No. 141 Original

In The SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

STATE OF TEXAS

٧.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO and STATE OF COLORADO

TRANSCRIPT OF AUGUST 20, 2015 ORAL ARGUMENT BEFORE A. GREGORY GRIMSAL, ESQ. SPECIAL MASTER

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography using computer-aided transcription software.

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#### **PROCEEDINGS**

# (August 20, 2015)

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning. Please be seated.

This morning we are hearing oral argument in a motion to intervene filed by Elephant Butte Irrigation District in Original No. 141 of the docket of the United States Supreme Court. I would like to start with a few housekeeping matters.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude to Judge Jay Zainey of this Court and the staff of the Eastern District of Louisiana, who have been extremely helpful and supportive of our work. I would like the record to reflect my gratitude to all of them.

I ask that you turn off all cell phones, iPads, similar electronic devices. No cameras. Please turn off such devices and put them away. If you are seen to be using any such device, our security officer will escort you out of the courtroom. I hope I make myself clear on that point.

The only exception to that rule, of course, is for counsel who are actually presenting argument. As to counsel, they, of course, can use such devices in connection with the presentation of their argument.

If anyone needs a break for any reason, please let me know, and such leave will be liberally granted.

The order of argument and the times that each

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party will have for argument was set forth in a case management order. Ms. Grabill will be keeping time today. She will give you a five-minute warning before your time runs out, although I will exercise some flexibility as to when you are actually cut off.

My approach to the argument this morning is I know that you all have arguments to make, information to impart, a story to tell. I'm very interested in hearing what you have to say and giving you an opportunity to say it, so I am going to try to exercise some discipline and self-restraint and keep my questions till the end of your argument. Again, I emphasize I will try to do that.

If there's any need for a status conference after we conclude the oral argument today, I can stay and do that. Just let me know.

At this point I would like counsel to make their appearances for the record. I know several of the parties have several lawyers here. Please do make your appearances, but when you do, please identify yourself, if you are the person who is actually going to be presenting oral argument, for the benefit of Ms. Tusa so she knows who you are.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Good morning, Your Honor. Steven L. Hernandez for proposed intervenor Elephant Butte Irrigation District. Sitting with me at counsel table is my associate Dr. Lisa Henne, Lee Peters, and Roderick Walston. At counsel

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table is our declarant, Mr. Gary Esslinger. His daughter, Tiffany Dudley, is in the audience today, seated next to Mr. Salopek, our chairman of the board. One of our farmers, Mr. Robert Fabian, is also here.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning.

MR. HERNANDEZ: I will be doing rebuttal today, Your Honor. I will let Mr. Walston lead off this morning and then I will do the rebuttal. 30 minutes and 15, I believe, is what the Court has allowed us.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: That's correct.

MR. SOMACH: Stuart Somach, Your Honor, for the State of Texas. With me are Andrew Hitchings, Francis Goldsberry, and Robert Hoffman. I will be doing the argument for the State of Texas this morning.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Somach.

MS. BOND: Good morning, Your Honor. Sarah Bond for the State of New Mexico. With me at counsel table are Jeff Wechsler and Lisa Thompson. We have the same attendees as we did yesterday, so I will save the time by not repeating that. Thank you.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you.

MR. WALLACE: Good morning, Your Honor. Chad Wallace arguing for the State of Colorado today.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Wallace.

MR. DUBOIS: Good morning, Your Honor. James DuBois

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for the United States. I'll be arguing. With me at counsel table are Mr. Macfarlane and Mr. Leininger.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. WALSTON: Good morning, Your Honor.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning.

MR. WALSTON: I'm Roderick Walston. I represent Elephant Butte Irrigation District, the intervenor in this case.

This morning what I would like to do is make four arguments to the Court. First, I would like to describe the standard for intervention that has been established by the Supreme Court. Secondly, I would then like to argue that Elephant Butte meets the standard for intervention because, first, it has a compelling interest in this case apart from its membership in a class of similarly situated entities in New Mexico and, secondly, its interest is not represented by any of the parties in this litigation. Then finally, I would like to argue that Elephant Butte should be allowed to intervene even though it did not file a complaint or answer in intervention.

So let me start with the first argument, the standard for intervention. The Supreme Court has spelled out the standard for intervention in *South Carolina v.*North Carolina and also the 1953 case of New Jersey v.

New York. The standard is that the intervenor, that is to say

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Elephant Butte, has the "burden of showing some compelling interest in its own right, apart from its interest in a class with all other citizens and creatures of the state, which interest is not properly represented by the state."

So Elephant Butte candidly acknowledges that it has a burden in this case and that its burden is to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Special Master and the Supreme Court, that it has a compelling interest that is not represented by any state in this litigation.

The opposing parties in this case have all argued that an intervenor who is a creature of the state cannot intervene in an action in which the home state is a party, because they say the home state represents all of its citizens parens patriae. In addition, to allow intervention would be to allow the intervenor to impeach the judgment of its home state.

The opposing party's argument, in our view, is quite inconsistent with the Supreme Court's most recent pronunciation of the standard of intervention in South Carolina, because the Court in that case adopted a flexible fact-specific standard for determining whether an intervenor has the right to intervene and rejected the argument that there is a categorical preclusion by creatures of a state from intervening in original actions.

In South Carolina the Supreme Court cited several cases in which nonstate entities had been allowed to 09:38 1 2 09:38 3 09:38 4 09:38 5 09:38 6 09:38 7 09:38 8 09:38 9 09:38 10 09:38 11 09:38 12 09:38 13 09:38 14 09:38 15 09:38 16 09:39 17 09:39 18 09:39 19 09:39 20 09:39 21 09:39 22 09:39 23 09:39

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intervene in original actions before the Supreme Court, including some entities that were actually created by one of the states that was in the litigation. Indeed, in South Carolina itself, the Supreme Court allowed an entity to intervene, the Catawba River Water Supply Project, even though that water project was a creature of the state. It was a municipality of both states. Nonetheless, the Supreme Court allowed intervention.

It's equally significant that the Supreme Court in South Carolina denied intervention by the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, not because Charlotte was a creature of North Carolina, but because the magnitude of Charlotte's interests did not separate it from other similarly situated water users in North Carolina.

In the case of *Texas v. Louisiana*, decided in 1976, the Supreme Court granted intervention by the City of Port Arthur, Texas, even though Texas was one of the parties in the litigation before the Supreme Court.

In *Arizona v. California*, decided in 1983, the Supreme Court granted intervention by various Indian tribes even though the tribes' interests were already represented in that litigation by the United States, which had intervened in the case.

The Supreme Court then, looking at all these cases, and in particular citing *Arizona v. California* and the

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Texas v. Louisiana case, made the following statement, which appears on page 268 of the Court's decision. The Court said that the Court in that case had "found compelling interests that warranted allowing nonstate entities to intervene in original actions in which the intervenors were nominally represented by sovereign entities."

