

COMMENT LETTER

RESPONSES

KENNY C. GUINN, Governor
 RICHARD W. BUNKER, Chairman
 JAY D. BINGHAM, Vice Chairman
 GEORGE M. CAAN, Director

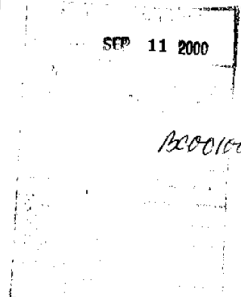
STATE OF NEVADA



COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION
 OF NEVADA

September 8, 2000

SHERI BUCK
 ANTHONY W. WYERS, Commissioner
 LAMOND R. MILLS, Commissioner
 BRYAN NIX, Commissioner
 ROLAND D. WESTERGARD, Commissioner
 MYRNA WILLIAMS, Commissioner



Mr. Robert W. Johnson
 Regional Director
 Attn: Jayne Harkins (LC-4600)
 Lower Colorado Region
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 P.O. Box 61470
 Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Colorado River Commission of Nevada, in its capacity as the Nevada state agency entrusted with the State of Nevada's interest in the Colorado River under the Colorado River Compact of 1922, has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria, July 2000 (DES 00-25), the four alternatives discussed therein, and the supplementary material proposing a Seven Colorado River Basin States Alternative published on August 8, 2000 at 65 Federal Register 48531-48538. We endorse the comprehensive analysis contained within the Draft EIS, but recommend that the Seven Colorado River Basin States Alternative be adopted as the preferred alternative.

The Seven Basin States Alternative represents a solution to water management within the Lower Colorado River basin derived from the cooperative efforts of water users within the affected States, working collaboratively with the Bureau of Reclamation. It is the result of significant commitments on the part of Californians to diminish California reliance on the Colorado River and the forbearance of other Colorado River states to permit California to reach its more limited consumption objectives within a reasonable period. It contains quantitative means by which to determine whether surpluses exist, reducing subjectivity to some extent, but maintains the current process utilized annually in development of the Annual Operating Plan. We recognize that any interim surplus criteria may have some impact on power resources. We are ready to work with the BOR to minimize and mitigate potential impacts on power generation should they occur.

1: The preferred alternative in this FEIS is derived from the Seven States proposal. Reclamation did not structure the preferred alternative precisely as described in that draft proposal, but made some changes for consistency with the purpose and need of the proposed action, Reclamation policy and operational procedures.

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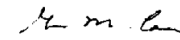
Mr. Robert W. Johnson
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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We recommend that the Seven Basin States Alternative be incorporated within the Final Environmental Impact Statement as the preferred alternative and that its details be analyzed pursuant to the same comparative analytical method exercised in the Draft Impact Statement with respect to the four alternatives presented therein.

Sincerely,



George M. Caan
Executive Director

Distribution

Colorado River Basin States Representatives (see attached list)

JED:rk

COMMENT LETTER

RESPONSES

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