

Technical Proposal

for a

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Plan

BOR-DO-19-F010

Phase 1

Task A: Watershed Group Development

Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning

Submitted To:

Bureau of Reclamation Mail Services

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Letters of Support

Unsigned Resolution (to be signed 11-13-19)

Haughtelin Lake 2012 Report

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.1 Executive Summary

This application is being submitted on 11/12/19 by: Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, Imperial County, CA

The Bard Water District (BWD) is applying for this funding opportunity to complete:
Task A (Development of a Watershed Group – 5/5 Tasks) FY 2019 and continue with
Task B (Watershed Restoration Planning – 4/7 Tasks) FY 2020.

For Task A, the funds will be used for the following specific tasks and activities

- Assign a BWD Employee as Watershed Group Coordinator/Facilitator for outreach to stakeholders
- Develop a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Goals for the new Watershed Group
- Prepare Outreach Plan, Prepare Informational Materials (e.g., Newsletter/Blog, correspondence, emails, brochures, flyers, advertisements, website, videos) visits/presentation to potential participants, stakeholder meetings, establish broad-based diverse membership.
- Conduct outreach Activities organize the group and coordinate activities (communication, presentations, updates, recruit of members, partnerships, etc.).
- Legal counsel/support for group structure, articles of incorporation and by-laws.
- Research/contact with government agencies and U of A to gather information about issues, water data, other technical reports and information.
- Coordinate pre-planning activities for Task B including outlining a watershed restoration plan, researching existing plans, collecting Baseline information and identifying restoration needs.

For Task B, the funds will be used for the following specific tasks and activities.

- Identify site boundaries and jurisdiction through mapping and GIS software.
- Interview watershed group members and stakeholders to gain an idea of projects that would improve the watershed.
- Create a matrix for identifying and prioritizing projects within the Watershed.
- Developing a draft Watershed Restoration Plan.

This project contributes to the goals of developing a Watershed Group and a Restoration Plan to create community partnerships, establishing a legacy of stewardship between a diverse community group to protect and preserve our watersheds.

The project will take place over a 2-Year period: Task A (18 Months) and Task B (6 Months). The proposed project will take place within the **Yuma Project Reservation District (1931)**, on the Lower Colorado River Watershed. It will take place on a federal facility.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.2 Background Data

The Bard Water District, Lands and Watershed are located in Southeastern California within the **Yuma Project**, a Federal Reclamation Project, along the lower Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The Yuma Project includes the Valley Division in Arizona and the Reservation Division in California. The Reservation Division consists of approximately 14,700 irrigable acres of which 7,100 acres are in the Bard Unit (Bard Water District) and 7,600 acres in the Indian Unit.

The watershed is fed by drainage water from adjacent agricultural areas serviced by the BWD. It is part of an Ancient Colorado River bed. It is identified by USGS as the Lower Colorado Watershed. A history of the water users and rights are provided in History section provided below.

Water issues we face include:

- Drought (3-year voluntary seasonal fallowing program)
- Water Quality (Salinity, Dissolved Solids)
- Water Quantity (High Water Demand vs, Low Demand Crops, conservation methods)
- Infrastructure (Old irrigation systems)
- Endangered and Threatened Species (Yuma Clapper Rail, SW Willow Flycatcher, Humpback Chub) and Critical Habitats *Part of Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan*
- Environmental Issues (Upstream contamination – perchlorates and Chromium)
- Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds (Tamarisk, Giant Salvinia, Water Hyacinth, and Water Lettuce, and Algae).

History:

The Fort Yuma Indian Reservation of California was established for the Quechan Indian Tribe by an Executive Order of January 9, 1884. These Indian lands are owned by individual Indian allottees in about 10-acre allotments. This acreage is pooled and leased to various farm operators in the area. The leases are administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bard Unit, located in the eastern part of the Division, contains patented lands held in private ownership. There are about 190 individual water user accounts in the Bard Water District.

Work began on the distribution system of the Reservation Division in 1909 and the patented land was opened to settlers in 1910. With the construction of the Laguna Dam from 1905-1909, approximately 38,000-acre feet per year were provided to the non-Indian sections. The Bard Irrigation District was organized in 1927 to represent land owners in the Bard District. Water for the project was diverted from the Laguna Dam, the first Bureau of Reclamation Dam built on the Lower Colorado River. Later after the construction of the Imperial Diversion Dam (1938), 5 miles upriver and the completion of the All-American Canal (1941), irrigation for the Reservation Division was diverted from 4 turnouts along the All-American Canal. This included the Siphon Drop Power Plant for the Indian Unit and the Yuma Main Canal for the Valley Division in located in Arizona.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.2 Background Data

History (continued):

On December 1, 1978, the Bard Irrigation District was renamed the Bard Water District (BWD). In March 1981, the BWD entered into a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the operation and maintenance of the Bard Unit and in January 1983, BWD entered into an additional contract to operate and maintain the Indian Unit facilities.

The Bard water users originally contracted (beginning in 1909) with the Bureau of Reclamation under Present Perfected Rights to provide water under this pre-existing agreement. Bard's consumption is based upon these farm units. Farmers are able to divert all the water they need for an area. The BWD is just below the Laguna Dam, the first dam built on the Colorado River to divert water for 15,000 acres. The Bard Unit is part of the **Yuma Project Reservation Division** as well as our Watershed and has 2nd Priority Water Rights under the California Seven Party Agreement (1931). Return water (surface and sub-surface) flows through our watersheds back into the Colorado River and continues to Mexico as specified by the International Agreement. The most important crops grown in the Bard Water District are Medjool dates, citrus, cotton, alfalfa hay, wheat and produce. Multiple crops can be grown year-round in this warm dry climate with little need for frost protection.

In 2004, with a 4-million-dollar grant from the North American Development Bank, 2million dollars in matching funds from the Quechan Tribal Council and 2 million from the BWD, for a total of 8 million dollars. 12 Miles of canals and ditches were lined with concrete or concrete piping and check structures were installed. Bard water users obtained a loan and pay \$18.50 per acre per year until 2023 to cover the costs of this construction.

Currently, the Bard Water District operates and maintains 67 miles of irrigation ditches and canals; only 30% are lined with concrete or concrete piping. Bard diverts approximately 90,000-acre feet per year to irrigate approximately 15,000 acres. Efforts to conserve water are challenging in Bard's antiquated system, but Bard has tried to be pro-active in addressing these issues.

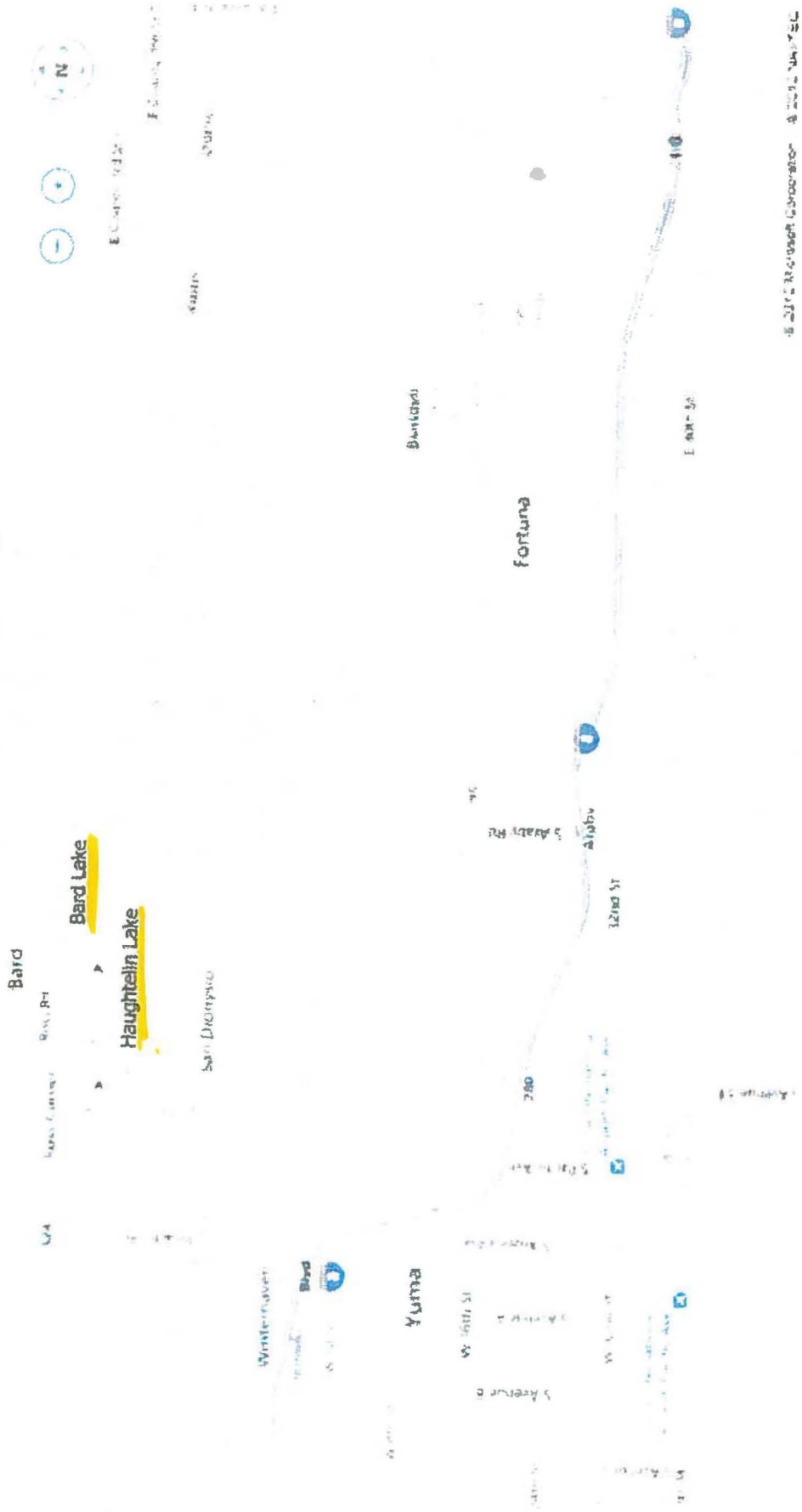
1.3 Project Location

The Watershed area is east of Yuma, AZ and located in Imperial County, California and Yuma County, Arizona, in the Bard Irrigation District Between Laguna Dam and the Mexican Border. It is bordered along the western side by the Colorado River.