To me, the statement by the Supreme Court establishes very clearly a fact-specific standard rather than a categorical standard for determining intervention, and it supports Elephant Butte's right to intervene because Elephant Butte is nominally represented by the State of New Mexico but, for reasons I will mention later, New Mexico does not properly represent Elephant Butte's interests.

Texas has argued in this case that a nonstate intervenor should not be granted intervention in a dispute over interstate waters, but the Supreme Court in *South Carolina* and other cases has adopted and applied the same standard of intervention in interstate water disputes that it has applied in other types of disputes as well.

According to Texas, Elephant Butte should not be allowed to intervene because it is not a bistate interest like the parties that were allowed to intervene in South Carolina. But, in fact, as I will explain later, Elephant Butte does actually represent bistate interests, because Elephant Butte actually monitors the water of the Rio Grande Project as it

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flows down the river, in order to make sure that the water is available not only for use in New Mexico but also for use in Texas and Mexico. And in addition to that, Elephant Butte actually physically delivers a portion of the Rio Grande Project water to users in Texas itself.

Now let me go to the second argument, that Elephant Butte has a compelling interest in this case in its own right, apart from its interest in a class with other citizens and creatures of New Mexico. We believe that Elephant Butte has a compelling interest for two reasons. First, Elephant Butte is responsible for administering the Rio Grande Project in New Mexico. Second, Elephant Butte is a signatory to the contract, the 1938 contract that apportioned Rio Grande Project water between Texas and New Mexico and that all the interested parties have followed ever since the contract was executed.

So the first point: Elephant Butte administers the Rio Grande Project in New Mexico. Elephant Butte, of course, was created under the laws of New Mexico for the purpose of cooperating with the United States in developing water supplies for the Rio Grande Project under the federal reclamation laws. So Elephant Butte is kind of a hybrid entity in the sense that it was created under New Mexico law but is created for the purpose of assisting and facilitating the development of a federal reclamation project authorized by

Congress under the federal reclamation laws.

In addition to that, and perhaps far more important, the United States has transferred the project facilities from itself to Elephant Butte after Elephant Butte repaid the costs of the project.

The United States, first of all, in 1980 adopted or issued the takeover contract or signed a takeover contract with Elephant Butte, as a result of which the project facilities -- the entire drainage and distribution facilities of the project have been transferred from the United States to Elephant Butte. So as a result of this, Elephant Butte actually operates the laterals and the canals that actually distribute the water to farmlands in New Mexico, and it operates the drainage facilities that then return the project return flows to the project itself.

Then in 1989 the United States signed another contract with Elephant Butte that transferred the authority to operate the three most upstream diversion dams in New Mexico to Elephant Butte. These three diversion dams are the Percha, Leasburg, and Mesilla dams. So as a result of that, now Elephant Butte operates those diversion dams that divert water out of the river for use in New Mexico and later Texas.

Then in 1992 Congress took the additional step of authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to transfer the title -- the title -- to the project facilities to

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Elephant Butte. Then in 1996 the Secretary of the Interior actually issued deeds to Elephant Butte that transferred the title to all of these project facilities to Elephant Butte.

In exercising its authority over these project facilities, Elephant Butte exercises its own independent judgment and authority. It is not beholden to the United States to do that. It is not beholden to the State of New Mexico. As a matter of fact, when the United States transferred the facilities to Elephant Butte, a number of federal employees ceased to be federal employees and became Elephant Butte employees, performing the same functions that they had previously performed as employees of the United States.

So as a result of the transfer of these project facilities from the United States to Elephant Butte, here's how the project system actually operates on a day-by-day basis.

First, Elephant Butte, in conjunction with the Texas water district El Paso County No. 1, determines when and how much water is released from the upstream reservoirs, the Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs.

Second, once the water is released, then
Elephant Butte operates the three upstream diversion dams in
New Mexico that actually divert the water out of the river for
use in New Mexico.

Third, Elephant Butte operates the laterals and

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canals that actually deliver the water to the farmlands in New Mexico.

Fourth, Elephant Butte also owns and operates the drainage facilities that return the water that's -- after it's been used, return the water back to the Rio Grande for later use downstream.

Fifth, Elephant Butte monitors the project water as it flows downstream to make sure that enough water is available for use later in Texas and also for later use in Mexico, pursuant to the United States' treaty obligation with Mexico.

Sixth, Elephant Butte operates the third upstream diversion dam, the Mesilla dam, not only to put water into farmlands into New Mexico, but also to make water available for use in Texas as well.

Then seventh and finally, as I mentioned earlier, Elephant Butte actually physically delivers a portion of Rio Grande Project water to users in Texas who cannot be reached or serviced by El Paso County No. 1's own facilities. As a matter of fact, the way Elephant Butte does that is it takes its vehicles, drives them across the state line into Texas so they can operate the turn-outs -- turn the valves, in effect -- to allow water to then be used by the Texas users.

So basically, as you can see, Elephant Butte has bistate interests in this case. And, of course, that is

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significant because the Supreme Court in South Carolina held that those two entities, Duke Energy and the Catawba River Water Supply Project, should be allowed to intervene because they had bistate interests.

Since Elephant Butte administers the project in New Mexico and distributes the water to users in both New Mexico and Texas, Elephant Butte is not a simple water user similarly situated to other water users, contrary to the arguments of all three opposing parties. For the same reason, because Elephant Butte administers the Rio Grande Project in New Mexico, Elephant Butte -- there is no class in New Mexico to which any other entity like Elephant Butte belongs. It performs a unique role and function in administering the project and serving project needs in Nobody else in New Mexico does that or is New Mexico. responsible for doing that.

The second reason that Elephant Butte has a compelling interest, in our view, is that Elephant Butte is a signatory to the 1938 contract that has historically apportioned Rio Grande Project water between New Mexico and In the 1938 contract, the United States and two water Texas. districts, Elephant Butte and the one in Texas, agreed that water would be apportioned between Texas and New Mexico in relation to the proportion of project lands located in both Since 57 percent of project lands are located in states.

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New Mexico and 43 percent are located in Texas, the distribution of project water between users in Texas and New Mexico follows that same percentage.

Historically -- and this cannot be overemphasized, in our view, Your Honor. Historically the United States, the water districts, and all the water users have followed the apportionment of water that was established in the 1938 contract to which Elephant Butte was a signatory.

In 2008 the United States and the two water districts signed an operating agreement, of course, that essentially modified the 1938 contract. Now, the operating agreement did not change that 57/43 percent distribution of water between the two states, but it did allow the water districts to carry over storage from one year to the next rather than requiring them to use their entire storage allocation in one year. It also changed the basis for groundwater pumping in New Mexico from 1938, the year the contract was signed, to the drought years of 1951 through 1978. In this respect the operating agreement provided benefits to both sides, but it did modify the 1938 contract.

