

No. 141, Original

**In the
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

STATE OF TEXAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO and
STATE OF COLORADO,**

Defendants

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL MASTER

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S MARCH 2020
STATUS REPORT**

NOEL J. FRANCISCO

Solicitor General

JEAN E. WILLIAMS

Deputy Assistant Attorney General

FREDERICK LIU

Assistant to the Solicitor General

JAMES J. DuBOIS

STEPHEN M. MACFARLANE

R. LEE LEININGER

DAVID W. GEHLERT

JUDITH E. COLEMAN

JOHN P. TUSTIN

THOMAS K. SNODGRASS

Attorneys, Environment and Natural Resources Division

U.S. Department of Justice

Counsel for the United States

The United States respectfully submits its March 2020 status report to the Special Master pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Case Management Plan dated September 6, 2018 (“CMP”).

I. The United States’ Production of Documents

Pursuant to the CMP and Rule 26(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the State of Texas, the State of New Mexico, the State of Colorado and the United States uploaded their respective initial document productions to the Veritext Vault document storage system through mutually agreed-upon means. As described in prior Status Reports, the United States uploads its documents to the Box.com file-sharing site, and Veritext transfers the documents to the Veritext Vaults. The United States has currently produced 87,112 documents, comprising of 546,469 pages. These documents were produced from the files of federal agencies including the Bureau of Reclamation (“Reclamation”), the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (“IBWC”), the State Department, the Bureau of Prisons, and the United States Army. The United States continues to review potentially discoverable documents and will supplement its production of documents as responsive documents are identified and become available for production.

II. Production of Electronically Stored Information (“ESI”)

The United States participated in the negotiation of the Stipulation for the production of ESI entered into by the parties and filed with the Special Master on November 14, 2018. The parties then engaged in the negotiation of search protocol, terms and custodians for their sweep of computer, email and electronic systems for ESI. An agreement on search criteria was reached on July 19, allowing the parties to begin the ESI search. The United States subsequently commenced its search for ESI information in numerous Department of Interior electronic databases. Preliminary results have revealed certain errors in the search term selections (misspellings, words with overbroad results) that have been addressed in further discussions with the parties. The search terms have been modified, and searches

are currently being re-run as needed. The completion of the ESI search is expected to take a few weeks.

The United States is in the process of gathering and reviewing documents from all relevant agencies. Over 300,000 files were collected from Reclamation as a result of Reclamation's ESI search, and are being reviewed. The United States made its initial ESI production on October 18, 2019 and produced 12,221 documents, comprising of 44,065 pages. Since October 18, the United States had several discovery calls with the parties, and anticipates future supplements the ESI searches for BOR and IBWC continue. On February 21, 2020, the United States submitted to parties its Second Supplemental ESI Production. The United States will continue rolling production of its ESI through March.

III. Index of Documents

The Parties continue to discuss the creation of an index system for documents produced in this case, as provided in Section 7.2.2 of the CMP. The United States anticipates that the system will also address the handling of ESI.

IV. Further Discovery

Fact discovery commenced in this case on September 1, 2018. Depositions of fact witnesses have commenced. Written discovery has been propounded on New Mexico by Texas, on Amici by New Mexico, on Texas by New Mexico, on El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1 by New Mexico, and on New Mexico by the United States. The United States has received New Mexico's responses to the United States' written discovery, and on September 5, 2019 received New Mexico's discovery requests on the United States. The United States participated in discovery calls among the parties on July 8, July 10, July 12, August 9, September 5, September 18, and November 21. The United States served objections to New Mexico's interrogatories and requests for production of documents on October 19, 2019. The United States served responses to New Mexico's Requests for Admission on November 4, 2019, responses to New Mexico's Interrogatories on November 19, 2019, and responses to New Mexico's Requests for Production of Documents on December 4, 2019.

The United States is preparing a supplement to its responses to New Mexico's Interrogatories. The United States is also reviewing expert reports served by New Mexico. On February 28, 2020, the United States received New Mexico's Second Request for Production of Documents.

Pursuant to Section 6.2.2 of the September 6, 2018 Case Management Plan, the United States served its initial expert witness reports and expert designations and disclosures on the parties on May 31, 2019. On September 16, the United States served supplemental expert witness reports and disclosures. The expert reports, and supporting materials, were served on the other parties via Veritext. The United States served rebuttal expert designations on the parties on December 30, 2019.

Depositions of expert witnesses are ongoing. The parties have scheduled additional depositions of expert witnesses in March and April 2020.

V. Motions on Pleadings and Motions for Partial Judgment

Under the amended case management plan, the United States filed a motion for judgment on the pleadings against New Mexico's counterclaims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 on December 21, 2018. On December 26, 2018, Texas filed (1) a request for a judicial declaration to confirm the legal issues previously decided and motion in limine to exclude the introduction of evidence thereon, and (2) a motion to strike or for partial judgment regarding New Mexico's counterclaims and affirmative defenses, under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(c) and 56. On December 26, 2018, New Mexico filed a motion for partial judgment on matters previously decided and brief in support. The Special Master held an in-person oral argument on these motions on April 2, 2019, in Denver.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of March, 2020.

