

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA  
MARICOPA COUNTY

March 6, 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: March 18, 2025

In re: Max J. Kartchner et all. II.  
Contested Case No. W1-11-2212

**MINUTE ENTRY**

Courtroom 301 – Central Court Building

10:01 a.m. This is the time set for a Status Conference to receive an update from the property owners before Special Water Master Sherri Zendri.

The following parties/attorneys appear virtually through Court Connect:

- Alain Hartmann is present to observe on behalf of the Kartchners
- Joe Sparks on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Karen Nielsen on behalf of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”)
- Kathryn Ust observing on behalf of the Salt River Project (“SRP”)

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

**LET THE RECORD REFLECT** that the Kartchners have not appeared today. Alain Hartmann is present to observe and report on behalf of the Kartchners but clarifies that he is not their legal counsel and cannot make any decisions on their behalf.

Mr. Hartmann provides an update to the Court. He reports that he sent in property ownership records to ADWR as well as the death certificate for Max Kartchner (filed the original SOC and property owner at the time of the HSR). He believes the Statement

of Claimant has been updated to the current owners. He still needs to complete the 36 filing but believes he can get that completed in the next few days.

Counsel Nielsen addresses the Court. She reports that typically the processing time is 2 weeks, but the surface water section received over 500 statement of claimants for January and February and that will likely result in a longer processing time.

Discussion is held regarding objections. He believes the first use should be 1910 instead of 1921 based on his historical research which would put water use pre-1919. The Court inquires what documentation Mr. Hartmann has. He states it was purchased by a known rancher and the two stock ponds were the primary source of water ever since.

The Court notes that the current joint objection is from the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Gila River Indian Community and Yavapai Apache Nation.

Counsel Sparks addresses the Court. He states that he is unable to opine on this issue without first reviewing the documentation at which time he would withdraw the objection on that issue, if deemed appropriate.

The Court addresses Mr. Hartmann. The Kartchners will need to submit this documentation to the Court and parties for further review.

Mr. Hartmann inquires if the Court needs an updated map in relation to the objections. The Court explains that a number of the objections in this process are ambiguous. Generally once ADWR prepares and circulates a draft abstract with an updated map, the parties are able to resolve objections.

**LET THE RECORD REFLECT** that Mr. Hartmann may send a Letter with the documentation to the Court and copy to all of the parties listed on the Court approved mailing list. Mr. Hartmann affirms that he has a copy of the list.

The Court inquires if ADWR would like another Status Conference or deadline to file a Status Report. Counsel Nielsen requests a deadline. Once the update and Kartchners' documentation is received, the Court will inform the parties of the next steps by separate order.

**IT IS ORDERED** that ADWR file a Status Report providing an update on the processing of the filings by **June 6, 2025**.

No objections are stated to the Court's proposal.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** removing Max Kartchner from the Court approved mailing list.

10:35 a.m. Matter concludes.

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