And, of course, New Mexico strongly disagrees that the operating agreement provides a valid allocation of water between the two states and has actually brought an action in federal district court in New Mexico challenging the validity of the agreement. Elephant Butte, on the other hand,

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which signed the contract, believes the contract provides a fair and equitable distribution of the water of the Rio Grande based on current conditions.

The third argument: Elephant Butte's interests are not represented by any party. First, Elephant Butte's interests are not represented by New Mexico. Elephant Butte, as I have said, has major responsibilities in administering the Rio Grande Project in New Mexico. It distributes the water to users in New Mexico, provides for project return flows, ensures water deliveries to Texas and Mexico, and actually physically delivers a portion of project water to users in Texas.

New Mexico itself does not have any of these statutory responsibilities, has no authority or responsibility whatsoever for doing any of the functions that I just described. In fact, in its motion to dismiss, New Mexico disclaims any authority or responsibility whatsoever for Rio Grande Project water once New Mexico has delivered the water to the project.

Once it's delivered to the project, New Mexico says it has no authority or responsibility for whatever happens next as the water flows down the river towards Texas. Elephant Butte that exercises all of those functions, administers the entire project system as the water flows between those two points. And, of course, yesterday the New Mexico attorney repeated that same argument. They disclaim 09:52 1 2 09:52 3 09:52

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any authority or responsibility for the project functions or what happens to the water once they actually deliver the water to the project at Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Also, it bears mentioning that Elephant Butte signed the 1938 contract, along with the United States and the Texas district, that actually apportioned project water between New Mexico and Texas and that has been followed by everybody ever since that time. It was Elephant Butte that signed that The State of New Mexico was not a signatory to the contract.

So to summarize that point, it is Elephant Butte that has participated with the United States and the Texas district in apportioning the project water as it goes downstream, and the State of New Mexico itself has had no hand in that decision-making process. Therefore, New Mexico does not represent Elephant Butte's interests.

Also, Elephant Butte's interests are not represented by the United States. The United States exercises no authority or control whatsoever over Elephant Butte when it exercises all these functions that I have just described, monitoring project water, releasing water for use in New Mexico, returning the water to the river, delivering water to Texas users, and so forth.

Also, while the United States and the two water districts jointly signed the 1938 contract that apportioned the 09:54 1 2 09:54 3 09:54 4 09:54 5 09:54 6 09:54 7 09:54 8 09:54 9 09:54 10 09:55 11 09:55 12 09:55 13 09:55 14 09:55 15 09:55 16 09:55 17 09:55 18 09:55 19 09:55 20 09:55 21 09:55

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water, the United States did not control Elephant Butte's decision to sign that contract. Elephant Butte exercised its own independent judgment and authority in signing that contract. Therefore, I think it's fair to say that not only is Elephant Butte not a functionary of the United States in administering the project, as the United States has claimed, but in actuality the functionary is much more the United States than Elephant Butte.

Now, the last argument -- oh, one more point before I leave that. Elephant Butte does assert a different legal argument for this Court than all the other parties asserted, which we think further indicates that our interest is not represented by any of the parties in this litigation.

We argue that the compact itself does not apportion Rio Grande Project water or Rio Grande water itself between New Mexico and Texas. In fact, the compact makes no mention of any apportionment of water to Texas. It simply requires New Mexico to deliver water to the project, as New Mexico has pointed out, but does not require New Mexico to deliver a quantity of water to Texas at the Texas-New Mexico state line.

In our view, the apportionment is governed not by the compact but, rather, by the contracts that have been signed by the United States and the two water districts, particularly the 1938 contract that has historically

apportioned the water.

Actually, the 1938 contract was signed shortly before the compact was signed. So the compact commissioners, the people who negotiated the compact, were fully aware that that 1938 contract I mentioned had already been executed when they were negotiating and signing the contract -- the compact. I'm sorry.

In fact, the Texas compact commissioner contemporaneously stated as follows: "The question of the division of water released from Elephant Butte Reservoir is taken care of by contracts between the districts under the Rio Grande Project and the Bureau of Reclamation." That quote appears on page 33 of our opening brief.

So the compact did not apportion the water between the two states, because the contract had already done that; there was thus no need for the compact to even address the subject.

Therefore, we think Texas' cause of action is insufficient and at some point Texas should be allowed to amend its complaint to state a valid cause of action. We are not unconvinced that they can state a valid cause of action, but we believe the theory they have pled in their complaint does not This is not to say, however, that this state a valid claim. Court should necessarily grant dismissal of New Mexico's motion, because as Mr. Somach pointed out yesterday, this is a

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very complex case involving a lot of fact. And, therefore, Texas has, in our view, pled sufficient facts to allow the case to proceed forward and, therefore, not to warrant dismissal of Texas' complaint at this juncture.

The final argument: Elephant Butte should be allowed to intervene even though it didn't file a complaint or answer in intervention. Texas alone makes the argument. It argues that Elephant Butte should not be allowed to intervene because it didn't file a complaint or answer in intervention.

Supreme Court Rule 17.2 provides that the form of pleadings and motions in original actions follows the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Rule 24(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that a motion to intervene must be accompanied "by a pleading" setting forth the "claim or defense." It doesn't mention a complaint or answer, but it does say there has to be a pleading that sets forth the claim or defense.

Well, first, the Supreme Court has held that Rule 17.2 is simply a guide in original actions and, therefore, it does not establish an inflexible rule.

Secondly, Rule 24(c) itself does not strictly require that a complaint or answer in intervention be filed as part of a motion to intervene. In fact, the Ninth Circuit in two cases and the Fourth Circuit in one case, all cited in our briefs, held that an intervention motion without a pleading is

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sufficient "if the Court is otherwise apprised of the grounds for the motion."

We have fully demonstrated, I'm sure to the Court's satisfaction, what our view on these various issues is, and none of the parties opposing our intervention has claimed that they are befuddled or unclear as to what Elephant Butte is contending in this case.

Finally, even if we have somehow not complied with Rule 24(c), the remedy for noncompliance is to allow the would-be intervenor to file a complaint or answer in intervention. Therefore, if the Court feels that we have not complied with Rule 24(c), the Court should allow us to file a complaint or answer in intervention, and we will do so.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Walston. I have a couple questions for you.

Let me follow up on your remarks about the Rule 24(c) issue. As you mentioned, your client did not attach a complaint in intervention to its motion for leave to intervene. Let me ask you this question: Does your client plan to assert claims against either New Mexico or Texas; and if so, what are the nature of those claims?

