

Appendix I

November 3, 2005, Phoenix, Arizona Public Meeting Documents

I.1 Sign-In Sheet (1)

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November 3, 2005, Phoenix, Arizona Public Meeting Documents

I.2 Sign-In Sheet (2)

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November 3, 2005, Phoenix, Arizona Public Meeting Documents

I.3 Sign-In Sheet (3)

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

November 3, 2005

Name	Affiliation	Mailing Address	Phone	Email	How do you prefer to be contacted? US Mail or E-Mail
Lisa McKnight	Salmon, Lewis & Weldon, P.L.C.	2850 E. Camelback C. Phoenix, AZ 85016	#200 602-801-9065	lmm@slwplc.com	e-mail
Beth Miller	Scottsdale	9388 E. San Salvador	480-312-5009	emiller@scottsdaleaz.gov	email
Pera Benavides	ADWR	500 N 3rd ST PHX 85003	602 412 2400 X7171	pfbenavides@azwater.gov	e-mail
Robert Lynch	Attorney at Law	Robert S Lynch & Assoc. 390 E Polk Ave, Suite 140, Phoenix, AZ 85004	602 257-5908	rslynch@rslynch.com	e-mail
Brad Warren	WAPA	Po Box 11606 SLC, UT 84147	801-524-6372	warren@wapa.gov	"
DUSTIN GARRICK	Univ. of AZ	2608 E. 4th St. TUCSON, AZ 85716	520-400-4333	dustingarrick@gmail.com	email
Tim Pierson	Colorado River Indian Community		520-796-1344	tlpierson@gricket.com	Email
Carole Klopatek	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation		480 816 7161	CKLOPATEK@FTMCDOWELL.ORG	Email
Brian Young	WAPA	615 S. 43rd AVE PHX, AZ 85009	602 605-2594	byoung@wapa.gov	e-mail
Tim Henley	AWRA	500 N 3rd ST PHOENIX AZ 85004	602 417 2418	tjhenley@azwater.com	e-mail

Appendix I

November 3, 2005, Phoenix, Arizona Public Meeting Documents

I.4 Sign-In Sheet (4)

Appendix I

November 3, 2005, Phoenix, Arizona Public Meeting Documents

I.5 Transcript

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

PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona

November 3, 2005
6:00 p..m.

REPORTED BY:
DIANE DONOHO, RPR
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50691

PREPARED FOR:
TERRY FULP

COPY

1 A PUBLIC MEETING was taken at 6:00 p.m. on
2 Thursday, November 3, 2005, at the Arizona Department of
3 Water Resources, 500 North Third Street, Third Floor,
4 Conference Rooms A and B, Phoenix, Arizona, before Diane
5 Donoho, a Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50691, in and
6 for the State of Arizona.

7

8 APPEARING:

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10 Terry Fulp
11 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 P.O. Box 61470
 Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

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1 MR. FULP: I'll entertain any questions. Let me
2 say one last thing, that we made it clear on the Federal
3 Register notice that said these kind of guidelines might be
4 interim in nature. The surplus guidelines certainly have a
5 finite link to them. We again are soliciting comments from
6 you with regard to all of these issues. With that said, any
7 questions? Good. We all understand. That's great. Okay.

8 Nan hands me one clarification, and that is
9 we're -- we will do this scoping report. It's goal is to
10 publish it in February. If you do want your comment to be
11 exactly in that report, please remake it during this
12 comment period. The previous comments will be carried
13 forward, but they'll be two separate records. That's just a
14 clarification. We will obviously use all the comments we
15 received to help us and form our process and make sure we're
16 doing it in the correct way. Okay. With that said and no
17 more questions, let's go to the next one.

18 So here we are again, and while we're here
19 tonight, we're going to formulate alternatives for the
20 development of these two pieces, shortage guidelines again
21 for the Lower Basin and coordinated management strategies
22 for operating Lake Powell and Mead when the reservoirs are
23 relatively low. We're also asking for any comments on other
24 issues and factors that need to be considered.

