Interim Determination by the Secretary of the Interior of the Quantity of Water Conserved by the All-American Canal Lining Project and the Amount of Water Available for Allocation

Introduction

Section 204 of Public Law (P.L.) 100-675 provides that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall determine the quantity of the water conserved as a result of the All-American Canal Lining Project (AACLP). The Secretary has delegated to the Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region, authority to make the Interim Determination.

On October 10, 2003, an Allocation Agreement[1], prepared as part of the Quantification Settlement Agreement in California, was executed by the United States of America, and representatives of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Coachella Valley Water District, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Rincon, and San Pasqual Bands of Mission Indians, the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority, the City of Escondido, and the Vista Irrigation District. Exhibit A, appended to the Allocation Agreement, listed the estimated water yield from lining each of Reaches 1, 2, and 3 of the AACLP. The Secretary signed the Allocation Agreement on behalf of the United States and in effect the Allocation Agreement included the determination that the amount of water from the AACLP available for allocation would be 67,700 acre-feet per year, distributed by reach as shown in Exhibit A of that agreement. Article 5.2 of the Allocation Agreement provides that, at the completion of construction of the lining of each reach of the AACLP, the Secretary will send a notice of reach completion and will include a determination of the amount of water available for allocation as a result of lining that reach.

The Secretary, through the Bureau of Reclamation, hereby makes an Interim Determination of the future annual quantity of water available for allocation from the AACLP, and the 2009 partial-year quantity of water available for allocation. This Interim Determination supersedes the Interim Determination for Reaches 2 and 3 of the AACLP issued on February 6, 2009.

[1] Allocation Agreement Among the United States of America, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, San Diego County Water Authority, the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Rincon, and San Pasqual Bands of Mission Indians, the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority, the City of Escondido, and Vista Irrigation District, October 10, 2003.

The specific purpose of this Interim Determination is to:

1. confirm the determination that the full-year annual amount of water available for allocation from the AACLP is 67,700 acre-feet per year as set forth in Exhibit A of the Allocation Agreement;

2. confirm the allocation of the full year amount of water among participating entities;

3. make a determination of the amount of water available for allocation in 2009 under conditions of partial completion of the AACLP; and

4. make a determination of the allocation of the water available in 2009 among participating entities.

This Interim Determination is effective upon the date of signature, but is temporary in nature, pending the completion of the construction of the AACLP and transfer of the completed works to an operation and maintenance (O&M) status.

Background

The Parallel Canal Alternative is the preferred alternative in the AACLP Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/EIR), published in March 1994, and is the alternative that is selected within the AACLP Record of Decision (ROD) (May 1994). The Geohydrology Appendix was prepared by Reclamation in May 1991 and published in March 1994. A reevaluation of the environmental assessments in the 1994 FEIS/EIR was published by Reclamation in January 2006, which did not alter the decision in the ROD to implement the construction of the Parallel Canal Alternative.

The new concrete lined canal is being constructed parallel to the existing 23 miles of the earthen All-American Canal (AAC), beginning approximately one mile downstream of Pilot Knob and ending at Drop 3 according to the Parallel Canal Alternative. Construction design decisions will result in leaving unlined approximately 350 feet of canal under the first Interstate 8 bridge over the AAC and approximately 2,550 feet immediately downstream of Drop 1.

Discussion

The parallel canals in Reaches 2 and 3 of the AACLP were completed and placed in service in 2008. As of the date of this Interim Determination, Reclamation has not issued Notice of Project Completion for Reaches 2 and 3, and Reaches 2 and 3 have not been transferred from construction status to O&M status. The parallel canal in Reach 1 has been constructed in three segments, which were placed in service in 2009. As of the date of this Interim Determination, all the tie-ins between the existing AAC structures and Interstate 8 highway bridge crossings and the new lined canal have not been completed. Reach 1 contract work has not progressed to the point that a notice of completion may be issued by IID.

Secretarial Determination of the Full-Year Water Conserved by the Works of the AACLP and Available for Allocation

After consultation with the California Contractors[2], and in accordance with Section 204 of P.L. 100-675 and Section 5.3 of the Allocation Agreement, the amount of water available for allocation as a result of the AACLP is determined to be as follows:

1. The amount of water available for allocation from the AACLP is confirmed to be 67,700 acre-feet per year, unless reduced by uncontrollable force or Colorado River shortage conditions, as described in the Allocation Agreement.

2. The amount of water allocated to SDCWA and the San Luis Rey Settlement parties, minus the amount, if any, delivered to IID, shall be as described in the Allocation Agreement.

