

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF CHAVES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO, *ex rel.*
STATE ENGINEER
and PECOS VALLEY ARTESIAN
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Plaintiffs,

V.

L.T. LEWIS, *et al.*, and
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Defendants,

5th DISTRICT COURT CHAVES CO.
Nos. 20294 and 22600
Consolidated
FILED 23 JAN 10 AM 9:26

Hon. James J. Wechsler
Presiding Judge

Pecos River Stream System

D504-WA-6000000
D504-WB-1000001
D504-WC-7000000
D504-WD-4000000
D504-WE-5000001
D504-WF-8000001
D504-WG-9000000
D504-WH-3000001
D504-WI-1000000
D504-WJ-2000000
D504-WK-11000001
D504-WN-14000001
D504-WR-18000001
D504-WS-19000001

LETTER FROM JUDGE JAMES J. WECHSLER

From the Chambers of

James J. Wechsler, Judge Pro Tempore

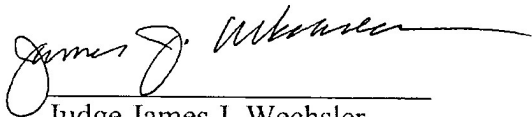
January 9, 2023

To: All Claimants and Counsel

Effective January 1, 2023, my wife's son-in-law is the state Attorney General. The attorneys for the State of New Mexico in this adjudication are designated Special Assistant Attorneys General. They are, however, employees of the Office of the State Engineer, not the Office of the Attorney General. They work solely, and are entirely supervised, within the Office of the State Engineer. Once hired by the Office of the State Engineer, they receive the designation of Special Assistant Attorney General so that they can represent the State in court proceedings. It is my understanding that the Office of the Attorney General exercises no oversight and takes no action regarding the work of the Office of the State Engineer attorneys in adjudication proceedings.

I do not believe that these circumstances disqualify me from presiding in this adjudication and have been so advised by members of the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct. If you believe otherwise, please file an appropriate motion with the court on or before February 8, 2023.

Respectfully,



Judge James J. Wechsler

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the **Letter from Judge James J. Wechsler** and this Certificate of Service was sent by e-mail on this 10th day of January, 2023 to the following:

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/s/ Nadia Karavdic

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