

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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November 15, 2005

Sent via fax and e-mail.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Herbert R. Guenther
Director

Mr. John A Johnson
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89005

Refer: Public Process to Solicit Information About Methods to Replace Agricultural Return Flows That Bypass the Colorado River in Yuma Arizona.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (Department) is pleased that the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has initiated a process to solicit information about methods to replace the agricultural return flows that are bypassed around the Northerly International Boundary point of delivery for Colorado River water to Mexico under the 1944 Treaty. This issue is vitally important to the security of water supplies to Arizona. The Department strongly recommends that Reclamation adopt the comprehensive plan that was submitted at the public meeting on October 5, 2005 by Mr. David Wilson for the management of the water operations in the Yuma Area. The report, entitled "Balancing the Water Needs on The Colorado River", recommends short and long term actions that will provide for efficient water management and environmental protection that will meet the water quality requirements of Minute 242 of the Treaty. This report was developed through a cooperative effort of several water agencies and private organizations. The result of the efforts of these entities was a comprehensive solution that addresses multiple objectives. In an era of increasingly limited water supplies, this report provides an integrated plan that will provide flexible solutions and a reduction in conflicts between water users. The Report in its entirety should be made part of the record for this public process. The Department also urges Reclamation to adopt and implement the recommendations of the report.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Herbert R. Guenther".

Herbert R. Guenther

HRG:TGC:ckl