Future Secretarial Reevaluation of the Water Conserved by the AACLP and Available for Allocation

In accordance with Section 204 of P.L. 100-675, the Secretary shall determine the quantity of water conserved by the works and may revise such determination at reasonable intervals based on such information as the Secretary deems appropriate. Such initial determination and subsequent revision shall be made in consultation with the California Contractors as defined in P.L. 100-675.

Partial-Year Determination of Water Available for Allocation in 2009 from the AACLP

The amount of water available for allocation from the AACLP in 2009 will consist of the following items, which together amount to less than the full-year amount available for allocation from the entire AACLP.

- Full-year amount of water available for allocation from Reach 2
- Full-year amount of water available for allocation from Reach 3
- Partial-year amount of water available for allocation from Reach 1

The amounts of water available in 2009 are determined to be as follows:

1. The 2009 full-year amounts of water available for allocation from Reaches 2 and 3 are 14,700 and 2,150 acre-feet per year, respectively, as cited in Exhibit A to the Allocation Agreement.

[2] California Contractors as defined by P.L. 100-675 includes the Palo Verde Irrigation District, IID, the Coachella Valley Water District, and The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

2. During 2009, segments of Reach 1 were placed in service on three dates, which are the effective dates for calculation of the amount of water conserved by segments of Reach 1 that were defined during construction as:

   - Reach 1A: January 9, 2009;
   - Reach 1B, Sections B2 and B3: February 8, 2009; and
   - Reach 1B, Section B1: February 26, 2009.

3. The partial-year amount of water available for allocation in 2009 from Reach 1 is calculated with the formula described in Exhibit A. The amount of water so calculated is 48,727 acre-feet, as shown in Appendix 1 to this Interim Determination.

4. The amount of water available for allocation during 2009 from the AACLP is 65,577 acre-feet (48,727 + 14,700 + 2,150).

5. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Allocation Agreement, the Secretary shall deliver for the benefit of the San Luis Rey Settlement Parties, 17 percent of the water determined to be available for allocation in 2009 because of the AACLP. This amount is calculated to be 11,148 acre-feet of water.

6. From the water determined to be available for allocation in 2009, the Secretary shall deliver 54,429 acre-feet to SDCWA.

Lorri Gray-Lee
Regional Director

12/4/09
Date

References

Bookman-Edmonston in Association with MWH, All-American Canal Lining Project, Drawings for the Construction of the All-American Canal Lining Project, June 2006.

Bureau of Reclamation, All-American Canal Lining Project, Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, March 1994.

Bureau of Reclamation, All-American Canal Lining Project, Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, Geohydrology Appendix, March 1994.

Bureau of Reclamation, All-American Canal Lining Project, Supplemental Information Report, January 2006.

Appendix 1
All American Canal Lining Project
Reach 1 Partial Year Water Yield Available for Allocation in 2009

Segment of Reach 1	In-Service Date	Cumulative Flow at In-Service Date (ac-ft)	2009 Total Flow Forecast (ac-ft)	Ratio of Remaining 2009 Flow to Total Flow	Percentage of Reach 1 Water Yield in Each Segment of Reach 1	Full Year Water Yield per Allocation Agreement Exhibit A (af/yr)	**Partial Year Water Yield in 2009 (ac-ft)**
Column 1	*Column 2*	*Column 3*	*Column 4*	*Column 5*	*Column 6*	*Column 7*	*Column 8*
Reach 1A	1/9/2009	36,496	2,935,441	0.9876	58%	29,493	**29,126**
Reach 1B, Section B1	2/26/2009	298,775	2,935,441	0.8982	16%	8,136	**7,308**
Reach 1B, Section B2 & B3	2/8/2009	206,086	2,935,441	0.9298	26%	13,221	**12,293**
				Totals	100%	50,850	**48,727**

Explanation of Columns

1. These are segments of Reach 1 that were defined in the construction program.
2. Date on which the segment of canal became operational.
3. Flow passing Pilot Knob at canal Sta. 1117+00 in 2009 through the day before the In-Service date. The flow data is from the IID 660 Report for January and February 2009.
4. Projected full-year flow forecast at canal Sta. 1117+00 in 2009 for delivery to IID, CVWD, and Salton Sea Project from Reclamation's Forecast Web page (forecast dated October 13, 2009.)
5. The calculation for this ratio is: (Column 4 - Column 3) ÷ Column 4
6. These percentages are based on the relative losses from the three sections of Reach 1.
7. The breakdown of Reach 1 water on Exhibit A of Allocation Agreement, based on percentages in Column 6.
8. The calculation for this ratio is: Column 7 x Column 5

Attribution

These calculations were made according to the procedure described in Exhibit A of the Allocation Agreement. Reclamation's Forecast Web page is accessible at
http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast09.pdf, and was accessed on October 14, 2009.