

>>> <Gregg.Capps@chandleraz.gov> 04/30/07 3:37 PM >>>
Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation

Please accept the following comments on behalf of the City of Chandler, Arizona regarding the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The City of Chandler will also submit a written copy via mail that is post marked on April 30, 2007. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

(See attached file: EIS Comment Letter.pdf)

Gregg Capps
Water Resource Manager
City of Chandler
(480)-782-3585



Chandler • Arizona
Where Values Make The Difference

April 30, 2007

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Regional Director
Lower Colorado Region
Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: BCOO-1000
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City NV 89006-1470

RE: Comments of the City of Chandler, Arizona Regarding the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Regional Director:

The City of Chandler, Arizona (“Chandler”) submits the following comments to the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (February 2007). Chandler joins in the comments filed in this matter by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (“ADWR”) and the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (“AMWUA”). Chandler supports the selection of the Basin States Alternative as the preferred alternative in the final environmental impact statement and implementation of the Basin States Alternative through the final record of decision.

The City of Chandler has grown rapidly in the last two decades, and has a current estimated population of 250,000 people. Chandler receives Colorado River water through Central Arizona Project (“CAP”) municipal and industrial and non-Indian agricultural priority water subcontracts and Indian priority water through a lease and an exchange. In addition, pursuant to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Agreement, Chandler has a Colorado River water right pre-dating September 30, 1968. Chandler expects Colorado River water to provide more than one-fourth of its water requirements when the City reaches build-out in 2015. Therefore, the frequency and magnitude of Central Arizona Project water shortages are a significant concern to Chandler.

Chandler joins in the concerns identified in AMWUA’s comments:

1. Chandler endorses and supports the comments of the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Mailing Address
Mail Stop 404
PO Box 4008
Chandler, Arizona 85244-4008

Municipal Utilities Department
Environmental Resources/Water Conservation
Telephone (480) 782-3580
Fax (480) 782-3805
www.chandleraz.gov

Location
975 East Armstrong Way
Chandler, Arizona 85249

2. Chandler supports the selection of the Basin States Alternative as the preferred alternative. Chandler also supports mandatory guidelines as set forth in this alternative be established that the Secretary will use to declare a shortage in the lower Colorado River Basin. This alternative can be implemented immediately and without additional statutory authority. Implementing the Basin State alternative will decrease the existing uncertainties related to future Lower Colorado River basin water supply shortages and their magnitude.
3. The preferred alternative and the Record of Decision (“ROD”) should be consistent with Arizona’s position regarding intrastate shortage sharing as described in the “Director’s Shortage Sharing Workgroup Recommendation, October 24, 2006 (Revised) Final”.
4. The Secretary should not adopt an alternative that prioritizes power generation ahead of water supply.
5. DEIS must assume the Yuma Desalting Plant is operating.
6. DEIS has failed to examine the socio-economic effects that municipal water users in Arizona will experience during a maximum M&I shortage. It should not be assumed socio-economic impacts from changes in deliveries of CAP water to Chandler or other Arizona municipalities could be minimized in any material way, by demand-side and supply-side strategies.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please contact Gregg Capps at 480-782-3585 if you have any comments or questions on this response.

Sincerely,



Karen Barfoot
Assistant Municipal Utilities Director

xc: Steve Olson, Director, AMWUA
Doug Toy