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10 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA NAVIGABLE STREAM**  
11 **ADJUDICATION COMMISSION**

12 IN THE MATTER OF THE  
13 NAVIGABILITY OF THE SALT  
14 RIVER FROM THE CONFLUENCES  
15 OF THE WHITE AND BLACK  
16 RIVERS TO THE GILA RIVER  
17 CONFLUENCE, MARICOPA  
18 COUNTY, ARIZONA

Nos. 03-005-NAV and 04-008-NAV  
(Consolidated) (Salt)

**GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY'S  
OPENING POST-HEARING  
MEMORANDUM**

19 *“It’s the depth of the water when you’re trying to determine whether you can  
20 float boats or not.”*

21 ~ J.E. Fuller (October 20, 2015)<sup>1</sup>

22 *“I mean, putting a depth on any river is sort of an amorphous sort of definition.  
23 I mean, rivers are defined by obstacles, rocks, and deep channels, shallow  
24 channels, deep channels. You know, they’re dynamic animals. So to put a  
25 depth on a river, it’s just really not a logical way to look at it.”*

26 ~ Tyler Williams (October 21, 2015)<sup>2</sup>

After decades of litigation, the Arizona State Land Department (“ASLD”) and the  
proponents of navigability are not any closer to meeting their burden of proving that  
the Salt River was navigable as of the date of Arizona Statehood, February 14, 1912.

The large volume of evidence presented to the Commission in this matter clearly

<sup>1</sup> Tr. 10/20/15 at 36.

<sup>2</sup> Tr. 10/21/15 at 376.

1 demonstrates inherent problems in using flow rates and depth as the primary criteria  
2 for determining the historical navigability of a river. This stands in stark contrast to  
3 hundreds of years or more of history clearly demonstrating that the Salt River is non-  
4 navigable.

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6 The Community incorporates the arguments made in its Opening Post-Hearing  
7 Memorandum, dated June 9, 2003, and its Responsive Post-Hearing Memorandum,  
8 dated August 11, 2003. The Community also incorporates the Report, Findings and  
9 Determination Regarding the Navigability of the Salt River From Granite Reef to the  
10 Gila River Confluence, dated September 21, 2005 (the "2005 Lower Salt Report"),  
11 and the Report, Findings, and Determination Regarding the Navigability of the Upper  
12 Salt River from the Confluence of the White and Black Rivers to Granite Reef Dam  
13 dated December 13, 2007 (the "2007 Upper Salt Report").

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15 **I. THE COMMISSION MUST APPLY THE FEDERAL STANDARD**  
16 **OF NAVIGABILITY FOR TITLE.**

17 Navigability for title is a federal law issue. *See PPL Montana, LLC v.*  
18 *Montana*, 132 S.Ct. 1215, 1227 (2012) ("It follows that any ensuing questions of  
19 navigability for determining state riverbed title are governed by federal law.")  
20 (citation omitted). While the State of Arizona has developed a *procedure* for making  
21 navigability determinations, A.R.S. § 37-1101 *et seq.*, the *standard* to be applied  
22 through that procedure is a federal standard. To the extent there are conflicts between  
23 state law and federal law on navigability for title, federal law would most certainly  
24 control.  
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1           These resumed proceedings were prompted by the decision in *State ex rel.*  
2 *Winkleman v. Ariz. Navigable Stream Adjudication Comm'n*, 224 Ariz. 230, 229 P.3d  
3 242 (App. 2010) (“*Winkleman*”). In *Winkleman*, the Court of Appeals vacated the  
4 superior court's judgment upholding ANSAC's determination that the Lower Salt  
5 River was navigable as of February 14, 1912, and remanded the matter for further  
6 proceedings. 229 P.3d at 257. Subsequent to the decision in *Winkleman*, the Supreme  
7 Court of the United States decided *PPL Montana*. *PPL Montana* casts serious doubts  
8 on the viability of portions of *Winkleman* and prior Arizona navigability  
9 jurisprudence.  
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11           *PPL Montana* is a navigability for title case involving three rivers in Montana.  
12 One question in the case involved the segmentation of the rivers for the purposes of  
13 determining navigability for title; a second question involved how to evaluate  
14 evidence of modern recreational use of the rivers; and a third involved the burden of  
15 proof of navigability. While *PPL Montana* contains a thorough discussion of the  
16 history of the doctrine of navigability, 132 S.Ct. at 1226-28, this brief discusses those  
17 portions of *PPL Montana* which impact the prior opinions of Arizona's state courts.  
18 Given the supremacy of federal law in this area, such a discussion would not be  
19 necessary but for the continued reliance in these proceedings by the proponents of  
20 navigability on principles that were expressly or implicitly rejected in *PPL Montana*.  
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24           The formulation of the navigability for title test was set forth in *The Daniel*  
25 *Ball*, 10 Wall. 557, 563 (1871):  
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1 Those rivers must be regarded as public navigable rivers in law which are  
2 navigable in fact. And they are navigable in fact when they are used, or are  
3 susceptible of being used, in their ordinary condition, as highways for  
commerce, over which trade and travel are or may be conducted in the  
customary modes of trade and travel on water.

4 In cases involving navigability for title, "navigability is determined at the time of  
5 statehood and based on the 'natural and ordinary condition' of the water." *PPL*  
6 *Montana*, 132 S.Ct. at 1128 (citations omitted).

8 **A. Navigability is determined based upon the physical condition and**  
9 **usage of a river at the time of statehood.**

10 *PPL Montana* holds that the proper time for a determination of navigability is  
11 at "statehood." *Id.* at 1128. The Supreme Court has never, in any navigability for title  
12 case, held that the date for determining navigability is anything other than the date of  
13 statehood. Any questions regarding when the determination of navigability is to be  
14 made were laid to rest in the Supreme Court's opinion regarding evidence of modern-  
15 day recreational use. It held that such evidence may be considered "to the extent it  
16 informs the historical determination whether the river segment was susceptible of use  
17 for commerce *at the time of statehood.*" *Id.* at 1233 (emphasis added). The Court said  
18 that evidence of modern-day recreational use could be considered if it could be shown  
19 that the river's post-statehood condition "is not materially different from its *physical*  
20 *condition at statehood.*" *Id.* (emphasis added).

23 This is consistent with the legislative mandate to the Arizona State Land  
24 Department, which is that ASLD is to transmit evidence to the Commission "[a]fter  
25 collecting and documenting all reasonably available evidence regarding the *condition*  
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1 and usage of a watercourse as of February 14, 1912” and “the present uses of the  
2 underlying land.” A.R.S. § 37-1124(B) (emphasis added). Unfortunately, *Winkleman*  
3 failed to consider A.R.S. § 37-1124(B) in its analysis. Instead of looking at conditions  
4 and usage at the time of statehood, the Commission was directed to assess the Lower  
5 Salt River for navigability at a time period over one hundred years or more prior to  
6 Arizona statehood. *Winkleman*, 229 P.3d at 254.

8 **B. PPL Montana clearly requires determination of a river's**  
9 **susceptibility for use for commerce; travel alone is not enough.**

10 Opening its discussion of evidence of modern-day recreational use, *PPL*  
11 *Montana* notes that navigability must be assessed at the time of statehood and  
12 “concerns the river's usefulness for ‘trade and travel’ rather than *for other purposes.*”  
13 132 S.Ct. at 1233 (citations omitted) (emphasis added). Indeed, the rejection of  
14 modern recreational use as an independent basis for navigability in *PPL Montana*  
15 refocuses the navigability in fact determination on a river's actual use or usefulness  
16 for trade or commerce. While error is not inherent in considering evidence of modern-  
17 day recreational use, “the evidence must be confined to that which shows the river  
18 could sustain the kinds of commercial use that, as a realistic matter, might have  
19 occurred at the time of statehood.” *Id.*

22 *PPL Montana's* discussion consistently identifies commercial uses of rivers as  
23 the locus of the inquiry. Evidence of present-day use may be considered in  
24 determining navigability in fact “to the extent it informs the historical determination  
25 of whether the river segment was susceptible of use for commercial navigation at the  
26

1 time of statehood.” 132 S.Ct. at 1233. If using a susceptibility analysis, “it must be  
2 determined whether trade and travel could have been conducted ‘in the customary  
3 modes of trade and travel on water.’” *Id.* (citation omitted).

4 At hearings in this matter, it was suggested by one proponent of navigability  
5 that proof of either trade *or* travel was sufficient. In *Defenders of Wildlife v. Hull*, 199  
6 Ariz. 411, 18 P.3d 722 (2001), a case decided in 2001, the Court of Appeals of  
7 Arizona rejected the position that a watercourse must be susceptible to a commercial  
8 use to be navigable, noting that federal test as articulated in *The Daniel Ball* “has  
9 been interpreted to neither require both trade and travel together nor that the travel or  
10 trade be commercial.” 18 P.3d at 731 (citation omitted). The clear references to  
11 commercial use and navigation in *PPL Montana* on the federal issue of navigability  
12 should lay this argument to rest.<sup>3</sup>

15 **C. The hypothetical susceptibility determination the proponents of**  
16 **navigability urge cuts against the rationale for sovereign ownership**  
17 **of navigable riverbeds.**

18 *PPL Montana's* language clearly cuts against the argument made—based upon  
19 an overly broad reading of *United States v. Utah*, 283 U.S. 64 (1931)—that  
20 navigability determinations can be purely hypothetical. To the contrary, *PPL Montana*  
21 suggests that a navigability determination must be historically and presently  
22 meaningful; that is, generally that some trade or commerce which took place on a  
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25 <sup>3</sup> In addition, the statutory construction of the “trade and travel” requirement in *Defenders*  
26 directly conflicts with the statutory construction of the phrase “ordinary and natural” in  
*Winkelman*.

1 river at the time of statehood establishes a pattern that should be recognized at the  
2 time of the present-day navigability determination:

3 A key justification for sovereign ownership of navigable riverbeds is that a  
4 contrary rule would allow private riverbed owners to erect improvements on  
5 the riverbeds that could interfere with the public's right to use the waters as a  
*highway for commerce*.

6 132 S.Ct. at 1230 (emphasis added).

7 While *Utah* is often cited in support of the proposition that susceptibility to  
8 navigation is all that is required to prove navigability for title, there are three clear  
9 limitations of *Utah*, two of which are apparent in the Court's opinion and a third  
10 appearing in *PPL Montana*. First, the *Utah* standard is appropriate “where conditions  
11 of exploration and settlement explain the infrequency of limited nature of such use.”  
12 283 U.S. at 82. From the record in *Utah*, it is clear that some of the rivers considered  
13 had *never* been the subject of significant exploration or development. 283 U.S. at 81.  
14 In contrast, the Salt River has been the subject of settlement for *thousands* of years or  
15 longer. In such cases, *Utah* dictates that the proper inquiry is the historical use of the  
16 river. In such cases, *Utah* dictates that the proper inquiry is the historical use of the  
17 river.  
18 river.

19 Second, in considering susceptibility as a standard, *Utah* requires that the  
20 susceptibility be “to use as a highway for commerce.” 283 U.S. at 82. “It is, indeed,  
21 the susceptibility to use as a highway of commerce which gives sanction to the public  
22 right of control over navigation upon them, and consequently to the exclusion of  
23 private ownership, either of the waters or the soils under them.” *Packer v. Bird*, 137  
24 U.S. 661, 667 (1891). Limiting the navigability standard to simply “travel” without  
25 U.S. 661, 667 (1891). Limiting the navigability standard to simply “travel” without  
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1 consideration of the commerce element renders the navigability for title test  
2 meaningless.

3 Third, the *Utah* "susceptibility" standard was ultimately based upon the  
4 standard previously established in *The Montello*; they were both discussed in the same  
5 paragraph of the Supreme Court's opinion in *Utah*. 283 U.S. at 83. *PPL Montana* is  
6 critical of using *The Montello*, 87 U.S. 430 (1874) in navigability for title  
7 determinations, noting that in *The Montello* "[t]he Court did not seek to determine  
8 whether the river in question was navigable for title purposes but instead whether it  
9 was navigable for purposes of determining whether boats upon it could be regulated  
10 by the Federal Government." 132 S.Ct. at 1232 (citation omitted). The focus in *The*  
11 *Montello* was not on navigability in fact but whether the river was a "navigable water  
12 of the United States," an inquiry that "is doctrinally distinct." *Id.* (citations omitted).  
13 Neither the Commission nor Arizona's courts can ignore the federal law of  
14 navigability, even to the extent it negatively affects their prior decisions. In this case,  
15 as the Community has previously argued, the subsequent decision in *PPL Montana*  
16 appears to clearly confirm that the Commission applied the proper federal legal  
17 standard to its navigability determinations in the last go around.  
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21 **D. Reliance on recreational use of a river as proof of or justification**  
22 **for a finding of navigability renders the navigability for title**  
23 **determination meaningless.**

24 The Commission has received a large volume of evidence of modern-day  
25 recreational use of the Salt River. *First*, recreational use is poor evidence of  
26 navigability for title. This was best highlighted in testimony ASLD presented from



1 two recreational boaters—Tyler Williams and Alex Mickel.<sup>4</sup> The experience of  
2 recreational whitewater boating is not of transporting goods from one port to another,  
3 but “the experience of, you know, being splashed, hitting the waves, the ups and  
4 downs, that sort of thing.”

5 Relying on recreational use as proof of navigability for title is improper  
6 because the nature of recreational use is much different than commercial uses of a  
7 river. Mr. Williams, for example, testified that the upper end of the optimum flow  
8 range for adventure boating was 1,500 cfs and that for the users he serves “it would  
9 just be a more powerful stream and be a little bit hazardous.”<sup>5</sup> In addition, the  
10 minimum cfs requirements he identified were for the purpose of “a whitewater  
11 paddler’s expectations for a pleasant experience.”<sup>6</sup> The bottom line is fun:  
12

14 Q. And part of it is you want the flow to be in a range that creates  
15 a maximum amount of fun for the people who are doing the  
16 boating?

16 A. Yes.<sup>7</sup>

17 When asked whether the conditions that make boating “recreationally fun” are the  
18 opposite of what commercial activities require, Mr. Williams would not agree that the  
19 conditions are the opposite, but are “substantially different.”<sup>8</sup>  
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21 Mr. Williams and Mr. Mickel also use modern boats which are substantially  
22 different than those used at the time of statehood. The whitewater kayaks that Mr.  
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24 <sup>4</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 468.

25 <sup>5</sup> Tr. 10.21/2015 at 302.

26 <sup>6</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 304.

<sup>7</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 364.

<sup>8</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 368.

1 Williams uses are made out of plastic.<sup>9</sup> Mr. Mickel described modern plastic canoes  
2 as more durable than fiberglass.<sup>10</sup> Plastic kayaks were not developed until the mid-  
3 1970s; Mr. Williams recalled that the Hollowform River Chaser was the first plastic  
4 kayak on the market.<sup>11</sup> The flows he described were for kayaks; the lowest flow being  
5 200 cfs for an inflatable kayak.<sup>12</sup> Mr. Mickel uses different kinds of boats, based upon  
6 the thrill individuals might have in a particular craft.<sup>13</sup>

8 Because recreational boating is done on flows far below those necessary for  
9 commercial purposes, it should not be considered for purposes of determining  
10 navigability for title. As the advocacy organization American Whitewater notes, “each  
11 year kayakers and canoeists descend virtually every stream [in the United States],  
12 including those that even rarely have enough water to float a kayak.”<sup>14</sup> The AW  
13 publication also notes that “[v]irtually all streams are enjoyed by paddlers, anglers  
14 and other recreationists, even small intermittent streams.”<sup>15</sup> Permitting recreational  
15 use as a test of navigability for title, given that all streams are navigated  
16 recreationally, renders the navigability for title test meaningless.

19 Recreational use fails to consider a number of factors that are relevant to  
20 commercial uses of a river. These factors include time, safety, cost of fuel, availability  
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23 <sup>9</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 327.

24 <sup>10</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 452.

25 <sup>11</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 328.

26 <sup>12</sup> Tr. 10/21/2015 at 349.

<sup>13</sup> Tr. 10/21/2016 at 410.

<sup>14</sup> C041 at 316.

<sup>15</sup> C041 at 316.

1 of a market for goods, access to docks, safely securing a commercial load, to name a  
2 few.

