

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA  
MARICOPA COUNTY

May 15, 2025

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: May 21, 2025

In re: James K. and Wanda L. Bell  
Contested Case No. W1-11-1506

**MINUTE ENTRY**

Courtroom 301 – Central Court Building

10:00 a.m. This is the time set for a Status Conference to receive an update from the Baeurlen family regarding the basis of right and their progress with ADWR before Special Water Master Sherri Zendri.

The following parties/attorneys appear virtually through Court Connect:

- Landowner, Arnulfo A. Baeurlen, is present on his own behalf with his Daughter in Law, Laura Baeurlen
- Landowner, Nancy Luyten, is present on her own behalf
- Landowner, Caleb Barajas, is present on his own behalf
- Joe Sparks on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Michael Carter on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community
- Susan B. Montgomery on behalf of the Yavapai Apache Nation (and observing on behalf of Pascua Yaqui Tribe)
- John Burnside on behalf of BHP Copper

- Katrina Wilkinson on behalf of Salt River Project (“SRP”)
- Mark Widerschein on behalf of the United States Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division
- Jay Lee on behalf of Tonto Apache Tribe
- Garrett Perkins observing on behalf of St. David Irrigation District
- Karen J. Nielsen on behalf of Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”)
- Candace French observing on behalf of the Navajo Nation

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

Caleb Barajas informs the Court that he has submitted a Statement of Claimant with documentation of the new well drill. Based on his research, he doesn’t believe his new well is pumping subflow.

Laura Baeurlen indicates that they will be moving forward with their application for a surface water permit and it’s being processed with ADWR.

Nancy Luyten states that she missed the January hearing but did attend the meeting with ADWR. The Court will include additional contact numbers as a “LATER” in today’s Minute Entry so Ms. Luyten may contact ADWR with any questions.

The Court addresses the parties regarding the purpose of this proceeding.

Discussion is held regarding the process for Mr. Barajas to challenge that he is pumping subflow. The Court will include a contact number for the Special Master’s judicial assistant so Mr. Barajas can obtain the documentation. Additionally, rules for proceedings can be found on the Court’s website at:

<https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/GeneralStreamAdjudication/docs/pdfs-RulesRev053105.pdf>

**IT IS ORDERED** that Mr. Barajas file his documentation by mid-August 2025 well as provide copies of his filings to everyone on the Court Approved Mailing List. The Court will send out an additional order for a Status Conference in mid-September 2025 to obtain an update. Specific dates will be included as a “LATER” portion of this Minute Entry.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Ms. Luyten shall inform the Court how she would like to proceed at the next hearing in mid-September.

10:19 a.m. Matter concludes.

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

**LATER:**

**IT IS ORDERED** setting the following hard dates for this contested case:

- Mr. Barajas shall file his documentation **by Monday, August 18, 2025.**
- The next Status Conference is set for **Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:00am.**

Potential claimants, Weaver Family Trust, have failed to attend the last two status conferences. If the Weaver Family Trust remains interested in pursuing whatever potential water rights may be available for the property, the Weaver Family Trust must attend the next status conference. Failure to attend the conference on September 18, 2025, will result in the removal of the Weaver Family Trust from the court-approved mailing list and any potential water rights associated with this contested cases may be forfeit.

The following contact information is provided to help claimants with technical or procedural quests. Please note that staff from ADWR cannot provide legal advice.

- Statements of claimant application and processing - 1-866-246-1414
  - Email: [smitchell@azwater.gov](mailto:smitchell@azwater.gov)
  - website: <https://www.azwater.gov/adjudications>
- Groundwater Well Registration – (602) 771-8527
  - Email: [wells@azwater.gov](mailto:wells@azwater.gov)
  - website: <https://www.azwater.gov/permitting-wells>
- Surface Water Permitting (Basis of Rights) – (602) 771-8621
  - Email: [surfacewater@azwater.gov](mailto:surfacewater@azwater.gov)
  - website: <https://www.azwater.gov/surface-water/surface-water-overview>

For guidance regarding filing procedures, please call the Office of the Special Water Master at (602) 372-4115.



## Court Connect Hearing Notice for In re James K. and Wanda L. Bell

*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 James K. and Wanda L. Bell, **Contested Case No.** W1-11-1506

**Start Date/Time:** Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:00am.

**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](#)

