

Phase 2 Trial Summary

The Phase 2 trial on safe yield in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin adjudication concluded after 10 days, held between June 8 and June 29, 2026. While the trial portion has ended, the legal process is still ongoing. The Court has received all testimony and evidence presented during the trial, and it is now in the process of reviewing the record before issuing its decision.

The trial record is extensive and highly technical, involving complex scientific issues such as hydrology, hydrogeology, and groundwater modeling. Given the complexity of the evidence presented, the Court will appoint a Special Master, an independent technical expert who will evaluate the evidence and provide a written recommendation regarding the best estimate of the Basin's safe yield. The Special Master's recommendation is intended to assist the Court as it prepares its Proposed Statement of Decision, while the Court retains exclusive authority to make all factual and legal determinations and remains the final decision-maker in the case.

The timing of delivery of the Special Master's written recommendation has not yet been determined. It is anticipated the parties will have an opportunity to submit written responses after receiving the Special Master's recommendation. Following consideration of the Special Master's recommendation and any responses submitted by the parties, the Court will issue its Proposed Statement of Decision in accordance with the established legal process.

The Indian Wells Valley Water District (District) remains confident in the judicial process. As always, the District is committed to keeping the public informed through timely updates and posting court documents and other relevant information on its website as they become available. The District appreciates the community's continued interest as this important process moves forward.