Watershed Name:	Lower Colorado
USGS Unit:	10530107

Map (Attached on following pages) Also copy of 2012survey report prepared by the Friends of Haughtelin Lake (Includes Tule Lake and Bard Lake) is provided in Appendix A.

Vicinity Map



1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.4 Technical Project Description and Milestones

Applicant Category: New Watershed Group

We are choosing to apply because we want to develop a Watershed Group and Restoration Plan within our community so we can protect and improve our watersheds and conserve water. We already have a "grassroots" movement (Friends of Haughtelin Lake) that began in 2012. Also, the Lower Colorado Multi-Species Conservation Plan targets this area. As shown by our letters of support local farmers, conservation groups as well as Tribal, city, state and federal agencies support us, as well as becoming a member of this new group. This watershed has been studied by naturalists and written about since the early 1900s.

Eligibility:

We meet eligibility requirements under section A.2 as local irrigation and water district. We also meet the criteria in section C.1. for NEW groups as we:

- 1) Can significantly affect (water quantities used) and are affected by water quality in the watershed (high salinity, stagnation, invasive species and noxious weeds).
- 2) Through our develop of our Restoration Management Plan, we will promote sustainable uses of our water resources.
- 3) We are located in California and Arizona (Reclamation Act of 06/17/1902).

Our role will be as lead for the development of the watershed group and the restoration plan.

Goals and Objectives:

Our goals include creating a diverse and motivated Watershed Group through community outreach. Connecting with those we have developed relationships with as well as seeking out new ones. Creating a core group from which we can grow by first laying the framework (our attorney to assist with articles of incorporation and by-laws), mission statement and public notices. Actively recruiting through media (email, correspondence, video, flyers, brochures, meeting, advertisements, press releases, or newsletters). Working with local farmers, conservation groups and government agencies who already have a vested interest in this area. Arranging public meetings to develop strategies and identify issues and possible solutions. Developing a base from which we can agree upon general policies and procedures.

After our Watershed group is formed, we will work together to develop a draft Watershed Management Restoration Plan. We will utilize information and data from a variety of sources beginning with previous plans to scientific reports and ongoing collaborations. We will glean information from previous awardees and share ideas about their programs to see if we want to incorporate any components. We will utilize existing reports and conduct studies and surveys to get baseline data about our watershed. We already have baseline surveys prepared by the Friends of Haughtelin Lake in 2012 for three potential project sites (Haughtelin Lake, Tule Lake and Bard Lake). The farmers and our Bard Water District would like to see a pass through channel constructed to allow flow from the Colorado River and back out again to improve water quality in the watersheds. We would also need to incorporate drought planning in our Watershed Restoration Plan.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.4 Technical Project Description (*continued*)

Approach:

For Task A, the funds will be used for the following specific tasks and activities

- Assign a BWD Employee as Watershed Group Coordinator/Facilitator for outreach to stakeholders
- Develop a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Goals for the new Watershed Group
- Prepare Outreach Plan, Prepare Informational Materials (e.g., Newsletter/Blog, correspondence, emails, brochures, flyers, advertisements, website, videos) visits/presentation to potential participants, stakeholder meetings, establish broad-based diverse membership.
- Conduct outreach Activities organize the group and coordinate activities (communication, presentations, updates, recruit of members, partnerships, etc.).
- Legal counsel/support for group structure, articles of incorporation and by-laws.
- Research/contact with government agencies and U of A to gather information about issues, water data, other technical reports and information.
- Coordinate pre-planning activities for Task B including outlining a watershed restoration plan, researching existing plans, collecting Baseline information and identifying restoration needs.

For Task B, the funds will be used for the following specific tasks and activities.

- Identify site boundaries and jurisdiction through mapping and GIS software.
- Interview watershed group members and stakeholders to gain an idea of projects that would improve the watershed.
- Create a matrix for identifying and prioritizing projects within the Watershed.
- Developing a draft Watershed Restoration Plan.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria

A. Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

BWD proposes to form this new watershed group that will represent our diverse community (Hydro-electric: Imperial Dam/IID, Agriculture: Farmers, Irrigation Districts: BWD and Yuma Water Users, Federal: USFWS and Refuges, State: AZGF, Local: City and County of Yuma, Conservation: Audubon Society and Conservation Districts, schools/colleges: Gowan Science Academy and U of AZ and others).

A1. Watershed Group Diversity

Affected Stakeholders Supporting Formation of the NEW Watershed Group:

As the grant applicant, the Bard Water District will take the lead on this project. They possess both expertise and resources to initiate this "Watershed Program". Their seasoned staff are from the community and have over 100 years of combined experience in this area. They already have an established relationship with many of the stakeholders listed above.

For the last several months, Bard Water District has been working with farmers to develop a viable plan for a much-needed repair/maintenance program for their many canals and ditches. By a large majority, they voted and approved \$25/acre to fund these badly needed repairs. The Bard Water District manages the water resources in this area. They have established seasonal fallowing programs, applied for other WaterSMART grants to improve efficiency and water conservation.

Efforts Bard Water District will take to ensure Diversity:

As described in Task A, we will prepare an outreach plan, informational materials (e.g., newsletter/blog, correspondence, emails, brochures, flyers, advertisements, website, videos) visits/presentation to potential participants, stakeholder meetings to establish a broad-based diverse membership. We have provided a description of our potential stakeholders on the following pages as well as their letters of support in Appendix A.

We will conduct outreach activities organize the group of stakeholders and coordinate activities (communication, presentations, updates, recruit of members, partnerships, etc.).

Description of Stakeholders:

Stakeholders within this "watershed group" that affect or are affected by the quantity or quality of water within the watershed that will be contacted to participate will include:

Farmers: Our board (representing of local farmers) as well as individuals have expressed an interest in developing a Watershed Program, thus we are preparing this application. They also would like to see a pass through channel created from the Colorado River to improve water quality and reliability. They utilize water from Colorado River for irrigation of crops and groundwater (wells/homes).

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

A1. Watershed Group Diversity

Affected Stakeholders Supporting Formation of the NEW Watershed Group:

Description of Stakeholders:

Irrigators: Bard Water District (Lead and Applying for this funding), Yuma Water Users (Water to Arizona for crop irrigation, and homes). This includes staff and members of the board.

Tourist or Recreational Groups: Audubon Society, Boy Scouts (Participated in River Cleanups and tree planting), Yuma Rod and Gun Club, Yuma Sport Fishing Clubs (sponsor yearly events). We hope to recruit members or volunteers for our Watershed program. These groups have been very active in the community for various projects along the river.

Industry: Gowan (provides support for STEM/GAP programs to all schools in Yuma (K-8), as well as the Gowan Science Academy (Grades K-6). We hope that Gowan as an agricultural research company would provide a board member or advisor as well as helping us to develop educational materials for school STEM/GAP programs.

Environmental Organizations/Conservation Groups: Sierra Club (Local members, no established group in area). Center for Bio-diversity (Usually participate in local meetings that address their goals). Friends of Haughtelin Lake and other Colorado River conservation based groups (Invasive Species, Pollution, etc.) We hope that they would be a resource for technical support/questions.

Universities: U of A in Yuma – environmental programs (Habitat support with Bat Boxes and Barn Owl Boxes installed along lower Colorado River Corridor and agricultural interface. We hope that they would provide technical support, interns, or utilize area for education and research.

Public Schools: New Technical H.S., Gowan Science Academy, San Pasqual Schools (K-6, Middle School, and H.S., Located on Quechan Indian Reservation within 1 mile of watershed). We would hope to develop relationships to provide educational materials and on-the ground activities. Several schools have conducted small research projects along the Colorado River. Most schools conduct field trips to the river.

Local Government:

City of Yuma: Wetlands Program – our Watershed project will provide continuity of ecological areas, helping connect areas along the lower Colorado River Corridor. We have met with their staff periodically for their ongoing Wetland program.

Yuma City Council: Support City of Yuma's Wetland Program along the Lower Colorado River (parks, and playgrounds, beaches, trails, and preserves). Great community involvement (cleanups and tree planting).

Yuma County Board of Supervisors: Support City of Yuma's Wetland program.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

A1. Watershed Group Diversity (*continued*)

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (*continued*)

Affected Stakeholders Supporting Formation of the NEW Watershed Group:

Description of Stakeholders:

State Government: AZ Game and Fish

Federal Government: Yuma Offices for BOR, BLM, USFWS, USDA, NCRS, BIA. We would hope they would provide technical support and help us developing an **area-wide** strategy for connecting our watersheds and preserve corridors, as well as improving and creating habitat, which ultimately improves water quality. Many of these agencies have recreational areas, adjacent to, or within a few miles of our proposed watershed area (Mitry Lake, Hidden Shores, KOFA and Cibola National Wildlife Preserves, etc.).

Hydro-Electric/Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Imperial Dam, extra releases that indirectly provide water to watersheds.

Indian Tribes (western boundary of Colorado River): Quechan Indian Tribe: Tribal Council, Tribal Fish and Game, Environmental Programs, and Elder Programs (Preserving the Kwatsan Way, Ah Mut Pipa, Cultural Committee, Elder Council). The Cocopah Indian Reservation also have completed some river restoration projects near their boundary with Mexico.

