



# THE COCOPAH INDIAN TRIBE

Office of the Tribal Chairwoman

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July 12, 2013

Steven C. Hvinden, Chief  
Boulder Canyon Operations Office  
Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

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Dear Mr. Hvinden:

Enclosed please find a signed copy of the Cocopah Indian Reservation Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP) Payback Plan for Calendar Year 2013. This plan is in response to an inadvertent overrun of Colorado River Water in calendar year 2011. This plan was developed in cooperation with BOR personnel. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Soto, Planning Director, Cocopah Indian Tribe, 14515 South Veterans Drive, Somerton 85350, telephone (928)627-2102, or Carol Bowman, Assistant General Counsel for the Cocopah Indian Tribe, Bowman & Smith, P.C., 113 West Giss Parkway, Yuma, Arizona 85364, telephone (928)783-8879.

Sincerely,

Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman  
Cocopah Tribal Council

cc: Nicole Everett  
Boulder Canyon Operations Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006  
email: [neverett@usbr.gov](mailto:neverett@usbr.gov)

**COCOPAH INDIAN RESERVATION  
INADVERTENT OVERRUN AND PAYBACK POLICY (IOPP)  
PAYBACK PLAN for CALENDAR YEAR 2013**

**1. Cause of Inadvertent Overrun**

As reported in the Bureau of Reclamation's 2011 Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Arizona, California, and Nevada, the Cocopah Indian Tribe incurred an overrun in calendar year 2011, for which payback in the amount of 605 acre-feet is required.

The Cocopah Indian Tribe identified the cause of the overrun as an unprecedented and extraordinary amount of water used by an agricultural lessee, Riversedge Farms, Inc., in 2011.

**2. Extraordinary Conservation Measure(s) that will be implemented to Pay Back the Overrun**

For each of the Calendar Years 2013 through 2015, 38 acres of Reservation land currently leased by Riversedge Farms, Inc. and historically irrigated for crop production will be taken out of cultivation.

Based on a field application rate of 6 acre-feet per acre per year, this is expected to reduce the amount of water use on the Reservation by 228 acre-feet per year in 2013, 2014, and 2015, for a total reduction of 684 acre-feet.

**3. Location, Schedule and Amount of Payback**

The measures are to be implemented as follows:

Thirty-eight (38) acres will be withdrawn from cultivation in 2013, 2014 and 2015 that were cultivated by Riversedge Farms, lessee, in 2011, as identified in the attached legal descriptions and maps.

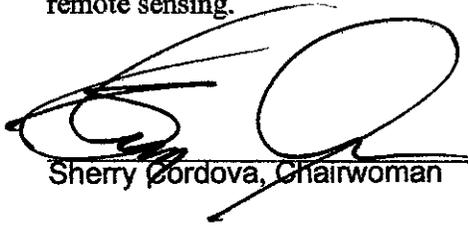
This is expected to conserve 684 acre/feet of water in the three years during which the acreage will lie fallow. A once per year watering of the acreage to establish a ground cover to protect the soil will be performed, expected to use 18.5 acre-feet per year. The total water conserved over the 3-year period should therefore exceed the pay back of 605 acre-feet of overrun by 23.5 acre-feet (684 acre-feet less 55.5 acre-feet for ground-cover equals 628.5 acre-feet.)

**4. Monitoring and Verifying IOPP Conservation Measure(s)**

Monitoring will be by periodic visual verification that the above-identified lands are not in cultivation, except for establishment of a ground-cover. In addition, Reclamation will conduct quarterly independent verification inspections during which 100% of the fallowed acreage will be

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visited, and may use other means to verify, including but not limited to, imagery analysis and remote sensing.



Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman

July 16, 2013

Date