3         *Second*, the Commission should reject recreational use as a justification for  
4 navigability. The admitted goal of the proponents of navigability in this matter is not  
5 preservation of rivers for use for *commerce*, but maintaining *access* to rivers for  
6 recreational and preservation purposes. Some states, for example, “have also adopted  
7 a variety of navigability definitions to satisfy different policies regarding resource  
8 conservation, apportionment of waterways between private and public uses, and  
9 protection of public access to waterways.” *Defenders*, 199 Ariz. at 418. Arizona,  
10 however, has not done so.  
11

12         While *Defenders* cautioned against relying on judicial precedent from other  
13 jurisdictions which apply definitions or tests of navigability which go beyond the  
14 navigability for title determination under the equal footing doctrine, its language, its  
15 warning could also be applied to the positions advanced in this matter; that is, in  
16 evaluating the positions advanced in this matter, any reliance “should be predicated  
17 on a careful appraisal of the purpose for which the concept of navigability is  
18 invoked.” *Defenders*, 199 Ariz. at 419. From the perspective of the State and the  
19 proponents of navigability, this case is not about the use or susceptibility of use of the  
20 Salt River for commerce, but protecting access to the Salt River for recreational  
21 purposes. While these are commendable goals, it is not a proper application or use of  
22 the navigability for title doctrine.  
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1           **II. THE SALT RIVER WAS NOT HISTORICALLY NAVIGATED**  
2           **DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL NEED.**

3           Courts acknowledge that the "most persuasive" evidence of navigability is the  
4 *actual* use of a river for commercial navigation. *See Utah*, 283 U.S. at 82 (“the  
5 evidence of the actual use of streams, and especially of extensive and continued use  
6 for commercial purposes may be most persuasive”). Following these resumed  
7 proceedings, there has not been any substantial additional evidence adduced showing  
8 historic navigation of the Salt River for travel or commercial purposes; if anything,  
9 the evidence received reemphasizes that (1) there is no evidence of prehistoric  
10 navigation of the Salt River; (2) there was a substantial need for navigation of the Salt  
11 River, even in “undeveloped” times; and (2) most attempts at navigating the Salt  
12 River were unsuccessful.  
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14           **A. There is no evidence of boating on the Salt River in “prehistoric”**  
15           **times.**

16           Humans have inhabited the Salt River Valley for thousands of years. As Mr.  
17 Fuller’s report on the Lower Salt River in 2003 (“2003 Fuller Report”) observed,  
18 “[t]he Salt River Valley was densely settled, and the water control system was the  
19 largest irrigation network in the country that was built and used prehistorically.”<sup>16</sup> The  
20 2003 Fuller Report concluded that the Salt River Valley “was one of the most densely  
21 populated areas in the prehistoric Southwest.”<sup>17</sup> Professor Jack August testified that  
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26 <sup>16</sup> Lower Salt X030 at 2-13.

<sup>17</sup> Lower Salt X030 at 2-17.

1 the general range of population for the Hohokam in the Lower Salt River Valley was  
2 80,000 to 100,000 “and maybe more on occasion.”<sup>18</sup>

3 Missing from this massive prehistoric society, however, is any evidence of  
4 boating. The 2003 Fuller Report notes that, “[i]n the late 19th century, [Frank  
5 Hamilton] Cushing speculated that the Hohokam also used their canals for floating  
6 balsa rafts (David Wilcox, personal communication, 1993).”<sup>19</sup> The conclusion section  
7 of Chapter 2 of the 2003 Fuller Report states that, “[t]he archaeological record does  
8 not, of course, provide any data that indicates that the Salt River was used for as [sic]  
9 a navigable waterway as of the time of statehood, as defined by A.R.S 37-1100.  
10 However, some archaeologists have speculated that the Hohokam used light boats on  
11 their canals...”<sup>20</sup>. There is no citation of authority for the statements made in the  
12 conclusion of the 2003 Fuller Report.

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14  
15 At these resumed hearings, Mr. Fuller testified from a PowerPoint  
16 presentation, “Presentation to ANSAC: Salt River Navigability,” dated October 15,  
17 2015.<sup>21</sup> In a slide entitled, “Archaeology: Key Findings” Mr. Fuller listed the  
18 following as “Archaeological Evidence of Boating” along with the cited sources:  
19 Hohokam boats (Cushing, 1890; USBR 2000); balsa rafts in canals (Wilcox, 1993);  
20 boat ramps on canals (Henderson, 2015); and boat building materials (Henderson,  
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25 <sup>18</sup> Tr. 1/26/2016 at 1881.

26 <sup>19</sup> Lower Salt X030 at 2-13.

<sup>20</sup> Lower Salt X030 at 2-17 - 2-18.

<sup>21</sup> C030 ASLD #364.

1 2015).<sup>22</sup> A review of the sources Fuller cites shows that they are actually all derived  
2 from the same primary source—Cushing’s exploration of Los Muertos in the late  
3 1800s. That expedition did not find evidence of use of boats (balsa or otherwise) on  
4 the Salt River and the notion that boats were used in the canals was and is purely  
5 speculative.  
6

7 Mr. Fuller was not able to identify the “USBR 2000” reference and the  
8 “Wilcox 1993” reference was a personal communication in which Wilcox speculated  
9 about Hohokam boat use based upon Cushing’s findings. The “Henderson 2015”  
10 citation is a cultural assessment done for the Phoenix Sky Train project. The portion  
11 of the Sky Train assessment discussing possible boat use is based upon a specific  
12 canal feature (Feature 57) from Cushing’s explorations. However, the Sky Train  
13 report emphasized that Feature 57 could be two or three different things, including a  
14 walk-in for canal access, a tail water collection basin, or an artificial wetland to  
15 cultivate plant food or weaving materials.  
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18 The Sky Train assessment also cited to a publication by Frank Hodge. Hodge  
19 was a member of Cushing’s Hemenway Expedition. The first and most  
20 comprehensive analysis of Cushing’s Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological  
21 Expedition was done by former University of Arizona Professor Emil Haury.<sup>23</sup> The  
22 Foreward to Professor Haury’s work was written by Frank Hodge, who had some  
23 unkind words for Mr. Cushing. According to Hodge, “instead of recording copious  
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26 <sup>22</sup> C030 ASLD #364 Slide #110.

<sup>23</sup> C041 at 277-287.

1 notes on his ethnologic and linguistic observations, [Cushing] depended almost  
2 entirely on his memory and imagination.”<sup>24</sup> Hodge further described Cushing as “not  
3 always accurate in his statements” and that “even if given to exaggeration to gain a  
4 point,” Cushing was plausible and appealing.<sup>25</sup> Hodge attributed the paucity of  
5 information from the Hemenway Expedition, in part, to Cushing’s “overwrought  
6 imagination and a species of egotism.”<sup>26</sup>

8 Professor Haury laid any speculation regarding Hohokam boating in canals to  
9 rest. He noted that “[m]atted reeds, found during the course of this work, which had  
10 undoubtedly floated in the river, convinced Cushing that navigation by *balsas* was  
11 known to the natives. Needless to say, there is no justification for this view.”<sup>27</sup>

13 Other experts who testified in this matter agree with Professor Haury and  
14 opined that there is no evidence of Hohokam boating. Professor Jack August, an  
15 acclaimed historian, testified that he reviewed civilizations that interacted with the  
16 Salt River from the Hohokam through Statehood.<sup>28</sup> While the Hohokam traveled  
17 extensively, they would get from the Salt River Valley to the West Coast “by foot.”<sup>29</sup>  
19 Academic research on the Hohokam indicates that the society engaged in large-scale  
20 trading in organized marketplaces and trade fairs using clay containers that could be  
21 transported on foot.<sup>30</sup> Dr. August opined that a navigable river would have been

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23 <sup>24</sup> C041 at 282.

24 <sup>25</sup> C041 at 282.

25 <sup>26</sup> C041 at 283.

26 <sup>27</sup> C041 at 286.

27 <sup>28</sup> Tr. 1/26/2016 at 1880.

28 <sup>29</sup> Tr. 1/26/2016 at 1881.

29 <sup>30</sup> C041 at 290-313.

1 helpful to the Hohokam based upon where and what they were trading.<sup>31</sup> Instead, the  
2 Hohokam were prolific walkers and utilized walking trails throughout southern  
3 Arizona, California and Mexico.<sup>32</sup> This was true of subsequent inhabitants as well.<sup>33</sup>

4 **B. There is no credible evidence of boating on the Salt River among**  
5 **the Pima or Maricopa.**

6 Possibly the most outrageous claim made in this proceeding came at the end of  
7 Mr. Fuller's "rebuttal" testimony. After providing the Commissioners with a series of  
8 documents that ASLD initially refused to provide or identify to the parties  
9 participating in the proceeding, Mr. Fuller provided additional testimony that was not  
10 included in any of the 138 slides in his "rebuttal" PowerPoint presentation.<sup>34</sup> After  
11 reading and misinterpreting historical accounts and descriptions from a handful of  
12 exhibits, Mr. Fuller concluded that "it's possible" that the Maricopa Tribe could have  
13 been using boats.<sup>35</sup> The accounts he relied on include an undated hearsay account in  
14 flood conditions,<sup>36</sup> a line without any supporting citation from a cultural assessment  
15 which states simply that the Maricopa "fished the rivers from boats,"<sup>37</sup> a line from the  
16 Phoenix Sky Train archeological assessment which states that, on the Colorado River,  
17 the Maricopa and Halchidhoma used conveyances similar to the Cocopah (quoting  
18 Spier from 1933),<sup>38</sup> an excerpt from Hackenberg which cited Bartlett as locating Pima

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23 <sup>31</sup> Tr. 1/26/2016 at 1885.

24 <sup>32</sup> C041 at 349-380.

25 <sup>33</sup> Tr. 1/26/2016 at 1885.

26 <sup>34</sup> C053 ASLD #385.

<sup>35</sup> Tr. 05/18/16 at 4880.

<sup>36</sup> C018 ASLD #22.