MR. WALSTON: We are not planning to file any such claims.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: In your motion you state that

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Elephant Butte Irrigation District "represents New Mexico water users." What is the nature of that representation? Do you seek to intervene on behalf of those water users, or are you intervening on behalf of the entity as an irrigation district administrator for the United States?

MR. WALSTON: We are seeking to intervene as an entity and not on behalf of the individual users.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: How many Texas water users are served by Elephant Butte Irrigation District, if you know?

This is not a quiz.

MR. WALSTON: I'm glad because I would flunk this part of it. I, frankly, don't know the answer. We can obviously provide the answer to you, Your Honor.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: One last question.

Section 73-10-16 of New Mexico Statutes Annotated grants

Elephant Butte Irrigation District, its board of directors, the right to enter into any obligation or contract with the United States for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the necessary work for the delivery and distribution of water from federal reclamation projects, or the board may contract with the United States for water supply under any act of Congress providing for or permitting such contract. However, in your reply brief, at 33 you state:

"Elephant Butte Irrigation District was a party to the 1938 contract that apportioned Rio Grande water in the

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2008 operating agreement that modified the apportionment, and New Mexico is not a party to either of these agreements. Elephant Butte Irrigation District exercised its independent authority and judgment in signing the agreements, and New Mexico did not exercise any authority or control over Elephant Butte Irrigation District in its decision to sign the agreements."

I had a little trouble reconciling those two statements, so let me ask you: Does Elephant Butte Irrigation District exist or operate outside of the control of the State of New Mexico?

MR. WALSTON: Elephant Butte operates within the control of the State of New Mexico. New Mexico passed a statute some time ago, obviously, that authorized Elephant Butte to participate with the United States and cooperate with the United States in operating the project for various functions.

Certainly the New Mexico legislature would have the right, I suppose -- I may stand corrected by my co-counsel, Mr. Hernandez, but I assume the New Mexico legislature would have the right to step in and terminate Elephant Butte Irrigation District and provide that it no longer exists and then to take over those functions.

But the point is that the New Mexico legislature has not done that. In the passage you just quoted, Your Honor,

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the New Mexico legislature granted this very carte blanche authority to Elephant Butte to administer the project. So Elephant Butte does administer the project independently, but it is always subject to the ultimate control and responsibility of the legislature.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: That's all I have, Mr. Walston. Thank you very much.

Mr. Somach.

MR. SOMACH: Good morning.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning.

MR. SOMACH: Let me grab this water.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Sure. Make yourself at home.

MR. SOMACH: I have a vocal cord problem. So when it gets dry, it does this. I can talk okay. I'm just not sure you can hear me.

I want to start simply by making a statement that there's really no need to argue about whether or not EBID is important, whether we care about them, whether we love them, whether we don't love them. We do. We think that they are important. We think that the El Paso district, that's also filed a motion to intervene, is important.

But the question that's posed in intervention motions and in intervention is not one of importance. Even in a normal intervention in a district court case or a case, intervention is not one of importance. It's one that requires

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the proposed intervenors to meet certain standards, legal standards that have been employed in order to make certain that folks that want to intervene in a case really have a stake and really can contribute to the litigation or could be affected directly by the litigation.

The question that's posed in an original action are standards but at an elevated level, much greater than that that exists in a normal case. The standard is the one that was articulated by Mr. Walston. It essentially comes out of the New Jersey case. It wasn't modified at all by the South Carolina case. It is one that allows one to go through a series of inquiries, from whether or not the proposed intervenor has a compelling interest in its own right, whether that interest is different from the class that it belongs to, and whether or not the interest is not properly represented by the state.

Keep in mind that the state, as a sovereign, has a lot of control and that the whole notion of having a creature of the state, having a citizen of the state come in and contradict or take positions contrary to what the state has provided for is a very dangerous slope and it's one that the constitution doesn't allow. And it's, of course, why the Supreme Court has created a standard that is very limiting in terms of who can intervene in an original action.

The fact that no complaint or answer was filed

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by the proposed intervenor EBID is troubling. As I sit here, I cannot understand exactly what they are arguing vis-à-vis the case. I understand what they said about what they do and how they are important and all, but I actually don't understand what their position is with respect to the case. In fact, when they responded to you by saying they had no claims, I wonder, how could you ever be part of a lawsuit where you don't have a claim one way or another?

So the fact that they haven't filed any pleadings is material. It leaves those of us that are parties to the litigation at a loose end in terms of knowing exactly what it is and why it is that they are intervening, what they are asking for, what they will be doing as part of the litigation. It sounds to me more like what an amicus does, you know. "We have an interest. We have our point of view," as they have said throughout their briefs. "Don't got no claims particularly, but we want to be heard."

We don't have any problems with that. If they want to be heard, they can be heard. They can be heard as amicus. They haven't said anything, done anything here that would lead me to believe that they have anything that a party to a litigation would normally have, including some kind of claim for relief one way or another as a defendant, as a plaintiff, or as an anybody.

I also thought that Mr. Walston's last what I

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would call "admission" to you that says that the State of
New Mexico has complete control over them, the State of
New Mexico, if it wanted to, could just simply do away with
them and take over all of those functions, that's telling, I
believe, in the context of what we know about Supreme Court
jurisprudence on intervention in original actions.

I'm not going to get into whether or not the United States or New Mexico can adequately represent their interests. They are perfectly capable of doing that, and I assume that they will do that when they get up here.

what I do want to say is that under *New Jersey* and under *South Carolina*, we had some real things to look at, what the Court actually did and actually said in factual situations. We have never pled, as Mr. Walston indicated, that there was some categorical exclusion or categorical rule that is applied. We have never said that. What we have done is take a look at exactly what the Supreme Court has done in original actions dealing with water.

Until South Carolina you can find not one original action in which a nontribal interest or the United States -- you can't find any action where anyone but the United States or tribal interests, sovereigns in their own right, have been allowed to intervene. That's not a categorical -- that's just simply an observation of fact. No Supreme Court case in an original action in water cases has

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allowed anybody except for the United States and Indian tribes to intervene.

In South Carolina you had some very unique situations that don't exist here. You had a multistate district authorized in the laws of both of the states so that not one state had control over that entity who operated in both states, had interests in both states. That's not what EBID is, and I am befuddled by the notion that they say they "operate" in Texas. They have absolutely no legal recognition in the State of Texas. The fact that they may physically turn a knob or a headgate or drive their trucks across the state line doesn't give them a legal presence as an entity of the State of Texas, as did the multistate district that was dealt with in South Carolina.

Moreover, Duke, which was also allowed to intervene in the South Carolina case, was not at all like EBID. Duke operated, again, hydroelectric facilities on both sides of the state and on the state line. But the significance of Duke, which is articulated by the Court in South Carolina, was it was operating under a FERC license, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license. That means it was actually licensed and operating those facilities by federal FEA. The Federal Power Act, under which those licenses were granted, preempts state law; and it is occupation of the field preemption, not just issue preclusion preemption.