Quechan Indian Tribe: We work closely with the Tribe on many joint projects. We have shared resources to remove salt cedar and other invasive species. This has also included washes/riparian areas, stabilizing access roads, small bridges, and providing sand or gravel to the Tribe. The Bard Irrigation District includes both the Bard Unit as well as the Indian unit. The Tribe has worked closely with us and other agencies to help improve water quality along the Colorado River. Their environmental programs through a grant from the USDA has established a native plant nursery and they are restoring another pond area south of the reservation. The Tribe has also created a wetland area with a pond (extended ox-bow from the Colorado River) and Elder Cultural park midway between our proposed watershed area and their pond to the south. The Colorado River forming the corridor. This was a joint project with the city of Yuma's East and West Wetland Projects. The Tribe has leveraged funding from various resources to improve the habitat and water quality on their side of the Colorado River. They do routine water testing with their CWA and NPS grants. Tribal elders and culture bearers gather native plants from these areas for cultural activities and programs.

Military Installations: Yuma Proving Ground (North of Watershed). YPG works closely with the Quechan Tribe and other agencies, collaborating on their environmental management plans (safe corridors, water tanks, and habitat) on the base. We would hope to augment these programs from their southern and eastern boundaries to our Watershed area, by collaboration.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

A1. Watershed Group Diversity (continued)

The lower Colorado River is what gave life to this community, providing water to desert. It has become a center for agriculture and commerce. Its colorful history begins with the Yuman (language) Tribes that lived here, to the military forts, settlers and pioneers, and then farmers. All seek to protect and preserve this legacy.

It is a fragile balance between our community and our limited water resources. A variety of groups have participated in programs and projects along the lower Colorado River to protect this valuable resource through education, improving water quality, conserving water, restoring habitat, promoting tourism, providing recreation, and many other activities. We have already established relationships with many of these agencies and groups and worked with them. We hope that they would become part of our Watershed Group as members, advisors, or volunteers as they have done for other projects in our community.

Targeting Affected Stakeholders:

We will target the three major stakeholders (Landowners) Farmers both on the Bard and Indian Unit, the Quechan Indian Tribe and local conservation groups/agencies). We will distribute public flyers (posted, mailed and emailed) and putting it on the agenda for the Bard Water Board Meeting and the Quechan Tribal Council Meeting. We will also have public meetings, with posting as required (flyers and newspaper notices. We will send letters to all the agencies/groups we have listed about the program “start-up” and schedule a meeting with their staff or a conduct a presentation at their regularly scheduled meeting (i.e., city council, club meeting, etc.) to provide information and see if they are interested in participating and at what level. Finally, after everyone has been contacted and met with, arrange for a public presentation for all interested parties. Then prepare a newsletter (via e-mail and hard copy) for updates, participant opportunities, recruitment, plans and goals. Establish a regular meeting schedule. We will establish guidelines to ensure that our group includes a diverse group of stakeholders. We utilize expertise from some of the other nearby Watershed groups (Gila River) as a model for our design.

As discussed above, most of the different stakeholders have worked to together in small groups on various “Watershed”, irrigation, recreation, native plant restoration, dredging, invasive species removal, research, and education projects, BUT they have never met together as an entire group, except maybe during the Multi-Species Conservation Plan or other major environmental plans. It is critical to develop and maintain relationships that focus on the area and long-term planning and not a current issue. The dialogues and relationships exist but are fragmented and not inclusive of all stakeholders. By creating this group, we could bring all parties together, regularly and develop a step-wise plan to improve the quality of our water resources, public awareness, and conservation methods.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

A1. Watershed Group Diversity (*continued*)

Targeting Affected Stakeholders:

Most people in our area are not aware of the critical needs of our farmers and even ourselves for water. With this program we hope identify on-the-ground projects that will accomplish water conservation goals while improving our natural resources as well as education (beginning in the schools) about our valuable water resource.

As discussed on the previous page, by creating this Watershed Group, with regularly scheduled meetings and newsletters or updates (via e-mail or USPS) we will provide a venue for discussing our plans for our community and its water resources and fragile watershed. This group will provide a vital communication link for all participants. It will provide a public platform for all parties to meet and discuss ideas or plans. It will serve as a tool to community members or groups to participate as volunteers, members, advisors, or supporters.

Government entities usually are aware of what's going on in the community regarding resource management, but only meet with the public concerning specific issues. This grassroots effort will help enable our community to determine its own priorities and goals by becoming more aware through communication.

A2. Geographic Scope

Map (see attached, page 5)

Identify Boundaries and Number to be Targeted:

The Watershed area will be within the Yuma Project District boundaries (Approximately 25,000 acres or 33 square miles). This is a small to medium sub-basin sized watershed. The stakeholders will include the farmers both in the Indian Unit and the Bard Unit. As we are trying to develop a NEW Watershed Group all will be targeted through outreach as described in section A1.

Watershed Name:	Lower Colorado
USGS Unit:	10530107
Lower Colorado Watershed:	267 square miles
Yuma Project Water District:	33 square Miles
Monitoring:	AZDEQ and EPA Region 9 Bard Water District NPS and Food Safety Quechan Indian Tribe CWA and NPS

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

A2. Geographic Scope (continued)

Planned Membership Will Represent Full Geographic Scope:

The first tier of members will include the Bard Water District (lead) and the landowners (Bard and Indian Unit). The other members will be added from the community (representatives from government agencies, local clubs, environmental/conservation groups Friends of Haughtelin Lake), schools or colleges, and industry) who would like to participate. They may be serve as members, advisors, or volunteers. List are provided on pages 8-11 as well as letters of support. We will ensure the landowners are adequately represented. We will consult with other nearby Watershed Groups (verbally and checking out their web-sites) to learn about how their group is structured and how they plan and communicate (i.e., Gila River, and/or past awardees),

B. Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

B1 Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

First and foremost, the most critical issue of our Watershed is drought. Next is possible contamination and risks from pesticides or herbicides. In our discussion with Tribal Fish and Game, over 30 years ago a crop duster overshoot the ag field and killed vegetation and fish. Other issues include invasive species, erosion, loss of native plants, water quality (salinity, suspended and dissolved solids), contaminates (pesticides, herbicides, perchlorates and Chromium), irregular flow, threatened and endangered species and species, loss of habitat, ecological diversity, and mosquito abatement.

The former Quechan Environmental Director and elders spent a lot of time identifying and harvesting native plants along the river and in washes. They prepared a list with their scientific name, Quechan name and their uses. They also described native birds and other species they no longer heard or saw in the area (Small black chicken-like bird and the burrowing owl). They attempted to harvest willow for their traditional basket weaving, but it was too brittle (probably due to contaminants). They once harvested Mesquite beans, used the sap for black dye, and used the roots to make cradle boards. They also utilized Tule for rafts and shelters. They made duck decoys and wove nets from the agave and yucca cacti as well as the chickpea. They also used to have a lot of ironwood trees but there is none on the reservation now. Some areas bordering our watershed sites appear to have been home sites because of the native plants found there (Prickly Pear and Wolf Berry) would have been transplanted. When trying to determine salinity of the soil, they would look to see what already grew there: Willow, Cottonwood and Mesquite were used as indicators. The seasonal flooding of the Colorado River renewed their fertile flood plain used for planting, During the flooding, they retreated to the mesas and interior to harvest the desert bounty from the agave, wolfberry, prickly pear, yucca, tobacco, chia, mesquite, sandfood as well as herbs. They met and traded with other Tribal groups.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Task A Water Group Development

Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building

Building on Previous or Existing Partnerships

The NEW Watershed Group will build on our continuous partnerships with our landowners who have wholeheartedly supported our efforts and have encouraged us to form this watershed group. This is demonstrated by the recent \$25/acre fund they have established for repair of our irrigation systems as well as a previous grant they matched funding for. They are supporting our efforts for all WaterSMART grants and have supported our water conservation efforts of seasonal fallowing for 3 years.

Through the grant will be able to form the group, have regular meetings, and provide up to date information so we can make informed decisions and develop strategies. We will be able to strengthen partnerships with government agencies, environmental, conservation, education, and recreational groups, and other organizations by e-mails, correspondence, newsletters, and meetings. Our partners will serve various roles as advisors, collaborators, researchers, advocates, sponsors, or volunteers.

Land Use Planning and Access (Hunting, Fishing or Other Recreational Activities)

The land we are planning to develop Watershed restoration plans for are currently fairly isolated, unused and undisturbed because of their physical condition. The surrounding vegetation is dense, there is little access and they are in an area that is swampy due to the high-water table, seepage, or drainage. On the Bard and Reservation Unit, these lands are left idle. Discussion for land use would be with the owner/BIA. Private or public land that borders these areas would be identified and discussed with the appropriate owner. We have letters of support from all three Fish and Game Agencies (State, Federal and Tribal) so we hope to address access and use of these watersheds.

Conservation Group Involvement

As listed in section A1, we will provide information to local conservation and recreation groups in this area. They include the Friends of Haughtelin Lake, Rod and Gun Club, several Fishing clubs, and local members of national groups such as the Sierra Club or Audubon Society. We will send out initial letters of inquiry, followed up by a meeting with them or an invitation to a public meeting. Also add them to a mailing list. Recruit them for membership, support, input, and as volunteers. All these organizations or clubs are very active in the community, hosting or supporting yearly events in Yuma such as kids and adults fishing contests, bird migration watches, dove hunting, cleanups, river trips and concerts.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

B2. Addressing Critical Watershed Issues

TASK B Watershed Restoration Planning

Information Gathering:

The NEW Watershed Group's Director will work closely with the Friends of Haughtelin Lake (2012 Survey Report), government agencies (environmental, agricultural, recreational, and any others identified) to collect existing reports, plans, information and data to determine what's available for this area. This will include the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan. They will then prepare short summaries for the members and participants that address the information or recommendations. If a Fact Sheet is available for a study or report it will also be attached. A list of these reports and data will also be provided as well as internet links (if available). A list of workshops or symposiums that were held in the area will also be provided. We will also utilize existing scientific studies and reports to help determine "Best Practices" for managing land and water resources and adapt to environmental changes. We will contact previous awardees and/or review their programs to hopefully shorten our learning curve. We would like to collaborate with U of A's environmental program for technical support, especially for "Best Practice" scenarios.

Conflict Resolution:

The primary conflicts that have occurred in this area are all related to water. They have included illegal pumping from the river or canal, contamination (oil, fuel, sewage), or illegal dumping of trash. We hope to help resolve these issues through education and outreach.

