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

and	)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO, ex rel. STATE	)
ENGINEER,	)
Plaintiffs,	)
ramuns,	) No. 01cv00072 BB-ACE
and	)
	) ZUNI RIVER BASIN
ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE, NAVAJO NATION,	) ADJUDICATION
701 1 100 1 7	)
Plaintiffs in Intervention,	) Sub-areas 4, 8, 9, 10, & 7
v.	Subfiles listed on Exhibits A & B
	)
A&R PRODUCTIONS, et al.	)
	)
Defendants.	)
	)

### JOINT MOTION TO AMEND PROCEDURAL AND SCHEDULING ORDERS AND ESTABLISH OR REVISE DEADLINES FOR DEFENDANTS TO RETURN REQUESTS FOR CONSULTATION AND SUBMIT SUBFILE ANSWERS

The Plaintiffs United States of America ("United States") and State of New Mexico ex rel. State Engineer ("State") hereby move the Special Master to amend the procedure established by her previous sub-area procedural and scheduling orders and to allow additional time for consultations concerning subfiles listed on Exhibits A and B, and any other subfile subsequently created in Sub-areas 4, 8, 9, 10, & 7, by extending the Defendants' deadline for filing a subfile answer in each such subfile to a date twenty (20) days after the United States, with the concurrence of the State, serves the subfile defendants with a *Notice That The Consultation Period Has Ended* together with a form subfile answer. In addition, as to those subfiles listed on Exhibit B, and any other subfile

subsequently created or revised and for which an initial service packet has not yet been served, Plaintiffs move the Special Master to (1) eliminate the United States' obligation to include a form answer in the initial service packet and (2) order that defendants who do not accept the consent order initially proposed by Plaintiffs must serve the United States with a *Request for Consultation* setting forth the nature of their objections within 60 days of delivery to defendants of the service packet containing the initially proposed consent order. Plaintiffs also seek to revise the Special Master's *Notice of Water Rights Adjudication* consistent with the procedural revisions proposed by this motion. In support of this motion, the Plaintiffs assert:

- 1. With respect to all of the subfiles listed on Exhibit A, the defendants have requested consultation but have not yet filed subfile answers with the Court. With respect to 16 of these subfiles, consultations have occurred and resulted in an agreement concerning additional follow-up work by Plaintiffs or Defendants which may eventually yield a completed Consent Order. Additional time is needed for the agreed-upon follow-up tasks. Consultations have not yet been arranged as to the remaining 44 subfiles listed on Exhibit A.
- 2. The subfiles listed on Exhibit B reflect new ownership information obtained either from updated county records, or from consultations with defendants or their attorneys. The United States has not previously served the named defendants with consent order packets for these subfiles. In addition, new defendants and new subfiles in Sub-areas 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 may be added to this adjudication in the future as a result of new or revised hydrographic survey data, including ownership information. Defendants who disagree with the terms of the consent order proposed for any such subfile should

have the opportunity (including a fair time period), and responsibility, to timely request and participate in consultation concerning their dispute before presenting it to the Court.

- 3. Under the procedure previously recommended by Plaintiffs and established by the terms of the September 8, 2005 Amended Procedural and Scheduling Order for the Adjudication of Water Rights Claims in Sub-Areas 4 and 8 of the Zuni River Stream System (Doc. No. 387), the December 14, 2005 Procedural and Scheduling Order for the Adjudication of Water Rights Claims in Sub-Areas 9 and 10 of the Zuni River Stream System (Doc. No. 436), and the March 7, 2006 Procedural and Scheduling Order for the Adjudication of Water Rights Claims in Sub-Area 7 of the Zuni River Stream System (Doc. No. 561) (collectively "Procedural and Scheduling Orders"), the United States is required to include a form answer in the initial service packet for each subfile (Paragraph II.C) and a defendants' failure to either sign and return a Consent Order or file a form answer by a date certain established by the order has been stated to be grounds for entry of a default order (Paragraph III.C.2). Nonetheless, each of those orders has also provided (in Paragraph III.B.1) that good faith participation in consultation with Plaintiffs is a prerequisite to placing any dispute concerning a proposed consent order before the Court, and (in Paragraph III.C.1) that a defendant's failure to make a request for consultation shall also be considered grounds for entry of a default order.
- 4. Based on the past year of experience with this process, Plaintiffs assert that the existing requirements concerning form answers have required Plaintiffs to file repeated motions for extension, have caused confusion for many defendants, and have thereby impeded, rather than promoted, the consultation process. In some instances,

defendants have filed answers out of an abundance of caution while actually intending to reach accommodation through consultation. Other defendants have returned form answers signifying objection at the same time they returned signed *Request for Consultation* forms or even along with signed consent orders, thereby creating uncertainty concerning their intent. Many defendants have returned form answers to the United States, but have failed to file them with the Court. Defendants also have returned form answers without first making "a good faith effort to consult with and resolve the disagreement with the United States and the State." (Procedural and Scheduling Orders at Paragraph III.B.3) Eliminating the form answer from the initial service packet will avoid sending defendants a mixed message about their obligations to participate in consultation with the United States and the State.

