



Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

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April 2, 2007

Terrance Fulp, PhD
US Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

Dear Dr Fulp:

First, we wish to complement the Bureau of Reclamation on its efforts to produce the *Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead* and are impressed by the detail of its contents.

We are disappointed however at the lack of consultation with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. Certainly there have been mass meetings often including tribes as far away as the Rio Grande and we have attended a few of these but this hardly constitutes consultation in the usual sense of the word. The Tribe is directly affected by lower flows in the Colorado River as few others are and we would have preferred that, after real consultation, this would have been addressed in the D.E.I.S.

It has long been the position of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe that, if shortages are inevitable and they apparently are, it is best to start reductions earlier rather than later. The Tribe feels that there are those far more qualified to do the detailed River modeling than we are but, as policy, reductions should begin when reservoir storage is at about 50% of capacity and scale up fairly rapidly to avoid a run of the river situation with empty reservoirs.

It is also the position of the Tribe that the free market is a better way of dealing with shortage than involuntary reductions. We like the "Intentionally Created Surplus" provisions in the Basin States Alternative but a more flexible method of nomination would be more useful to the smaller entitlement holder. Using the Tribe as an example, We grow 4-5,000 acres of cotton. This is not the total of a number of smaller farms, it is the production of our tribal farm and is 100% controlled by the Tribe.

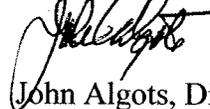
There are good business reasons why we need to be in the cotton business but our climatic conditions are difficult with a late spring an early fall and a very hot summer. A delayed planting usually results in disappointing profit and nomination of the 20,000 acre feet of water we would use to grow the crop would be a desirable option but it needs to be done quickly in April, not the September before.

The term water delivery is often used in these discussions. We would like to point out that the Bureau of Reclamation does not deliver water to the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. The Bureau delivers water to others and it passes through our Reservation and we have the right to take some of it, if we can, but there is no effort to deliver water. This is the Tribe's main concern. Senior water rights are useless if we cannot reach the water, a fact surely not lost on our friends who may be junior in right but have a nice federally built structure to draw from.

The Tribe hopes for and expects the help and cooperation of the Bureau of Reclamation and other concerned agencies in making the intake modifications necessary to deal with a diminished River.

The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe appreciates the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Algots", written in a cursive style.

John Algots, Director
Department of Physical Resources