

BCOO-4221
WTR-1.10

JUL 29 2003

Mr. Kenneth A. Albright, P.E.
Director, SNWA Resources
Southern Nevada Water Authority
1001 South Valley View Blvd
Las Vegas, Nevada 89153

Mr. James H. Davenport
Chief, Water Division
Colorado River Commission of Nevada
555 East Washington Ave., Suite 3100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Subject: Las Vegas Valley Return Flow Credit Methodology

Dear Gentlemen:

We have received your letter of May 19, 2003 concerning Las Vegas Valley Return Flow Credit Methodology (enclosure 1), and have met with staff members from your offices to discuss this issue. Reclamation agrees that the administrative updates to the methodology proposed in your letter accurately reflect the current water use patterns and hydrology of the Las Vegas Valley. Reclamation will make the following changes to Nevada's return flow credit methodology:

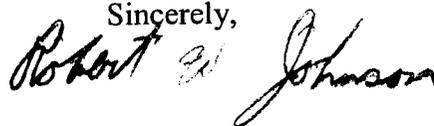
1. Line number 1 will report the amount of local groundwater pumped (water which has not been diverted from the Colorado River) that actually contributes to the sewage effluent discharged to the Las Vegas Wash. This value must be reported to Reclamation through the current monthly reporting process used by the Colorado River Commission. Documentation of these values must be kept and made available upon request by any interested party.
2. The estimated percentage of local groundwater in the calculated accruals to the wash (calculated in line 13A) shall be derived by applying the ratio of remaining local groundwater effluent (calculated in line 11). Accruals are unmeasured inflows to or outflows from the wash.

The changes listed above and their impact upon Nevada's return flow credits and consumptive use of Colorado River water are shown on enclosure 2 entitled, "Example: Total Nevada Return

Flow Credit and Consumptive Use for Calendar year 2002 with July 2003 Modifications.” The values on line number 1 of enclosure 2 are the sum of values found in columns labeled, “Las Vegas Valley Water District Ground Water Data Pumpage (Acre-Feet)” and “North Las Vegas Ground Water Data Pumpage (Gallons)” in the table entitled, “Total Nevada Return Flow Credit and Consumptive Use” which we received from the Colorado River Commission by letter dated March 17, 2003 with the subject, “2002 Year End Return Flow Credit Data” (enclosure 3). The values in gallons reported for North Las Vegas were converted to acre feet by dividing by 325,851 gallons per acre foot. New values resulting from the modifications described above are shown on enclosure 2 in bold type. All other values displayed on enclosure 2 are based upon the table entitled, “Total Nevada Return Flow Credit and Consumptive Use 2002” found in enclosure 3.

Reclamation expects to continue our discussions concerning the longer term issues of, “how the current methodology might be changed in the future to provide southern Nevada greater ability to fully develop and utilize its Non-Colorado River water resources,” mentioned in the first paragraph of your May 19, 2003 letter. If you have any questions regarding the technical application of the referenced changes in the Las Vegas Return Flow Credit Methodology, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Addiego at 702-293-8525 or Mr. Paul Matuska at 702-293-8164. If you have any administrative questions, please contact Ms. Ruth Thayer at 702-293-8426.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Johnson
Regional Director

Enclosures (3)

cc: Mr. Herb R. Guenther, Director
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