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:

MAY 15 2015

LC-4220
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED—RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. David V. Modeer
General Manager
Central Arizona Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 43020
Phoenix, AZ 85080-3020

Subject: Request to Keep Calendar Year 2014 Arizona Unused Apportionment in Lake Mead
(Your Letter Dated December 18, 2014)

Dear Mr. Modeer:

Thank you for your letter dated December 18, 2014, notifying the Bureau of Reclamation of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District's (CAWCD) intention to not divert approximately 40,000 acre-feet (AF) of Arizona's 2014 apportionment of Colorado River water that would otherwise be available for diversion by CAWCD, and expressing CAWCD's strong desire to keep such unused apportionment in Lake Mead.

Your letter indicates the water that CAWCD intentionally left on the river in 2014, a portion of which was created through a fallowing agreement between CAWCD and the Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District, is intended to be part of the CAWCD's 345,000 AF reservoir protection goal under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)[1] executed on December 10, 2014. Per the terms of the MOU, CAWCD will voluntarily use its best efforts to create 345,000 AF of Protection Volume in Lake Mead.

Pursuant to Section 2.2 of Reclamation's *Lower Colorado Region Policy for Apportioned but Unused Water*, dated February 11, 2010, if, during an operating year, apportioned but unused water becomes available, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) "will consider all relevant factors including, but not limited to, the current storage conditions in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the projected depletions in the Upper Basin, the Lower Basin, and Mexico for the operating year, the projected inflows into the Upper Basin and Lower Basin for the operating year, the water supplies available to the entitlement holders, and the likelihood of future determinations of a Shortage Condition"[2] in making the determination that unused water is available and will be reallocated. In consideration of these factors and CAWCD's intentional actions to not divert 2014 unused Arizona apportionment, Reclamation, on behalf of the Secretary, will not reallocate any of

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[1]Memorandum of Understanding Among the United States of America, through the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, the CAWCD, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Colorado River Board of California, and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada for Pilot Drought Response Actions.

[2]A determination by the Secretary that insufficient mainstream water is available for release to satisfy annual consumptive use of 7,500,000 AF in Arizona, California, and Nevada under Article II(B)3 of the Consolidated Decree.

Arizona's unused apportionment and will allow such water to remain in Lake Mead for the benefit of system storage.

Reclamation appreciates CAWCD's efforts to promptly begin creating its Protection Volume under the MOU, recognizes our responsibilities for implementation of the MOU, and supports other ongoing and contemplated voluntary efforts to retain additional quantities of water in the Colorado River reservoir system storage, including Lake Mead. Pursuant to Section III.D of the MOU, Reclamation will work together with CAWCD and the other MOU participants to identify and track achievement of Protection Volume goals.

Thank you again for your letter. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164 or pmatuska@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

TERRANCE J. FULP, Ph.D

Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D.
Regional Director

cc: Ms. Tanya M. Trujillo
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bc: PXAO-1000, SCAO-1000, LC-4000, LC-4200, LC-4211, LC-4600

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