<sup>37</sup> C028 ASLD #276.

<sup>38</sup> C028 ASLD #313.



1 and Maricopa fishing parties 12 miles upstream from the confluence,<sup>39</sup> and, finally, a  
2 line from Bartlett’s narrative in which he records seeing “a body of twelve or fifteen  
3 Indians on the river.”<sup>40</sup>

4 This opinion exposes the primary flaw in Mr. Fuller’s approach to and  
5 evaluation of the historical evidence. While Bartlett’s record only states that the  
6 Pimos were “on the river,” Mr. Fuller testified that “it does say on the water.”<sup>41</sup> It  
7 does not. The phrase “on the river” is equivocal at best and capable of several  
8 meanings, including next to or along the river. However, instead of evaluating and  
9 considering the *entire* context of the journal entry, which does not mention boats at  
10 all, or the significance of the absence of boats in the account, Mr. Fuller accepts this  
11 as evidence of possible boating. While it is not evidence of possible boating, it is  
12 clearly evidence of poor reasoning.

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15 Another serious shortcoming in Mr. Fuller’s analysis is his failure to consult  
16 primary sources, which was very clear in his testimony regarding Native American  
17 boating. Some of the sources relied upon by Mr. Fuller cite Spier’s 1933 work, *Yuman*  
18 *Tribes of the Gila River*. Spier’s description of boating was on the Colorado River and  
19 primarily by the Halchidhoma, a tribe which was absorbed into the Maricopa when it  
20 relocated near the confluence.<sup>42</sup> The map in Spier’s work locates the Maricopa along  
21 the Gila River downstream from Pima Butte. Forde’s 1931 work, *Ethnography of the*  
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25 <sup>39</sup> C053 ASLD #389.

26 <sup>40</sup> C053 ASLD #393.

<sup>41</sup> Tr. 05/18/16 at 4879.

<sup>42</sup> C058 at 106.

1 *Yuma Indians*, is also cited as a primary source. His section on “river navigation” also  
2 focuses exclusively on the Lower Colorado River.<sup>43</sup> Despite the fact the Spier was a  
3 repeated primary source in the materials Fuller relied on, he could not recall the title  
4 of Spier’s book,<sup>44</sup> and he did not know that the reference to boating in Spier’s book  
5 was to the Colorado River<sup>45</sup>  
6

7 After repeatedly testifying that there were no accounts of Native American  
8 boating on the Salt River, in the absence of any specific accounts of Maricopa boating  
9 on the Salt River despite their relatively recent presence, and the fact that any boating  
10 would have to be upstream from the confluence, Mr. Fuller is comfortable with his  
11 opinion, based upon incorrect interpretations of second-hand sources, that it is  
12 possible that the Maricopas boated on the Salt River.<sup>46</sup> Again, this opinion illustrates  
13 the shortcomings of his approach to the historical evidence.  
14

15 **C. While the explanations provided for of lack of commercial**  
16 **navigation, other than non-navigability, are clearly lacking, there**  
17 **was a great need dating back to prehistoric times.**

18 It is clear from the Boating PowerPoint<sup>47</sup> that Mr. Fuller applied the incorrect  
19 standard for determining navigability. In his Boating PowerPoint, Fuller has two  
20 bullet points under the heading “Susceptible to Trade and Travel,” “Sufficient depth  
21 of flow” and “Actual historical use not required.”<sup>48</sup> As Mr. Fuller explained in his  
22 testimony on the Gila River, “susceptibility ... basically is, there is sufficient depth of  
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24 <sup>43</sup> C058 at 111.

<sup>44</sup> Tr. 05/19/16 at 5034.

<sup>45</sup> Tr. 05/19/16 at 5035.

<sup>46</sup> In addition to the fact that a “possibility” falls far short of meeting the burden of proof.

<sup>47</sup> C018 ASLD #149.

<sup>48</sup> C018 ASLD #149 Slide #5.

1 flow to float a boat”<sup>49</sup> and “[i]f it's deep enough to float a boat, it's susceptible to  
2 navigation.”<sup>50</sup> This is *not* the federal standard for navigability and the formulation  
3 does not give any meaning to the “highway for commerce” element of the *Daniel Ball*  
4 test or the phrase “trade and travel.”

5  
6 The Boating PowerPoint attempts to provide explanations for why there are not  
7 more historical accounts of boating on Arizona's rivers.<sup>51</sup> One primary explanation is  
8 that “[w]hen the rivers had the water, Arizona didn't have the population.”<sup>52</sup> However,  
9 Fuller's "US Census Bureau" population numbers did not take into account that, in  
10 early years, Native Americans were excluded from census counts.<sup>53</sup> Mr. Fuller refers  
11 to this as the “population paradox.” However, there clearly was a time period when  
12 Arizona had both the water and the population—the Hohokam period. And, despite  
13 evidence of a large agricultural economy and active trading, there is no evidence the  
14 Hohokam used boats. The available and credible evidence suggests that the Hohokam  
15 did their trading on foot.  
16

17  
18 Some of the reasons Fuller suggests for why there are not more historical  
19 accounts of boating in Arizona are the *result of the non-navigability* of the rivers,  
20 including that population centers were not located on rivers, that transportation routes  
21 were not on rivers and that there were alternatives available.<sup>54</sup> This is perhaps most  
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23 <sup>49</sup> No. NAV-03-007, Tr. 6/16/2014 at 20.

24 <sup>50</sup> No. NAV-03-007, Tr. 6/16/2014 at 61.

25 <sup>51</sup> C018 ASLD #149 Slide #61.

26 <sup>52</sup> C018 ASLD #149 Slide #61.

<sup>53</sup> C022 at 53, 55-56.

<sup>54</sup> C018 ASLD #149 Slides #64-65. Navigable rivers generally have all of these things—  
population centers on rivers, transportation routes on rivers and lesser use of alternatives.

1 apparent in Slide #67 of the Boating PowerPoint, which contends that some segments  
2 of Arizona rivers are "[n]ot conducive to carrying major tonnage (e.g., ore)."<sup>55</sup> That is,  
3 there are no accounts of boating on some rivers *because those rivers were not*  
4 *physically capable of sustaining commerce*. Taken with the other explanations for  
5 why there are not more boating accounts on Arizona rivers, the Commission could  
6 easily reach the conclusion that Mr. Fuller is opining that the reason there are not  
7 more boating accounts on Arizona rivers because those rivers are non-navigable.  
8

9 Fuller's second explanation for why there are not more boating accounts is  
10 likewise lacking in credibility; that "[b]oating may not have been newsworthy."<sup>56</sup> This  
11 directly contradicts Dennis Gilpin's 2005 testimony regarding attempts to navigate the  
12 Salt River. The descriptions of the various attempts to navigate the Salt River clearly  
13 indicate the unusual—and sometimes tongue-in-cheek—nature of the attempts. If  
14 there is “faulty logic” in these proceedings, it is that many of the reasons proffered for  
15 lack of boating accounts either constitute or relate to non-navigability. To phrase it  
16 another way, the non-navigability of the Salt River best explains the lack of accounts  
17 of navigation of the Salt River.<sup>57</sup>  
18

19  
20 Mr. Fuller's analysis of the need for navigation completely ignores what was,  
21 during “pre-development” conditions on the Salt River, a documented booming  
22 economy among the Hohokam.  
23

24 <sup>55</sup> C018 ASLD #149 Slide #67.

25 <sup>56</sup> C018 ASLD #149 Slide #63.

26 <sup>57</sup> The first factor Mr. Fuller identifies as a “reason why not to boat a navigable river” is  
“flow depth.” C018 #149 Slide #68. If navigability is almost exclusively dependent on flow  
depth, as Mr. Fuller sometimes testifies, then the first reason why not to boat a navigable  
river would be because, due to lack of depth, it is not navigable.

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**D. The historic accounts of attempts to navigate the Salt River support a finding of non-navigability.**

ASLD placed a lot of emphasis in these hearings on historic accounts of boating on the Salt River. It is important, from the outset, to recognize these accounts for what they are and to place them in a proper historical context. From 1873 to 1919, Mr. Fuller identified (by his count) 31 accounts of boating on all segments of the Salt River. That's 31 accounts over a period of 46 years, or roughly **.67 boating accounts per year (i.e., less than one account per year on the entire river)**. When one excludes the accounts that are actually unsuccessful, divides the accounts out by the segment of the river on which they took place, and further divides the accounts by the percentage of the segment actually boated, the .67 number necessarily drops even lower.

**1. Evaluating historical accounts of boating.**

One primary problem with Mr. Fuller's evaluation of the historic boating accounts is that, instead of performing a critical evaluation of these accounts, he indulged every inference possible in favor of boating success. This carried over from his testimony on the Gila River; when the following exchange took place:

- Q. Are you counting this trip successful or not?
- A. It's certainly not unsuccessful.
- Q. Not unsuccessful?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. You don't know if they made it.
- A. You don't know that they didn't.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> C041 at 233-234.