Analysis to Prioritize Issues within Restoration Plan:

The Watershed Group will develop several strategies and develop them within the plan. They will analyze and prioritize issues based on a general policy and the 2012 Friends of Haughtelin Lake surveys conducted at our proposed "on-the ground site" (Haughtelin Lake).

First: They will determine general policy that they can all agree with to address the following:

Name of Watershed Group and Public Posting

Articles of Corporation and By-Laws

Mission Statement

Board/Group Membership (Structure, Term, Qualifications, Vote)

Identifying Watershed Area Boundaries

Identifying Projects

Jurisdiction (Tribal, Water District, Private, Public?)

Eradication of invasive species (Methods)

Restoration of Native Plants

Scheduling Constraints (Bird Nesting cycles, weather, patchwork to minimize impacts)

Public Access to Area (limited?)

Water (any allotted, when, and source)

Mosquito abatement (use or type)

Signage

Fish (stocking)

Funding Sources

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Issues

TASK B Watershed Restoration Planning

Analysis to Prioritize Issues within Restoration Plan (continued):

Second: Identify First Project (Use as model and as a learning tool)

Proposed Haughtelin Lake

Schedule/List of Tasks/Activities:

Review Data for water quality, soil viability, plant and animal inventory

Requirements from stakeholders (land owners)

Permits and Regulatory Compliance

Develop goals and objectives

Planning/Budget (resources, funding – grants/donations/in-kind?, tasks)

Evaluation and Final Report

Third:

Cooperation/Collaboration/Support!!!!

Utilize participants based upon their interests/education/skills to assist with analysis, planning, outreach, and on-the-ground activities.

Previous Efforts:

As a NEW Watershed Group, we will be starting with new projects. However, previously, we have formed partnerships with the Quechan Tribe and land owners to eradicate invasive plant species, dead brush clearing, erosion control, and canal/ditch road stability. We have also participated in meeting between various groups and agencies. We also have already assisted Friends of Haughtelin Lake during their on-site surveys in 2012 and had agreed to provide 600 acre feet of water per year when the watershed was established. We will build on these relationships.

TASK C Watershed Management Project Design: NONE - Funding Request for all of Task A and 4/7 of Task B.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

C. Implementation and Results

C1. Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements

Schedule of Major Tasks, Milestones and Costs

Task A: Development of a Watershed Group (Year 1.5)			
Month¹	Tasks	Milestones/Documentation	Costs²
1 May	Coordinator/Facilitator Designated from BWD	Person Designated	\$0
2-4 Jun-Aug	By Laws, Mission Statement, Articles of Incorporation	Required Documents & Formal Notifications	\$7500
3-7 Jul-Nov	Outreach Plan, Outreach and Recruitment Member Qualifications & Selection	Contact List and Outreach Documents Calls and Visits	\$7500
8-10 Dec-Feb	Preliminary Meetings/Planning	List of Participants & Roles Calls and Visits Group Meetings	\$7500
8-12 Dec-Apr	Gather Reports, Information and Data	List of References	\$10000
11-6 Dec-Oct	Public Meetings and Discussions	2-4 Meetings Agenda, Attendance	\$10000
1-4 May-Aug	General Policies and Goals Identify First Project Site	Written Guide or Policy	\$7500
5-6 Sep-Oct	Final Contact List Schedule Monthly Meetings, Notifications, Information, Flyers, email, Newsletter	Newsletter	\$10000
Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning (Year .5)			
Month¹	Tasks	Milestones/Documentation	Costs²
7-8 Nov-Dec	Define Boundaries of Watershed Area and Identify Sites	Map of Boundaries and Proposed Sites	\$5000
7-9 Nov-Mar	Interview Stakeholders, Conduct meetings, plan review, discussion, recommendations	Contact List Meetings: Announcements, Agenda, Attendance, Notes	\$7500
7-9 Jan-Mar	Create Operational Matrix for Identifying and Prioritizing Projects within the Watershed	Operational Matrix Meetings, Discussions, Collaboration	\$7500
9- 12 Jan-Apr	Prepare Draft Restoration Management Plan	Draft Plan	\$5000

¹Start First of Month, End last of Month

² Estimate (rounded)

Note: During Task B, Work Group will continue to meet monthly.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

C. Implementation and Results

C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State or Regional Planning Efforts

The proposed activities of our Watershed will compliment or meet the goals of relevant Federal, state, or regional planning efforts by the following:

Water Conservation Plans:

The Bard Water District (Applicant and Lead Agency) has developed a Water Conservation Plan that utilizes components from relevant government programs that includes Seasonal Fallowing, water monitoring/measurements, stringent operation/maintenance/repair programs to conserve water.

We have sought and are seeking funding for improvements and repairs to our irrigation system (gate replacement, lining canals and ditches), new monitoring and measurement devices for more accurate data.

We recently proposed that each landowner in our district fund repairs of the irrigation systems for \$25/acre which was voted on by written ballot and approved by a large majority, demonstrating their support.

We are working diligently to conserve water (Operation and Maintenance of our Irrigation system), reduce water use (Seasonal fallowing), improve water quality (erosion control, invasive plant removal, cleanouts) as recommended in these government programs. We are aware that we are in a unique situation, because of our history and Water Rights. We have options, as many communities do not, having to choose who gets water and is it enough to sustain even one crop.

Drought Contingency Plans:

The Bard Water District currently has a Drought Plan that was just updated. As we are currently in a drought, we have taken measures as discussed (seasonal fallowing, recommending crops that use less water, and upgrades to our irrigation systems.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

C. Implementation and Results

C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State or Regional Planning Efforts (*continued*)

US EPA Nonpoint Source Management Program

The Bard Water District actively assesses and manages Nonpoint Source pollution problems caused by runoff from rainfall that can pick up and carry natural and human-made pollutants and deposit them into our watershed, lakes or rivers. Pollutants from any construction or maintenance activities are confined to our paved work area to limit contamination of the ground. The Quechan Tribes, NPS program monitors water quality in the Colorado River from the Laguna Dam to the Mexican border and has been doing so for over 20 years. There have been no significant findings. Most contamination that has occurred within the Bard Water District has been from motor vehicles (oil, heavy metals) or sewage waste. For oil/fuel/heavy metal contaminants the surface layer of dirt is removed (oil dry may be added). For sewage, lime is added. A visual inspection or tests are done to ensure the contamination has been removed and will not enter our watersheds when it rains. Because this is a rural area, there are few storm drains, just small retention basins (parking lots or residences) or French Drains (parks or parking lots).

USEPA Criteria for Watershed-Based Plans

Our Watershed Program will follow the criteria/guidelines provided in the USEPA "A Quick Guide to Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters", EPA 841-R-13-003, May 2013. In our "Design" section (B2) and "Understanding Program Requirements" section (C1) we have provided a similar stepwise process as the EPA 1) Building Partnerships, 2) Characteristics of the Watershed, 3) Goals and Solutions, 4) Design and Implementation.

Other Relevant Plans

Other plans from these agencies that we may use for reference or to meet required goals may include the Multi-Species Conservation Plan for the Lower Colorado River. There are also some Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat Plans as well as Bi-National (US-Mexico) Conservation Plans. The Friends of Haughtelin of Lake conducted several field studies in 2012 in this area (Haughtelin Lake, Bard Lake and Tule Lake). The Quechan Tribe also has some Natural Resource Conservation Plans.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

D. Department of the Interior Priorities

Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt: This project utilizes the most up to date scientific/engineering design coupled time-tested procedures to create a more efficient and responsive water delivery system. Located in a rural area, and sharing land with the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, we are uniquely positioned to promote stewardship. Through our partnerships with our water users (farmers) we are creating a balance between water conservation, planning, efficiency, and cost savings. In January, local water users, encouraged us to apply for a Watershed planning Grant for a former oxbow of the Colorado River which has a series of three small lakes. Many drainage areas and riparian areas are left as buffer zones with native plants providing habitat for the Yuma Clapper Rail and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Low vegetation areas near the mesas and All-American Canal provide Burrowing Owl habitat. Wild at Heart a raptor rescue non-profit, has agreed to assist with habitat identification/restoration. The U of AZ has met with us about a Barn Owl project for predator control. The YPRD is part of the Lower Colorado River corridor between connecting lakes and wildlife preserves (KOFA, Cibola, Mittry Lake, Hidden Shores, Lake Martinez). Our district is included in the Lower Colorado River Multi-species Conservation Plan.

Utilizing our natural resources: We have limited natural resources in the desert environment, other than water. We are using a “Best Practices” model by **conserving, protecting, and restoring** our natural resources (water and subsequent watersheds and habitats) by a variety of voluntary activities as previously discussed (seasonal fallowing, irrigation method, crop vs. water requirements, system improvements, etc.).

Restoring trust with local communities: As a small close-knit community, our trust has been tried and tested through several generations. We have depended upon each other for many years. We continue to foster that trust through our friendships, partnerships and public meetings. We work together with local, county, state, and Federal agencies (BIA, USBR and UFWS) as well as the Quechan Tribe. We work closely with the Audubon Society (bird surveys), USFW (joint rescue efforts for deer in All American Canal), and the City of Yuma Wetlands/River projects. Our office is in Bard, surrounded by farmland. We and our staff are always assessable while working at various locations or at the office. Many of our workers and their parents have lived in this area for many years and have been involved in farming. Tribal families have lived on their land for four or five generations.

1. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria (Continued)

1.5 Evaluation Criteria (continued)

Department of the Interior Priorities (Continued)

Striking a regulatory balance: We primarily work together to support our community, lifestyles, and our resources. Lately, our only regulatory challenges are the environmental compliance requirements for projects, but most of these areas are farmland and already disturbed. We work with local, county, state, and Federal agencies (BIA, USBR and UFWS) as well as the Quechan Tribe to resolve any issues. Watershed/riparian areas, drainages, and washes form a buffer zone and are not utilized. We have not been involved in water mitigation activities for many years. We have an attorney on-staff to provide legal counsel as needed. Our elected BWD Board addresses and votes on issues.

