



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:

LC-4212
WTR-4.03

DEC 29 2015

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Benjamin Tuggle, Ph.D.
Regional Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2016 Colorado River Diversion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)

Dear Dr. Tuggle:

In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides the Service with notice of my determination regarding the Service's proposed diversion and beneficial use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2016.

As provided in Article II(D)(7) of the Consolidated Decree of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Arizona v. California*, 547 U.S. 150 (2006) (Consolidated Decree), the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is entitled to divert up to 41,839 acre-feet (AF) per year, or consumptively use up to 37,399 AF per year, whichever is less, of Arizona second priority Colorado River water to fulfill the purposes of the refuge.

As provided in Article II(D)(8) of the Consolidated Decree, the Imperial NWR is entitled to divert up to 28,000 AF per year, or consumptively use up to 23,000 AF per year, whichever is less, of Arizona second priority Colorado River water to fulfill the purposes of the refuge.

Under Secretarial Reservation, published in the *Federal Register* at 47 Fed. Reg. 55430 (December 9, 1982), the Cibola NWR is entitled to divert up to 34,500 AF per year, or consumptively use up to 16,793 AF per year, whichever is less, of Arizona second priority Colorado River water with a priority date of August 21, 1964, to fulfill the purposes of the refuge.

Based upon a review of the calendar year 2016 diversion estimate provided by the Service, and the information gathered during the Bureau of Reclamation's annual Part 417 consultation process, I approve a total diversion of up to 67,238 AF of Colorado River water during calendar year 2016 for use on the Service's refuges within the state of Arizona. This total approved diversion results in a total estimated consumptive use of 19,323 AF for calendar year 2016 for the refuges.

Diversions to each refuge are limited to the “Approved Diversion” amounts listed in the table below. Based on prior years’ return flow calculations, diversions of up to these amounts of water will result in consumptive uses within the consumptive use limitations noted above.

NWR	Diversion Entitlement AF	Requested Diversion AF	Approved Diversion AF
Havasu	41,839	41,820	41,820
Cibola	34,500	20,550	20,550
Imperial	28,000	4,868	4,868
Total	104,339	67,238	67,238

Reclamation will monitor and project diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during calendar year 2016 in an effort to ensure each entitlement holder’s annual approval amount is not exceeded. Beginning in January 2016, these projections will be available to water users on a daily basis on Reclamation’s website: www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast16.pdf. It is expected that entitlement holders within the state of Arizona 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 Service’s diversion estimate for calendar year 2016. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164 or pmataska@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D.
Regional Director

cc: Ms. Tanya M. Trujillo
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