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10184 Sixth Street - Suite C
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
Phone (909) 980-4700
Fax (909) 980-2628

4/25/07
BCOO-1000
1003

April 23, 2007

Ms. Jayne Harkins
Acting Regional Director
Lower Colorado Region
Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: BCOO-1000
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

Draft EIS Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Dear Ms. Harkins:

On behalf of the Southern California Water Committee (SCWC), I am please to submit our comments on the Draft EIS on the proposed adoption of specific Colorado River interim guidelines for Lower Basin shortages and operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. With the purpose of proposed federal action to improve Reclamation's management of the Colorado River, the SCWC supports the Basin States Alternative as the preferred action alternative.

Important to California is the ability to coordinate the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead because, with that coordination, water shortages would be minimized in the Lower Basin, while also avoiding the risk of curtailments of Colorado River water in the Upper Basin. In addition, the Basin States Alternative allows for water storage in Lake Mead, which benefits not only California, but also Arizona and Nevada. Water stored in Lake Mead stays in the Colorado River system, rather than that water being diverted by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to Diamond Valley Reservoir for storage.

The Basin States Alternative calls for an extension of the Interim Surplus Guidelines for water deliveries from Lake Mead to 2026 which would provide assurances that Metropolitan Water District could access supplies above California's basin apportionment of 4.4 million acre-feet of water. Given the potential for water supply shortages in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the other major source of water for Southern California, the Basin States Alternative would provide a measure of insurance in case of a catastrophic loss of water in the Delta.

The Southern California Water Committee appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS and look forward to a preferred alternative that will provide California a greater degree of predictability in the amount of water that can be delivered from the Colorado River in future years.

Very truly yours,

Joan Anderson Dvm
Executive Director