25 Couple ways you can make comments. Obviously

1 tonight you can make comments. Given the number of people
2 we have here, you do not have to fill out a comment card.
3 We'll just turn it over to you, and we'll ask you to please
4 go over to one of the microphones there in the center, state
5 your name clearly and also spell it for our reporter,
6 please, so that we get it clearly captured. You can also
7 submit by U.S. mail, fax, or e-mail again by close of
8 business Wednesday, November 30, any comments to us and
9 these addresses and fax numbers and e-mail addresses are all
10 in your handout. I urge you to please take one so that you
11 have this if you do intend to make a comment.

12 Okay. With that, that's all we have for prepared
13 remarks, and I will just open it up to the floor. If anyone
14 would like to make a comment this evening. Take your time.
15 Harvey.

16 MR. BOYCE: My name is Harvey Boyce, B-O-Y-C-E.
17 I'm here representing the Arizona Power Authority, and we'd
18 like to offer the following into the record:

19 Public power users in Arizona that receive
20 hydropower generation from the Hoover Dam via water
21 deliveries from Lake Mead encourage the federal officials
22 involved in this process to consider the language found in
23 the 1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act and the 1984 Hoover
24 Power Plant Act and those Power contracts written thereto.
25 We find that reclamation is required acting for the

1 Secretary of the Interior to generate and deliver hydropower
2 to the customers of Hoover, also referred to as the Hoover
3 Allottees, which there are 15 in number. Further the 1928
4 Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide for
5 hydrogeneration to make the Boulder Canyon Project
6 financially secure. We note that water users of Lake Mead
7 provide less than 1 percent of the Project's funding.
8 Consequently the power users, those 15 customers, bear the
9 bulk of the responsibility to ensure that the financial and
10 integrity of the Boulder Canyon Project remains sound.

11 Therefore, the concerns of the power community
12 within Arizona must be made a part of the modeling criteria
13 and the process such that the elevation of Lake Mead is
14 maintained at or above the minimum power pool elevation.

15 Furthermore the Arizona Power Authority requests
16 that the Hoover power users be included throughout this
17 process. Thank you.

18 MR. FULP: Thanks, Harvey. Peter?

19 MR. CULP: Thanks very much. And thanks for the
20 opportunity to comment tonight. My name is Peter Culp,
21 spelled C-U-L-P. I'm an attorney with the Sonoran Institute
22 in Phoenix, Arizona. Sonoran Institute is a nonprofit
23 organization that works throughout the intermountain west on
24 issues related to land use and water policy.

25 I'm here today on behalf of a number of

1 nongovernmental organizations that are working on issues
2 related to the Colorado River. That includes Defenders of
3 Wildlife, Environmental Defense, the National Wildlife
4 Federation, Pacific Institute, Sierra Club, the Sonoran
5 Institute, and the Nature Conservancy. All of these
6 organizations take quite different approaches to the work
7 that we do on the Colorado River, but we've come together on
8 this issue because of the importance of the issue of
9 shortage sharing on the river. And we all recognize that
10 the combination of drought, the continued development of
11 uses in the upper basin, Lower Basin, and Mexico, and
12 potential climate change in the future mean that the
13 Colorado River has probably entered a new era of management.

14 As an initial matter, I just wanted to make two
15 comments with regard to the process that the Bureau is
16 undertaking and also the outcomes we'll be getting to.
17 First, we believe that a full NEPA analysis is called for
18 with the shortage criteria. That would include complete
19 analysis of the costs and benefits, environmental
20 implications of each, the alternatives that are to be
21 considered.

22 Secondly, we think that the shortage criteria
23 that the Bureau is going to be developed should really be
24 crafted for the long haul and should hopefully be
25 implemented as a permanent policy. The reason for that, as

1 I think we recognize that -- and I think we all need to
2 recognize, that the drought that we're in today is really
3 just giving us a preview of the situation which we're all
4 going to face in the future, particularly given what we
5 know, given the long-term hydrologic record of the Colorado
6 River and also the probability that climate change may
7 reduce the amount of flow that's available to water users in
8 the future.

