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

Mr. Patrick L. Morgan
Manager
Yuma Mesa Irrigation and
Drainage District
14329 South 4th Avenue Ext.
Yuma, AZ 85365

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2016 Colorado River Diversion for the Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District (District)

Dear Mr. Morgan:

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

The District is entitled to divert its equitable share of the quantity of Colorado River water available to satisfy consumptive use on lands within the Yuma Mesa Division (Division) of the Gila Project. This entitlement is in accordance with the District's contract with the United States and the Regional Director's final administrative determination, dated December 27, 2001, setting forth appropriate and equitable shares of the Division's Colorado River water entitlement among the North Gila Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, Yuma Irrigation District, and Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District.

Based upon a review of the calendar year 2016 diversion estimate provided by the District, and the information gathered during the Bureau of Reclamation's annual Part 417 consultation process, I approve the diversion of up to 202,464 acre-feet (AF) of Colorado River water during calendar year 2016 for use in the District's service area. Nothing in this approval should be construed as authorizing the Division to exceed its annual consumptive use entitlement of 250,000 AF of Colorado River water.

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 District'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 pmatuska@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D.
Regional Director

cc: Ms. Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director
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