



Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

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Via email

2007 Interim Guidelines SEIS Project Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
CRinterimops@usbr.gov

Re: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation's Comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS for near-term Colorado River operations

Dear Project Manager:

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (Nation) sees great value in the efforts made by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to provide Colorado River information to tribal entities through the Tribal Information Exchange and appreciates this opportunity to provide general comment related to the subject Draft Supplemental EIS (Draft SEIS). The Nation is supportive of BOR efforts to maintain healthy reservoir levels and is currently participating in Lower Colorado system conservation under the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program.

The Nation has reviewed the Draft SEIS with particular focus on the section related to Indian Trust Assets (ITAs). The Nation is encouraged by the BOR finding that there are no significant impacts to ITAs from the preferred alternative. One of the assets held by the Nation pursuant to its water settlement is an Indian priority Central Arizona Project contract with the BOR for 13,933 AF. The Nation wishes to remind the BOR, in the context of this Draft SEIS and future Colorado River federal actions, that the assets gained through the Nation's settlement were the result of negotiation and concession with the certainty that the assets would be available for all time. It is the BOR's responsibility to ensure that water settlement assets are available in the future and that Tribe's are treated equitably with respect to equitable ITAs.

On behalf of the Nation, I thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft SEIS. The Nation looks forward to working cooperatively with the BOR to protect our shared Colorado River resource.

Yours Truly,

FORT MCDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION


Bernadine Burnette, President