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Remember that the Court notes the fact that among the things they wanted to intervene with was to protect an agreement, a relicensing agreement that would have relicensed the facilities that were at issue before FERC and that one of the parties, North Carolina, actually was going to oppose that agreement and the relicensing of those facilities. Those are unique facts. Those are facts that, in fact, according to the Supreme Court, allowed for intervention. Those facts don't exist here. There is nothing that is parallel to those facts here.

Keep in mind also in both *New Jersey* and in *South Carolina*, proposed intervenors were denied intervention. The interests of the City of Philadelphia, the interests of the City of Charlotte were important interests. No question that they were important, but they didn't rise to the level or the dignity of something that would allow for intervention, and their intervention was denied.

You know, a fundamental proposition that I've always learned about intervenors in intervention is that you take the case as it is. That's one of the things. You come in, you take the case as it is, and you move forward. In this case EBID refuses to take the case as it is.

And I find the most egregious aspect of their pleadings paper the notion that somehow Texas got no apportionment under the compact, which was an equitable

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apportionment, by its very terms, between Colorado, New Mexico, and the State of Texas. The way EBID spins it is somehow the 1938 contract apportioned water to the two districts, one in New Mexico, one in Texas. We are irrelevant. We should actually — this is the contrary of taking the case as it is. We should take their case in that our complaint should somehow be dismissed and should be made to comport with their absurd view of exactly how all this works.

Contracts don't apportion water. Compacts apportion water. And the only apportionment of the waters of the Rio Grande is the 1938 compact's apportionment between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

And this theory that they have established underscores exactly why they should not be allowed to intervene. If allowed to intervene, they will inject into what is already a very complex and serious piece of litigation extraneous issues that have little direct relevance to the compact. The extraneous issues associated with the 1938 contract, an important issue, but not the compact. The operating agreement, which is a whole different ball of worms that is being litigated, quite frankly, in another courtroom, those things will get injected into this lawsuit. And all of a sudden Texas' compact litigation will become something that is much less, much inferior in terms of what's being looked at.

And those are among the issues one looks at as

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to whether or not to grant intervention, what impact will it have on the parties to the litigation. And in this case EBID's intervention will have a pernicious impact and it will, if nothing else, cause great damage to the ability to resolve the litigation. It will increase the time, expenses, and costs of moving through what is already a complex piece of litigation.

I think I'll stop there. I do want to say one thing, though. We have opposed not only EBID's intervention, but also the El Paso district's intervention. As we said in our papers, if for whatever reason the Special Master decides to allow EBID to intervene, then in that situation we believe EP No. 1 should also be allowed to intervene, notwithstanding the fact that we oppose both of their interventions.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you. That's all I have.

Ms. Bond.

MS. BOND: Good morning, Your Honor.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning, Ms. Bond.

MS. BOND: New Mexico is pleased to note that we actually agree with Mr. Somach on a number of issues, and we hope this is the start of additional agreements in the future, that this litigation may be ultimately more amicable than it has been to date.

First, of course, we agree on the most fundamental point of this argument today, that EBID does not meet this Court's high standard for intervention in an

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interstate compact enforcement case. It is a creature of the State of New Mexico, bound and authorized by the statutes of New Mexico. Its legal authority is highly constrained by the statutes of New Mexico as well as reclamation law in an area of law which, as Justice Rehnquist pointed out, has been marked by the continued deference to state law for over a hundred years.

It has no legal authority from the State of Texas. By law it has and cannot have any Texas board members, distinguishing it from the entities that were allowed to intervene in the *South Carolina v. North Carolina* case. Indeed, by statute of New Mexico all of its board members must be landowners within the irrigation district.

It is legally authorized to deliver water to landowners in New Mexico. As we indicated in our brief, we too are unaware of any original action for compact enforcement in which the Court has allowed an intervenor citizen of a party to intervene over the objection of that state. To quote Justice Roberts in his eloquent dissent, it has happened exactly "never."

We agree with Mr. Somach that the word apportionment is a term of art in water law, that it refers to an agreement, either by compact or judicial decree, which assigns rights to interstate streams to the various states or, rather, recognizes the rights to the various states in interstate rivers. Of course, as was noted many years ago by

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Justice Holmes, one state cannot monopolize the precious resource of a river that would flow to a downstream state. And so apportionments have been the means by which these agreements may either be settled or litigated. A contract cannot apportion water; a contract can allocate water that is within the apportionment of that state. So, of course, under Hinderlider whatever allocation EBID has would be constrained, again, by the compact rights of New Mexico.

Indeed, we agree with Mr. Somach that EBID's entire argument has actually been directed as if they were asking to be an amicus, because one of their strongest arguments has been that they have a disagreement with their state of New Mexico over the interpretation of the compact. This is exactly why this Court has said that parties should not be allowed to intervene, because while we may have disagreements over matters of policies, citizens of one state should not be allowed to intervene to impeach their states on matters of policy, and this Court should not be drawn into an intramural dispute over the distribution of water. A state must be deemed to represent all of its citizens, not just those who agree with our position before this Court.

Mr. Walston suggested that New Mexico yesterday disclaimed any responsibility for water after it is delivered to Elephant Butte. This is absolutely not the case.

New Mexico administers all water rights below Elephant Butte,

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As we discussed yesterday, New Mexico does not, quote/unquote, control the allocation between the districts under the reclamation contracts. But as in *Klamath* and in *Nebraska v. Wyoming*, under that judicial decree, New Mexico retains jurisdiction to administer the water rights once they are decreed, as required by the Reclamation Act, Section 372.

Again, the decreed water rights within Elephant Butte Irrigation District go to the farmers, under *Ickes*, not to EBID. Although I believe they have a right to deliver water to their farmers, the beneficial use water right, which is the water right recognized both by reclamation and by New Mexico law, which is consonant with reclamation law, invests in the farmers.

And indeed, those farmers in Stream System 101 in the New Mexico adjudication have signed a binding settlement determining the amounts of the water rights that they may use conjunctively. Most of them have perfected groundwater rights under state law. They use those groundwater rights in conjunction with their project water rights so that when project water, which is surface water, is scarce, they pump additional groundwater. That settlement has been entered into, and the State of New Mexico is administering that settlement to assure that those farmers do not exceed their decreed limit for

their water rights.

As they apply them, they are beneficial use water rights. So, of course, all the other prior appropriation doctrine rules would apply. They can't waste, they can't exceed historic use, which has now been set by the decree, and so forth. The state engineer has been sending out routinely letters warning if they are becoming close to their limit and so forth.

