



April 30, 2007

Via Facsimile 702-293-8156, 2 Pages

Regional Director  
Lower Colorado Region  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: BCOO-1000  
PO Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006

RE: Comments Regarding the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Regional Director:

The Town of Gilbert, Arizona appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIS, and hereby submits its comments. Gilbert understands that the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA), of which Gilbert is a member, will also be providing comments on this issue and Gilbert supports those comments.

Gilbert has been the fastest growing city of over 100,000 people for the last several years, with a current population reaching 200,000, who rely on Gilbert to provide safe, reliable drinking water supplies. The Colorado River and Central Arizona Project (CAP) water supplies are key components of the Town's long-term water resources. Twenty-five percent of Gilbert's water supply is comprised of various types of Colorado River and Central Arizona Project water.

Gilbert has expended significant monies to manage our water resources, including development of redundant groundwater supplies, the policy of utilizing 100% of our reclaimed water through reuse and recharge, and the adoption of a Water Shortage Management Plan. The preferred alternative that is selected for implementation by the Bureau is of critical interest to the Town of Gilbert.

### **Gilbert Supports the Basin States Alternative as the Preferred Alternative**

Gilbert supports selection of the Basin States Alternative as the preferred alternative in the final environmental impact statement, which will provide Gilbert with the certainty of the continuation of its CAP and Colorado River supplies. Gilbert also supports implementation of the Basin States Alternative through the final Record of Decision (ROD). This alternative is a compromise acceptable to each of the seven Colorado River Basin States. In selecting the preferred alternative and finalizing the ROD, the Secretary of the Interior should recognize the value of this unique compromise.

Furthermore, the Basin States Alternative does not require any additional statutory authorization and is the only alternative that can be implemented immediately after the Secretary issues the final ROD. Implementation of the other alternatives, particularly the Conservation Before Shortage and the Reservoir Storage Alternatives, would require substantive changes to the Law of the River.

Gilbert urges the Secretary to choose the Basin States Alternative as the preferred alternative in the Final EIS. We also urge the Secretary to adopt a ROD that includes the guidelines and criteria necessary to implement the Basin States Alternative in a manner consistent with the carefully negotiated compromise agreements developed among the seven basin states.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the DEIS.

Sincerely,



Lonnie Frost  
Public Works Director

cc: Herb Guenther, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources