

# ADDITIONAL TRIBE

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## COMMENT LETTER

## RESPONSES

# Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians



September 5, 2000

Mr. Robert W. Johnson, Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

Ref: C-2502; ENV-6.00  
DEIS Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We are pleased to make comment on the DEIS Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria. The environmental impacts address mostly those affected areas of users of the river below Hoover Dam. Also, there are some issues which are out of our comment range for now which will address State and Tribal water usage agreements along the Colorado River.

- 1 The affects and consequences on the environment will occur during and after the spring snowmelt and summer rains. Obviously, it will affect Tribal and State water use during periods of droughts and floods. It will affect the vegetation, wildlife and threaten & endangered species habitat and erode beaches and other land areas during these seasonal periods. The number of Tribes being consulted on this first Draft
- 2 Environmental Impact Statement must seriously be considered to be included as part of a working group to develop agreements, etc. Direct communication is more likely to result in lasting agreements needed to move forward with planning for the Colorado River.
- 3 We trust that we have your commitment to be flexible and create partnerships in developing deference and priorities, with Tribes, in the effort to protect the Colorado River ecosystem and its resources. Water is and has been an intrinsic part of the Native American homelands. As is noted in the DEIS, "The interim surplus criteria will not alter the quantity or priority of tribal entitlements" and "...the Tribes have the highest priority water rights on the Colorado River." Another concern we have is with the quality of the water for down river users. Assure us that the water will not be polluted to the point of being toxic.
- 4

Sincerely,

VIVIENNE-CARON JAKE, Director  
KPT Environmental Program

cc: File  
: Tribal Administration

Tribal Affairs

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- 1: Potential environmental effects of interim surplus criteria are addressed in the EIS. Specifically, effects on water supply are discussed in Section 3.4; effects on special-status species and habitat are discussed in Section 3.8; and effects on the frequency of beach/habitat-building flow (BHBFs) and low steady summer flow releases from Glen Canyon Dam are discussed in Section 3.6.
- 2: Comment noted. Reclamation has consulted with, and will continue to work with potentially affected Tribes to address their concerns. Tribal consultations undertaken in association with interim surplus criteria are discussed in Section 5.4.
- 3: Comment noted.
- 4: Potential effects on water quality are discussed in Section 3.5, and environmental commitments associated with water quality are discussed in Section 3.17 of the FEIS.

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