



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. Richard Daniels
City Manager
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2016 Colorado River Diversion for the City of Needles (City)

Dear Mr. Daniels:

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 2016.

Under Contract No. 05-XX-30-W0445, as amended, the City has Present Perfected Right (PPR) No. 43 which allows the City to divert up to 1,500 acre-feet (AF) or consumptively use up to 950 AF 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 AF or consumptively use up to 273 AF per year, whichever is less. The combined annual diversion limit for these two PPR entitlements is 2,760 AF with a combined consumptive use limit of 1,223 AF. Based on an average consumptive use to diversion ratio, the City would reach its consumptive use limit of 1,223 AF with a diversion of 1,723 AF.

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 the state of California. The City's LCWSP contract supplements the above PPR entitlements. In 2016, water pumped from the LCWSP well field will also be used by the City to furnish sufficient water to satisfy its consumptive use requirements.

Based upon a review of the calendar year 2016 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 AF of Colorado River water under the City's PPR entitlements, and up to 997 AF of Colorado River water to be exchanged for LCWSP water, for a total diversion of 2,720 AF for use in the City's service area.

Reclamation acknowledges that, upon execution of a System Conservation Implementation Agreement under the Pilot System Conservation Program, the City will submit a revised diversion estimate to incorporate the anticipated conservation volume for calendar year 2016.

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 the City's diversion estimate for 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
Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203

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

Mr. William Hasencamp
Manager, Colorado River Resources
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Mr. Thomas Buschatzke
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
3550 North Central Avenue, 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Mr. John Entsminger
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
1001 South Valley View Boulevard, MS 480
Las Vegas, NV 89153

Mr. David Brownlee Jr.
LCWSP Coordinator
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363