1 Per Mr. Fuller’s reasoning, the absence of evidence of completion of a boating trip  
2 permits an inference that the trip was successful. While Mr. Fuller changed at least  
3 one of the prior combined Gila River/Salt River accounts from “successful’ to  
4 “unknown,” his approach to the historical accounts improperly involves a  
5 presumption of success, contrary to basic principles of science and reasoning.  
6

7 Perhaps the most revealing insight into ASLD’s analysis of the historical  
8 accounts is found in Slide #50 of Mr. Fuller’s rebuttal presentation.<sup>59</sup> In criticizing the  
9 evaluation of the historical accounts by other experts—which Mr. Fuller pejoratively  
10 labels “other guys”—he notes that there is “*no adjustment for depleted river flow*  
11 *conditions.*” There are two methods of demonstrating navigability for title—actual  
12 navigation and susceptibility to navigation. Thus, one of Mr. Fuller’s primary  
13 criticisms is that the other experts did not apply the susceptibility analysis to the  
14 actual historical accounts. This is a major indictment of Mr. Fuller’s approach to  
15 historical evidence of navigability—he wants the Commission to “rewrite” history to  
16 make all these accounts successful by inferring that the outcomes would have been  
17 better in “ideal” conditions.  
18  
19

20 Dennis Gilpin, an archaeologist and historian, was a member of ASLD’s team  
21 and testified at these proceedings in 2005. Mr. Gilpin testified that it is important to  
22 try to critically evaluate the resources used and that “historians generally look at  
23 several criteria in evaluating these things [sic].”<sup>60</sup> First, one should look at what the  
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26 <sup>59</sup> C053 ASLD #385.

<sup>60</sup> Tr. 10/20/2005 at 13.

1 writer or author's source of information was; for example, was it direct observation or  
2 hearsay?<sup>61</sup> Second, what is the writer's motivation or objective in writing the  
3 account?<sup>62</sup> Third, is there corroborating evidence?<sup>63</sup> Mr. Gilpin opined that the  
4 newspaper accounts he reviewed at the time exhibited a "range of reliability."<sup>64</sup>

5 Significantly, and contrary to Mr. Fuller's testimony, Mr. Gilpin observed:  
6

7 Overall, I think what these -- and when you are thinking about, you know, the  
8 general consistency of all of these accounts, it's pretty clear that this was a  
9 fairly rare occurrence for people to be floating the Salt River -- or the Upper  
10 Salt River.<sup>65</sup>

11 Mr. Gilpin undercut the argument recently made by Mr. Fuller regarding the  
12 discovery of new newspaper accounts, acknowledging that newspaper accounts may  
13 constitute a sample of what was occurring but, even so, "it does appear that it was a  
14 relatively rare occurrence, rare enough that when it did occur, it was usually  
15 newsworthy."<sup>66</sup>

## 16 2. Newspaper boating accounts on the Salt River.

17 The historical accounts used by ASLD and Mr. Fuller to demonstrate the  
18 navigation in fact of the Salt River are riddled with problems. Some of the accounts  
19 violate Mr. Fuller's own criteria, as they are flood accounts or accounts of crossing  
20 the river. Others are statements of intended launches. And, in all cases, Mr. Fuller  
21 again indulges every possible inference in favor of success, even when there is no  
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24 <sup>61</sup> Tr. 10/20/2005 at 13.

25 <sup>62</sup> Tr. 10/20/2005 at 13.

26 <sup>63</sup> Tr. 10/20/2005 at 14.

<sup>64</sup> Tr. 10/20/2005 at 14.

<sup>65</sup> Tr. 10/20/2005 at 15.

<sup>66</sup> Tr. 10/20/2005 at 15.

1 evidence or evidence to the contrary. When viewed in the larger context of  
2 navigability, these accounts do not demonstrate even a minimal level of commercial  
3 use necessary for a finding of navigability. For the convenience of the Commission, a  
4 comprehensive chronology of these accounts, with citations to all relevant record  
5 exhibits, is attached to this post-hearing memorandum.  
6

7 ***Five Tons of Wheat:*** Mr. Fuller practically scoffed at the suggestion that this  
8 account was either a publicity stunt or manufactured story to generate publicity for  
9 Hellings & Co. Mill. While there was no corroboration on what would have been a  
10 watershed event on the Salt River, the record does indicate the following: The event  
11 was held in conjunction with a new flour mill, as documented by a large  
12 advertisement on the same page as the story. Hellings & Co. was the *Weekly Arizona*  
13 *Miner's* largest advertiser and Hellings & Co. was an agent for the *Miner*, which  
14 likely explains the substantial amount of free publicity Hellings & Co. received in the  
15 newspaper.<sup>67</sup> At the time of the account, Hayden had just finished his mill on the  
16 opposite side of the river. Had this truly been a commercial success, it would have  
17 been repeated many times. Instead, if one accepts the veracity of this account,  
18 Hellings & Co. transported ***.003% of the total flour it made in 1873*** on a few miles  
19 (at most, 3 miles out of 41.3 miles in Segment 6, or ***.07 percent of Segment 6***) of the  
20 Salt River.<sup>68</sup>  
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26 <sup>67</sup> Documented in numerous articles from the *Weekly Arizona Miner* from 1872-1874 [C058].

<sup>68</sup> C058 at 122.



1           **Day Brothers:** When cross-examined regarding the historical accounts of  
2 boating on the Salt River, Mr. Fuller was asked, as to the 28 accounts he mentioned  
3 on the Salt River, “did any of the commerce mentioned in those accounts turn into a  
4 regular commercial enterprise on the Salt River?”<sup>69</sup> After initially evading the  
5 question, Mr. Fuller answered, “**I said that we have no evidence of that.**”<sup>70</sup> After a  
6 break in the proceedings and conferring with ASLD’s counsel, Mr. Fuller “amended”  
7 his answer to include the Day Brothers and Gerald Fogel, who purportedly conducted  
8 trapping on the Salt River.<sup>71</sup>

9  
10           Mr. Fuller suggests that the trapping industry was alive and well in Arizona at  
11 the time of Statehood; it was not. In addition to the vague account in the *Arizona*  
12 *Sentinel*, there is no corroboration of the Day brothers’ trips. Histories of fur trapping  
13 in the southwestern United States suggest that fur trapping was not commercially  
14 viable on the Salt River. A recent thesis on the fur trapping infrastructure in the  
15 southwestern United States noted that large-scale navigation was impossible on the  
16 Salt River due to its rough waters and failure to connect to populated areas such as St.  
17 Louis.<sup>72</sup> In the southwest, trappers and traders transported goods and furs overland via  
18 pack animals and eventually wagons.<sup>73</sup> “Beasts of burden were a necessity for the fur  
19 trade in the Southwest, more so than other regions of North America where major  
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24 <sup>69</sup> Tr. 10/23/2015 at 790.

25 <sup>70</sup> Tr. 10/23/2015 at 791.

26 <sup>71</sup> Tr. 10/23/2105 at 791.

<sup>72</sup> C058 at 10.

<sup>73</sup> C058 at 10.

1 water-ways were the common means by which to travel.”<sup>74</sup> Chittenden’s seminal  
2 work, *The American Fur Trade of the Southwest*, dismissed the southern Arizona  
3 watersheds in one paragraph, simply stating that the rivers were too far south to be of  
4 any importance in the fur trade.<sup>75</sup>

5  
6 **Lt. Robinson/Tiburon Island:** The account of Lt. Robinson is an account  
7 from 1909 in the *Bisbee Daily Review* which recounts, after the fact, that Robinson  
8 left Phoenix going down the Salt River to Yuma. At the time, the *Arizona Sentinel*  
9 reported that Robinson was a “news fakir” who was “addicted to concocting  
10 sensational stories,” and suggested that he had made up the story.<sup>76</sup> Later the same  
11 week, the *Arizona Republican* reported that Robinson was alive and in Mexico City.<sup>77</sup>  
12  
13 If anything, the story of Robinson and Tiburon Island is a representative picture of the  
14 frontier journalism in Arizona, as described by Professor August, with elements of  
15 sensationalism including planting false stories in newspapers. Once again, the failure  
16 to research and evaluate additional news accounts—in this case closer in time to the  
17 event—resulted in a claim of success on an account that was subject to various  
18 conflicting interpretations and involving an individual of questionable credibility.

19  
20 **III. THE GEOMORPHOLOGY OF THE SALT RIVER PROVIDES**  
21 **EVIDENCE THAT IT WAS NON-NAVIGABLE AS OF**  
22 **STATEHOOD.**

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<sup>74</sup> C058 at 11.

26 <sup>75</sup> C058 at 13.

<sup>76</sup> C060 at 6.

<sup>77</sup> C060 at 7.