9 With that said, the organizations I'm here for
10 tonight have been monitoring the discussions between the
11 seven basin states for some time, and although we are not
12 invited to participate directly in those discussions, a
13 number of us have a strong interest in them and began
14 meeting over this winter to try and develop an alternative
15 shortage proposal that we hope would be constructed for the
16 basin states process. We meet with reclamation staff
17 several times to review the results of the technical
18 modeling runs that have been done for the river using the
19 Riverware model, and Reclamation has quite generously
20 provided us some additional help in doing some modeling in
21 order for us to evaluate potential shortage criteria. All
22 that modeling work led to the development of a shortage
23 proposal that we're calling Conservation Before Shortage.
24 In essence, what the proposal does -- and I won't get into
25 excruciating detail here -- but it's basically proposing a

1 set of voluntary market-based reductions in Lower Basin use
2 that would be tied to specific tiers of lake levels in Lake
3 Mead. As originally modeled, the proposal was that around
4 1100 feet the Secretary would seek about 200,000 acre feet
5 of reduction in Lower Basin use through voluntary payments
6 to folks that forebear use of water; at 1075, 400,000 acre
7 feet; at 1050, 600,000 acre feet. And for argument's sake
8 we had assumed protection of 1,000 feet in Lake Mead with
9 involuntary shortages being imposed after that point.

10 What we were suggesting was that this mechanism
11 would be paid for via sort of a shortage mitigation fund
12 that would involve federal contributions plus surcharges on
13 water delivery and hydropower under low reservoir
14 conditions, the result being that, instead of having
15 involuntary shortages which would cause economic impacts to
16 folks that have inflexible demand, we would instead have
17 voluntary compensated shortages in advance of any
18 involuntary loss of water and hopefully achieve a sort of a
19 reduction in the probability of shortage, also delay the
20 onset of shortage, and limit the extent of shortage in order
21 to prevent any really significant losses in the Lower Basin
22 to Lower Basin users.

23 The detail of that proposal is in the comment
24 letter that we submitted in July to the Bureau. I've got
25 brought some extra copies of it today tonight if folks would

1 be interested. We're also in the process of developing a
2 slightly revised version of that proposal based on what we
3 learned through the Arizona stakeholders' process which we
4 will be submitting to the Bureau before November 30.

5 Regardless we're not really suggesting that the
6 precise numbers conservation levels or the lake levels that
7 we've suggested in the proposal are necessarily the right
8 ones. We're also not suggesting that protecting 1,000 feet
9 is the right decision or any other level. And note that
10 actually the Arizona stakeholder proposal includes a tiered
11 shortage strategy of their own which imposes progressively
12 larger shortages in the Lower Basin as need drops past 1075.

13 That may be the right way to administer
14 shortages. That's not what we're saying. The purpose of
15 what we're doing is really to suggest and hopefully
16 demonstrate some of the benefits that could be associated
17 with the inclusion of a voluntary market-based mechanism for
18 conservation as a part of a shortage strategy. And I hope
19 we make the case that such a strategy should be part of
20 whatever shortage criteria are ultimately adopted by the
21 Bureau.

22 There are essentially three primary benefits in
23 our view associated with doing a voluntary conservation
24 strategy in advance of imposing the shortage. Number 1, it
25 produces increased certainty for water users in the Lower

1 Basin because it significantly reduces the likelihood of
2 involuntary and uncompensated shortages in the Lower Basin.
3 It also allows potentially for the inclusion of Mexico in
4 that conservation strategy which reduces the need for
5 conservation among the U.S. water users.

6 Secondly, it creates some benefits related to
7 power protection because it allows us to maintain reservoir
8 storage in power head at higher levels than we would see
9 under average to low flow conditions. That essentially
10 eliminates the risk that Lake Mead drops below its minimum
11 power head and thus increases the reliability of power
12 production for the Lower Basin. Probably most importantly
13 it creates some increased flexibility in river management
14 because it allows those who are willing and able to reduce
15 water use to be compensated for doing so during low flow
16 conditions. And that has a couple of pretty important
17 benefits.