Modernizing our infrastructure:

We are diligently pursuing all funding opportunities to improve and maintain our aging system. This has always included our water users' voluntary contributions. Our only limiting factor, is funding because these projects are quite costly. We have approximately 67 miles of canals, laterals, and ditches (30% lined) and 465 check gate structures of which the majority needs to be replaced as well as their peripheral structures. Our water users recently pledged \$25/acre for Capital Improvements. They also provide a percent of their fallowing funds for system efficiency improvements. They are very supportive of any funding we receive to help to correct system deficiencies as well as improving our system efficiency.

2. Project Budget

2.1 Budget Proposal

Table 1 - Total Project Costs

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be Reimbursed with the Requested Federal Funding	\$99,999.02
Costs to be Paid by the Applicant	\$0.00
Value of Third-Party Contributions	\$0.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$99,999.02

2. Project Budget

2.1 Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	\$/Limit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
Project Coordinator/Facilitator 50%	\$18.00	2,183	Hrs	\$39,294.00
Administrative Assistant	\$20.00	520	Hrs	\$10,400.00
Subtotal				\$49,694.00
Fringe Benefits				
Project Coordinator	\$1.40	2,183	Hrs	\$3,056.20
Administrative Assistant	\$8.00	520	Hrs	\$4,160.00
Subtotal				\$7,216.20
Equipment				
Under \$1,000				\$0
Supplies and Materials				
Computer/Monitor/Printer		1	LS	\$1,998.00
Office Supplies		1	LS	\$2,000.00
Mailing, Printing Flyers, Brochures		1	LS	\$5,000.00
Video Camera and Projector		1	LS	\$2,000.00
Subtotal				\$10,998.00
Contractual				
Bard Attorney	\$200.00	40	Hrs	\$8,000.00
Other				
Environmental and Regulatory Compliance				\$0.00
Travel: Mileage Allowance		1	LS	\$1,000.00
Meeting Room Rental	\$500.00	20	Meetings	\$10,000.00
Refreshments	\$200	20	Meetings	\$4,000.00
				\$15,000.00
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$90,908.20
Indirect Costs				
Type of Rate – De-Minimus	10%	\$9,090.82		\$9,090.82
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				\$99,999.02

Note: Costs can be divided in half for each year except attorney is Task A Year 1

2. Project Budget

2.2 Budget Narrative

Salaries

Bard Water District:

Project Coordinator/Facilitator: Arlene Kingery

Administrative Asst: From existing staff
Assist with meetings, notifications, reports, etc.
Well outside scope of work duties.

Fringe Benefits: Salaries were used to calculate this.
10% Rate

Travel Mileage: Estimate \$1,000 1,724 miles (2 yrs) at \$0.58/Mile

Equipment: Under \$5,000, so see Material and Supplies

Materials and Supplies: Computer/Monitor/Printer
Used for office, research, preparing reports and publications
Office Supplies
Expendables (paper, pens, pencils)
Mailing, Printing Flyers and Brochures
For outreach and communication
Video Camera and Projector
For presentations, advertising and documentation

2.3 Funding Plan and Letters *Not Applicable*

3. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

BOR will help determine environmental compliance requirements, but we have addressed typical questions. Because this project involves planning and no ground disturbing activities, we anticipate that no environmental compliance review will be required.

Impact to Surrounding Environment

Some earth disturbing work will occur within project area.

Threatened or Endangered Species, or Designated Critical Habitat

Work will be conducted around the breeding/nesting cycle of the T & E Birds

Wetlands or Other Surface Waters (CWA – Waters of the United States)

This area is within the Lower Colorado watershed.

Water Deliver System Date of Construction

None, seepage by Colorado River

Modifications or Effects to Individual Features of a Delivery System (i.e., head gates, canals, or flumes)

There will be no effect on the existing delivery systems.

Features in the Bard Irrigation District Listed or Eligible for Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

These include The All- American Canal, USBR Dams, Head Gates, and Retention Areas, Old Southern Pacific Rail Line and Bridges, Fort Yuma, Potholes, Petroglyphs.

Archaeological Sites in Proposed Project Area

There are no archaeological sites in the project area.

Disproportionately High or Adverse Effects on Low Income or Minority Populations

No disproportionally high or adverse effects on low income or minority populations.

Limit Access to and Ceremonial Use of Indian Sacred Sites or Impact on Tribal Lands

Not limit access to and ceremonial use of sacred sites or impact Tribal lands.

Contribution to Introduction, Continued Existence, or Spread of Noxious Weeds or Non-Native Invasive Species

This project will reduce noxious weeds and non-native invasive species.

4. Required Permits or Approvals

There are no permits or approval required for Task A of this project – Development of a Watershed Planning Group. For Task B, Watershed Management Restoration Program. These will be determined prior to project implementation. They could include permits for water use or earthwork.

5. Letters of Project Support

As demonstrated in section 1.5.A Evaluation Criteria we already have a grassroots effort initiated and support from our board to submit this application. All of us have supported Colorado River restoration projects in our area. Letters of Support provided in Appendix A.

6. Official Resolution

To be provided before award. Draft attached in Appendix A.

Appendix A

Letters of Support

Unsigned Resolution (to be signed 11-13-19)

Haughtelin Lake 2012 Report

BARD RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 776, Bard, CA 92283-9715

Tele: 760-574-0704 FAX 760-572-0183

Email: BardRCD@outlook.com

November 6, 2019

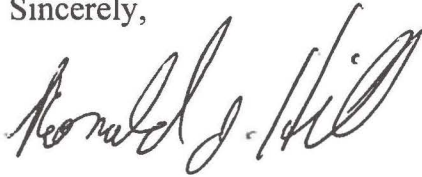
Arlene Kingery
Contracts & Grant Specialist
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
760/572-0704

Subject: Letter of Support for Bard Water District WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grant Application

Dear Arlene,

The Bard Resource Conservation District is pleased to submit this letter of support for Bard Water District's grant application. We understand this is a grant for development of a new Watershed Group for initial planning that can include preparing a watershed restoration plan, mapping and other technical analysis, as well as identifying some projects. As per our discussion, we are very interested in this project and have already helped complete a proposed Haughtelin Lake, Bard Lake, and Tule Lake Multi-Species and Wildlife Area Conservation Plan. If you are successful in receiving funding, we look forward to working with you, and possibly providing a representative for this group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Hill", written in a cursive style.

Ron Hill, President
Bard Resource Conservation District

Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District

12636 S. Ave. 4 1/4 E

Yuma AZ 85365

928-726-8284

November 8, 2019

Arlene Kingery
Contracts & Grant Specialist
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
760/572-0704

Subject: Letter of Support for Bard Water District WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grant Application

Dear Arlene,

The Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District is pleased to submit this letter of support for Bard Water District's grant application for Watershed Planning. As per our discussion at the NRCS workshop 2 weeks ago, we are very interested in this program. If you are successful in receiving funding, we look forward to working with you, and providing a representative for this group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kuechel". The signature is stylized with a large "M" and "K".

Mark Kuechel, President
Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District



**Quechan Indian Tribe
Quechan Indian Reservation
Quechan Fish & Game Department
Chief Gordon Osborne
350 Picach Rd.
Winterhaven California 92283
P.O. Box 181899
Yuma Arizona 85366
(760) 572-0544**

November 8, 2019

Arlene Kingery
Contracts & Grant Specialist
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
760/572-0704

Subject: Letter of Support for Bard Water District WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grant Application

Dear Arlene,

The Quechan Indian Tribal Fish and Game Department is pleased to submit this letter of support for Bard Water District's grant application. Our department works closely with the Bard Irrigation District helping to manage and protect our natural resources. This grant will enable Bard and our conservation area to establish a Watershed Planning Group. If Bard is successful in receiving funding, we look forward to working with you and providing a representative for this group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Osborne", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Gordon Osborne



Grant Title: WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grants

Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

November 8, 2019

Arlene Kingery

Contracts & Grant Specialist

Bard Water District

1473 Ross Road

Winterhaven, CA 92283

760/572-0704

Subject: Letter of Support for Bard Water District WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grant Application

Dear Arlene,

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is pleased to submit this letter of support for your grant application. We understand Phase 1 is a planning grant for development of a new Watershed Group (selecting members and meeting) for initial planning that can include preparing a watershed restoration plan, mapping and other technical analysis, as well as identifying some projects. As per our discussion, five small lakes or ponds as well as several riparian areas along the Colorado River have been identified. If you are successful in receiving funding, we look forward to working with you on this project, and the Department providing a representative for this group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Knowles".

William Knowles

Region 4 Habitat Program Manager

azgfd.gov | 928.342.0091

YUMA OFFICE: 9140 E. 28TH ST., YUMA AZ 85365

GOVERNOR: DOUGLAS A. DUCEY COMMISSIONERS: CHAIRMAN, ERIC S. SPARKS, TUCSON | KURT R. DAVIS, PHOENIX
LELAND S. "BILL" BRAKE, ELGIN | JAMES E. GOUGHNOUR, PAYSON | JAMES S. ZIELER, ST. JOHNS DIRECTOR: TY E. GRAY DEPUTY DIRECTOR: TOM P. FINLEY



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Southwest Arizona National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Cibola, Imperial, and Kofa National Wildlife Refuges
9300 East 28th Street
Yuma, Arizona 85365
(928) 783-7861, (928) 783-8611 fax

November 8, 2019

Arlene Kingery
Contracts & Grant Specialist
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
760/572-0704

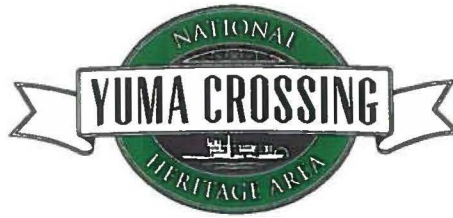
Subject: Letter of Support for Bard Water District WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grant Application

Dear Arlene,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for your grant application. We understand Phase 1 is a planning grant for development of a new Watershed Group (selecting members and meeting) for initial planning that can include preparing a watershed restoration plan, mapping and other technical analysis, as well as identifying some projects. As per our discussion, five small lakes or ponds as well as several riparian areas along the Colorado River have been identified. If you are successful in receiving funding, we look forward to working with you on this project, and possibly providing a representative for this group.

