COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION
OF NEVADA

September 8, 2008

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

September 8, 2000
Page 2

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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,

[Signature]

George M. Canon  
Executive Director

Distribution:  
Colorado River Basin States Representatives (see attached list)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment Letter Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **MS Patricia M. Roy**  
GENERAL MANAGER  
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY  
1001 S VALLEY VIEW BLVD  
LAS VEGAS NV 89153 | **MR. Gerald Zimmerman**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
770 FAIRMONT AVENUE SUITE 100  
GLENDALE CA 91203 |
| **MS Rita Pearson Maguire**  
DIRECTOR  
ARIZONA DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES  
500 NORTH THIRD STREET  
PHOENIX AZ 85004-3903 | **MR. Dennis Underwood**  
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SO CA  
PO BOX 54153  
LOS ANGELES CA 90054 |
| **MR. D. Larry Anderson**  
DIRECTOR  
UTAH DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES  
PO BOX 146201  
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84114-6201 | **MR. Wayne Cook**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION  
355 SOUTH 4TH EAST STREET  
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84111 |
| **MR. Thomas C. Turney**  
STATE ENGINEER  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
BATTEN MEMORIAL BUILDING ROOM 101  
PO BOX 25102  
SANTA FE NM 87504 | **TOM DAVIESON**  
WYOMING ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE  
123 CAPITOL BUILDING  
CHEYENNE WY 82002 |
| **James S. Lochhead**  
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER & STRICKLAND  
PO BOX 357  
GLENWOOD SPRINGS CO 81602 | **MR. Greg E. Walcher**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
COLORADO DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
1313 SHERMAN STREET ROOM 718  
DENVER CO 80203 |