NOEL J. FRANCISCO
Solicitor General
JEAN E. WILLIAMS
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

FREDERICK LIU
Assistant to the Solicitor General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

JUDITH E. COLEMAN
JOHN P. TUSTIN
Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment & Natural Resources Division
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20004

/s/ James J. DuBois
JAMES J. DuBOIS
R. LEE LEININGER
DAVID W. GEHLERT
THOMAS K. SNODGRASS
Trial Attorneys
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment & Natural Resources Division
999 18th Street, South Terrace – Suite 370
Denver, CO 80202
STEPHEN M. MACFARLANE
Senior Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment & Natural Resources Division
501 I Street, Suite 9-700
Sacramento, CA 95814

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the 6th day of March 2020, the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S MARCH 2020 STATUS REPORT** was served via electronic mail and/or U.S. mail as indicated, upon the individuals listed on the Service List, attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Seth C. Allison _____
Seth C. Allison
Paralegal Specialist

SPECIAL MASTER

SPECIAL MASTER MICHAEL J. MELLOY [Judge Michael Melloy@ca8.uscourts.gov](mailto:Judge_Michael_Melloy@ca8.uscourts.gov)
United States Court of Appeals TXvNM141@ca8.uscourts.gov
for the Eighth Circuit (319) 423-6080
111 Seventh Avenue, S.E., Box 22 **(service via email and U.S. Mail)**
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2101

MICHAEL GANS (314) 244-2400
Clerk of Court
United States Court of Appeals
for the Eighth Circuit
Thomas F. Eagleton
United States Courthouse
110 South 10th Street, Suite 24.329
St. Louis, MO 63102

UNITED STATES

NOEL J. FRANCISCO* supremectbriefs@usdoj.gov
Solicitor General (202) 514-2217

JEAN E. WILLIAMS
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

FREDERICK LIU
Assistant to the Solicitor General
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

JAMES J. DUBOIS* james.dubois@usdoj.gov
R. LEE LEININGER (303) 844-1375
THOMAS K. SNODGRASS lee.leininger@usdoj.gov
DAVID W. GEHLERT (303) 844-1364
U.S. Department of Justice thomas.snodgrass@usdoj.gov
Environment & Natural Resources Division (303) 844-7233
999 18th Street david.gehlert@usdoj.gov
South Terrace – Suite 370 (303) 844-1386
Denver, CO 80202

Seth Allison, Paralegal seth.allison@usdoj.gov
(303) 844-7917
STEPHEN M. MACFARLANE stephen.macfarlane@usdoj.gov
U.S. Department of Justice (916) 930-2204
Environment & Natural Resources Division
501 I Street, Suite 9-700
Sacramento, CA 95814

JUDITH E. COLEMAN judith.coleman@usdoj.gov
JOHN P. TUSTIN (202) 514-3553
U.S. Department of Justice john.tustin@usdoj.gov
Environment & Natural Resources Division (202) 305-3022
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

STATE OF COLORADO

CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN

Attorney General of Colorado

cynthia.coffman@coag.gov

CHAD M. WALLACE*

Senior Assistant Attorney

chad.wallace@coag.gov

Department of Law

(720) 508-6281

1300 Broadway

Denver, CO 80203

Nan B. Edwards, Paralegal

nan.edwards@coag.gov

PHILIP J. WEISER

Attorney General of Colorado

pjweiser@coag.gov

ERIC R. OLSON

Solicitor General

eric.olson@coag.gov

KAREN M. KWON

First Assistant Attorney General

karen.kwon@coag.gov

(720) 508-6281

Department of Law

1300 Broadway

Denver, CO 80203

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

HECTOR BALDERAS

New Mexico Attorney General

hbalder@nmag.gov

(505) 490-4060

TANIA MAESTAS

Deputy Attorney General

tmaestas@nmag.gov

PATRICIA SALAZAR- Assistant

(505) 490-4048

psalazar@nmag.gov

MARCUS J. RAEL, JR.*

DAVID A. ROMAN

Special Assistant Attorneys

General ROBLES, RAEL, AND

ANAYA

500 Marquette Ave. NW, Ste. 700

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Chelsea Sandoval, Paralegal

(505) 239-4671

marcus@roblesrael.com

droman@roblesrael.com

(505) 242-2228

chelsea@roblesrael.com

BENNETT W. RALEY

LISA M. THOMPSON

MICHAEL A. KOPP

Special Assistant Attorneys

General

TROUT RALEY

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1600

Denver, CO 80203

braley@troutlaw.com

lthompson@troutlaw.com

mkopp@troutlaw.com

(303) 861-1963

STUART SOMACH*
ANDREW M. HITCHINGS
ROBERT B. HOFFMAN
FRANCIS M. "MAC" GOLDSBERRY II
THERESA C. BARFIELD
SARAH A. KLAHN
BRITTANY K. JOHNSON
RICHARD S. DEITCHMAN SOMACH
SIMMONS & DUNN, PC
500 Capital Mall, Suite 1000 Sacramento,
CA 95814

ssomach@somachlaw.com
(916) 446-7979
(916) 803-4561 (cell)
ahitchings@somachlaw.com
rhoffman@somachlaw.com
mgoldsberry@somachlaw.com
tbarfield@somachlaw.com
sklahn@somachlaw.com
bjohnson@somachlaw.com
rdeitchman@somachlaw.com