18 First, it avoids the need to impose reduction in
19 water use on the water users who have inflexible demands.
20 And by eliminating the potential for shortages where they
21 cannot easily be accommodated, that will hopefully eliminate
22 the need for costly new projects to be undertaken to protect
23 those folks that have those inflexible demands and thus
24 cannot tolerate any interruption in water supply.

25 Secondly, it protects a series of environmental

1 values because I think, as we all know, the fish and
2 wildlife and environmental values on the river don't
3 currently have their own water rights. As a result, they're
4 essentially last in line for water and are thus the most
5 vulnerable of all the users to the drought.

6 By reducing the overall water consumption in dry
7 years, we can decrease the risk of larger shortages that
8 will disproportionately hit environmental values throughout
9 the basin. And finally by increasing the protection for
10 folks that really have inflexible demand, particularly the
11 municipalities, we can reduce -- we can make it possible for
12 some water to remain in the river to provide the needed
13 support for those environmental values.

14 The overall intent is to provide sort of a
15 proactive approach that will protect Colorado River water
16 users and the environment from abrupt reductions in the
17 amount of water that's available. The states, as we all
18 know, are working very, very hard to try and come up with a
19 consensus proposal on shortage criteria, conjunctive
20 management, and other issues. I'd like to suggest though is
21 that's it's very hard to reach consensus when somebody has
22 to agree to lose. And I think in many ways the current
23 deadlock within the states about how to approach shortage
24 change may reflect in some sense that there is sort of
25 zero-sum approach in which someone is ultimately going to

1 bear the brunt of a large involuntary uncompensated
2 shortage.

3 Our intent is to suggest that maybe by
4 introducing some increased flexibility through the
5 introduction of the market mechanism that allows people to
6 voluntarily reduce use, we can create a more cooperative and
7 also predictable system for water users and distribute the
8 cost of the shortages between water and power users and the
9 Federal Government.

10 So anyway I do have a few copies of our original
11 proposal. There will be another one being submitted on or
12 before November 30, and I appreciate the opportunity to
13 speak tonight. Thank you.

14 MR. FULP: Peter, could you make the written
15 comments available if you are so inclined. Other comments?

16 MR. LYNCH: I'm Bob Lynch. I am an attorney here
17 in Phoenix and here on behalf of the Irrigation and
18 Electrical District Association of Arizona. Our members and
19 associate members buy most of the power sold in Arizona from
20 the Colorado River Storage Project and most of the power
21 sold through the Arizona Power Authority from Hoover as well
22 as a good slug of the power from the Parker Davis project.
23 So we are very much concerned about the impacts on power
24 generation from shortage criteria that will be developed or
25 might be developed by the Secretary through this process.

1 The problem is that short criteria, at least in
2 my view, are just a way of coming up with a mathematical
3 model for cutting off Central Arizona Project's water and
4 for complicating our ability to have the necessary water to
5 generate power on the river. Neither of these are
6 particularly nice outcomes and is probably a good reason why
7 since 1928 shortage criteria have not been developed on the
8 Colorado river for the Lower Basin states.

9 I'm concerned about your scoping process
10 initially. If I understand the current status of affairs
11 correctly, there are serious questions about modeling that
12 have not been resolved related to the past practice of
13 stopping analysis of minimum power fuel at Lake Powell but
14 not at Lake Mead. I know that the Arizona Department of
15 Water Resources has sent some letters requesting some
16 alternative models be run. I don't know what the answer to
17 that is or whether the Reclamation is going to do that.
18 There have also been discussions about not following the
19 minimum release criterion on long range operative criteria,
20 8.23 million-acre feet. There's been some talk about the
21 fact that the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to
22 in an appropriate circumstance ignore that criterion and
23 lower that minimum release annually on a given year without
24 any further criteria. I haven't seen anything in the
25 Department of the Interior that would provide any kind of

1 legal justification for that.