order packets on all defendants affected by a particular procedural and scheduling order on the same date, having fixed dates certain for the defendants' responses (rather than deadlines that are relative to the date of actual service) inevitably creates inequities among the defendants. In addition, new information obtained through the consultation process, from updated county records, or as a consequent of service packets returned as undeliverable by the postal service, frequently requires Plaintiffs to amend subfiles or create new subfiles within sub-areas subject to previously-filed procedural and scheduling orders. Consent order packets for these new or amended subfiles may not be ready for service until after the fixed deadlines established by the procedural and scheduling orders have expired. As a consequence, the United States cannot serve the packets until after a motion to extend deadlines has been filed and granted by the Special

Master. In order to avoid having to file dozens of such motions, the United States tries to make them apply to as many subfiles as possible. However, scrutinizing the data to identify all of the subfiles needing such extensions has proven to be an extremely time-consuming task. Establishing deadlines for defendant actions that are relative to the dates of corresponding actions by Plaintiffs, rather than fixed as dates certain, will (1) avoid the need for repeated motions for extension, (2) accommodate the possibility of new subfiles and new service packets as required by changing ownership information, and (3) correspond better to the scheme of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure which generally mandates response dates that are relative to the date of service of the document to which a party is responding.

- 6. The filing of repeated motions to extend deadlines may serve the useful purposes of keeping the Court informed about the progress on particular subfiles and helping to ensure that subfiles do not get overlooked and neglected. However, the Plaintiffs propose that periodic status reports may serve these purposes better. Plaintiffs recommend that the contents to be included in such reports, and their frequency, be a subject of discussion at a future status and scheduling conference.
- 7. Because the changes that Plaintiffs are proposing herein would create a procedure that differs from that contemplated by the Special Master's May 2, 2006 *Notice of Water Rights Adjudication*, Plaintiffs are submitting herewith, as an attachment to the proposed form of order granting this motion, a revised *Notice of Water Rights Adjudication* to be included in future service packets. In addition to accommodating the changes requested by this motion, the proposed revisions to the *Notice of Water Rights Adjudication* also acknowledge that there are now 11, rather than

10, sub-areas in this adjudication, and expressly incorporate the United States' consistent practice of providing defendants with a file-stamped copy of consent orders approved by the Court.

Accordingly, as to all subfiles listed on Exhibits A and B, and any other subfile subsequently created in Sub-areas 4, 8, 9, 10, & 7, Plaintiffs are requesting that the Special Master suspend the existing deadlines for filing answers until twenty (20) days after the United States, with the concurrence of the State, serves the subfile defendants with a *Notice That The Consultation Period Has Ended* together with a form subfile answer. As to all subfiles listed on Exhibit B, and any other new or revised subfiles in Sub-areas 4, 8, 9, 10, & 7 for which service packets have not yet been served, Plaintiffs request that the Special Master eliminate the requirement to include a form answer in the initial service packet and approve inclusion of the revised *Notice of Water Rights Adjudication* submitted herewith in such packets.

DATED: September 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

BRADLEY S. BRIDGEWATER

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on September 11, 2006, a copy of the forgoing *Joint* 

Motion To Amend Procedural And Scheduling Orders And Establish Or Revise

Deadlines For Defendants To Return Requests For Consultation And Submit Subfile

Answers was mailed to the following persons.

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James A. Farmer & Sharon S. Farmer PO Box 763 Fence Lake, NM 87315

