

SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

IN RE THE GENERAL	)	Arizona Supreme Court
ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO	)	Nos. WC-26-0001-IR
USE WATER IN THE GILA RIVER	)	WC-79-0001
SYSTEM AND SOURCE	)	WC-79-006
	)	
	)	Maricopa County
IN RE THE GENERAL	)	Superior Court
ADJUDICATION OF ALL RIGHTS TO	)	Nos. W1-00-001234
USE WATER IN THE LITTLE COLORADO	)	W1-11-001675
RIVER SYSTEM AND SOURCE	)	W1-11-000245
	)	(With Consolidated Cases)
	)	W1-11-003359
	)	W1-11-003397
	)	
	)	Apache County
	)	Superior Court
	)	No. CV 6417
	)	

FILED 06/10/2026

O R D E R

On May 6, 2026, the Honorable Scott Blaney submitted to this Court a "Certification" in accordance with (1) the Special Procedural Order Providing for Interlocutory Appeals and Certifications issued by this Court on September 26, 1989, in the Gila River System and Source General Adjudication, and (2) the Special Procedural Order Providing for Interlocutory Appeals and Certifications issued by this Court on June 1, 1994, in the Little Colorado River System and Source General Adjudication (collectively, the "Special Procedural Orders"). Judge Blaney certifies to this Court the following rulings of the Adjudication Court in the Gila River adjudication: (1) "Amended Order Adopting Final Report as Modified," filed May 5, 2026, in Contested Case No. W1-11-001675; and (2) "Order to Adopt Final Report with

Clarifications," filed March 26, 2026, in Contested Case No. W1-11-000245. Judge Blaney also certifies the following questions:

- (1) Whether appropriative rights to water initiated before June 12, 1919, are subject to statutory forfeiture;
- (2) Whether the administrative process set out in Arizona's surface water code is the sole method for a private well-owner to obtain an appropriative right after 1919; and
- (3) Whether the Adjudication Court has equitable authority to decree an appropriative right in the absence of compliance with the surface water code.

Upon consideration,

IT IS ORDERED all further documents filed in this matter be filed in Arizona Supreme Court No. WC-26-0001-IR.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED any party to the proceedings below may file a response to Judge Blaney's "Certification" by no later than July 27, 2026. Responses should focus on whether this Court should exercise its discretion to review the certified rulings and certified questions and, if so, whether the certified questions should be rephrased. Factors to address are set forth in Section B of the Special Procedural Orders and include the following: (1) whether the certified rulings conflict with any rulings from another adjudication proceeding pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-251 *et seq.*; (2) whether the certified rulings have decided important questions of law that should be decided by this Court before further proceedings or final judgment; (3) whether substantial savings of time, expense, or

resources may be achieved through early appellate review; (4) whether the interests of justice otherwise require early appellate review; and (5) whether any of the factors identified in ARCAP 23(d)(3) are implicated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED any party to the proceedings below may file a reply to any response no later than August 26, 2026.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED all attorneys participating in this matter must e-file documents in this Court through AZTurboCourt. Self-represented parties are encouraged, but not required, to file documents and accept service through AZTurboCourt, following the instructions at <https://tinyurl.com/y4kvkxnw>.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that unless or until a party has registered for service on AZTurboCourt, copies of all filings in this matter must be distributed to the parties in the same manner as the superior court pleadings in the general adjudications, as provided in Section E of the Special Procedural Orders.

DATED this 10th day of June, 2026.

/s/
ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
Chief Justice

TO:
Alexander Bennett Ritchie
Jana Lynn Sutton
Bernardo M Velasco
Alexandra M Arboleda

