



# SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

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March 18, 2010

Ms. Lorri Lee, Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006

Dear Ms. Lee:

**SUBJECT: SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY UNUSED APPORTIONMENT AND INTENTIONALLY CREATED SURPLUS – 2009**

In October 2009, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (Authority), the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAP), the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) staff discussed issues concerning Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) and the release of Nevada's unused basic apportionment for interstate banking. This led to the Authority's letter to you, dated November 2, 2010, which outlined a collaborative plan among the Authority, CAP, and MWD to manage our respective Colorado River water supplies during 2009 with a true-up after the end of the year. The Authority requests the final Decree Accounting reflect that all of Nevada's 2009 unused Colorado River water was directed to the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) for interstate banking for the Authority. The Authority would also like to apply its 2009 ICS toward its 2008 overrun with the remainder stored in Lake Mead as Extraordinary Conservation.

In early 2009, the Authority consulted with MWD resulting in the Authority directing up to 60,000 acre-feet (af) of unused Nevada Colorado River water to MWD for storage during 2009. The Authority and MWD provided notices to BOR, pursuant to the Storage and Interstate Release Agreement in October 2009. As the year progressed, Colorado River water demands in the Lower Basin changed, primarily within California. As a result, the Authority, CAP, MWD, and BOR staff discussed options for management of the respective Colorado River water supplies during 2009. This resulted in a collaborative plan for the Authority, CAP, and MWD to ensure ICS and interstate storage for 2009 is appropriately credited and accounted for among the entities, while seeking to ensure Lower Basin State use does not exceed 7.5 million af and that the 2009 Decree Accounting is clear and correct. The collaborative plan provided that the Authority direct a portion of unused Nevada Colorado River water for interstate banking with MWD and AWBA. The Authority provided BOR with notices executing this plan in early November, including a request to direct up to 40,000 af of unused Nevada Colorado River water to AWBA for interstate banking.

After receipt of BOR's preliminary 2009 estimates of Colorado River water use, the Authority, MWD, and AWBA staff agreed that all of Nevada's unused Colorado River water should be directed solely to AWBA. As a result, the Authority requests that the final 2009 Decree Accounting show that all of Nevada's 2009 unused Nevada Colorado River water, currently estimated at approximately 51,000 af, was directed to AWBA for interstate banking on behalf of the Authority. AWBA and CAP will be providing related notices to BOR demonstrating the storage of this water during 2009 on behalf of the Authority. As mentioned above, the Authority would also like to apply its 2009 ICS toward its 2008 overrun with the remainder stored in Lake Mead as Extraordinary Conservation.

#### SNWA MEMBER AGENCIES

Big Bend Water District • Boulder City • Clark County Water Reclamation District • City of Henderson • City of Las Vegas • City of North Las Vegas • Las Vegas Valley Water District

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If you have any questions related to the plan or the final accounting, please contact William Rinne, Director of Surface Water Resources, at (702) 691-5255. Thank you for consideration of this request. We appreciate your willingness to help southern Nevada secure future water supplies through effective resource management.

Sincerely,



Kay Brothers  
Deputy General Manager  
Engineering and Operations

KB:WR:TM:lmv

cc: Patricia Mulroy, General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
William Rinne, Director, Surface Water Resources, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
John Entsminger, Deputy General Counsel, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Jeffrey Johnson, Division Manager, Water Management and Accounting Division,  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
George Caan, Director, Colorado River Commission of Nevada  
Herb Guenther, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Kim Mitchell, Manager, Arizona Water Banking Authority  
David Modeer, General Manager, Central Arizona Water Conservation District  
Larry Dozier, Deputy General Manager, Central Arizona Water Conservation District  
Terry Fulp Deputy Regional Director, Lower Colorado River Regional Office,  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
William Hasencamp, Program Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Gerald R. Zimmerman, Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California