1 Issues involving the geomorphology and hydrology of the Salt River clearly  
2 expose the shortcomings of *Winkleman*. In its attempt to give meaning to all terms in  
3 the definition of navigability, A.R.S. § 37-1101(5), which, in turn, is a codification of  
4 a non-statutory judicial test, the Court of Appeals determined that the Commission  
5 “was required to determine what the River would have looked like on February 14,  
6 1912, in its ordinary (i.e., usual, absent major flooding or drought) and natural (i.e.,  
7 without man-made dams, canals, or other diversions) condition.” 229 P.3d at 253.  
8 This test is contrary to the basic character of the Salt River as described by the  
9 Commission:  
10

11  
12 The flow of water in the Salt River through the Salt River Valley is  
13 characterized by periodic floods (sometimes extremely heavy) interspersed  
14 during periods of drought.<sup>78</sup>

15 The test adopted in *Winkleman* defines a river that the Salt River has never been and  
16 could never be.

17 Because the Court could not ascertain whether the Commission considered the  
18 Salt River in both its ordinary and natural condition, as defined by the Court, the  
19 matter was remanded to the Commission. In *dicta*, the Court addressed the question  
20 of, “When was the River in its natural condition?” 229 P.3d at 254. The Court noted  
21 that the “obvious answer” was that the Salt River was in its natural condition before  
22 the Hohokam arrived “many centuries ago.” *Id.* Because of a lack of historical data  
23 from that time period, however, the Court opined that “the River could be considered  
24 to be in its natural condition after many of the Hohokam’s diversions had ceased to  
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<sup>78</sup> ANSAC 2005 Lower Salt Report at 38,

1 affect the River, but before the commencement of modern-era settlement and farming  
2 in the Salt River Valley.” *Id.* Thus, an arbitrary time period long before Statehood was  
3 determined by the Court to be “the best evidence of the River’s natural condition.” *Id.*

4         The time period identified in *Winkleman* would be anytime from the end of the  
5 Hohokam era to the modern-era settlement and farming, a period of hundreds of years  
6 with little or no actual data. *To be clear, knowledge of actual conditions on the Salt*  
7 *River for the time period specified in Winkleman is mostly impossible.* Streamflow  
8 constructions can provide only gross approximations of flow rates and guesses as to  
9 depth. And, as the testimony in this matter demonstrates, those constructs are of  
10 limited value when applied to boating. This, again, was previously recognized by the  
11 Commission when it found that “[flow] averages are not particularly meaningful since  
12 it cannot be shown that on any specific day of any specific year that average flow was  
13 attained.”<sup>79</sup>

14         The Lower Salt River has been consistently described by nearly all of the  
15 expert witnesses in these proceedings as a braided river with islands and multiple or  
16 compound channels which shift following flood events. The only substantive defense  
17 to this characterization was a “semantic war” over the definitions of various terms.  
18

19         There are, however, basic principles of geomorphology and hydrology that  
20 cannot be escaped: First, “[r]ivers change, with or without humans.”<sup>80</sup> The Lower Salt  
21 River, as it existed during the Hohokam period, is different than what it would have  
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26 <sup>79</sup> ASNAC 2005 Lower Salt Report at 38.

<sup>80</sup> C022 at 85.

1 been in the early to mid-1800s, and neither is the same condition the river would have  
2 been in at the time of Statehood in its “ordinary and natural” condititon.<sup>81</sup> Likewise,  
3 “[r]ivers are variable.”<sup>82</sup> The time period identified for the “ordinary and natural”  
4 condition of the Lower Salt River in *Winkleman* is problematic, because: (1) from  
5 1867 through 1939, the river was in a consistently braided condition; (2) before 1867,  
6 there are few observations of the river due to conflicts between various tribes; and (3)  
7 after 1939, the river was compromised by non-Indian development.<sup>83</sup>

9         The entire length of the Lower Salt River was surveyed in the 1860s by the  
10 Government Land Office.<sup>84</sup> The plats of this survey are attached as Appendix A to the  
11 report of Allen Gookin.<sup>85</sup> An undisputed review of these reports indicates that  
12 approximately 80% of the Lower Salt River was braided in pre-development time and  
13 that, while there were usually two separate channels, on occasion there were three or  
14 more channels.<sup>86</sup> Thus, if *Winkleman* is interpreted to require that the channel or shape  
15 of a river be examined in its “ordinary and natural” condition, the available evidence  
16 suggests that the shape of the Lower Salt River was not conducive to navigation,  
17 commercial or otherwise.

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19  
20         Professor Graf’s study of channel changes on the Salt River supports the  
21 opponents of navigability. In his investigation of 112 years of change on the Lower  
22 Salt River, Dr. Graf investigated the issue of how channel locations have changed in

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23  
24 <sup>81</sup> C022 at 85.

<sup>82</sup> C022 at 85.

<sup>83</sup> C022 at 85-86.

<sup>84</sup> C022 at 93.

<sup>85</sup> C022 at 93.

<sup>86</sup> C022 at 93.

1 response to floods and how those observed changes can be generalized.<sup>87</sup> Professor  
2 Graf noted that “on the valley floors the channel only rarely encounters bedrock, and  
3 on the surface of alluvium several thousand metres thick it develops an unstable  
4 braided channel.”<sup>88</sup> Dr. Graf concluded that “floods have caused channel relocation  
5 and rearrangement with lateral migration up to 1.6 km (1 mi),” and that observed  
6 changes lead logically “to spatial definition of alternating stable and unstable zones  
7 along the general flow area.”<sup>89</sup> He concluded by noting that “[e]quilibrium concepts  
8 implying a balance among water, sediment, and channel dimensions are of limited  
9 utility, at least on a time scale of a century.”<sup>90</sup>

#### 10 11 **IV. THE STREAMFLOW RECONSTRUCTIONS DO NOT SUPPORT A** 12 **FINDING OF NAVIGABILITY.**

13 Beyond additional historical accounts of boating, the other primary category of  
14 evidence introduced at the resumed hearings involves streamflow reconstructions for  
15 the Salt River based upon available historical data. The Community contends that  
16 none of the streamflow reconstructions indicate enough flow or account for river  
17 conditions at the time of statehood to support a finding of navigability for any  
18 segment. In addition, the criteria identified by the proponents of navigability are  
19 modern recreational standards which do not meet the federal test of navigability.  
20  
21

#### 22 **A. Recreational boating standards cannot be used for a determination** 23 **of navigability for title.**

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<sup>87</sup> C042 at 1.

<sup>88</sup> C042 at 3.

26 <sup>89</sup> C042 at 14.

<sup>90</sup> C042 at 14.

1 Under his definition of navigability (i.e. "float a boat"), Mr. Fuller has  
2 repeatedly opined in these proceedings that canoeing in six inches of water is  
3 sufficient to meet the *Daniel Ball* test. The six-inch figure, in turn, comes from a  
4 source identified in the Boating PowerPoint as "US Fish and Wildlife, 1978."<sup>91</sup> While  
5 the slide is titled, "Federal Minimum Standards for Boating," they are not.<sup>92</sup> The  
6 source cited is a federally-funded study titled, "Methods of Assessing Instream Flows  
7 for Recreation," authored by Ronald Hyra in 1978. That study specifies that it  
8 "presents the techniques of assessing instream flows for recreation."<sup>93</sup>

10 While 0.5 feet is specified in Table 1 of Hyra's study as a required stream  
11 depth for a canoe-kayak, the study further states that "[t]he criteria of Table 1 are  
12 minimal and would not provide a satisfactory experience if the entire river was at this  
13 level."<sup>94</sup> More importantly, Hyra specifies that **"the cross section measured for this  
14 method is the shallowest in the stream reach."**<sup>95</sup> Mr. Fuller did not perform a single  
15 depth measurement on the Salt River. The figures in Hyra's study assumed modern  
16 recreational watercraft.<sup>96</sup> And while 0.5 feet is identified by Hyra as a "physical"  
17 minimum depth, he identifies 1.0 feet as a "safety" depth and 2.5 feet plus as  
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22 <sup>91</sup> C018 ASLD #149 Slide #76.

23 <sup>92</sup> There is no evidence that Hyra's standards have been adopted by any federal agency or  
24 court as a standard for navigability. In fact, there is a specific disclaimer in the study that  
25 views expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States  
26 government. C022 at 456.

<sup>93</sup> C022 at 460.

<sup>94</sup> C022 at 462.

<sup>95</sup> C022 at 462.

<sup>96</sup> C022 at 462.