Alexa V Penalosa
Andrew J Corimski
Allen O Brandt
Amanda R Brandt
Anthony W Merrill
Benson Farm Estates
Bruce Staggs
Carla A Consoli
Carmen Perez
Charles B and Martha White Family Trust
Charles L Cahoy
Cheryl L Emrie
Christopher Nelson
Kelsey Nelson
Maricopa County Superior Court
CMH Manufacturing West Inc
Council Rock LLC
David Albert Brown
J Albert Brown
Amy Brown
Garrett Perkins
Brian Joseph Heiserman
Bradley J Pew
Damon Trejo
Marie Trejo
Darren A Cray
Elizabeth Cray
David Gehlert
Andrew Guss Guarino
David F Jacobs
Kevin Crestin
Eric M Wilkins
DMR Ranch- HCA LLC
Don Weber
Debbie Weber
Donne Sequin
Dylan Max Hendel
Edward M Knowlton
Eileen J Brandt
Enclave St David LLC
Eric Whitfield
Herica J Stewart
Fred Libby
Connie Lynn Libby
Gary Alan Trejo
Susan Loree Trejo
Cinda L Gaynor
Gary L Gaynor
Gerald L Witbeck

Heather D Borman
Holly M Draper
Howard Lee Judd
Melanie Judd
Javier G Ramos
Michael S Carter
Jeremiah "Jay" D Weiner
Joanne F Guinn
Joe P Sparks
Laurel A Herrmann
Cheri D Ritz
John A Ritz
John Hardwick
Rebecca Hardwick
John D Burnside
Amanda J Malboeuf
John I Malboeuf
Joshua A Edelstein
Jothi Beljan
Robert Striling
Juan Gongora
Lisa A Gongora
Kenneth Haymore
Julie Haymore
Kenneth Leon Scott
Colleen Scott
Larry Brent Gill
Yvette V Gill
Lauren J Caster
Judy A De La Cruz
Lorenzo A De La Cruz
Lucas J Narducci
Isabel Santiago
Luis S Santiago
Carrie Penn
Mark Penn
Mark Kartchner
Marion Kartchner
Mark Kartchner
Mark J Widerschein
Mark A McGinnis
Michael Kenyon Foy
Katrina L Wilkinson
Kathryn M Ust
Merrill Godfrey
Brette Pena
Merrill Family Trust
Michael Eugene Rice
Tamara Iona Rice

Michael Paul Rolland
Annie Jane McWhorter
Norman Gene McWhorter
Patrick J Downing
Amy D Lachmanek
Paul G Lachmanek
Paul M. Stewart Family Trust
Randy E Beeham
Rebecca Beeham
Rhett A Billingsley
Richard A Carlsen
Robert E Barnes
Rhonda J Barnes
Stephanie A Blanchette
Robert F Blanchette
Marsha Thompson
Roger Thompson
Ronald B. Higginbotham Decendant's Trust
Laurie Ann Taylor
Rusty Dean Taylor
Safford District Office
Scott Thacker Limited Family Partnership
Sean T Hood
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Sherri L Zendri
State of Arizona
Steven Raun
Barbara Kay Trejo
Eileen F Maynard
Terry E Maynard
Marilyn Jean Carpenter
Todd Jarrett Carpenter
William F Miller
William Gordon
Steven Carl Merrell
Julia Merrell
Gregg De Bie
D Lee Decker
Daniel D Haws II
Dara Mora
Diandra D Benally
Duane C Wyles
Dylan Max Hendel
Emmi Blades
Eric C Anderson
Hon Scott A Blaney
Jason Ryan Simon
Jeffrey S Leonard
Judith M Dworkin

M Kathryn Hoover
Evan Hiller
Brett Joel Stavin
John C Lacy
Paul M Tilley
Joseph Young
Alane Marie Moore
Lee A Storey
Meghan Grabel
Phillip W Londen
Elias J Ancharski
Michael J Pearce
Todd C Wiley
Trish Stuhan
Michelle Stinson
Adam D Melton
Brian K Nichols
A Melendres
Maria O'Brien
Apache County Superior Court
Douglas C Nelson
Ethel Billie Branch
Katya M Lancero
Jane Marx
Lauren Mulhern
Joseph E Holland
Joshua S Mann
Kent Russell Romney
USDA Office of General counsel
Office of the General Counsel of the Hopi Tribe
Paul R Orme
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
Donna Gelsler
Rosemary Avila
Kaibab Industries
Karen J Nielsen
L William Staudenmaier III
Magoffin Family Trust
John C Lemaster
Jothi Beljan
Paul R Orme
Judith Witbeck
Ernest G Pesqueira
Marla Pesqueira
Kelly Y Schwab
Jenny J Winkler
Susan B Montgomery
Robyn L Interpreter
Duane C Wyles