



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-4220
WTR-4.03

MAY 9 2011

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Robert Dunn
Gila Monster Farms
3720 South Avenue 17E
Yuma, AZ 85365

Subject: Verification of 2010 Inadvertent Overrun Payback by Gila Monster Farms (Farm)

Dear Mr. Dunn:

Effective January 1, 2004, the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP) established requirements for payback of any inadvertent overuse of Colorado River water by users in the Lower Division States. In accordance with the IOPP and the proposed Procedures for Administering the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP Procedures), the Farm implemented a 12-month Fallowing Program (Program) during calendar year 2010 to pay back 603 acre-feet of the Farm's remaining overrun account balance.

The IOPP and the IOPP Procedures obligate the Bureau of Reclamation to monitor the implementation of the extraordinary conservation measures contained in an approved Payback Plan (Plan). On September 20, 2010, Reclamation staff conducted a verification inspection during which eight fields totaling 171 acres (100 percent of the fields participating in the program) were inspected. Based upon the information collected during this inspection, Reclamation confirmed that extraordinary conservation was being implemented and that the fields were fallowed. The resulting report documenting this finding is enclosed for your records. Using satellite imagery, Reclamation staff conducted an additional analysis on the fields in the Program. This analysis also confirmed that the participating fields remained fallowed for the 12-month duration of the Program.

The IOPP Procedures require a Contractor implementing payback measures to submit a report certifying the amount of Colorado River water conserved and/or supplemented by the implementation of the payback measures in the previous calendar year as described in the Contractor's approved Plan. The Farm's report, dated April 8, 2011, documented that, according to provisional data, total deliveries to the Farm in calendar year 2010 were 7,457 acre-feet, or 1,096 acre-feet less than the allowed diversion of 8,553 acre-feet¹.

¹ The Farm's annual diversion entitlement (9,156 acre-feet) adjusted for the 603 acre-foot payback amount.

Reclamation provided the Farm's payback report, Reclamation's inspection verification report, and the satellite imagery maps to members of the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Technical Committee (IOPTC). On April 19, 2011, the IOPTC met to review and discuss this information. Subsequent to that meeting, the IOPTC members provided recommendations regarding the adequacy of the Farm's payback report to support verification of the amount of water conserved.

Taking into consideration the recommendations provided by the IOPTC members, I hereby verify and determine that the Farm successfully implemented the extraordinary conservation measure consistent with its approved 2010 Payback Plan, and therefore credit 603 acre-feet to the payback of the Farm's overrun account balance. This fully extinguishes the Farm's payback obligation.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,



Lorri Gray-Lee
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Christopher Harris
Acting Executive Director
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