2 But the bottom line is that the assumptions are
3 being discussed if not assaulted in this process at this
4 time. Yet Mr. Culp's proposal, your slides all appear to
5 operate on the basis that the law of river long-range
6 operating criteria in the status quo in terms of past
7 practice are not going to change. If that's true, fine.
8 But if you scope this EIS on the basis that that is the
9 case, if it turns out not to be, then you've got to go back
10 to Square 1 underneath it and start it over again because
11 the assumptions everyone is relying on to identify the
12 alternatives and to comment on them and to work with them
13 and analyze them will be wrong.

14 So your first task in my view is getting it
15 settled among the seven basin states, you know, with or
16 without shotguns, as to whether or not this set of
17 assumptions is going to continue to hold true for the
18 process. If it is, fine. If it isn't, well, we'll deal
19 with that probably in court. But that's the, you know, the
20 800-pound gorilla in this process right now. And with a
21 60-day scoping period, you sort of come to the end the
22 public process the end of this month, and I don't think all
23 of these issues will be put to bed by then. I could be
24 wrong, but the way things are going, I don't think so.

25 So we're all in a quandary or at least maybe I'm

1 the only one in a quandary over how to suggest to you
2 various alternatives that need to be assessed and identified
3 in order to have an adequate document as a draft
4 environmental impact statement to present to the public. I
5 know, for instance, that, if you assume that there be will
6 be conditions covered by this criteria that cause either of
7 these reservoirs to drop below the minimum power pool,
8 you've got a very serious economic analysis associated with
9 those events in addition to the environmental and other
10 consequences of not having that water supply.

11 Those impacts include the cost to the purchasing
12 entities for alternative water supplies, the cost to the
13 programs authorized by Congress, the difficulties in dealing
14 with legal issues that have already been mentioned tonight
15 about the obligations of the Secretary to deliver this
16 resource and generate it. Both reservoirs are covered by
17 funds within the United States Treasury. They're different
18 kind of funds, but basically they're used to pay the bills.
19 And Power pays essentially all the bills for both the
20 Boulder Canyon Project and Colorado River storage Project as
21 well as a good slug of the bills for the Parker Davis
22 Project.

23 There are some very serious socioeconomic
24 consequences associated with this and related economic
25 damage in communities, especially rural communities and

1 agricultural communities, in all three states that will have
2 to be assessed. So deciding whether you're going to protect
3 minimum power pool at Glen Canyon or Hoover or neither is a
4 major cut and a major analysis that you're going to have to
5 go through in deciding how to fashion alternatives to
6 display in the draft environmental impact statement. And
7 you're going to have to gather some information. One of the
8 unfortunate things that has crept into the Council on
9 Environmental Regulations is the requirement to go get
10 information if you haven't got it. In a day of adaptive
11 management, I don't think that makes any sense, but it's
12 there. And I doubt seriously that the agency's got its arms
13 around these potential economic or socioeconomic
14 consequences at this point.

15 There are other factors that appear not to be
16 within what you are currently contemplating. For instance,
17 shortages absorbed by Mexico under the 1944 treaty are not
18 in these slides. Now, I know that's governed by a treaty
19 and that makes things a little more complicated, and
20 shortages and surpluses mean different things in different
21 documents. But I don't see how you contemplate analyzing
22 what might happen to the Lower Basin states without
23 including an analysis of what might happen with regard to
24 the treaty in Mexico. Whether you get the Mexican
25 government to cooperate in that event is not relevant to

1 having to analyze what the impacts would be if they did or
2 didn't cooperate. And those factors will have to be
3 included in your development of alternatives.

4 The future is related to water supply storage
5 availability of water in Lake Mead, the other strategies
6 that are being worked on in the Lower Basin, alternative
7 storage in the area of the All-American Canal. It's a whole
8 panoply of things that will potentially affect our ability
9 to conserve water in the Lower Basin will need to be
10 included.