Sincerely,

Elaine Johnson
Refuge Complex Manager



Restoring, Preserving, Maintaining & Promoting Yuma's History

Yuma Territorial Prison • Colorado River State Historic Park • Wetlands & Riverfront Development

November 11, 2019

Arlene Kingery
Contracts & Grant Specialist
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
760/572-0704

Subject: Letter of Support for Bard Water District WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grant Application

Dear Arlene,

The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Corporation is pleased to submit this letter of support for your grant application. We understand that Phase 1 is a planning grant for the development of a new Watershed Group (selecting members and meeting) for initial planning that can include preparing a watershed restoration plan, mapping and other technical analysis, as well as identifying some projects. As per our discussion, five small lakes or ponds as well as several riparian areas along the Colorado River have been identified.

Throughout the years, our organization has been dedicated to improving habitat and conserving water along the Lower Colorado River along Yuma's Riverfront. Seeing other communities with the similar interest in improving our watershed for future generations aligns with our goals, and fully support your project. If you are successful in receiving funding, we look forward in a possible collaboration and/or providing a representative for this group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lowell Perry, Jr.", written over a large, stylized, loopy flourish that extends to the right.

Lowell Perry, Jr.
Executive Director

YUMA AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 6396
YUMA, ARIZONA 85364-6395

Grant Title: WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grants

Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Date: 11/6/19

Arlene Kingery
Contracts & Grant Specialist
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
760/572-0704

Subject: Letter of Support for Bard Water District WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program: Phase: 1 Grant Application

Dear Arlene,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for your grant application. We understand Phase 1 is a planning grant for development of a new Watershed Group (selecting members and meeting) for initial planning that can include preparing a watershed restoration plan, mapping and other technical analysis, as well as identifying some projects. As per our discussion, five small lakes or ponds as well as several riparian areas along the Colorado River have been identified. If you are successful in receiving funding, we look forward to working with you on this project, and possibly providing a representative for this group

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nancy Meister". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nancy Meister
President, Yuma Audubon Society

BARD WATER DISTRICT
RESOLUTION # 11132019 - 015

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Plan
BOR-MP-19-F010

**Phase 1: Task A: Watershed Group Development
and Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning**

WHEREAS, at our Board Meeting held on November 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The duly elected Board of Directors for the Bard Water District has discussed the Bureau of Reclamation *WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Plan Phase 1 (BOR-MP-19-F010) for Task A: Watershed Group Development and Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning (submitted 11/13/19).*

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Bard Water District acknowledges that it is the Districts' best interest to move forward with the Grant Application for Task A: Watershed Group Development and Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning. This project also required letter of support from the local community. This project, when completed will improve water system management, efficiency and significantly reduce water losses.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the District approved the Bureau of Reclamation *WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Plan Grant Application (BOR-MP-19-F010) for Task A: Watershed Group Development and Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning. Grant submitted and executed by Nick Bahr the District General Manager.*

Date: _____

Steve Alameda, President
BARD WATER DISTRICT

Attest:

Ray Face, Secretary/Treasurer

The Proposed Haughtelin and Bard Lake Wildlife Area



Haughtelin Lake Multi-Species and Wildlife Area

The Friends of Haughtelin Lake are proposing that a multi-species or wildlife area be established by the Department of the Interior to restore and protect an area seven miles northeast of Yuma, Arizona but located in the state of California. This area includes Haughtelin Lake, Bard Lake, Tule Lake, and other lands located in the oxbow of the ancient Colorado River bed in California.

The proposed area includes both wetland and riparian lands. In years past the vegetation used to be cottonwood, honey mesquite, willow, and cattail marshes. Currently only the cattail marshes survive with non-native tamarix and phragmites dominating.

The wetland area would be approximately 1,000 acres, with if restored, would again become an important part of the Pacific Flyway protecting migratory birds, aquatic species and provide a habitat for threatened and endangered species of birds, reptiles and mammals.

Some of the endangered and threatened species this area would provide a habitat for are:

- 1) Yuma Clapperail
- 2) Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
- 3) Yellow-Billed Cuckoo
- 4) Yuman and Sonoran Fringe-toed Lizard
- 5) Yuma Hispid Cotton Rat
- 6) Migratory Birds
- 7) Endangered and threatened fish species

The riparian area should be cleared of the non-native plant species and restored to cottonwood, honey mesquite and willow.

Water: The water in Haughtelin Lake, Bard Lake and Tule Lake is drainage water from the adjacent agricultural area serviced by Bard Water District. The Bard Water District will supply the approximately 600 acre feet of water to establish the plant species. Please see attachments. Once established in one to two years, there will be no Colorado River water consumed.

The Changing Reasons for Reclamations Refusal To Designate Haughtelin Lake as a Multi-Species Conservation Program Area

The most recent reason given by Reclamation , is that the Ancient Colorado River bed lacks a water right as set forth in Arizona vs. California

Reclamation fails to understand that the area is located in what is described in the California Seven Party Agreement(1931) in which priority two water was granted to the Yuma Project, Reservation Division for the beneficial use upon an area of 25,000 acres. Dr. Mead in his correspondence at the time clearly describes the area.

An instructive essay written by Harold A. Ranquist ,Solicitor Department of the Interior describes the expanding scope of the Winters Doctrine as it relates to reservation of Federal rights to use water in a Federal enclave. "... the basis of this opinion was that the Sovereign reserved water to fulfill those purposes..." (citations omitted) . Following Mr. Ranquist's essay, the United States Supreme Court in , *Cappaert v. United States*, 426 U.S. 128 (1976) again restated the reserved water rights of the Sovereign. "This Court has long held that when the Federal Government withdraws its land from the public domain and reserves it for a federal purpose the Government by implication, reserves appurtenant water..."

Reclamation believes that Haughtelin Lake and Bard Lake somehow lacks a water right and therefore should not exist. The elevation of Haughtelin and Bard Lake is according to Reclamation's own documents some six to ten feet above the elevation of the Colorado River. It is beyond dispute that the water in these areas is actual water from adjacent agricultural operations in the Bard Water District.

Reclamation also relies, as an excuse , the 2006 decree (547 U.S. 150 (2006) *Arizona v. California*) that a water right for the Haughtelin and Bard lakes does not exist. The decree states "... nothing in the article be construed to affect the possible superior rights on behalf of the United States asserted on behalf of National Forests, Parks, Memorials, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management...". The ancient Colorado River Bed lands are owned by the Federal Government administered by the BLM and the USBR.

The Arizona and California Land claims regarding the ox-bow of the ancient Colorado River bed.

The states of Arizona and California have both verbally claimed this wildlife area inhabited by endangered species as theirs under the Equal Footing Doctrine in their arguments included in the 2006 Supreme Court decree regarding *Arizona V. California*.

One could argue that somehow the Equal Footing Doctrine might apply in this issue but both states have neglected to argue that the ancient Colorado Riverbed located on the ox-bow near Yuma Az were submerged lands at the time of statehood. California forgets that the Colorado River at the time of statehood (1850) was located some two miles west of the current location of Haughtelin and Bard Lakes. In 1912 when Arizona achieved statehood the Colorado River was located in a different area than the lakes are currently located. It therefore follows that this area does not fit the description of submerged lands as described in the equal footing doctrine (*Pollards Lessee v. Magan* 44 U.S.(1845).

The Public Trust Doctrine is another area that both the States of Arizona and California studiously avoid in their specious claims of title to the ancient Colorado River bed, but it appears that both states fail to consider their requirements of Public Trust.

A HISTORY OF BIRD LIFE ON THE ANCIENT COLORADO RIVER

This area was first studied extensively by Joseph Grinnell, the noted zoologist on April and May 1910 As noted in his book "An Account of the Mammals and Birds of the lower Colorado Valley with especial reference to the distributional problems (1914). Grinnell found the following birds on the ox-bow of the ancient Colorado River: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Gila Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Roadrunner, Western Horned Owl, Farallon Comorant, Arizona Least Bells Vireo, Western Warbling Vireo, White Faced Glossy Ibis, Pallid Blue Heron, Anthony Green Heron, Black Crowned Night Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Gambels Desert Quail, Morning Dove, Whitewinged Dove, Turkey Vulture, Cooper Hawk, Western Red tailed Hawk, Osprey, Texas night Hawk, Vaux Swift, Whitethroated Swift, Western King bird, Ash throated Flycatcher, Western Wood Peewee, vermillion Flycatcher, Dwarf Cowbird, Yellow headed Blackbird, Bullock Oriole, California Linnet, Greenbacked Goldfinch, Western Savannah Sparrow, Western Chipping Sparrow, Albert Towhee, Green Tailed Towhee, Blackheaded Grosbeak, Arizona Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Western Tanager, Cooper tanager, Red winged Swallow, Calaveras Warbler, Lutescent Warbler, Sonora yellow Warbler, California Yellow Warbler, Audubon Warbler Black-throated Warbler, Townsend Warbler, Hermit Warbler Tolmie Warbler, Tule Yellowthroat, Long-tailed Chat, Alaska Pileolated Warbler, Golden pileotated Warbler, Plumbus gnatcatcher, Russet backed Thrush, and White-faced Glossy Ibis,

In 1921 Donald R. Dickey identified for the first time a Yuma Clapper Rail in Bard California.

