

Appendix H

November 2, 2005, Denver, Colorado Public Meeting Documents

H.1 Sign-In Sheet (1)

Bureau of Reclamation
Development of Colorado River Management Strategies Under Low Reservoir Conditions Scoping Meeting
Sign-In Sheet

November 2, 2005

Name	Affiliation	Mailing Address	Phone	Email	How do you prefer to be contacted? US Mail or E-Mail
Marc Ross	Rock the Earth	1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 6200 Denver, CO 80202	303-454-3304	MarcR@RockTheEarth.net	e-mail
Carolyn Kirchner	HDR Inc	305 E 17th Ave Suite 700 Denver, CO 80203	303 764 1599		mail.
Bill Jackson	Nat'l. Park Service	1201 Oakridge Dr Fort Collins, CO 80528	970-225-3503	bill-jackson@nps.gov	e-mail
Jennifer Lat	Env. Defense	2334 Broadway Boulder CO 80304	303 447 7209	fitzjoe jpl@ed.org	"
Chris Treese	Colo.R. District	200 1120 Glenn St Spgs 81602	970 545 8522	ctreese@crwcd.org	✓
Jim Pokrandt	"	"	"	jpokrandt@crwcd.org	✓
Kim Milne	Denver Post	1566 Broadway Denver CO 80202	303-820-1290	Kmcsquire@denverpost.com	✓
Randy Seaholm	CWCB	1313 Sherman St Denver, Colo	303-866-3441	randyseaholm@state.co.us	
Ken Lykens	MWH	1801 California St. Suite 2900 Denver, CO 80202	303-291-2174	Kenneth.Lykens@mwhglobal.org	both

Appendix H

November 2, 2005, Denver, Colorado Public Meeting Documents

H.2 Sign-In Sheet (2)

Development of Colorado River Management Strategies Under Low Reservoir Conditions Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet

November 2, 2005

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Appendix H

November 2, 2005, Denver, Colorado Public Meeting Documents

H.3 Transcript

PUBLIC MEETING RE: DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER
BASIN SHORTAGE GUIDELINES AND COORDINATED
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR LAKE POWELL
AND LAKE MEAD UNDER LOW RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2005, 6:00 P.M.

ADAM'S MARK HOTEL
1550 COURT PLACE, TOWER COURT D
DENVER, COLORADO

P R O C E E D I N G S

The following public comments were made:

DAVID MAZOUR: My name is David Mazour, M-a-z-o-u-r. I work for Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Tri-State is a power supplier -- a consumer-owned power supplier that provides electricity to 44 rural distribution systems in four states. The end user of those 44 systems owns them, and those 44 systems own us. So we're truly consumer-owned. Tri-State is a member of CREDA, Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, and CREDA represents the power customers from the Colorado River storage project, and I'm appearing here today on behalf of CREDA.

CREDA will be -- an executive director will be testifying or making comments tomorrow at your forum in Phoenix, but I was requested to just make a few very, very brief comments, and the comment I'd like to make -- well, actually, two points. First of all, CREDA is involved in a number of Colorado River processes. One is the stakeholders' process in developing the annual operating plan. CREDA is involved in the adaptive

1 management program for the Grand Canyon below Lake
2 Powell, and CREDA is also a representative and an
3 active participant in the recovery program in the
4 upper Colorado River. So the power customers are
5 involved in several forums.

6 Power impacts are an issue that we feel
7 should be considered as these shortage criteria are
8 being developed, and this request is -- and as I
9 say, Leslie James will be commenting more
10 thoroughly tomorrow -- but I just wanted to make a
11 point that as these shortage criteria are being
12 developed, the power impacts really need to be
13 evaluated because the revenues from the sale of
14 power are used to operate and maintain the
15 reservoir as well as about \$20 million a year from
16 power revenues that are used for nonoperational
17 programs, for environmental programs. They fund
18 the salinity control program. They fund parts of
19 the adaptive management program. And they also are
20 a key funder in the upper Colorado River recovery
21 program for the endangered fish. And so, again,
22 that's the brief comment I'd like to make, and
23 we'll have further details and more information
24 tomorrow.

25 Thank you very much.

1 JENNIFER PITT: Hi. I'm Jennifer
2 Pitt -- J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r P-i-t-t -- with
3 Environmental Defense, and I have a few comments.

4 First of all, a full NEPA analysis is
5 called for. I think we know that's coming. We
6 want to see a complete analysis of costs, benefits,
7 and environmental implications of each alternative.
8 Also, we'd like to see these shortage criteria be
9 enacted permanently. We think that permanent
10 guidelines really would meet the nature of the
11 scale of drought that -- the time scale that we're
12 dealing with, and we've heard suggestions that the
13 shortage criteria might be promulgated as
14 coterminous with the surplus guidelines, which I
15 think takes us out to 2015 or 2016, and I think
16 that's probably inappropriate given what we know
17 about projected water supply and demands going into
18 the future.