11 I think also you're going to have to take a hard
12 look at the statutory requirement to augment water supplies
13 that's contained in the 1968 account and is, of course, an
14 unfulfilled promise to the basin as a whole and the lower
15 basin especially. That is not an idle promise. It was a
16 major reason why Arizona ultimately supported the Act with
17 the Central Arizona Project being the stepchild of the
18 river. And augmentation has been an activity that
19 reclamation has been involved in on an experimental basis
20 before, and it needs to be factored into the analysis as
21 part of one or more alternatives that would come into play.
22 I won't ask the agency to support that concept. I'm just
23 trying to tell you you have to analyze it whether you want
24 to support it or not.

25 That's probably enough for you to chew on for

1 this evening. I will be submitting written comments by the
2 November 30 deadline, and thank you for the opportunity.

3 MR. FULP: Thanks. Other comments?

4 MS. JAMES: My name is Leslie James. I'm
5 executive director of the Colorado River Energy Distributors
6 Association or CREDA. I won't reiterate several of the
7 comments that were made by Mr. Boyce and Mr. Lynch, but I
8 did want to provide a few supplemental remarks.

9 CREDA is a nonprofit organization that represents
10 the majority of the power customers of the Colorado River
11 Storage Project of which we all know that Glen Canyon is the
12 largest feature of the project. CREDA members in six states
13 serve over four million consumers and all are nonprofit
14 entities.

15 The 1956 Colorado River Storage Act, Section 7,
16 requires that hydroelectric power plants be operated so as
17 to produce the greatest practical amount of power and
18 energy. Section 5 of that Act also established the basin
19 fund, and both Harvey and Bob talked about how the power
20 function or the authorized power purpose is the paying
21 partner of these projects. In the CRSP power revenues fund
22 about 95 percent of the irrigation investment in the project
23 along with all the power investment, operation maintenance,
24 replacements, as well as funding the adaptive management
25 program down here at Glen Canyon Dam, a portion of the Upper

1 Basin Recovery Implementation Program, a portion of the
2 Solidity Control Program. And all of this funding comes
3 from the basin fund.

4 As both Bob and Harvey mentioned, the Hoover
5 funding and CRSP funding are different in some respects but
6 are the same in other respects. The basin fund's sole
7 source of money are power revenues. The drought has been
8 quite unkind to basin fund. The utility customers who
9 purchase power from western area power administration from
10 the Colorado River Storage Project have seen quite serious
11 impacts. In fact since about 1999 the Colorado River
12 Storage Project rate has increased 44 percent, and yet
13 deliveries, power deliveries have been reduced by
14 22 percent.

15 Now, those numbers don't even taken into
16 consideration the individual utility impact that they have
17 had to make to supplement the amount of deliveries that
18 could not be made because of CRSP resources reduction.
19 Based on some preliminary analysis, in the event power
20 generation ceased at Glen Canyon Dam even for a few months
21 each year from 2007 to 2009, the CRSP rate would have to
22 increase 99.8 percent.

23 The initial notice back in the summer indicated
24 that it's the Department's intent that the development of
25 management strategies would provide more predictability to

1 water users throughout the basin. It is our view that,
2 based on power being an authorized purpose of this project
3 as well as the financial considerations, that the impacts
4 on -- the economic impacts on power generation need to be
5 treated equally, if not more so, in all of this analysis.

6 We'd like to thank Arizona Department of Water
7 Resources. We were able to make a presentation at one of
8 the early meetings to talk about these impacts from the CRSP
9 power customers' standpoint and thank the Bureau for the
10 opportunity to make comments. And we'll submit written
11 comments by the deadline. Thank you.

12 MR. FULP: Thank you. Other comments? Okay.
13 That concludes our meeting then, and I just again would
14 reiterate what Bob said, keep Dennis and his family in your
15 thoughts and prayers. Thanks for being here.

16 (WHEREUPON the meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.)

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STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing meeting was taken before me, DIANE DONOHO, Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50691, in and for the State of Arizona; that the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this _____day of _____, 2005.

Diane Donoho, RPR
Arizona Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50691