COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION
OF NEVADA

September 8, 2000

Mr. Robert W. Johnson
Regional Director
Attn: Jayne Harkins (LC-4600)
Lower Colorado Region
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 has received two comment letters in its capacity as designee of the Nevada Department of Administration’s environmental document review Clearinghouse (Nevada SAI # E2001-005). Those two comment letters, from the Nevada Department of Transportation and the State Historic Preservation Officer, are attached.

Sincerely,

James H. Davenport
Chief, Water Division

Attachments

cc: Heather Elliott, Nevada State Clearinghouse
1. Thank you for your comments and for bringing to our attention your concerns regarding Reclamation's ongoing operation of the Colorado River. Per your request, the matter of effects to historic properties resulting from the development of Interim Surplus Criteria (ISC) has been forwarded to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council). However, because development and implementation of ISC falls within the range of ongoing operations, and because the reservoirs will continue to be operated within historic operational parameters under the baseline conditions and action alternatives, Reclamation believes that the issues you raise are better addressed under Section 110, rather than Section 106, of the National Historic Preservation Act. Reclamation is aware of its responsibilities under Section 110 for managing historic properties on lands under its jurisdiction and will commit to consulting with you, the Council, tribes, and other interested parties within that framework.

2. Your office, the public, affected Indian tribes and local governments were provided an opportunity to identify concerns for the effects of the proposal for interim surplus criteria as part of scoping and individual meetings with interested publics and the Ten Tribes, CAP Tribes, and Colorado River Tribes. Distribution of the DEIS and public hearings were another means of providing opportunity to comment on our assessment of the effects of this undertaking on cultural resources. Reclamation is also consulting with potentially affected tribes on a government-to-government basis to understand and address their concerns. Reclamation will stand by its determination of effect of this action on historic properties and will refer our disagreement to the Advisory Council for further comment and consultation.

3. Resources of religious or cultural significance are Traditional Cultural Properties included in our definition of historic properties in Chapter 3.13.1.

4. Reclamation has referred the SHPO and Reclamation's disagreement to the Council for comment and further consultation.
STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1203 S. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada  89712

August 3, 2000

Dear Mr. Davenport:

The Nevada Department of Transportation has reviewed the project titled: DTS for the Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria, SA# E 2001-005.

Based on the information submitted there are no conflicts with Nevada Department of Transportation projects, plans or policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Pronapfel, P.E.
Assistant Director-Planning

cc: Heather Elliott, Nevada State Clearinghouse