It is the state, then, not EBID, that exercises jurisdiction over their uses. EBID delivers, under reclamation law and state law, project water to farmers. Under reclamation law they have to deliver an equal amount of surface water to each acre. Their elections are constrained by state law. Their board members' qualifications are constrained by state law. Their ability to deliver water to their members are constrained by their federal contracts. There is very little discretion that EBID may exercise in the course of conducting their job.

Again, as we noted in our brief, the compact assigns no rights or responsibilities to EBID, and the apportionment is, by the terms of the congressional statute, to the states. As discussed yesterday, this Court must start with the plain language of the compact; and if the compact is clear, the interpretation task is done. Here the compact states quite clearly that it is an equitable apportionment among the states,

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and that settles the matter.

Again, this case is a compact enforcement case in which the Court's task is to interpret the parties' intent of the compact and enforce the compact which was entered into by the sovereign states, not the irrigation districts. In such a case, allowing a citizen of one state to impeach its state on matters of important state policy has not been done and should not be done for the first time here.

Again, EBID's interest is neither compelling nor unique, the only infrastructure that delivers water to their members, which distinguishes it not at all from the City of Philadelphia, which did not get in in the *South Carolina* case.

I can check my notes. I think I might be done, Your Honor, if you have any questions.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Let me know when you are done. Take your time.

MS. BOND: That means I have to know when I'm done.

Again, I would note that the cases cited in the EBID brief, none of them are apposite here. The cases either involved an equitable apportionment -- I think they cited to Illinois v. Milwaukee, which was an interstate compact nuisance case about sewage -- which, of course, now that the Clean Water Act has preempted that, that case is no longer valid authority for anything.

South Carolina was an apportionment case. The

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next case in their list, on page 4 of their brief, was a boundary dispute case. The third was an equitable apportionment. The fourth was an equitable apportionment. And as noted, *Illinois v. Milwaukee* was a water quality case which is no longer good law because of *Oklahoma v. Arkansas*.

So in summary, there's simply no legal authority for EBID to be granted intervention. The State of New Mexico would not oppose their entering into the case as -- not into the case but their participation as an amicus. We think their briefs establish their interest as an amicus because they have a different viewpoint, a different story to tell, and different specific interests. But as a legal matter, New Mexico represents all of New Mexico for purposes of -- sorry, I got too fast -- interpreting a compact that it entered into with a sovereign sister state. EBID's intervention should be denied.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Ms. Bond, I have one question for you. Is the State of New Mexico able and does it have the right to represent the interests of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District in these original proceedings?

**MS. BOND:** Yes, Your Honor. New Mexico asserts that as the party to the compact and under *Hinderlider*, of course, it binds all of its citizens, including its creatures, such as EBID, which deliver water to its citizens.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you.

Mr. Wallace.

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MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Your Honor. Chad Wallace for the State of Colorado.

Consistent with our briefs on the matter, my comments will be extremely short, really more an opportunity for you to ask questions, should you have any.

In the brief we stated that Colorado could not at this time take a position on intervention because of our lack of understanding of the nature of the case and the issues that were exactly in dispute. We had suggested in that brief, additionally, that we be allowed to brief the issue upon determination of the motion to dismiss which was argued yesterday. We stated that with the belief that the resolution of the motion to dismiss might better bring into focus what this Court was going to finally decide. Until that time we are unable to take a position on the intervention matter. simple as that.

> THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Wallace.

MR. WALLACE: Thank you.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning, Mr. DuBois.

**MR. DUBOIS:** Good morning, Your Honor. James DuBois for the United States.

Your Honor, this case is simply litigation between sovereigns to enforce and define their rights under the compact and to determine whether New Mexico has violated any of Texas' rights under the compact. Interestingly enough, of

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course, neither of the sovereigns that are involved favor intervention in this case, and the state to which EBID is a citizen specifically opposes because EBID wants to contravene them.

And as far as I know, it's utterly unique that EBID is here arguing that it has a right to intervene because it wants to impeach the State of New Mexico. In addition, EBID wants to expand the litigation well beyond its current boundaries, and it wants to address questions that do not need to be resolved in order to resolve the dispute between the states and with the United States.

Everyone is agreeing, I think, that the standard applying here today is New Jersey v. New York and South Carolina v. North Carolina, and EBID has the burden of showing that they have a compelling interest. At this point people skip over: Compelling interest in what? It's got to be in the outcome of the litigation that's currently before the Court, and in that respect they don't have a compelling interest in the outcome of this litigation.

As sort of a preliminary matter, I would also like to address an issue that's been addressed. There's been sort of a strawman constructed that the parties, the states and the United States, have said that there's a -- we have argued for a categorical exclusion of parties that are a citizen of a state sovereign. That's really not right. It's confusing, I

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think, the general rule laid down by the Court with an argument that that's somehow a categorical exclusion from intervention, and it's not.

It's true that the default position laid out by the Supreme Court in New Jersey v. New York and South Carolina v. North Carolina is that for citizens of a state, they have to show -- whose state is already a party, that they have to show a compelling interest in the outcome of the litigation that's not represented by the sovereign. There's a sound reason for that, because the first principle, I think, that the Court lays out is that in matters of sovereign interests, it's the state that must be deemed to represent all of the parties, and that prevents a state from being judicially impeached in matters of sovereign interests by its own subject. That is a necessary recognition of sovereign dignity.

Second, I think that the general rule is laid down because the Court recognizes that the Supreme Court is sort of uncomfortable in a trier of fact position, and one of the things they do not want to do is allow the litigation to expand beyond the narrow interests of the interstate dispute, and that's exactly what is being advocated here.

So it's also relevant that EBID is a citizen of New Mexico, and I think they have conceded that they operate strictly under state law. And so thus you are pretty clearly within the general rule laid out by the Supreme Court in

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New Jersey v. New York. Their sovereign is here. They don't need to be a party. They shouldn't be a party.

In addition, EBID fails to show a compelling interest or that its interests are not represented by the There is no compelling interest in the outcome of sovereian. this litigation as it's been pleaded. EBID does not have a compelling interest in the subject matter of the case, which is what water ultimately should be coming or should be apportioned to, effectively, Texas and New Mexico below Elephant Butte Reservoir through the Rio Grande Project, which is ultimately a question of: So, at the end of the day, what water supply is available to the Rio Grande Project?

Once that is established, their role in administration has some meaning, but it's not central to the actual question, because the central question is how much water is available to the project. Their interest only comes in after that, and their interest is only in saying: Okay, now that we know what the pot looks like, how is it managed? And that is not what's in front of the Court at all.

So there's no compelling interest in the outcome of the litigation, which is going to be to determine the supply that ultimately is available and in which EBID has a role in distributing water in conjunction with El Paso No. 1 and the United States, which actually makes the releases of water from the reservoir and makes the determination of annually what

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supply is available to the districts. After that, then there is a role, but it's well down the road from what the issues are in the case.