## **EXHIBIT A**

Subfile No.	Defendant Name(s)
ZRB-1-0001	Virginia Aragon & Jack W. Aragon
ZRB-1-0010	Ross H. Boehm & Simmie Boehm
ZRB-1-0011	Louis W. Gross, Margaret Gross & Wilhelmina Gross
ZRB-1-0035	Louis W. Gross & Wilhelmina Gross
ZRB-1-0054	Lewis S. & Karen L. Ligon
ZRB-1-0057	Charles E. Mallery & Elizabeth Mallery
ZRB-1-0075	New Mexico State Land Office
ZRB-1-0077	Colin E. O'Neill, Johanne F. O'Neill, & Gregory C. Frank
ZRB-1-0091	Joseph William Schepps
ZRB-1-0092	Theodore B. & Dorothy Schnaidt
ZRB-1-0096	Byron South & Irene P. South
ZRB-1-0130	Stephens Properties, LP
ZRB-2-0020	Rolf J. Conner & Marjorie Conner Trustees for the Rolf & Marjorie Conner Trust
ZRB-2-0021	H. Darrell Bogart & Patricia D. Bogart
ZRB-2-0022	Dodd H. Bogart
ZRB-2-0026	Kenneth Bruton
ZRB-2-0041	John G. Feely Jr. & Marcia McCall Family
	Revocable Trust
ZRB-2-0042	Fence Lake Joint Venture
ZRB-2-0056	Denise A. Jolly & David Jolly
ZRB-2-0059	Lawrence Simon
ZRB-2-0075	New Mexico State Land Office
ZRB-2-0076	Michael Norte & Jeanette Norte
ZRB-2-0077	Dennis M. Norton & Linda J. Norton
ZRB-2-0095	Maureta Bell Wilson Revocable Trust
ZRB-2-0098	John A. Yates, Yates Petroleum Corporation, And Trust Q Under The Last Will And Testament Of Peggy A. Yates, Deceased
ZRB-2-0104	Lawrence Silvis & Laura Silvis
ZRB-2-0108	Jaralosa Cattle Co. LLC.
ZRB-2-0109	ORC, LLC., Hinkson Ranch Investors, LLC., R.D.S., Inc., Terrestrial Acquisitions, LLC., & JFT Investors, LLC.
ZRB-2-0110	Donnie Ray Bogart Lambden
ZRB-3-0002	Kurt Anderson & Cynthia Anderson
ZRB-3-0005	Patricia C. Balok & Jack G. Balok
ZRB-3-0017	Broe Land Acquisitions III, LLC
ZRB-3-0029	Ernest Chavez
ZRB-3-0034	Ray K. Coho & Alice K. James

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ZRB-3-0047	Davis Revocable Trust
ZRB-3-0051	William J. Elam & Norma M. Elam
ZRB-3-0055	Peri Eringen
ZRB-3-0056	Jacque Evans & Tina Francis
ZRB-3-0077	Gale Henke
ZRB-3-0078	Donna Hinnant
ZRB-3-0079	Hoffman Living Trust Dated September 25, 2002
ZRB-3-0082	Barbara Iverson
ZRB-3-0087	Leonora Kabala & Andy Kabala
ZRB-3-0091	Valerie C. King
ZRB-3-0096	Garland G. Lewis & Dee Ann Lewis
ZRB-3-0105	Raymond McCall & Rose M. McCall
ZRB-3-0110	Piera Medici
ZRB-3-0121	Joseph F. Neas & Susan S. Neas
ZRB-3-0122	Joseph F. Neas & Susan S. Neas Revocable
	Trust
ZRB-3-0123	New Mexico State Land Office
ZRB-3-0128	Vernon Osborn
ZRB-3-0130	John Palmer
ZRB-3-0142	Lee Allen Schahrer
ZRB-3-0144	Mary S. Havlik
ZRB-3-0146	Andrew G. Shows & Turza M. Shows
ZRB-3-0151	Adrian Stewart
ZRB-3-0166	William R. Whitmore & Patricia E. Whitmore
ZRB-3-0168	Karen L. Williams
ZRB-3-0170	Michael Zinn & Joanne C. Snowdon
ZRB-3-0171	Michael Sweet & Shirley Sweet

## **EXHIBIT B**

Subfile No.	Defendant Name(s)
ZRB-1-0047	Raymond Jose & Maryald A. Jose
ZRB-1-0107	John L. Bandera & Colette Bandera
ZRB-1-0138	Virginia Aragon & Charles Aragon
ZRB-1-0142	Christopher Paul Dentzel & Barbara Dentzel
	Cleary
ZRB-1-0143	Thomas B. Gleason & Diane Gleason
ZRB-1-0164	The Roman Catholic Diocese of Gallup
ZRB-1-0166	Larry W. Carver, Sally L. Carver, Louis W. Gross,
	Wilhelmina M. Gross, Jonathan Pickens, Pamela
	Pickens, Sharon J. Dishongh, & Kyle Casford
ZRB-1-0167	Robert L. Iverson & Nancy G. Iverson
ZRB-2-0010	Deborah Lee Oliver
ZRB-2-0015	Estate of Derek Osborne Beaton
ZRB-2-0027	Hershel L. Jones & Virginia Bruton
ZRB-2-0036	John B. Davey
ZRB-2-0038	Craig Fredrickson & Regina Fredrickson
ZRB-2-0052	Hoffman Living Trust Dated September 25, 2002
ZRB-3-0024	Candy Kitchen Area Water
ZRB-3-0175	David Swindle, Trustee & Linda Swindle, Trustee
ZRB-3-0176	James A. Farmer & Sharon S. Farmer
ZRB-3-0177	Steven Rowan