Mr. Jeffrey Kightlinger  
General Manager  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
P.O. Box 54153  
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153  

Dear Mr. Kightlinger:

Thank you for your letter to Commissioner Burman dated May 13, 2019, submitting The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s (MWD) Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (EC ICS) exhibits (listed below) to the Secretary of the Interior for approval pursuant to Section IV.E.2 of Exhibit 1 to the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement. We note that the ability of the Lower Division States to create additional ICS in Lake Mead, as well the increased flexibility to use ICS, are key components of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement to protect critical elevations at Lake Mead. The Bureau of Reclamation appreciated the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed EC ICS exhibits in their early stage of development.

| Exhibit Designation | Exhibit Name |  |
|---------------------|--------------|  |
| LBOps ICS Exhibit X | Metropolitan Water District – Landscape Transformation Program |  |
| LBOps ICS Exhibit Y | Metropolitan Water District – Indoor Water Conservation Devices |  |
| LBOps ICS Exhibit Z | Metropolitan Water District – Local Resources Program Additional Groundwater Recovery Projects |  |
| LBOps ICS Exhibit AA | Metropolitan Water District – Local Resources Program Recycling Projects |  |
| LBOps ICS Exhibit AB | Metropolitan Water District – Seawater Desalination Programs |  |
| LBOps ICS Exhibit AC | Metropolitan Water District – Regional Recycled Water Programs |  |
| LBOps ICS Exhibit AD | Metropolitan Water District – Seasonal Fallowing Programs |  |

As you are aware, Section 7.B.5 of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Interim Guidelines), provides that the Secretary shall consult with the Colorado River Basin States in the administration of the ICS program. MWD’s proposed EC ICS exhibits have undergone both intra and interstate review, and Reclamation has facilitated and brought to conclusion the consultation process with the Basin States for MWD’s proposed EC ICS exhibits.

Reclamation has determined that the proposed exhibits describe EC ICS projects that comport to Section 3.A.1 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and adequately describe an approach for Reclamation to verify the conservation of water. Therefore, in accordance with Section IV.E.2 of Exhibit 1 to the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement and the 2007 Interim Guidelines, I hereby approve MWD’s EC ICS exhibits. These approved exhibits will be posted on Reclamation’s website soon.
Section 3.C.1 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines requires a Delivery Agreement for ICS between the ICS creator and Reclamation. Based on the approved exhibits, we will work with MWD to develop a new or amendatory ICS Delivery Agreement. Reclamation also looks forward to working with MWD each year in administering the ICS program, including the review and approval of ICS creation plans and certification reports.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Steven Hvinden, Chief, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, at 702-293-8414 or shvinden@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D.
Regional Director

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