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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTIES OF MARICOPA AND APACHE**

IN RE THE GENERAL
ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO
USE WATER IN THE GILA RIVER
SYSTEM AND SOURCE

**W-1, W-2, W-3, and W-4
(Consolidated)
and
CV 6417**

IN RE THE GENERAL
ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO
USE WATER IN THE LITTLE
COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM AND
SOURCE

**ORDER CLARIFYING THE
SPECIAL MASTER’S MARCH 25,
2024, REPORT**

CONTESTED CASE NAME: *In re HSR Sequencing*
DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: Order clarifying the Special Master’s March 25, 2024, Report with respect to the investigation of the Yavapai-Apache Nation’s claims.
NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

On April 15, 2024, the Yavapai-Apache Nation (“Nation”) filed a Motion for Clarification of the Report of the Special Master on Amendments to the Watershed Boundary Map and Sequencing for Future Hydrographic Survey Report Development (“Motion”). The Motion requested clarification as to the Special Master’s March 25, 2024, Report¹ regarding what Hydrographic Survey Report (“HSR”) should include the

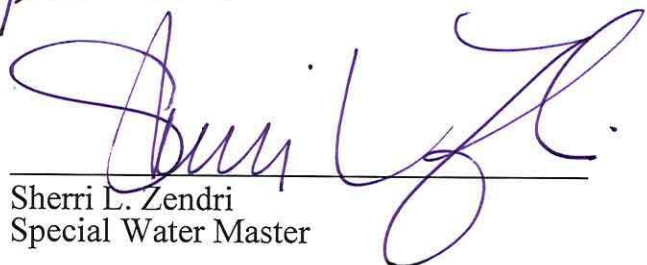
¹ W1–W4, Report of the Special Master on Amendments to the Watershed Boundary Map and Sequencing for Future Hydrographic Survey Report Development (March 25th 2024 Report) (March 25, 2024).

1 Nation's water claims, and those of the United States on the Nation's behalf.

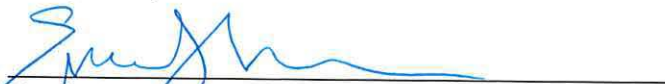
2
3 To clarify Conclusion of Law #16: The Special Master proposes that the two
4 southernmost ten-digit hydrologic units of the Verde Canyon subwatershed be included
5 in a proposed Salt River Valley HSR. March 25, 2024, Report at 32. The Special Master
6 also proposes that the remaining ten-digit units of the Verde Canyon subwatershed be
7 investigated along with the entire Lower Verde Valley subwatershed in a "Lower Verde
8 Valley HSR." *Id.* The Special Master proposes a deadline for that proposed HSR of
9 September 30, 2028. *Id.* To clarify Conclusion of Law #17: The Special Master
10 recommends that the Yavapai-Apache Nation's and the Tonto Apache Tribe's water
11 claims, and those of the United States on behalf of the Nation and the Tribe, should be
12 adjudicated along with all state law claims in the above-mentioned Lower Verde Valley
13 HSR. Further, all claims by the United States with respect to "Wild and Scenic River"
14 reservations within the boundaries of the proposed Lower Verde Valley HSR are
15 recommended to be included in that HSR.

16
17 It is recognized that the Report referenced only the "Verde Canyon" HSR;
18 however, in the event that the Verde Canyon and Lower Verde Valley subwatersheds are
19 investigated in separate HSRs, the Yavapai-Apache Nations's claims should be included
20 in a comprehensive Lower Verde Valley HSR and those of the Tonto-Apache Tribe in a
21 comprehensive Verde Canyon HSR.

22
23 DATED this 23rd day of April 2024.

24
25 
26
27 Sherri L. Zendri
28 Special Water Master

1 On April 23, 2024, the
2 original of the foregoing was delivered to the
3 Clerk of the Apache County Superior Court for
4 filing and distributing a copy to all persons
5 listed on the Court-approved mailing lists for
6 Case No. CV 6417 and to the Clerk of the
7 Maricopa County Superior court for filing and
8 distributing a copy to all persons listed on the
9 Court-approved mailing list for Case No. W-1,
10 W-2, W-3, W-4

11 
12 _____
13 Emily Natale