



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. Roger K. Patterson
Assistant General Manager
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2016 Colorado River Diversion for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Dear Mr. Patterson:

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

MWD's Colorado River water entitlement is based on the California Seven-Party Agreement of 1931, MWD's 1930 Colorado River Water Delivery Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, as supplemented, and the 2003 Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement (CRWDA), which quantifies certain Colorado River water entitlements within the state of California.

By letter dated September 15, 2015, MWD submitted a request to consumptively use up to 761,290 acre-feet (AF) of Colorado River water during calendar year 2016. Of California's Colorado River basic apportionment of 4.4 million AF, it is anticipated that 591,797 AF will be available for consumptive use by MWD in calendar year 2016. Based upon this estimate, a review of the calendar year 2016 diversion estimate provided by MWD, the information gathered during Reclamation's annual Part 417 consultation process, and the terms of the CRWDA, I approve the diversion of up to 594,888 AF of Colorado River water by MWD during calendar year 2016. As in recent years, I also approve the diversion by MWD in calendar year 2016 of the unused California adjusted apportionment of Colorado River water as reflected on Reclamation's website to the extent such water becomes available.

This approval incorporates MWD's plan to create up to 200,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) in calendar year 2016. Reclamation approved MWD's 2016 ICS Plan of Creation by letter dated September 10, 2015. This approval does not

include delivery of ICS in 2016. Should MWD elect to take delivery of ICS during calendar year 2016, MWD is required to submit to Reclamation a revised diversion request indicating the amount of ICS MWD will take.

Reclamation notes that the amount of Colorado River water available to MWD in calendar year 2016 will be reduced upon execution of the System Conservation Implementation Agreements (SCIA) between Reclamation and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and between Reclamation and the City of Needles (City) under the Pilot System Conservation Program (PSCP). MWD, in accordance with Section 7.1 of the PSCP Funding Agreement, as amended, agreed to not request delivery of any water created pursuant to the PSCP, which includes the System Conservation Water created under the SCIA's with CVWD and the City.

The table below provides the factors used to develop MWD's approved diversion for calendar year 2016.

Water Budget Item	Amount¹
Priority 4 Water	550,000
1988 Imperial Irrigation District (IID)-MWD Water Conservation Program	85,000
Coachella Canal Lining Project (CCLP) Conserved Water (MWD Exchange with San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA))	21,500
CCLP Conservation (Supplemental Water)	4,500
CCLP Conservation Mitigation Water ²	--
All-American Canal Lining Project Conserved Water (MWD Exchange with SDCWA)	56,200
All-American Canal Lining Project Conserved Water (Supplemental Water)	11,500
IID Transfer to SDCWA (MWD Exchange with SDCWA)	100,000
Priorities 1, 2, and 3b Consumptive Use Above 420,000 AF	(41,304)
Unused Priority 3a	--
Miscellaneous and Indian Present Perfected Right Consumptive Use	(1,563)
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	5,964
MWD-CVWD Exchange of State Water Project Water	--
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS	(200,000)
Delivery of Extraordinary Conservation ICS	--
Delivery of System Efficiency ICS	--
Total Approved Consumptive Use	591,797
Emergency Delivery to Tijuana, Mexico	--
Estimated Returns	3,091
Total Approved Diversion	594,888

¹All values in AF.

²Following receipt of the CVWD mitigation water use report in December 2016, MWD's approved calendar year 2016 diversion may be amended to include any unused water assigned to CVWD for mitigation requirements associated with the CCLP.

The approval is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The data on Reclamation's website are provisional until final records are issued. MWD diversions occurring as a result of the values on the website are at MWD's own risk.
- (2) All available Colorado River water within the state of California has been approved for beneficial use within the state. In cases where approvals to senior entitlement holders are less than their Colorado River entitlements, the approvals may be increased to their full entitlements.
- (3) Final accounting records published by Reclamation may differ from the provisional data on Reclamation's website. Adjustments to the final records may result in an inadvertent overrun by MWD.
- (4) MWD will be required to pay back any overrun according to the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy.
- (5) Reclamation may at any time rescind this approval to divert unused California adjusted apportionment 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 California 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 MWD'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: See next page.

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