United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEC 30 2011

LC-4220
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Jayne Harkins, P.E.
Executive Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada
555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 3100
Las Vegas, NV 89101-1065

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2012 Diversion for the State of Nevada (State)

Dear Ms. Harkins:

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

The State is entitled to divert a quantity of Colorado River water sufficient to satisfy a consumptive use of 300,000 acre-feet per year; plus any surplus water determined to be available by the Secretary of the Interior. The State's diversion right is shared between (1) entitlement holders whose right to divert and consume Colorado River water existed prior to the formation of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in 1991, and (2) SNWA and its purveyor members in accordance with the entitlements established in the SNWA contract and its subcontracts with purveyor members.

The State has indicated it anticipates consuming its entire basic apportionment of 300,000 acre-feet during calendar year 2012. The State has also indicated that SNWA anticipates creating up to 44,000 acre-feet of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) during 2012 and storing the full amount created, less the one-time system assessment, in Lake Mead.

Based upon a review of the calendar year 2012 diversion estimate provided by the State, and the information gathered during the Bureau of Reclamation's annual Part 417 consultation process, I approve the diversion of up to 515,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water during calendar year 2012 for use by the State's water entitlement holders. This approval is conditioned on the State's total consumptive use not exceeding 300,000 acre-feet for calendar year 2012. Should SNWA elect to take delivery of ICS during 2012, the State is required to submit to Reclamation a revised diversion request indicating the amount of ICS SNWA will take.

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. It is expected that the State's 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 State's diversion estimates 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
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