19 I also wanted to talk a little bit about a
20 proposal that Environmental Defense has developed
21 in cooperation with another -- a number of other
22 nonprofits. It's called Conservation Before
23 Shortage -- and I've actually brought a stack of
24 copies if anyone is interested. I think we've
25 already submitted it to Reclamation for

1 consideration. I just wanted to describe it very
2 briefly and run through some of the benefits that
3 we see of this kind of approach to developing
4 shortage guidelines; and, specifically, this
5 Conservation Before Shortage proposal addresses the
6 need to look at how water is distributed in the
7 Lower Basin. It doesn't address some of the other
8 issues that Reclamation is seeking comment on right
9 now.

10 To give you a very brief description of
11 the program, it is a program of voluntary and
12 compensated water conservation where the volume of
13 conserved water is tied to lake elevations at Mead
14 and increases -- in other words, conservation
15 increases -- as water in storage decreases.
16 Funding for this program would be a combination of
17 federal outlays and fees imposed on water and power
18 users in the Lower Basin. So just quickly to run
19 through some of the benefits that we see of this
20 kind of approach -- and I have four main points to
21 make . . .

22 Number 1, this would reduce the need for
23 new storage projects. The introduction of
24 flexibility into Colorado River management would
25 allow those who are willing and able to reduce

1 water use to be compensated for doing so and to
2 avoid the need to impose reductions in water use
3 for those who cannot. By eliminating the potential
4 for water shortages where they cannot easily be
5 accommodated, this policy would limit the need for
6 costly new water projects to protect water users
7 where they cannot tolerate interruptions in their
8 water supplies. I'm thinking particularly about
9 urban water users who are the juniors in the Lower
10 Basin.

11 Number 2, we think that there are some
12 benefits here in this proposal for the environment.
13 Fish, wildlife, and natural areas on the Colorado
14 River don't, for the most part, have their own
15 water rights. As such, they are essentially last
16 in line for water, and they're the most vulnerable
17 of all water users to drought. The Conservation
18 Before Shortage proposal would reduce overall water
19 consumption in dry years, decreasing the risk of
20 shortages that could disproportionately impact
21 environmental uses in the future. Also, by
22 increasing protection against shortage for water
23 users who have inflexible demands, it will allow
24 some water to remain in the river for wildlife that
25 needs it to survive while still meeting critical

1 human needs.

2 Number 3, we think there's a benefit here
3 for improved power production. Consistent
4 maintenance of reservoir storage and power head
5 above baseline conditions in average to low-flow
6 conditions would result in increased power
7 production and improved power revenues, as well as
8 the elimination of the risk that elevations at Mead
9 would drop below the minimum power head, improving
10 the reliability of power production.

11 And, finally, and perhaps most
12 importantly, we think this proposal would increase
13 certainty for water users. Conservation Before
14 Shortage will significantly reduce the likelihood
15 of involuntary and uncompensated shortages in the
16 Lower Basin, particularly at levels of half a
17 million acre feet, which is the level at which
18 shortage exceeds the ability of the Arizona Water
19 Bank to buffer shortages.

20 Conservation Before Shortage offers a
21 proactive approach. It protects Colorado River
22 water users and the environment from abrupt
23 reductions in the amount of water available. You
24 know, it's hard to reach a consensus when someone
25 has to lose -- and this is really more a comment

1 directed at Lower Basin water users. The current
2 deadlock between the states reflects a zero-sum
3 approach to river management, where one state or
4 one water user is expected to shoulder the full
5 burden of a drought by suffering a large and
6 uncompensated shortage, while others are
7 unaffected. Conservation Before Shortage suggests
8 a more cooperative and even-handed approach to
9 coping with drought. Conservation Before Shortage
10 would create a predictable and rational system for
11 water users and distribute the costs between water
12 and power users and the federal government. And,
13 finally, it could -- or we propose it could include
14 Mexican water users in the solution, thereby
15 reducing the need for conservation among U.S. water
16 users. Thank you.

17 (There were no further comments.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF COLORADO

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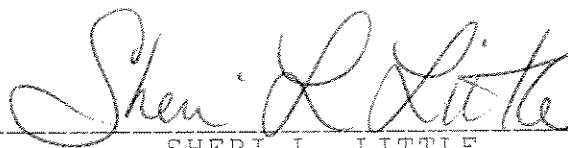
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CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

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I, Sheri L. Little, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Colorado, duly appointed to take the PUBLIC MEETING RE: DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER BASIN SHORTAGE GUIDELINES AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR LAKE POWELL AND LAKE MEAD UNDER LOW RESERVOIR CONDITIONS held on Wednesday, November 2, 2005, in Denver, Colorado, certify that the public comments were taken in shorthand by me at the time and place aforesaid and were thereafter reduced to typewritten form by me and processed under my supervision, the same consisting of 8 pages, and that the same is a full, true, and complete transcription of my shorthand notes. I further certify that I am not related to, employed by, nor counsel to any of the parties herein, nor otherwise interested in the events of the within cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my notarial seal this 10th day of November, 2005. My commission expires November 17, 2008.



SHERI L. LITTLE
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER

