



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. Ned Hyduke
General Manager
Palo Verde Irrigation District
180 West 14th Avenue
Blythe, CA 92225

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2016 Colorado River Diversion for the Palo Verde Irrigation District (District)

Dear Mr. Hyduke:

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.

Water rights for lands located within the District are based on the California Seven-Party Agreement of 1931 and the District's 1933 Colorado River Water Delivery Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, which establishes a priority system for delivery of Colorado River water to California water districts. The District has a Priority 1 right to sufficient water to irrigate up to 104,500 acres of land located in the Palo Verde Valley and a Priority 3(b) right to irrigate up to 16,000 acres of land on the Palo Verde Mesa.

Based upon a review of the calendar year 2016 diversion estimate provided by the District, and the information gathered during Reclamation's annual Part 417 consultation process, I approve the diversion of up to 868,000 acre-feet (AF) of Colorado River water during calendar year 2016 for use in the District's service area. This approved diversion results in an estimated consumptive use of 400,192 AF.

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 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
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
Phoenix, AZ 85012

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

Mr. Bert Bell
Watermaster
Palo Verde Irrigation District
180 West 14th Avenue
Blythe, CA 92225