Subj: **Fw: eBird Report - Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, Oct 26, 2013**
Date: 1/18/2014 9:04:15 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From: yaspresident@yahoo.com
To: bardwater@aol.com, yuma2delmar@aol.com

Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, Imperial, US-CA

Oct 26, 2013 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Protocol: Traveling

5.0 mile(s)

Comments: Arline, Ron, Rich, Me

16 species (+2 other taxa)

Gambel's Quail 4
Pied-billed Grebe 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1
American Coot 5
Great Horned Owl 2
Gila Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 1
Empidonax sp. 1
Black Phoebe 2
Loggerhead Shrike 1
swallow sp. 10
Verdin 1
Northern Mockingbird 2
Orange-crowned Warbler 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 6
Red-winged Blackbird 12
Great-tailed Grackle 25
House Finch 3

View this checklist online at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S16427894>

This report was generated automatically by eBird v3 (<http://ebird.org>)

Subj: **Fw: eBird Report - Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, Nov 15, 2013**
Date: 1/18/2014 8:02:50 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
From: vaspresident@yahoo.com
To: bardwater@aol.com, yuma2delmar@aol.com

Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, Imperial, US-CA
Nov 15, 2013 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Protocol: Traveling
5.0 mile(s)
Comments: Arlene, Ron, Rich, me
16 species

Pied-billed Grebe 1
Northern Harrier 1
Cooper's Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1
American Coot 2
Mourning Dove 8
Great Horned Owl 1
Kestrel 1
Say's Phoebe 1
Loggerhead Shrike 1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 11
Abert's Towhee 1
White-crowned Sparrow 2
Red-winged Blackbird 1
House Finch 23

View this checklist online at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S16427994>

This report was generated automatically by eBird v3 (<http://ebird.org>)

Subj: **eBird Report - Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, Mar 7, 2014**
Date: 4/4/2014 3:39:11 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From: do-not-reply@ebird.org
To: Yuma2delmar@aol.com

Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, Imperial, US-CA

Mar 7, 2014 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Protocol: Traveling

5.0 mile(s)

Comments: Arlene and me birding with Ron and Rich
18 species

Gambel's Quail 12
Great Egret 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
American Coot 3
Mourning Dove 11
Greater Roadrunner 1
Northern Flicker 3
Horned Lark 5 Seen in near by carrot field
Marsh Wren 2
American Robin 1
Common Yellowthroat 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 20
Abert's Towhee 1
White-crowned Sparrow 12
Red-winged Blackbird 200 flying overhead
Western Meadowlark 4 in nearby carrot field
Yellow-headed Blackbird 6
Great-tailed Grackle 24

View this checklist online at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S17742285>

This report was generated automatically by eBird v3 (<http://ebird.org>)

Subj: **eBird Report - Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, May 2, 2014**
Date: 5/9/2014 1:57:29 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From: do-not-reply@ebird.org
To: Yuma2delmar@aol.com

Haughtelin and Bard Lakes, Imperial, US-CA
May 2, 2014 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Protocol: Traveling
5.0 mile(s)
Comments: Arlene, Ron, Rich, Me
21 species

Gambel's Quail 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1
American Coot 1
Killdeer 1
White-winged Dove 3
Mourning Dove 20
Greater Roadrunner 1
Great Horned Owl 1
Lesser Nighthawk 1
Northern Flicker 1
Say's Phoebe 1
Western Kingbird 3
European Starling 3
Common Yellowthroat 1
Yellow Warbler 1
Abert's Towhee 4
Red-winged Blackbird 10
Yellow-headed Blackbird 3
Great-tailed Grackle 2
House Finch 2

View this checklist online at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S18304677>

This report was generated automatically by eBird v3 (<http://ebird.org>)

S20182965**Location****, Imperial County, California, US****Date and
Effort****Mon Oct 06, 2014 8:00 AM**

Protocol: Traveling

Party Size: 3

Duration: 2 hour(s), 30 minute(s)

Distance: 5.0 mile(s)

Observers: **Richard Johnson** , yas president [List](#)

Comments: Ron, Rich, me

25 species total**2 Pied-billed Grebe****1 Eared Grebe****1 Great Egret****1 Turkey Vulture****1 Osprey****1****2 Cooper's Hawk****2 Red-tailed Hawk****1****2****1 American Coot****1****18 Mourning Dove****1**

4

1 Black Phoebe

4 Say'

2 Loggerhead Shrike

1

3 Northern Mockingbird

1 Yellow Warbler

1 Yellow-rumped Warbler

50 Red-

6 Great-tailed Grackle

1 House Finch

Are you submitting a **complete checklist** of the birds you were able to identify?

Yes

Great Horned Owls



Red-Tailed Hawk



Killdeer



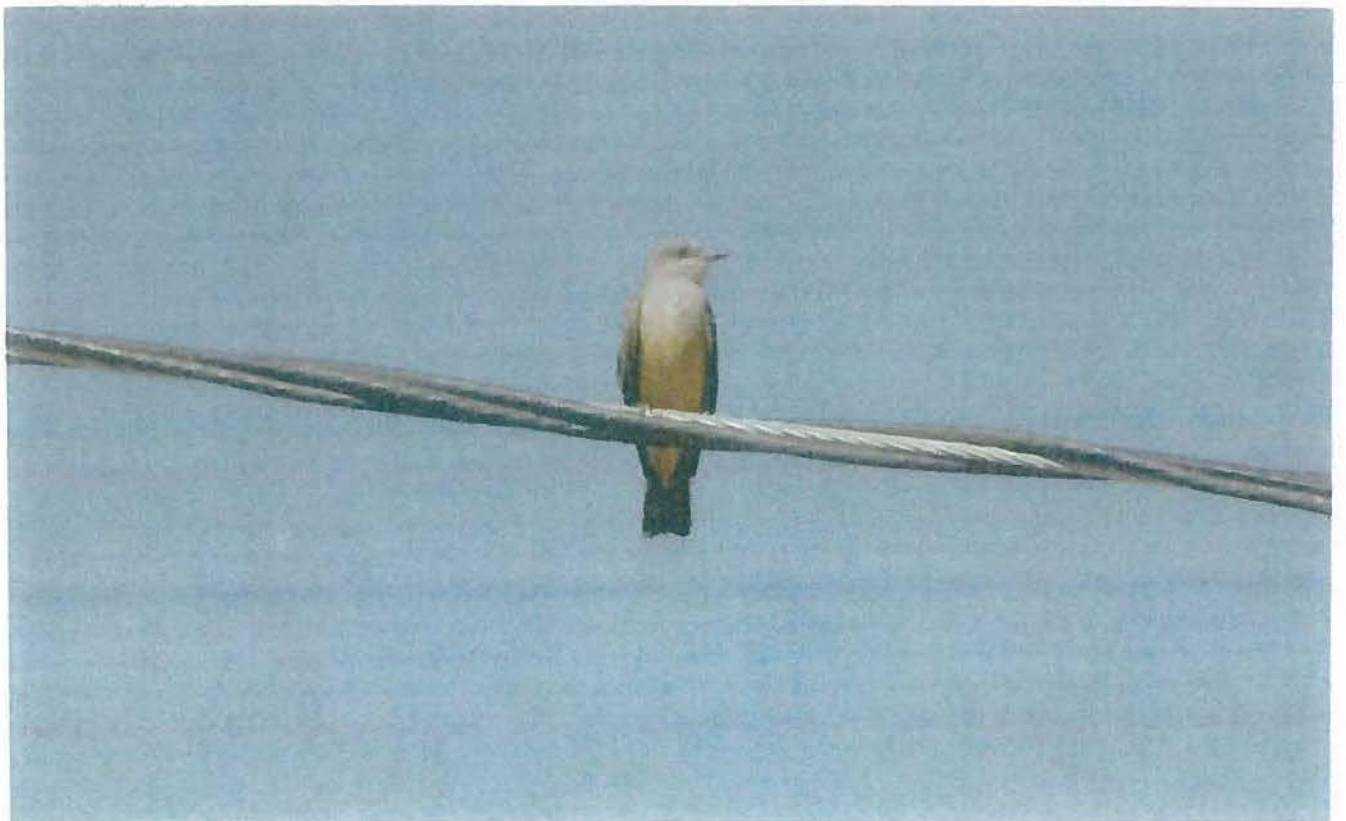
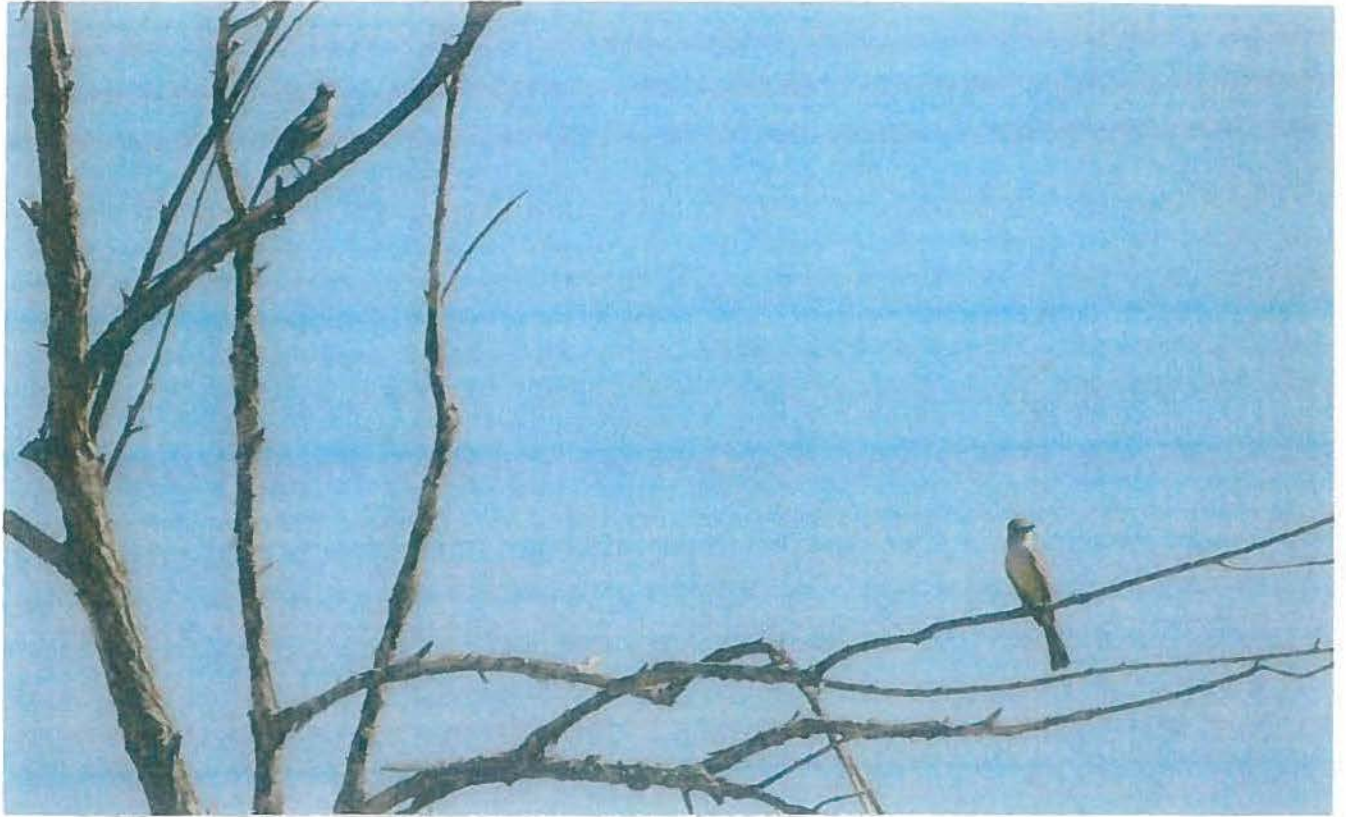
Hummingbird



