

**No. 141, Original**

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

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**STATE OF TEXAS,**

**Plaintiff,  
v.**

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

**Defendants**

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**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL MASTER**

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S DECEMBER 2019 STATUS  
REPORT**

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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  
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 December 2019 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 61,365 documents, comprising of 387,358 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 115,000 files were collected from Reclamation as a result of Reclamation's initial 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.

### **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.

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.

Depositions of expert witnesses have commenced and are continuing to be scheduled for December.

#### **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.

#### **VI. Motion to Intervene of the Pre-Federal Claimants**

Finally, on June 17, 2019, the United States Supreme Court referred to the Special Master the Motion to Intervene filed by the Pre-Federal Claimants. The United States filed an opposition to the Pre-Federal Claimants' Motion to Intervene on May 20, 2019. The Special Master heard oral argument on the Pre-Federal Claimants' Motion to Intervene on July 1, 2019, in which the United States participated. On December 2, 2019, the Special Master issued a Second Interim Report recommending that the Court deny this Motion to Intervene.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of December, 2019.

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  
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**

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This is to certify that on the 6th day of December, 2019, the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S DECEMBER 2019 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:james.dubois@usdoj.gov)  
**R. LEE LEININGER** (303) 844-1375  
**THOMAS K. SNODGRASS** [lee.leininger@usdoj.gov](mailto:lee.leininger@usdoj.gov)  
U.S. Department of Justice (303) 844-1364  
Environment & Natural Resources Division [thomas.snodgrass@usdoj.gov](mailto:thomas.snodgrass@usdoj.gov)  
999 18th Street (303) 844-7233  
South Terrace – Suite 370  
Denver, CO 80202  
**Seth Allison**, Paralegal [seth.allison@usdoj.gov](mailto:seth.allison@usdoj.gov)  
(303) 844-7917

**STEPHEN M. MACFARLANE** [stephen.macfarlane@usdoj.gov](mailto: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](mailto:judith.coleman@usdoj.gov)  
**JOHN P. TUSTIN** (202) 514-3553  
U.S. Department of Justice [john.tustin@usdoj.gov](mailto:john.tustin@usdoj.gov)  
Environment & Natural Resources Division (202) 305-3022  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

## STATE OF COLORADO

**CHAD M. WALLACE\***

Senior Assistant Attorney  
Department of Law  
1300 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203

[chad.wallace@coag.gov](mailto:chad.wallace@coag.gov)  
(720) 508-6281

**Nan B. Edwards, Paralegal**

[nan.edwards@coag.gov](mailto:nan.edwards@coag.gov)

**PHILIP J. WEISER**

Attorney General of Colorado

[pjweiser@coag.gov](mailto:pjweiser@coag.gov)

**KAREN M. KWON**

First Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Law  
1300 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203

[karen.kwon@coag.gov](mailto:karen.kwon@coag.gov)

(720) 508-6281

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO

**HECTOR BALDERAS**

New Mexico Attorney General

[hbalderas@nmag.gov](mailto:hbalderas@nmag.gov)

**TANIA MAESTAS**

Deputy Attorney General

(505) 490-4060

[tmaestas@nmag.gov](mailto:tmaestas@nmag.gov)

(505) 490-4048

**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**

[marcus@roblesrael.com](mailto:marcus@roblesrael.com)

[droman@roblesrael.com](mailto:droman@roblesrael.com)

(505) 242-2228

[chelsea@roblesrael.com](mailto: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](mailto:braley@troutlaw.com)

[lthompason@troutlaw.com](mailto:lthompason@troutlaw.com)

[mkopp@troutlaw.com](mailto:mkopp@troutlaw.com)

(303) 861-1963

## STATE OF TEXAS

**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](mailto:ssomach@somachlaw.com)

(916) 446-7979

(916) 803-4561 (cell)

[ahitchings@somachlaw.com](mailto:ahitchings@somachlaw.com)

[rhoffman@somachlaw.com](mailto:rhoffman@somachlaw.com)

[mgoldsberry@somachlaw.com](mailto:mgoldsberry@somachlaw.com)

[tbarfield@somachlaw.com](mailto:tbarfield@somachlaw.com)

[sklahn@somachlaw.com](mailto:sklahn@somachlaw.com)

[bjohnson@somachlaw.com](mailto:bjohnson@somachlaw.com)

[rdeitchman@somachlaw.com](mailto:rdeitchman@somachlaw.com)



**Rhonda Stephenson, Secretary**  
**Christina Garro, Paralegal**  
**Yolanda De La Cruz, Secretary**

[rstephenson@somachlaw.com](mailto:rstephenson@somachlaw.com)  
[cgarro@somachlaw.com](mailto:cgarro@somachlaw.com)  
[ydelacruz@somachlaw.com](mailto:ydelacruz@somachlaw.com)

**KEN PAXTON**

Attorney General

**JEFFREY C. MATEER**

First Assistant Attorney General

**BRANTLEY STARR**

Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

**JAMES E. DAVIS**

Deputy Attorney General

**PRISCILLA M. HUBENAK**

Chief, Environmental Protection Division

P.O. Box 12584

Austin, TX 78711-2548

(512) 463-2012

**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](mailto:jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com)  
[jfstein@newmexicowaterlaw.com](mailto:jfstein@newmexicowaterlaw.com)  
[administrator@newmexicowaterlaw.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dcaroom@bickerstaff.com)  
[smaxwell@bickerstaff.com](mailto: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](mailto:jfstein@newmexicowaterlaw.com)  
[jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com](mailto:jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com)  
[administrator@newmexicowaterlaw.com](mailto: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](mailto:cityattorney@las-cruces.org)  
[jvega-brown@las-cruces.org](mailto:jvega-brown@las-cruces.org)  
[marcyd@las-cruces.org](mailto: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](mailto:samantha@h2o-legal.com)  
(575) 636-2377  
(575) 636-2688 (fax)  
  
[janet@h2o-legal.com](mailto:janet@h2o-legal.com)

**EL PASO COUNTY WATER AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

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

[mobrien@modrall.com](mailto:mobrien@modrall.com)  
[sarah.stevenson@modrall.com](mailto:sarah.stevenson@modrall.com)  
(505) 848-1800 (main)  
(505) 848-1803 (direct)  
(505) 848-9710 (fax)

**HUDSPETH COUNTY CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICT**

**ANDREW S. "DREW" MILLER\***  
KEMP SMITH LLP  
919 Congress Ave., Suite 1305  
Austin, TX 78701

[dmiller@kempsmith.com](mailto: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](mailto:toby.crouse@ag.ks.gov)  
[bryan.clark@ag.ks.gov](mailto: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  
**Patricia McCan, Paralegal**

[ttd@tessadavidson.com](mailto:ttd@tessadavidson.com)  
(505) 792-3636  
  
[patricia@tessadavidson.com](mailto:patricia@tessadavidson.com)

**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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

[john@uttkery.com](mailto:john@uttkery.com)

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

[gencounsel@nmsu.edu](mailto:gencounsel@nmsu.edu)