



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

DEC 30 2011

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-4220  
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. David Brownlee  
City Manager  
City of Needles  
817 Third Street  
Needles, CA 92363-2933

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2012 Diversion for the City of Needles (City)

Dear Mr. Brownlee:

In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides the City with notice of my determination regarding the City's proposed diversion and beneficial use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2012.

Under Contract No. 05-XX-30-W0445, as amended, the City has a Present Perfected Right (PPR) No. 43 which allows the City to divert up to 1,500 acre-feet or consumptively use up to 950 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year, whichever is less. Under the same contract, the City also has PPR No. 44 which allows it to divert up to 1,260 acre-feet or consumptively use up to 273 acre-feet per year, whichever is less. The combined annual diversion limit for these two PPR entitlements is 2,760 acre-feet with a combined consumptive use limit of 1,223 acre-feet. Based on the City's average consumptive use to diversion ratio for calendar years 2008-2010, the City would reach its consumptive use limit of 1,223 acre-feet with a diversion of 1,723 acre-feet.

Under Contract No. 2-07-30-W0280, as amended, the City is also entitled to water for domestic use as part of the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (LCWSP). The LCWSP provides a non-Colorado River supply for domestic, municipal, industrial, and recreation water needs through exchange for Colorado River water users in California. The City's LCWSP contract supplements the above PPR entitlements. In 2012, water pumped from the LCWSP well field will also be used by the City to furnish sufficient water to satisfy its consumptive use requirements, and to meet the consumptive use requirements of the non-Federal LCWSP subcontractors.

Based upon a review of the calendar year 2012 diversion estimate provided by the City, and the information gathered during the Bureau of Reclamation's annual Part 417 consultation process, I approve the diversion of up to 1,723 acre-feet of Colorado River water under the City's PPR entitlements, and up to 997 acre-feet of Colorado River water to be exchanged for LCWSP water, for a total diversion of 2,720 acre-feet for use in the City's service area.

Reclamation will monitor and project diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during calendar year 2012 in an effort to ensure each entitlement holder's annual approval is not exceeded. Beginning in February 2012, these projections will be available to water users on a daily basis on Reclamation's website: [www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast12.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast12.pdf). It is expected that California entitlement holders will use this information to adjust diversions to remain within approved annual quantities or, as appropriate, seek modification of the approval.

Thank you for submitting the City's diversion estimate for 2012. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR



Lorri Gray-Lee  
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Christopher Harris  
Acting Executive Director  
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