So the other thing that is different than the cases in which intervention has been allowed is that, unlike all of the other cases cited by EBID that have been discussed, there's no compelling property interest of any sort that EBID has in the ultimate litigation in this case. They have conceded they have no ownership interest in the project water rights. They just manage what they get.

Unlike Port Arthur, Texas, to which Mr. Walston referred to, Port Arthur had a claim to an ownership interest in a piece of land on the border that was subject to the fight and in which the United States also claimed a property interest. So in that case, yes, you had a nonstate entity in because they had a direct property interest at issue in the case.

The same thing with the tribes in *Arizona v.*California. They had a direct property -- not only that, a direct sovereign property interest. In the Catawba water conservancy district -- the Catawba district. I can't remember what it was called. It was a bistate entity that had diversionary rights in each state, paid taxes in each state, served customers in each state with water they diverted as a permittee in each state.

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Duke Energy, as Mr. Somach said, they were operating under a FERC license and had permits as well, both state and federal permits in both states. They are the water They had a direct property interest involved. isn't here.

Finally, it should also be noted that EBID is not sort of directly in the line of the conflict in this case. Texas has made no claim against EBID. Texas has made no claim that the project is being misdiverted or the project operation, diversions by the project, is a violation of the compact. is not what they are talking about. They have alleged nonproject diversions and nonproject pumping as the culprit that is allegedly injuring them, but there's no allegation here that the project has been mismanaged and that the project is causing them an injury.

Finally, the interests of EBID are represented by the current parties. To the extent that EBID has an interest in correctly having the amount of water available to the project that then goes to their distribution or their role in the distribution, that interest is being represented by the United States, which is here representing the interests of the project in reacquiring the appropriate amount of project water supply. And it's also represented in some measure by Texas, which has an interest in optimizing the project water supply, if you will. So that interest is fully protected, and it's

very separate from the management of that volume of water, whatever that is, which EBID is involved in.

To the extent that EBID asserts any interest in groundwater pumping on behalf of the members of EBID, again, they don't have -- EBID does not have a separate interest. to the extent that that is the interest that they are trying to defend, again, the State of New Mexico is here. So there's no independent interest. Instead, EBID seeks to hijack this case and make it about contracts to which neither state is a party, and that's simply inappropriate.

I think that both of the states have sufficiently distinguished South Carolina v. North Carolina. That was a very different kind of case. I think Ms. Bond said there's no cases in which -- compact enforcement cases -- a citizen of a state has been allowed to intervene, much less intervene to contradict their sovereign on the policy issues. And as I have noted in respect to the parties that were allowed to intervene in South Carolina v. North Carolina, both of them had essentially property interests, water right interests in each state.

And as a final matter, I note that one huge distinguishing factor against South Carolina v. North Carolina is, although those entities had water resource interests in each state, neither of them made any claim that they were -there was nothing apparent, there was no obvious effort to

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contradict their sovereign, either sovereign. They had an interest in water, but they were not there to contradict the sovereign on policy matters. Here we have the opposite. We have a party that says we get in because we want to do that, and that is very unique and very different from *South Carolina* v. North Carolina.

Anyway, for all of those reasons, I think that EBID has not shown the sort of compelling interest that's necessary to establish intervention in a case of this sort, and their motion for intervention should be denied.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. DuBois. I don't have any questions for you.

MR. DUBOIS: Thank you.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Hernandez.

MR. HERNANDEZ: May it please the Court. Your Honor, Steven Hernandez for Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

Well, I appreciate the bones, Your Honor, that we can come in as amicus, but we think we have a lot more interest than an amicus could share with this Court.

Your Honor, you will recognize this diagram as being attached to our declarant manager, Mr. Esslinger. In your opening remarks you talked about listening to a story we had to tell. Mr. Esslinger's affidavit was exactly that. It was a story of a family that goes back in our valley till 1912, and then personally Mr. Esslinger going through all of these

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contractual changes in the project that amounts to what we believe is an interest that allows us to intervene in this case.

Let me address some of the points made by the United States and some of the others about expanding the litigation. I couldn't count how many times the 1938 contract came up yesterday or came up today. It's key to this issue, and we are one of the signatures to that 1938 contract.

Everybody agrees that we don't know how the water was apportioned between Texas and New Mexico. We have thrown something at you and said, "Well, we think the contract did it." It was a little mini compact that adjudicated the water between the only entities that received water out of the project, the beneficiaries in Texas, the El Paso County Water Improvement District and Elephant Butte Irrigation District. Mexico's water is set aside. That's the United States' obligation to oversee.

Back in 1905 our predecessors in interest, the Elephant Butte Waters Users Association, formed up. If the State of New Mexico wants to take us out, even though we have been in existence till 1905, that, of course, is their prerogative. There would be a lot of damages to pay because we now own the system. As we have illustrated in our brief, Congress has granted to us title to all the drainage and distribution system, which is essential to the operation of the

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So it would be very interesting if the state were to all of a sudden decide, "We're going to take you out, and we're going to run things." It would be interesting how they are going to pay us for all of the land that we now have. certainly have a property interest.

How much water is available to the project, and how will it be delivered to Texas? The United States mentioned That's where we think we are the key, Your Honor.

I know that the diagram is extremely complex because we tried to tie in the contracts and how things work, but there is something glaring that I want to point out to you, If you look at the black line that we have to the left that says "Compact Texas," New Mexico hates to see this term up there. They always hate to see this term.

You know, we have these annual compact meetings. Up until the litigation, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, at these compact meetings, was introduced by both New Mexico and Texas, because they both claimed to represent us at the time. So we would be introduced twice. We would stand up twice at these meetings. Since the litigation, nobody wants to introduce us because they are not sure whose side we are on anymore.

But what I point out to the Court is that water is delivered to Elephant Butte Reservoir. What is below that state red dotted line is "Compact Texas." That is "Compact

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Texas." Elephant Butte Irrigation District, as a political subdivision in New Mexico, is in "Compact Texas." We have no say -- the Texas compact commissioner, as recited today, is responsible to make sure in Texas -- through the AG is responsible to get water to Elephant Butte Reservoir. We have no say in that representation being in New Mexico. We do not elect the governor of Texas. We do not help appoint our compact commissioner that is supposed to represent our interests.

New Mexico is trying to keep as much water above that state line as they absolutely can for use in New Mexico. So how in the world New Mexico can sit here and say that they represent our interests when we are really represented by the Texas compact commissioner, Texas attorney general, where we have no say in that representation -- assume that the compact commissioner will do the right thing for us as well as the Texas district -- and New Mexico, on the other hand, is trying to make sure that they deliver the minimal amount of water that they have to to meet compact requirements, I do not see how New Mexico can say with a straight face that they represent us.