Quail and Dove



Western Kingbird



Yellow-Headed Blackbird



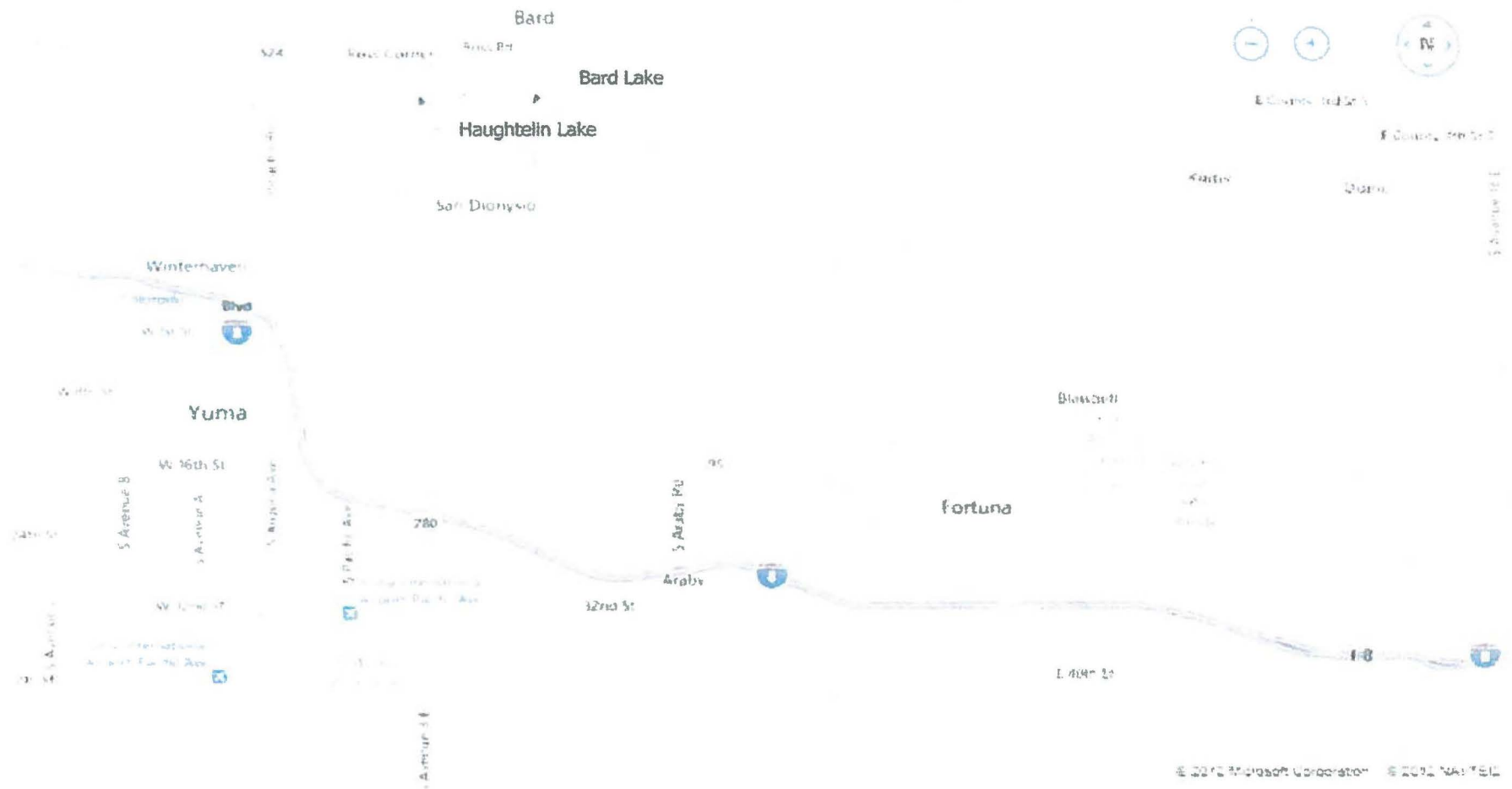
Aerial of Haughtelin Lake



Bard Topographic Map



Vicinity Map



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT;

RICHARD JOHNSON 928-210-5061 OR 760-448-5903 , NANCY MEISTER 928-782-3552, RON DERMA 928-210-0456, OR THE FRIENDS OF HAUGHTELIN AND BARD LAKE P. O. BOX 144 YUMA ARIZONA 85366

BARD WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION #01022014 - 006

HAUGHTELIN LAKE AND WILDLIFE AREA

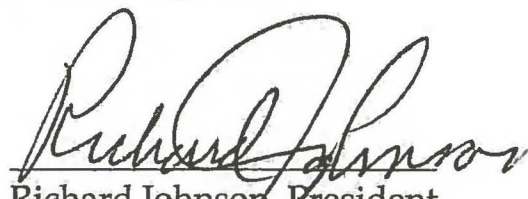
WHEREAS at our Board Meeting held on October 2nd, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. The duly elected Board of Directors for the Bard Water District has discussed *Providing Water Delivery Service to the Haughtelin Lake and Wildlife Area.*

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Bard Water District agrees to deliver a minimum of 700 Acre Feet of water out of its Colorado River apportionment which will be provided through Conservation, Land Fallowing or other means that the Bard Water District deems appropriate. This will be a beneficial use of Water that will enhance the preservation of wildlife in the area.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the District approved to *Provide Water Delivery Service to the Haughtelin Lake and Wildlife Area.*

Date:

Oct 2, 2014


Richard Johnson, President
BARD WATER DISTRICT

Attest:


William Scott, Secretary/Treasurer

ARGUMENTS TO RECLAMATION'S REFUSAL TO DESIGNATE HAUGHTELIN LAKE AS A MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM AREA

The Haughtelin Lake area is located within the area described in the *California Seven Party Agreement (1931)*, in which priority 2 water was granted to the Yuma Project, Reservation Division for the beneficial use upon an area of 25,000 acres. Dr. Mead in his correspondence at the time clearly describes the area.

An instructive essay written by Harold A. Ranquist, Solicitor Department of the Interior, describes the expanding scope of the *Winters Doctrine* as it relates to reservation of Federal rights to use water in a Federal enclave. "...the basis of this opinion was that the Sovereign reserved water to fulfill those purposes.." (citations omitted). Following Mr. Ranquist's essay, the United States Supreme Court in *Cappaert v. United States*, 426 U.S. 128 (1976) again restated the reserved water rights of the Sovereign. "This Court has long held that when the Federal Government withdraws its land from the public domain and reserves it for a federal purpose, the Government by implication reserves appurtenant water..."

Reclamation believes that Haughtelin Lake and Bard Lake lack a water right and, therefore, should not exist. According to Reclamation's own documents, the elevation of Haughtelin Lake and Bard Lake is 6 to 10 feet above the elevation of the Colorado River. It is beyond dispute that the water in these areas originates from adjacent agricultural activities within the Bard Water District.

According to Reclamation, the 2006 decree (547 U.S. 150 (2006) *Arizona v. California*) that a water right for the Haughtelin Lake and Bard Lake does not exist. The decree states "...nothing in the article be construed to affect the possible superior rights on behalf of the United States asserted on behalf of National Forests, Parks, Memorials, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management..." The Federal Government, administered by the BLM and USBR, owns the land within the ancient Colorado River Bed.

Arizona and California Land Claims to the ox-bow of the Ancient Colorado River Bed

The states of Arizona and California have both verbally claimed this wildlife area inhabited by endangered species as theirs under the Equal Footing Doctrine in their arguments, included in the Supreme Court decree regarding *Arizona v. California*.

One could argue that somehow the *Equal Footing Doctrine* might apply in this issue but both states have neglected to argue that the ancient Colorado River bed located on the ox-bow near Yuma, Arizona, were submerged lands at the time of statehood. California forgets that the Colorado River, at the time of statehood (1850), was located some 2 miles west of the current location of Haughtelin Lake and Bard Lake. In 1912 when Arizona achieved statehood, the Colorado River was located in a different area than where the lakes are currently located. It, therefore, follows that this area does not fit the description of submerged lands as described in the *Equal Footing Doctrine* (*Pollards Lessee v. Magan* 44 U.S. (1845)).

The *Public Trust Doctrine* is another area that both Arizona and California studiously avoid in their claims of title to the ancient Colorado River bed, but it appears that both states fail to consider their requirements of Public Trust.

For more information on this subject contact: Richard Johnson (928) 210-5061; Nancy Meister (928) 928-3552; Ron Derma (928) 210-0456; or the Friends of Haughtelin Lake and Bard Lake P.O. Box 144, Yuma, Arizona 85366