

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

July 24, 2024

CLERK OF THE COURT
A. Parmar
Deputy

SPECIAL WATER MASTER
SHERRI ZENDRI

In Re The General Adjudication of
All Rights to Use Water in the Gila
River System and Source
W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4 (Consolidated)

FILED: August 5, 2024

In re: Forest Service – Umpire Ranch Partnership
Contested Case No. W1-11-0035

MINUTE ENTRY

Courtroom 301 – Central Court Building

10:30 a.m. This is the time set for Status Conference to determine if the landowners are pursuing water rights before Special Water Master Sherri Zendri.

The following parties/attorneys appear virtually:

- Maggie Woodward on behalf of the United States Forest Service
- Sunshine Manuel on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community
- Laurel Herrmann, Alex Ritchie, and Jana Sutton on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Brett Stavin on behalf of the Tonto Apache Tribe
- Susan Montgomery on behalf of the Yavapai Apache Nation and observing for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Katrina Wilkinson observing on behalf of the Salt River Project (“SRP”)
- Brian Heiserman observing on behalf of the Babacomari Ranch
- Kaitlyn Smith observing on behalf of American Smelting and Refining Company (“ASARCO”)

- Kevin Crestin on behalf of the Arizona State Land Department (“ASLD”)
- Kimberly Parks on behalf of Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”)

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

LET THE RECORD REFLECT that all participants appear virtually through Court Connect.

Ms. Woodward addresses the Court. The Forest Service would like to continue to pursue these rights. The current lessee is Mud Creek Ranch Trust and they were informed of the proceedings by the Forest Service. They would like to move forward in the name of the US Forest Service. She notes that the WFR indicates that it is located on the O’Donnell Allotment but it is located on the Post Canyon Allotment. The Statement of Claimant numbers are 39-8360, 39-8103 and 39-8050.

IT IS ORDERED that ADWR shall prepare the three draft abstracts no later than **September 3, 2024**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED setting a Status Conference to discuss any comments or objections on **October 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** before Special Water Master Sherri Zendri.

The status conference will be held using the Court Connect program. Instructions for Court Connect are attached. 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.

10:39 a.m. Matter concludes.

LATER:

The Special Master noticed Katya Lancero appeared online to observe on behalf of the Navajo Nation after the start of meeting and was not given the opportunity to announce herself. However, the Court notes Ms. Lancero was present on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

A copy of this order is mailed to all persons listed on the Court-approved mailing list.



Court Connect Hearing Notice for In Forest Service – Umpire Ranch Partnership

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 Forest Service – Umpire Ranch Partnership

Contested Case No. W1-11-0035

Start Date/Time: October 3, 2024 at 10:00 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#

Tiny URL: <https://tinyurl.com/specialwatermaster>

To ensure an optimal experience, please review the brief Court Connect training prior to the hearing: [Here](#)