We are unique in any compact that we have ever seen. We, in effect, Your Honor, have been disfranchised by our own state and sit at the mercy of hoping that everybody does the right thing so we get our water supply.

It was brought up by the United States that we

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have no property interest. The United States should know better than that. We have had an adjudication of the Carlsbad reclamation project. In that litigation the United States and the state have agreed the districts and the United States have a diversion and storage interest in project supply. As the Court found in that case, reclamation projects aren't a simple matter of, oh, the beneficial user or the farmer is the only person who has a property interest in this water right.

Commission projects are unique because it is, as that judge described, a bundle of sticks. There's a storage right. There's a diversion right. There's the farmer who puts it to beneficial use. There are multiple property interests in a right emanating from a reclamation project. We have precedent in New Mexico that gives that property right to an irrigation district.

We are in the middle of adjudicating that interest of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District in our stream adjudication today. We expect to get a diversion right. How else could we divert water from those three diversion dams to our individuals without the state recognizing that we have the right to do that? That is a property interest in the project supply which we deliver in New Mexico. So we have a property interest.

We represent the interests of our members in surface water. Don't be confused by the State of New Mexico

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coming in here trying to say, "Oh, but we have jurisdiction over groundwater." Our district is not a groundwater district; we are a surface water district. Our members do have groundwater rights that they use in conjunction with surface water. That is a separate issue dealing with a separate property right that our individuals use.

Our allocations are our allocations. We deliver what we have available only limited by the compact. We make that determination of how much the individual farmer gets as a member of the district.

The State of New Mexico cannot come in there and represent that interest, because they have a contrary interest. They represent upstream New Mexico, not downstream New Mexico. And Texas isn't going to come into the adjudication and say, "Oh, we are going to help you with your issues in New Mexico in terms of keeping project supply whole."

We operate in Texas, Your Honor, pursuant to statutory authority both in New Mexico and Texas. The way that came about, Your Honor, is when we took over the operations, maintenance, and started to assume more responsibility in shepherding the water through to make sure Texas and Mexico got that water, we took the next step. We went to Congress and my board, made up of the Greatest Generation, two fighter pilots, somebody who escaped from a concentration camp in Germany, these were my board members when I started on Cinco de Mayo in

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1980. I'll never forget that day when I first went to work for the district. These men were men of their words, where a handshake was a contract.

"We paid the United States off. What happens now?"

"I don't know. This has never happened before in history. What are we going to do?"

"Well, we want our property. We paid for that project. The farmers paid for that. Do something."

Well, we went to Congress. My board members — I'll never forget this. Mr. Esslinger testified in front of Bill Bradley's committee. It was one of the highlights of my career to watch my board members go toe-to-toe with Mr. Bradley about why we should get these facilities back; why should the district government sell; why do you think, as farmers, you can do that.

We convinced Congress. We got our bill through. We became the first entity in the country to receive its facilities back, which was the original contemplation of the Reclamation Act. You come in. The U.S. helps you up front. You get the facilities back. You run the project.

That's what we have done here. We traded places with the United States over who shepherds the water through.

That's what we do, and that's at the core of Mr. Somach's complaint. Our water isn't getting to Texas. It's being

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interfered with. Well, it was until 2008, when we entered an operating agreement with the Texas district and the United States and said, "We will guarantee you get your water. We will *shepherdize* it. We will get it through. We will look at the diversion dams. We will track it. If you are about to be short, we will give you your supply."

Am I out of time, Your Honor?

THE SPECIAL MASTER: No. Five minutes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: So out of everybody here today, EBID is the one that is key to the complaints brought by Mr. Somach.

How does Texas get their water? How do we ensure that Texas gets their water? We are the key player in that. We are, in fact, the de facto water master on this system through contract, conveyances from Congress. We are the one that takes the water from the initial release, take it down through.

The point I was going to make with respect to us operating in Texas is Texas also has statutory authority to enter into contracts with districts in New Mexico. We have the mere statute in New Mexico. When we received title back, we realized that there were lands in Texas that they could not irrigate and there were lands in New Mexico that we could not irrigate. So we entered into a contract before the final deed was signed that would allow us to go back and forth between Texas and New Mexico, the El Paso district also coming up into

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New Mexico to deliver where we couldn't do that. That's been in operation just prior to the deed being signed by the United States, because the United States wanted something in place that would make sure that that water would be able to be delivered out of state by each irrigation district. I don't know how much more bistate we can become than that.

In answer to your question, I turned to my manager. We deliver to X thousand acres, and the size of those constituents can vary from one-acre tracts to 20-acre farms or 50-acre farms. So it's hard for us to know how many individuals, because we track by the thousands of acres. And I think in our brief we told you the six-unit -- that we irrigate to approximately 6,000 acres in Texas. That number goes up and down depending upon the orders year by year.

Your Honor, I think we have proven that we have a substantial interest in what happens here. We are not represented by the State of New Mexico, we are not represented by the State of Texas, and we are not represented by the United States. And I think that if anybody meets the standards of *South Carolina* in terms of what we do, how we will be affected by the outcome of this litigation, it's Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Hernandez. Could you tell me: What is the Joint Powers Agreement between Elephant Butte Irrigation District and El Paso Consolidated

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Water Improvement District No. 1? I believe you referenced that towards the conclusion of your remarks.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, Your Honor. As I told you, at the time that the title transfer -- in between Congress giving the United States authority to transfer the facilities back to both districts, the United States was concerned about how certain isolated areas in each state were going to be watered, because the state line goes like this (indicating).

We actually have a board member who has a farm on both sides of the state line, owns land in Texas and New Mexico, and is an EBID board member; and the state line splits his farm, and he literally gets watered by a Texas entity. But what it is, it's a statute in Texas and New Mexico that allows irrigation districts to cooperate with each other and operate facilities in either state.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Is there an agreement? Is there a contract?

MR. HERNANDEZ: There is an agreement. It was attached to our reply brief, I believe. In fact, what's telling about that agreement is it had to be signed off by the State of New Mexico. They approved the contract, and they are signatories to the approval of that contract.

**THE SPECIAL MASTER:** Thank you, Mr. Hernandez.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE SPECIAL MASTER: Counsel, that's all we have for

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today. The proceedings will be in recess. If there's no request for a status conference, the proceedings are closed.

I want to thank each and every counsel who participated in these proceedings, and I want to wish all of you a safe trip home. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.

\* \* \*

## **CERTIFICATE**

I, Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR, Official Court
Reporter for the United States District Court, Eastern District
of Louisiana, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct
transcript, to the best of my ability and understanding, from
the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

<u>s/ Toni Doyle Tusa</u> Toni Doyle Tusa, CCR, FCRR Official Court Reporter

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