



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

April 30, 2007

VIA E-MAIL
& U.S. MAIL

Ms. Jayne Harkins
Acting Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: BCOO-1000
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Comments on Bureau of Reclamation Draft Environmental
Impact Statement, Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin
Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California commends the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation for their comprehensive analysis of alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead ("DEIS").

Water from the Colorado River accounts for a significant share of supplies within Metropolitan's service area in the coastal region of Southern California. After years of negotiation under the leadership of the Department of the Interior, California entities reached a historic pact to allow California to live within its basic apportionment of 4.4 million acre-feet annually when surplus water and unused apportionment is unavailable. The 2003 Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement ("CRWDA") provides a number of benefits to Metropolitan, including interim access to available surpluses and greater flexibility for managing diversions into our Colorado River Aqueduct.

The Basin States' Alternative analyzed in the DEIS would establish guidelines to operate Lake Mead and Lake Powell more efficiently and flexibly for the benefit of all seven states in the Lower and Upper Colorado River Basins. Of greatest importance to Metropolitan, the Alternative would facilitate improved water management by permitting contractors to reduce water use via extraordinary conservation and recover most of that water in later years. This management technique would allow Metropolitan to reduce the likelihood of regional shortages in years when California's State Water Project experiences reduced delivery capability. Furthermore, the Alternative's provision for extending Metropolitan's access to surplus water would increase the likelihood of Metropolitan being able to operate the Colorado River Aqueduct at or near capacity (a key objective of Metropolitan's Integrated Resource Plan).

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

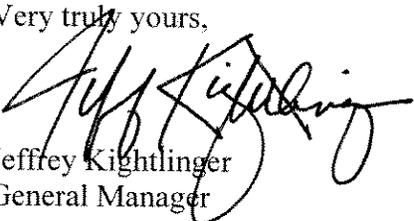
Ms. Jayne Harkins
Acting Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region
Page 2
April 30, 2007

Metropolitan concurs with the April 30, 2007 comments on the DEIS submitted by the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming Governors' Representatives on Colorado River Operations, and those of the Colorado River Board of California.

Like execution of the CRWDA and the Quantification Settlement Agreement, submittal of the Basin States' Proposal described in the comments of the Governors' Representatives represents a seminal moment in the history of the Colorado River. We urge Reclamation to build upon this progress by selecting the Basin States' Proposal as the preferred alternative in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and adopting the Proposal in the Record of Decision for this matter.

We thank the Department of the Interior and Reclamation for their responsiveness and leadership during this process.

Very truly yours,


Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

PEV:gy

cc: Mr. Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203-1035