



# 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

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

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year 2016 Colorado River Diversion for the State of Nevada  
(State)

Dear Ms. Harkins:

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

The State is entitled to divert a quantity of Colorado River water sufficient to satisfy a consumptive use of 300,000 acre-feet (AF) per year, plus any surplus water determined to be available by the Secretary of the Interior. The State's diversion right is shared between (1) entitlement holders whose right to divert and consume Colorado River water existed prior to the formation of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in 1991, and (2) SNWA and its purveyor members in accordance with the entitlements established in the SNWA contract and its subcontracts with purveyor members.

The State has indicated it anticipates consuming 282,500 AF of its 300,000 AF basic apportionment in calendar year 2016, and leaving the remaining 17,500 AF in Lake Mead by forgoing off-stream storage as part of SNWA's commitment under the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding for Pilot Drought Response Actions (MOU). Based on a diversion to consumptive use ratio of 1.7, Nevada requests approval to divert up to 480,250 AF in calendar year 2016.

The State has also indicated that SNWA anticipates creating up to 46,000 AF of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) during 2016, of which 7,500 AF will be dedicated as System Conservation Water under the Pilot System Conservation Program. SNWA intends to store the remaining ICS created in 2016 in Lake Mead.

Based upon a review of the calendar year 2016 diversion estimate provided by the State, and the information gathered during the Bureau of Reclamation's annual Part 417 consultation process, I approve the diversion of up to 480,250 AF of Colorado River water during calendar year 2016 for use by the State's Colorado River water entitlement holders. This approved diversion results in an estimated consumptive use of 282,500 AF. Should SNWA elect to take delivery of ICS during 2016, the State is required to submit to Reclamation a revised diversion request indicating the amount of ICS SNWA will take.

This approval incorporates SNWA's intent to leave 17,500 AF of Nevada basic apportionment in Lake Mead to meet a portion of SNWA's commitment under the MOU. Pursuant to Section III.D of the MOU, Reclamation will work with SNWA and the other MOU participants to identify and track achievement of Protection Volume goals.

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](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast16.pdf). It is expected that the State's entitlement holders 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 State'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 [pmatuska@usbr.gov](mailto: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

Mr. Jeff Theuret  
Plant Operating Supervisor  
Big Bend Water District  
1520 Thomas Edison Drive  
Laughlin, NV 89029

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

Mr. Bruce Nyhuis  
Chief of Maintenance and Engineering  
National Park Service  
601 Nevada Highway  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Continued on next page.

cc: Continued from previous page.

Mr. Skip Spilman  
Development Services and  
Conservation Specialist  
City of Boulder City  
401 California Avenue  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Mr. Lenny Ordway  
Office Manager  
PABCO Gypsum  
P.O. Box 364329  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-8329

Mr. John Algots  
Director, Physical Resources  
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe  
500 Merriman Avenue  
Needles, CA 92363

Randall E. DeVaul, P.E.  
Director of Utilities  
City of North Las Vegas  
2250 Las Vegas Boulevard, N.  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Mr. Mark Paris  
President/CEO  
Basic Management Inc.  
Basic Water Company  
875 West Warm Springs Road  
Henderson, NV 89011

Ms. Laura Giuliano  
Environmental Laboratory and  
Compliance Manager  
City of Las Vegas  
6005 East Vegas Valley Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89142

Tom Minwegen, P.E.  
General Manager  
Clark County Water Reclamation  
District  
5857 East Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89122

Mr. Doug Rankin  
Project Manager  
Planning and Development Department  
City of Las Vegas  
333 North Rancho Drive # 2  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Mr. Todd Wright  
Fisheries Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
245 Lakeshore Road  
Boulder City, NV 89005

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

Priscilla E. Howell, P.E.  
Director of Utility Services  
City of Henderson  
P.O. Box 95050, MSC 125  
Henderson, NV 89009-5050

Commanding Officer  
99<sup>th</sup> CES/CEOFF  
6020 Beale Avenue  
Nellis AFB, NV 89191