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5 On page 3, after line 20, insert the following:

6 "The referee shall perform its fact-finding and investigative
7 functions through all available means with the objective of providing
8 the most complete and accurate report to the court that is possible.
9 In doing so the referee shall make site visits, shall meet with
10 claimants and others who may have information regarding water use and
11 availability in the basin, and shall review city, county, court, real
12 property, and other records of previous and current water use. The
13 referee shall investigate information that is relevant to and probative
14 of water use and shall include in its report to the court its
15 assessment of the reliability of evidence upon which the report's
16 findings and recommendations are made.

17 The referee shall schedule one or more meetings at convenient
18 locations within the basin for the purpose of explaining the
19 adjudication proceedings to claimants and interested persons. The
20 referee shall provide information to potential claimants on filing
21 required documents, opportunities to be heard in the proceedings, and
22 the anticipated steps that will occur throughout the proceedings."

23 EFFECT: Clarifies the fact-finding role of the referee and
24 specifically authorizes the provision by the referee of assistance to
25 claimants in understanding the adjudication process.

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