIES TO DIVERSIONS APPLIES TO PWR NUMBERS
38-0095339	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP003
38-0095340	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	\$P006
38-0095341	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP007
38-0095342	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP008
38-0095343	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP009
38-0095344	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP010
38-0095345	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP011
39-0006239	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP003
39-0006240	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP004
39-0006241	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP005
39-0006242	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP006
39-0006243	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP007
39-0006244	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP009
39-0006245	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP008
39-0006246	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP002
39-0006247	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP001
39-0013805	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP010
39-0013806	WILDLIFE	WILDLIFE	SP011
39-0013807	WILDLIFE	SPRING	SW001
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SWOO1 SWSENE28	210S 180E	SURFACE W	ATER NO GRACE SPRING
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PWR SUMM	ARY		
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SP001 39-00062 SP002 39-00062 SP003 39-00062 SP004 39-00062 SP005 39-00062	47 38-0095335 46 38-0095336 39 38-0095339 40 38-0095338 41 38-0095337	1960 FILING 1960 FILING 1959 FILING 1959 FILING 1959 FILING	38-95335 SURFACE WATER: BABOCOMARI RIVER 38-95336 SURFACE WATER: BABOCOMARI RIVER 38-95339 SURFACE WATER: BABOCOMARI RIVER 38-95338 SURFACE WATER: BABOCOMARI RIVER 38-95337 SURFACE WATER: BABOCOMARI RIVER

PWR	SUMMARY	(CONTINUED) 1	11-19-025
PWR #	APPLICABLE APPLICABLE ADJ FILINGS	*APPARENT FIRST USE DATE* DATE BASIS FOR DATE	WATER SOURCES AND CLASSIFICATIONS
SP006 SP007 SP008 SP009 SP010 SP011 SW001	39-0006242 38-0095340 39-0006243 38-0095341 39-0006245 38-0095342 39-0006244 38-0095343 39-0013805 38-0095344 39-0013806 38-0095345 39-0013807 33-0094874	1959 FILING 38-95340 1959 FILING 38-95341 1961 FILING 38-95342 1961 FILING 38-95343 1960 FILING 38-95344 1960 FILING 38-95345 1989 FILING 33-94874	SURFACE WATER: BABOCOMARI RIVER SURFACE WATER: BABOCOMARI RIVER
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EXPLANATION

FILINGS 39-6239 THROUGH 39-6247 - UNIFORM QUESTIONNAIRES WERE RECEIVED WHICH REFLECT INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED IN THE ORIGINAL STATEMENTS OF CLAIMANT. FILINGS 38-95335, 38-95336, 38-95337, 38-95338, 38-95340, 38-95341, 38-95342, 38-95344 & 38-95345 - WERE RECEIVED AFTER JUNE 30, 1979.

- USES AND RESERVOIRS

 SP1 O'DONNELL CANYON DAM STOCKPOND.

 SP2 O'DONNELL CANYON SILT TRAP.

 SP3 PRW-3 RESERVOIR.

 SP4 PRW-RESERVOIR.

 SP5 PRW-1 RESERVOIR.

 SP6 PRE-1 RESERVOIR.

 SP7 "S" RESERVOIR.

 SP8 POST CANYON DAM.

 SP9 POST CANYON SILT TRAP.

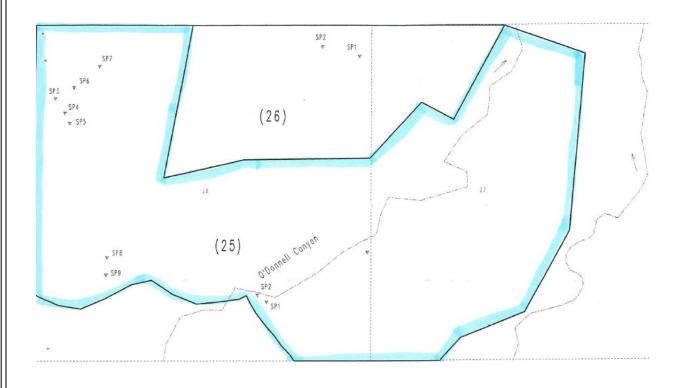
 SP10 KNODER RESERVOIR.

 SP11 AUDUBON RESERVOIR.

 SW1 WILDLIFE WATER USE FROM GRACE SPRING.

DISPOSITION OF LAND OWNER/CLAIMANT COMMENTS A COMMENT WAS RECEIVED WHICH DESCRIBED DISCREPANCIES IN THE LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO STOCKPONDS.

ATTACHMENT C ADWR Parcel Map



ATTACHMENT D

Initial Court-Approved Mailing List

_	Initial Court-repri	Toved Maning List
3	Arizona Department of Water	
4	Resources Kimberly R. Parks and Karen J. Nielsen	Joe P. Sparks and Laurel A. Hermann The Sparks Law Firm, P.C.
5	1110 West Washington, Suite 310	7503 First Street
6	Phoenix, AZ 85007	Scottsdale, AZ 85251-4573
7	Clerk of the Superior Court	Jeremiah Weiner, Kent Millward, Brett
8	Maricopa County Attn: Water Case	J. Stavin, and Lauren Mulhern Rosette, LLP.
9	601 West Jackson St.	120 S. Ash Avenue, Suite 201
10	Phoenix, AZ 85003	Tempe, AZ 85281
11	Special Master Sherri Zendri	Susan B. Montgomery, Robyn Interpreter, Montgomery & Interpreter PLC
12	Superior Court of Arizona 201 W. Jefferson Street	3301 E Thunderbird Road
13	Courtroom 301 Phoenix, AZ 85003	Phoenix, AZ 85032
14	30000	Gila River Indian Community
15	Laura Boyer & Maggie Woodward U. S. Department of Justice – ENRD	Javier Ramos and Sunshine Manuel Office of the General Counsel
16	P.O. Box 7611, Ben Franklin Station	P.O. Box 97 Sacaton, AZ 85147
17	Washington, DC 20044	Sacaton, AZ 03147
18	Alexander B. Ritchie San Carlos Apache Tribe	Josh Edelstein Phoenix Field Solicitor Office of the Solicitor
19	Office of the Attorney General	U.S. Department of the Interior Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Courthouse
20	PO Box 40 San Carlos, AZ 85550	401 W. Washington St., Ste. 404, SPC 44 Phoenix, AZ 85003
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ATTACHMENT E



Court Connect Hearing Notice for In re BLM- National Audubon Society

This hearing will be conducted through the new Court Connect program offered by the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County. This new and innovative program allows Court participants to appear online, rather than in a physical courtroom. Hearings are preferably conducted by videoconference but can also be conducted by phone. Lawyers (and self-representing litigants) are responsible for distributing this notice to anyone who will be appearing on their behalf.

All participants must use the JOIN COURT CONNECT HEARING button or the dial in information below to participate.

Participants: Please follow the steps below to participate in the remote proceeding.

- 1. Click the JOIN COURT CONNECT HEARING button below.
- 2. Enter your full name and role in name field.
- 3. Wait for the facilitator to admit you to the proceeding.

Remember to keep this email handy so you can use it to participate in the following proceeding.

Case Name: In re BLM – National Audubon Society

Contested Case No. W1-11-0040

Start Date/Time: July 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

JOIN COURT CONNECT HEARING

| **Dial-in Information:** +1 917-781-4590

Private Dial-in Information: for privacy purposes, you can block your phone number by

dialing *67 +1 917-781-4590

| Dial-in Access Code: 688 970 203#

25 | Tiny URL: https://tinyurl.com/specialwatermaster

26 | To ensure an optimal experience, please review the brief Court Connect training prior to the hearing: Here

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