United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

SEP 2 1 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:
LC-4220
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Honorable Sherry Cordova
Chairwoman
Cocopah Tribal Council
Cocopah Indian Tribe
County 15 & Avenue G
Somerton, AZ 853504

Subject: Approval of Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP) Payback Plan for Calendar Years 2013-2015 – Cocopah Indian Tribe (Tribe)

Dear Chairwoman Cordova:

Effective January 1, 2004, the IOPP established requirements for payback of inadvertent overuse of Colorado River water by users in the Lower Division States. By letter dated June 20, 2012, the Bureau of Reclamation notified the Tribe that based on Reclamation's final water accounting records for calendar year 2011, the Tribe incurred an overrun of 605 acre-feet.

In accordance with the IOPP, and in response to Reclamation's June 20 letter, the Tribe submitted a Payback Plan (Plan) dated July 12, 2013. The Tribe's Plan defines a 3-year fallowing program which will be implemented during calendar years 2013 through 2015, to conserve the amount of water necessary to meet the Tribe's 605 acre-foot payback obligation.

On August 21, 2013, the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Technical Committee (IOPTC) reviewed the Plan for technical adequacy and unanimously recommended its approval. Taking into consideration the recommendation of the IOPTC, I make the final determination that the Tribe's Plan adequately meets the requirements of the IOPP and approve the Plan for implementation during calendar years 2013-2015.

The IOPP requires that Reclamation monitor implementation of the extraordinary conservation measures outlined in approved payback plans. Reclamation will utilize quarterly field inspections on 100 percent of the fallowed acres and other methods, including analysis of satellite imagery, to verify the Tribe has implemented the fallowing program in accordance with its approved Plan.

Reclamation's administration of the IOPP requires that the Tribe submit a report certifying the amount of Colorado River water conserved by implementation of the extraordinary conservation measures in the previous calendar year as defined in Tribe's approved Plan. Please submit the

first of these three reports, certifying the amount of conservation achieved in calendar year 2013, to Reclamation no later than February 28, 2014.

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

Sincerely,

Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D.
Regional Director

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