IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
PLAINTIFF,)
)
)
)
V.)
)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO; NM)
STATE ENGINEER; RICHARD)
DAVIS MALLERY, ET AL.,)
)
DEFENDANTS.)
)

CIV NO. 01- 0072 BB/WWD (ACE)

ZUNI RIVER BASIN

DEFENDANT RICHARD DAVIS MALLERY'S COMMENTS ON THE FIELD TRIP PROPOSED BY THE SPECIAL MASTER

COMES NOW, Defendant Richard Davis Mallery, by and through his undersigned attorneys, and hereby provides the following comments on the field trip of the Zuni River Basin proposed by the Special Master in her letter dated February 18, 2003.¹

1. The Special Master proposed a field trip to the Zuni River Basin stating "fair and efficient case management of stream system adjudications depends in great measure on developing procedures appropriate to the water users in each system." The Special Master's letter states that "[familiarity] with the communities, patterns of land ownership, types of beneficial uses of water, and any organizations of water users in the area . . . is always useful to the Court, and will be particularly important when detailed case planning begins." The letter later states parenthetically "(While site visits on Navajo Nation and Zuni Indian Tribal lands are desirable, we can plan those for a later trip if inclusion at this time is undesirable for any reason.)"

¹ A second letter from the Special Master dated February 25, 2003, rescheduled the proposed field trip for Friday, April 11, 2003.

2. Many of the communities, types of beneficial uses of water and surface water bodies are located on Navajo Nation or Zuni Indian Tribal lands. The main surface water feature in the basin, the Zuni River, lies entirely within the Zuni Indian Reservation. Approximately half of each of the two tributaries that combine to form the Zuni River, the Rio Pescado and the Rio Nutria, also are located within the boundaries of the Zuni Indian Reservation. The Zuni Indian Reservation also contains the following reservoirs: Pescado, Black Rock, Tekapo, Nutria Diversion, Nutria No. 2, Nutria No. 3, Nutria No. 4, Eustace Lake, Jacks Lake, Upper Galestina No. 1A, Upper Galestina No. 7, and Ojo Caliente. The Zuni Canal is located on the Zuni Indian Reservation. There are several springs located on the Zuni Indian Reservation and numerous small, intermittent lakes located within the Ramah Indian Area. The communities of Zuni, Black Rock, Ojo Caliente, Tekapo, Lower Nutria, Upper Nutria, and Pescado are all located on the Zuni Indian Reservation.

3. Defendant Mallery proposes that the field trip include visits to Pescado, Black Rock, Tekapo and Ojo Caliente Reservoirs, and to the communities of Pescado, Black Rock, Zuni, Pescado and Ojo Caliente. The field trip should also include visits to irrigated acreage and some springs within Navajo Nation or Zuni Indian Tribal lands, as well as some of the intermittent lakes and water uses within the Ramah Indian Area.

4. Fair and efficient case management of this adjudication will require that the procedures developed for the non-federal, non-Indian defendants and subareas are also appropriate for the federal and Indian defendants and subareas. Furthermore, visiting these sites should not take a great deal of time, as Pescado, Black Rock, Zuni and Tekapo are located on or near an approximately 23-mile long stretch of Highway 53. That stretch of highway is located only about 12 miles from Subarea 4, which is one of the subareas scheduled for the first phase of the hydrographic survey. Ojo Caliente is located approximately 8 miles southwest of Tekapo.

5. There are several areas in the basin with subdivision developments including Timberlake, El Morro Ranches, Candy Kitchen and Pine Meadows. Defendant Mallery proposes that the field trip include a visit to the Timberlake development site. Timberlake is a subdivision development with approximately 800 lots which when fully developed will constitute a significant water-using community within the Zuni River Basin.

6. The proposed field trip should include site visits to other water use locations including ranching operations and Ramah Lake and irrigation system.

7. Defendant Mallery is the president of the Western New Mexico Water Preservation Association ("WNMWPA"). The WNMWPA has approximately 150 members that own land in the Zuni River Basin and have a vested interest in the outcome of this adjudication. Many of the members reside out of state. Many of the members that do reside in the basin may not be able to attend the field trip. Also, there are likely many potential Defendants that are not members of the WNMWPA that may not be able to attend the field trip.

8. In order to make the field trip "accessible" to as many potential parties as possible, Defendant Mallery requests that the United States post a map of the field trip route on the adjudication website. The map should indicate the sites visited during the field trip. The posting should also include digital photographs taken at each site.

 Defendant Mallery proposes that the status conference be held at Ramah High School Commons Area.

10. In her February 25, 2003, letter, the Special Master instructed counsel for the United States to ensure the notice of the field trip and status conference is posted on the website and distributed for posting in local post offices. She also requested that local counsel

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and local defendants *pro se* post copies of the notice at other public locations, or let counsel for the United States know appropriate posting sites.

11. Defendant Mallery requests that the Court instruct counsel for the United States to publish the notice in the local newspaper, the "reservation edition" of the Gallup Independent. Defendant Mallery also requests that the United States provide public notice of its website.

12. The Special Master's letters were addressed to counsel for the following parties: the United States; the Office of the State Engineer; the Zuni Indian Tribe; and the Navajo Nation.

13. In the interest of the fairness and to avoid the appearance that certain parties are entitled to direct participation and others are not, Defendant Mallery requests that all future correspondence from the Court be addressed to "Counsel of record and Defendants appearing *pro se*."

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Comments on the Field Trip Proposed by the Special Master was served upon counsel of record on this 6th day of March, 2003 as follows:

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