

BCOO-4440  
WTR-1.10

Address - See List

Subject: Request for Proposals to Voluntarily Forbear Water Use  
Pursuant to a Demonstration Forbearance Program

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Reclamation is requesting proposals from Colorado River water entitlement holders currently taking Colorado River water for agricultural use in the Lower Basin who are willing to temporarily forbear the use of a portion of their approved annual Colorado River water entitlements during calendar year 2004 pursuant to 43 CFR 417 in return for financial compensation. The Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP) is not currently in operation and approximately 110,000 acre-feet of drainage water from the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District is currently bypassed each year to the Cienega de Santa Clara (bypass water) to meet the salinity obligation to Mexico under the provisions of Minute No. 242 of the International Boundary and Water Commission regarding Mexican Water Treaty deliveries. In addition, when operating, the YDP produces a reject stream. Any bypassed water is not counted as part of the Mexican Water Treaty deliveries and without an offset the bypass results in a depletion of Colorado River reservoir system storage. In view of the ongoing drought in the Colorado River watershed, it is important that the bypassed water be replaced as soon as possible.

Reclamation is implementing a demonstration forbearance program to determine whether voluntary forbearance could be used as an interim measure to replace bypass water while Reclamation corrects design deficiencies for the YPD. Reclamation will also evaluate whether voluntary forbearance could be used in the future to replace reject stream water or to replace bypass water when the YDP is not operating or is not operating at full capacity.

Enclosed for your information is a Lower Colorado Region policy for a Demonstration Program for the Forbearance of Colorado River Water. The policy establishes general guidelines for the demonstration forbearance program, including the level of participation by interested persons and procedures for compensation. We are requesting proposals to forbear Colorado River water for calendar year 2004 from interested entitlement holders pursuant to paragraph 4.1 of the enclosed policy. We desire to purchase up to but not more than 110,000 acre-feet of water this year, subject to price acceptability, requirements of the policy, and available funding. We would be happy to meet with your organization, if you request, to explain the program and answer questions.

If your organization is interested in participating in this demonstration program during calendar year 2004, please submit your proposal to this office by close of business Thursday, June 17, 2004. We appreciate that this is a relatively short timeframe to develop a proposal, but believe it is necessary to move quickly to allow any interested water entitlement holders sufficient time to implement forbearance programs in the remaining months of 2004. We want to initiate the demonstration program without delay to maximize the development of forbearance water during the remainder of this calendar year.

We ask that each proposal comply with the terms and conditions of the enclosed policy. In particular, make certain that your proposal includes the specific quantity of water you will agree to forbear and the price you expect to receive for this forbearance. Please send your proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation at the following address:

Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
PO Box 61470  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470  
Attn: Area Manager, Boulder Canyon Operations Office

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Steven C. Hvinden at 702-293-8536.

If your organization is not interested in participating in a forbearance program at this time but might be interested in the potential for future annual forbearance/bypass replacement opportunities, please send us a letter of general interest. Your response will help guide Reclamation as we implement the demonstration program. Later this year, we anticipate that we will initiate another request to acquire water through forbearance for calendar year 2005.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Johnson  
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Tom Carr, Section Manager  
Colorado River Management  
Arizona Department of Water  
Resources  
500 North Third Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-3921

Mr. Tim Henley  
Manager  
Arizona Water Banking Authority  
500 North Third Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Mr. James H. Davenport  
Chief, Water Division  
Colorado River Commission  
of Nevada  
555 East Washington Ave, Suite 3100  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-1048

Mr. Gerald R. Zimmerman  
Executive Director  
Colorado River Board of California  
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100  
Glendale, California 91203-1035

Ms. Kay Brothers  
Deputy General Manager  
Engineering/Operations  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
1001 South Valley View Boulevard  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89153-4447

Mr. Dennis B. Underwood  
Vice President  
Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California  
PO Box 54153  
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153

Mr. Larry Dozier  
Deputy General Manager  
Central Arizona Water  
Conservation District  
23636 North Seventh Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85024-3801