Corene Rodder, Secretary
Christina Garro, Paralegal Yolanda
De La Cruz, Secretary
Crystal Rivera , Secretary

crodder@somachlaw.com
cgarro@somachlaw.com
ydelacruz@somachlaw.com
crivara@somachlaw.com

KEN PAXTON

Attorney General

JEFFREY C. MATEER

First Assistant Attorney General

DARREN L. MCCARTY

Deputy First Assistant Attorney General
for Civil Litigation

PRISCILLA M. HUBENAK

Chief, Environmental Protection
Division

Office of the Attorney General of Texas
P.O. Box 12584
Austin, TX 78711-2548

(512) 463-2012

priscilla.hubenak@oag.texas.gov

AMICI / FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

JAMES C. BROCKMANN*
JAY F. STEIN
STEIN & BROCKMANN, P.A.
505 Don Gaspar Avenue
P.O. Box 2067
Santa Fe, NM 87505

jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com
jfstein@newmexicowaterlaw.com
administrator@newmexicowaterlaw.com
(505) 983-3880

PETER AUH
ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY
WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 568
Albuquerque, NM 87103-0568

pauh@abcwua.org
(505) 289-3092

CITY OF EL PASO

DOUGLAS G. CAROOM*
SUSAN M. MAXWELL
BICKERSTAFF HEATH
DELGADO ACOSTA, LLP
2711 S. MoPac Expressway
Building One, Suite 300
Austin, TX 78746

dcaroom@bickerstaff.com
smaxwell@bickerstaff.com
(512) 472-8021

CITY OF LAS CRUCES

JAY F. STEIN*
JAMES C. BROCKMANN
STEIN & BROCKMANN, P.A.
P.O. Box 2067
Santa Fe, NM 87504

jfstein@newmexicowaterlaw.com
jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com
administrator@newmexicowaterlaw.com
(505) 983-3880

JENNIFER VEGA-BROWN
MARCIA B. DRIGGERS
LAW CRUCES CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
P.O. Box 12428
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

cityattorney@las-cruces.org
jvega-brown@las-cruces.org
marcyd@las-cruces.org
(575) 541-2128

ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SAMANTHA R. BARNCastle
BARNCastle LAW FIRM, LLC
1100 South Main, Suite 20
P.O. Box 1556
Las Cruces, NM 88005
Janet Correll, Paralegal

samantha@h2o-legal.com
(575) 636-2377
(575) 636-2688 (fax)

janet@h2o-legal.com

EL PASO COUNTY WATER AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

MARIA O'BRIEN*
SARAH M. STEVENSON
MODRALL, SPERLING, TOEHL,
HARRIS & SISK, PA
500 Fourth Street N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-2168
Shannon Gifford, Legal Secretary
Leanne Martony, Legal Secretary

mobrien@modrall.com
sarah.stevenson@modrall.com
(505) 848-1800 (main)
(505) 848-1803 (direct)
(505) 848-9710 (fax)
shannong@modrall.com
leannem@modrall.com

RENEA HICKS
c/o El Paso County Water Improvement
District No. 1 13247 Alameda Ave.
Clint, TX 79836-0749

rhicks@renea-hicks.com

HUDSPETH COUNTY CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICT

ANDREW S. "DREW" MILLER*
919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1305
Austin, TX 78701

dmiller@kempsmith.com
(512) 320-5466

STATE OF KANSAS

TOBY CROUSE*
Solicitor General of Kansas
DEREK SCHMIDT
Attorney General, State of Kansas
JEFFREY A. CHANAY
Chief Deputy Attorney General
BRYAN C. CLARK
Assistant Solicitor General
DWIGHT R. CARSWELL
Assistant Attorney General
120 S. W. 10th Ave., 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612

toby.crouse@ag.ks.gov
bryan.clark@ag.ks.gov
(785) 296-2215

NEW MEXICO PECAN GROWERS

TESSA T. DAVIDSON
DAVIDSON LAW FIRM, LLC
4206 Corrales Road
P.O. Box 2240
Corrales, NM 87048
Jo Harden, Paralegal

ttd@tessadavidson.com
(505) 792-3636
jo@tessadavidson.com

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

JOHN W. UTTON*
UTTON & KERY
317 Commercial NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

john@uttkery.com

GENERAL COUNSEL
New Mexico State University
Hadley Hall Room
132 2850 Weddell Road
Las Cruces, NM 88003

gencounsel@nmsu.edu