1 “optimum” for canoeing-kayaking.<sup>97</sup> In questioning on the standard he used, Mr.  
2 Fuller used recreational terms; that one foot would be “more fun than half a foot.”<sup>98</sup>

3 A second study previously utilized by ASLD and Mr. Fuller as “federal criteria  
4 for navigability” is a study done by Cortell & Associates for the Bureau of Outdoor  
5 Recreation of the Department of the Interior in 1977.<sup>99</sup> As with Hyra’s study, the  
6 purpose of the Cortell work was to quantify water requirements for instream  
7 recreation use.<sup>100</sup> Cortell clearly advised against use of cfs in determining suitability  
8 for recreation; “[i]t is not possible to say in absolute terms that a discharge of so many  
9 cfs is suitable for a certain activity.”<sup>101</sup> Thus, while Cortell identifies minimum and  
10 optimum depths similar to Hyra for recreational use, the actual use of a river for  
11 recreational boating is condition dependent. Volume 2 of Cortell’s work, which was  
12 not consulted by ASLD or Mr. Fuller, provides the “nuts and bolts” of a method for  
13 evaluating rivers, which was also not used by Mr. Fuller despite ample opportunity to  
14 do so.

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18 Given that the only standards for navigable depth identified are taken from  
19 studies of instream flows exclusively for modern recreation and recreational boating,  
20 which assume modern watercraft, and that the depths identified are bare physical  
21 minimum for recreational canoes or kayaks, the Commission could conclude that the  
22 proponents of navigability have failed to meet their burden of proof of navigability.  
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24 <sup>97</sup> C022 at 487.

25 <sup>98</sup> C041 at 209.

26 <sup>99</sup> C022 at 179.

<sup>100</sup> C022 at 182.

<sup>101</sup> C022 at 195.



1 See *Winkleman*, 229 P.3d at 250 ("this court has previously recognized that the burden  
2 of proof rests on the party asserting navigability"). The fact that a river can be used  
3 for a few months at very low flows for canoeing or kayaking falls far short of meeting  
4 the burden of proof for navigability for title.

5  
6 **B. Other non-recreational sources suggest a consistent depth of at least  
three feet for commercial navigation.**

7 However, there are other standards upon which the Commission can rely. In  
8 *United States v. Utah*, the Special Master determined that the Green and Grand Rivers  
9 were navigable based, in part, upon a survey of the rivers and a finding by the Special  
10 Master that the mean depths of those rivers fell below three feet during 53 (Green)  
11 and 16 (Grand) days of the year, considerably deeper than the Salt River under any of  
12 the streamflow reconstructions.<sup>102</sup> Given the date of Utah statehood (1896) and that  
13 Utah is also a southwestern state, it provides a strong comparison for this matter.  
14 Likewise, other sources identify necessary depths for navigation in ranges generally  
15 starting above three feet.<sup>103</sup>

16  
17  
18 **C. The pre-development flow depths generated by the credible expert  
19 testimony in this matter are not sufficient to support commercial  
20 navigation.**

21 Because the Lower Salt River has been subject to human exploration and  
22 settlement for thousands of years, it would not be appropriate to apply the  
23 susceptibility test as outlined in *United States v. Utah*. However, should the  
24

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25 <sup>102</sup> C021 at 26. Rich Burtell's Declaration quotes the survey that "3 feet is, therefore taken as  
26 the governing low-water depth to be considered in improvement."

<sup>103</sup> C021 at 26-27; C022 at 108.

1 Commission determine that it is appropriate to apply the test, the Lower Salt River  
2 falls far short of meeting the susceptibility standard. The Community's expert  
3 witness, Allen Gookin, performed a simple analysis of the Lower Salt River.<sup>104</sup> First,  
4 he computed the pre-development or virgin flows of the Lower Salt by subtracting the  
5 flow of the Gila River from the combined flow of the Gila and Salt Rivers below the  
6 confluence. This figure Mr. Gookin used represents a conservative estimate because  
7 the flows of the Salt River along the Gila River Indian Reservation were lower than at  
8 the confluence. The flows for Segment 6b were computed as a mean flow of 1,760  
9 cfs, a median flow of 581 cfs, and a minimum flow of 86 cfs. Using Manning's n, Mr.  
10 Gookin computed a mean depth for 1,760 cfs of 1.30 feet and a maximum depth of  
11 2.39 feet. For the median flow of 581 feet, the mean depth was .86 feet and the  
12 maximum depth was 1.5 feet.

13  
14  
15 **D. The river outside Arizona which most closely resembles the Salt**  
16 **River was found non-navigable over 50 years ago.**

17 In addition to the rivers adjudicated in *Utah*, the Commission may also  
18 consider the subsequent proceedings involving the navigability of the San Juan River  
19 from the Utah-Colorado border to the mouth of Chinle Creek, which took place in the  
20 early 1960s. *Utah v. United States*, 304 F.2d 23 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 371 U.S. 826  
21 (1962). Although there was evidence of use of the San Juan for recreational boating  
22 (for a period of 20 years), the federal court in Utah found that the San Juan was non-  
23  
24  
25

26  

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<sup>104</sup> The information in this section is from C022 at 96-112 unless otherwise noted.

1 navigable<sup>105</sup> and the decision was affirmed by the Tenth Circuit. The San Juan River  
2 shares many of the same characteristics as the Salt River; it is a braided river with  
3 irregular flows in multiple channels. The flow for most months of the year is less than  
4 1,000 cfs, although the average flows are about 3,000 cfs. Like the Salt River, the  
5 periods of higher flows occur during spring runoff and flood conditions. Also like the  
6 Salt River, the San Juan was historically used by explorers and prospectors in small  
7 boats. Studies of the discharge of the San Juan at Shiprock, just upstream from the  
8 segment in question, show flow rates much higher than those proffered by ASLD and  
9 Mr. Fuller for the Salt River.<sup>106</sup>  
10

## 11 CONCLUSION

12  
13 The Commission should affirm its findings from 2005 and 2009, and conclude  
14 that the Salt River was *not* used or susceptible to being used, in its ordinary and  
15 natural condition, as a highway for commerce, over which trade and travel were or  
16 could have been conducted in the customary modes of trade and travel on water as of  
17 February 14, 1912, as defined in A.R.S. § 37-1101(5).  
18

19 DATED this 18th day of July, 2016.

20 GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

21  
22 By \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Thomas L. Murphy  
24  
25

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>105</sup> C041 at 381-393.

<sup>106</sup> C058 at 93-103.

1 **FILED by e-mail on the 18th day of July, 2016 with:**

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**SUMMARY OF ASLD'S SALT RIVER HISTORICAL BOATING ACCOUNTS**  
**ANSAC/Salt River - July 2016**

#	Trip ID & Fuller Slide # (C030 - #364)	Specific Source(s) & ANSAC Exhibit #	Date(s) of Boat Trip	Seg #	Purpose	Success?	Notes
1	Logan (NEW)	<i>Hayden</i> [C053 #392]	Before 1873	1-6a	Exploration	Fuller - Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood account</li> <li>• Hayden would have known difference between flood and normal flows</li> </ul>
2	5 Tons of Wheat (Vandermark & Kilgore) (Fuller #158)	<i>Weekly Arizona Miner</i> 5-3-1873 [C002 - #5]; various articles from <i>Arizona Weekly Miner</i> 1872-1874[C058]	April 1873	6b	Publicity	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• length of trip was not meaningful - <b>.07% of Segment 6</b></li> <li>• event in conjunction with new flour mill (same page as advertisement)</li> <li>• Hellings &amp; Co. was <i>Miner's</i> largest advertiser</li> <li>• Hellings &amp; Co. was an agent for the <i>Miner</i></li> <li>• <i>Miner</i> gave Hellings &amp; Co. free publicity</li> <li>• Hayden had just finished mill</li> <li>• never replicated</li> <li>• <b>.003% of total flour made by mill in 1873</b> (10,000 pounds out of 3 million for 1873),</li> </ul>
3	Hayden (Fuller #159-160)	<i>The Citizen</i> 6-14-1873 [C002 - #1]; <i>Arizona Sentinel</i> 8-9-1873 [C002 - #4]; <i>Arizona Weekly Miner</i> 6-21-1873 [C028 - #326]; <i>Arizona Weekly Miner</i> 6-28-1873 [C002 - #6]; <i>Arizona Weekly Miner</i> 6-28-1873 [C041]	May-June 1873	1-3	Exploration; floating logs for sawmill	Fuller – No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trip on foot upstream</li> <li>• no idea where canoe was put in water; could have been Gila River</li> <li>• pronounced scheme a failure</li> <li>• lost arms, ammunition, provisions</li> <li>• had to abandon boat</li> <li>• Salt River is not “navigable” for saw-logs</li> </ul>
4	Hamilton, Jordan & Halesworth (Fuller	<i>Arizona Sentinel</i> 1-25-1879 [C018 - #128]	Dec. 1878 –Jan. 1879	6b	Exploration	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• primarily focused on Gila River</li> <li>• no details of Salt River navigation</li> </ul>

