



Agreement Regarding Importance of the Colorado River Basin Tribal Water Study As Identified in the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Whereas, As part of its implementation of the SECURE Water Act of 2009, Subtitle F, The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, March 30, 2009), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has established a program of Basin Studies within the western United States to address the growing need for information and tools to aid water resource managers; and,

Whereas, the purpose of this effort is to undertake comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in river basins in the western United States where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected; and,

Whereas, the studies performed under the SECURE Water Act (P.L. 111-11) should include consideration of actions to address the projected impacts of drought and climate change; and,

Whereas, one of the first basins examined under the Basin Study Program was the Colorado River Basin; and,

Whereas, during the development and preparation of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study (Study), Reclamation and participating tribal representatives recognized that:

The Indian Reserved Water Rights of the tribes of the Colorado River Basin are unique and have attributes that must be recognized under federal law and distinguished from state law water rights; and,


The Indian Reserved Water Rights of the tribes of the Colorado River Basin account for approximately 2.9 million acre-feet of annual diversion rights of the total apportionment of the Colorado River in the United States; and,

The Study does not fully account for tribal water demand nor reflect the potential use of tribal water by others nor show the potential impact on Colorado River Basin water supply if a substantial amount of the presently unused or unquantified tribal water is used by the tribal water rights holders prior to 2060; and,

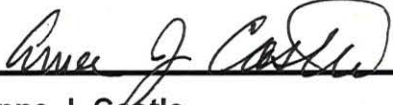
Whereas, In the final Study Report, Reclamation and the Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership (Ten Tribes Partnership) identified their commitment to joint future planning efforts that build on the scientific foundation of the Study and advance critical information beyond the limited assessment of tribal water in the Study.

Therefore, the undersigned representatives of the Department of the Interior and Ten Tribes Partnership state and agree,

In recognition of the aforementioned, the Department of the Interior (acting through Reclamation) and the Ten Tribes Partnership agree to undertake the Colorado River Basin Tribal Water Study. Both parties acknowledge the importance of prompt initiation, thorough development, and timely completion of this study. Work on the study will begin in 2013 with anticipated completion by December 2015. Reclamation and the Ten Tribes Partnership commit to work together in this endeavor in the spirit of collaboration and partnership. By doing so, Reclamation and the Ten Tribes Partnership hope to bring the tribal perspective to bear in identifying, analyzing, and documenting these important matters.



T. Darryl Vigil
Chairman
Colorado River Basin Tribes Partnership



Anne J. Castle
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