Defenders of Wildlife  
Attention: Kara Gillon  
1101 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 1400  
Washington, DC 20005

Glen Canyon Institute  
Attention: Brian Gibbons  
PO Box 1925  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86002-1925

Pacific Institute for Studies in  
Development, Environment & Security  
Attention: Michael Cohen  
948 North Street, Suite 7  
Boulder, Colorado 80304

Colorado River Task Force  
Sierra Club  
Attention: Steve Glazer  
PO Box 459  
Crested Butte, Colorado 81224

Center for Biological Diversity  
Attention: David Hogan  
PO Box 710  
Tucson, Arizona 85702-0710

Environmental Defense  
Attention: Jennifer Pitt  
2334 N. Broadway  
Boulder, Colorado 80304

Southwest Rivers  
Attention: Pamela Hyde  
PO Box 1845  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86002-1845

American Rivers  
Southwest Regional Office  
4120 N 20<sup>th</sup> St., Ste G  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6022

Mr. David Orr  
Glen Canyon Action Network  
PO Box 466  
Moab, Utah 84532  
(w/encl to ea.)

Forbearance letter and policy sent to:

Mr. Ron Derma  
General Manager  
Bard Water District  
1473 Ross Road  
Winterhaven, CA 92283-9715

Mr. David S. "Sid" Wilson, Jr.  
General Manager  
Central Arizona Water Conservation District  
PO Box 43020  
Phoenix, AZ 85080-3020

Mr. Robert Mullion  
President  
Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District  
Rt 2, Box 2  
Cibola, AZ 85328-9700

Steve B. Robbins  
General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Coachella Valley Water District  
PO Box 1058  
Coachella, CA 92236-1058

Mr. Jesse P. Silva  
General Manager  
Imperial Irrigation District  
PO Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Mr. Joe Hancock  
Chairman  
Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District  
PO Box 5813  
Mohave Valley, AZ 86446-5813

Mr. Frank Ferguson, III  
President  
North Gila Valley Irrigation District  
1405 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yuma, AZ 85364-4420

Mr. Ed Smith  
General Manager  
Palo Verde Irrigation District  
180 West 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Blythe, CA 92225-2889

Mr. Patrick Morgan  
Manager  
Unit B Irrigation and Drainage District

15875 S. Avenue A  
Somerton, AZ 85350

Mr. Charles W. Slocum, PE  
Manager/Secretary  
Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District  
30570 East Wellton-Mohawk Drive  
Wellton, AZ 85356-6560

Mr. Donald R. Pope, PE  
Project Manager  
Yuma County Water Users' Association  
PO Box 5775  
Yuma, AZ 85366-5775

Mr. Rex Green  
Manager  
Yuma Irrigation District  
9510 Avenue 7E  
Yuma, AZ 85365

Mr. James B. Rhodes  
Manager  
Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District  
14329 South Fourth Ave Extension  
Yuma, AZ 85365

Mr. Edward D. "Tito" Smith  
Chairperson  
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe  
PO Box 1976  
Havasu Lake, CA 92363-1976

Ms. Sherry Cordova  
Chairperson  
Cocopah Indian Tribe  
West County 15th and Avenue G  
Somerton, AZ 85350

Mr. Daniel Eddy, Jr.  
Tribal Chairman  
Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Route 1, Box 23B  
Parker, AZ 85344-9704

Ms. Nora McDowell  
Chairperson  
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe  
500 Merriman Avenue  
Needles, CA 92363-2299

Mr. Michael Jackson, Sr.  
President

Quechan Indian Tribe  
PO Box 1899  
Yuma, AZ 85364-1899

Mr. Mark E. Winkleman  
Land Commissioner  
Arizona State Land Department  
1616 West Adams Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2606

Mr. Robert Dunn  
Gila Monster Partnership  
3720 S. Ave. 17 East  
Yuma, AZ 85365

Mr. Jack Rayner  
Rayner Ranches  
P.O. Box 100  
Ehrenberg, AZ 85334