	#161)						
5	Stewart (Fuller #162)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 10-2-1920 [C018 - #75]	40 years prior/Oct 1880	N/A	Unknown	Fuller – Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>statement of intended launch</li> <li>in “Forty Years Ago Today” column</li> <li>“will launch his boat in the Salt river tonight”</li> </ul>
6	Cotton & Bingham (Fuller #163)	<i>Arizona Gazette</i> 2-17-1881 [C048]	Feb 1881	N/A	Unknown	Fuller – Yes, then Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>statement of intended launch</li> <li>“Will leave tomorrow”</li> <li>Fuller changed opinion to “avoid discussion”</li> </ul>
7	Yuma or Bust [Brown, Copeland & O’Neal] (Fuller #164)	<i>Arizona Gazette</i> 11-30-1881; <i>Arizona Gazette</i> 12-3-1881 [C048]	Nov 1881	6b	Recreation	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reported dates do not match length of trip</li> <li>seen wading in mud pulling boat on Gila</li> <li>“compelled to wade in the water the greater portion of the time”</li> <li>authors doubted account</li> <li>not Bucky O’Neill</li> </ul>
8	Willcox & Andrews (Fuller #165-166)	<i>Arizona Gazette</i> 2-14-1883 [C018 - #248]	Feb 1883	6a-6b	Recreation	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>starting point unclear</li> <li>took two full days</li> <li>slower than walking</li> <li>same distance in 6b as 5 Tons of Wheat Account</li> </ul>
9	Meadows (Fuller #167)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 10-4-1909 [C028 - #272]	~ 1883	3-6a	Exploration	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>account is over 25 years after the fact</li> <li>probably same as Burch account</li> <li>got hung up on rocks</li> <li>had to roll rocks into the water</li> </ul>
10	Burch, Meadows/Meaders, Robinson, Logan, (Fuller #168-170)	<i>Arizona Gazette</i> 6-3-1885 [C018 - #132]; <i>Arizona Gazette</i> 6-5-1885 [C018-#133]; <i>Arizona Gazette</i> 6-6-1885 [C018 - #134]; <i>Arizona Gazette</i> 6-8-1885 [C018 - #135]; <i>Daily Phoenix Herald</i> 6-5-1885 [C018 - #131]	June 1885	3-6a	Exploration; floating logs for sawmill	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>failed in commercial purpose</li> <li>determined suitability for dam</li> <li>wrecked on one occasion</li> <li>lost provisions, firearms, etc.</li> <li>stuck on a rock</li> </ul>
11	Spaulding & Hatfield	<i>Phoenix Daily Herald</i> 12-12-	Dec 1888	6a	Unknown	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>death during portage</li> </ul>

	(Fuller #171-173)	1888 [C028 - #323]					
12	Sykes & McLean (Fuller #175)	<i>Coconino Sun</i> 9-7-1945 [C018 - #18]	~ 1890s	6b	Avoid winter	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• account was 52 years prior</li> <li>• “shoving off, the river went dry on us”</li> <li>• “sand down the river bed as far as we could see”</li> <li>• reported sand until they reached the Gila River</li> <li>• Five Points Corral was near 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Van Buren</li> <li>• Sykes was a attention seeker</li> </ul>
13	J.K. Day (Fuller #176-177)	<i>Arizona Sentinel</i> 4-2-1892 [C002 - #8]	Sept 1891	6	Trapping expedition	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notes trip is “fifth one”</li> <li>• unclear as to location of any other trips</li> </ul>
17	J.K. & George Day (NEW)						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adding four additional trips without any details or accounts</li> </ul>
18	Hudson Reservoir & Irrigation Co. (Fuller #178)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 6-2-1893 [C018 - #60]	May 1892	4	Survey	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• boat “was overturned and occupants were thrown into the water”</li> <li>• ribs of the boat were smashed</li> <li>• “nearly rendered unserviceable”</li> </ul>
19	Robinson (Fuller #179)	<i>Bisbee Daily Review</i> 10-6-1909 [C018 - #76]; <i>Arizona Sentinel</i> 6-23-1894 [C060]; <i>Arizona Republican</i> 6-27-1894 [C060]; <i>Arizona Republican</i> 7-28-1902 [C060]	N/A	N/A	Unknown	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• statement of intended launch</li> <li>• “two previous expeditions have resulted in death and disaster”</li> <li>• past account on Salt River not credible</li> <li>• Robinson was known to manufacture news</li> </ul>
20	“Trappers” (NEW)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 2-11-1894 [C053 - #383]	N/A	N/A	Trappers	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• statement of intended launch</li> <li>• author met a couple of brothers who were building a boat</li> <li>• intended to navigate Salt and Gila Rivers</li> </ul>
21	Adams & Evans (Fuller #180)	<i>Phoenix Herald</i> 2-18-1895 [C029 - #360]; <i>Phoenix Daily Herald</i> 2-25-1895 [C029 - #361]; <i>Arizona Daily Gazette</i> 2-26-1895 [C029 - #362];	Jan-Feb 1895	6b	Prospecting	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hauled boat from Sacaton to Phoenix</li> <li>• only one of four articles mentions Salt River</li> </ul>



		<i>Arizona Sentinel</i> 3-9-1895 [C029 - #363]					
22	Gentry & Cox (Fuller #174)	<i>Tombstone Daily Prospector</i> 2-24-1889 [C018 - #247]	Jan 1889	Unk	Transport ferry	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• boat had been used as ferry on Salt River</li> <li>• account is on the Gila River</li> <li>• context suggests Gila River</li> <li>• “cut in two parts”</li> </ul>
23	Roosevelt Freight (Fuller #183-185)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 4-30-1905 [C018 - #249]	April 1905	4	Freight	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood account</li> <li>• “recent rains have put the Salt River in the raging torrent class”</li> <li>• claim of transport up the river is dubious</li> </ul>
24	Advertisement (Fuller #186)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 5-23-1905 [C018 - #66]	N/A	N/A	Big game hunting	Fuller – Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• statement of future intent</li> </ul>
25	USRS/Fowler (Fuller #187-188)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 12-9-1905 [C048]	Dec 1905	6	Government	Fuller - No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “They found the Salt river a poor stream for navigation”</li> <li>• shipwrecked twice</li> <li>• hit rock and sandbar</li> </ul>
26	Shively (Fuller #182)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 3-24-1905 [C018 - #81]; <i>Arizona Republican</i> 329-1905 [C018 - #201]; <i>Arizona Republican</i> 4-3-1905 [C018 - #203]	March 1905	6	Unknown	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tongue-in-cheek account</li> <li>• launched from the Phoenix Shipyards</li> <li>• “for a time the boat was semi-submarine”</li> </ul>
27	Globe Power Co. (NEW)	<i>Arizona Silver Belt</i> 7-12-1906 [C053 - #384]	N/A	N/A	Engineering	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having a boat built</li> <li>• no indication it was ever used</li> </ul>
28	Rains/Theft (Fuller #189)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 4-29-1909 [C018 - #73]	April 1909	6b	Theft	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tongue-in-cheek account</li> <li>• boat was anchored to a sand bar</li> <li>• were going to pursue a voyage to Tucson</li> <li>• worked through “shoals and rapids”</li> </ul>
29	Selly (Fuller #190)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 6-27-1909 [C018 - #61]	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• article does not mention any actual boating</li> <li>• unclear where boats are being built for</li> <li>• unclear what type of boats are being built</li> </ul>

30	Thorpe & Crawford (Fuller #191)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 6-28-10 [C048]	June 1910	3-6a	Recreation; Exploration	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Many times the men were compelled to lift their craft from the water and carry it over obstacles and at other times had to haul it along the stands.”</li> <li>• boat in dilapidated condition at end</li> <li>• “many” obstacles and portages</li> </ul>
31	Ensign & Scott (Fuller #192)	<i>Arizona Republican</i> 6-28-1919 [C018 - #62]	June 1919	3-5	Recreation	Fuller – Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• described boat as cone</li> <li>• boat upset more than once</li> <li>• canal for portion of trip</li> <li>• “being so unusual”</li> <li>• on a release; not natural flow</li> </ul>
	<b>OTHER ACCOUNTS</b>						
	Floating Logs (Fuller Slide #181)	<i>Salt Lake Herald</i> 5-3-1895 [C048]	N/A	Unk	Commercial	Fuller – included in slides but not summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effort abandoned</li> <li>• taken out of Fuller chronology</li> </ul>
	Hydrographic Survey of Arizona	<i>The Herald</i> 10-30-1884 [C041]	N/A	N/A			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all streams, with exception of Colorado, “are entirely unavailable for navigation purposes”</li> </ul>
	Chicago Account	<i>Arizona Journal Miner</i> 7-21-1897 [C041]	N/A	N/A			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mocks idea that Salt River is navigable</li> </ul>
	Hayden’s Ferry	<i>The Citizen</i> , 2-23-1874	N/A	N/A	Ferry		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notes that ferry used when the river rises (i.e., not ordinary and natural)</li> </ul>