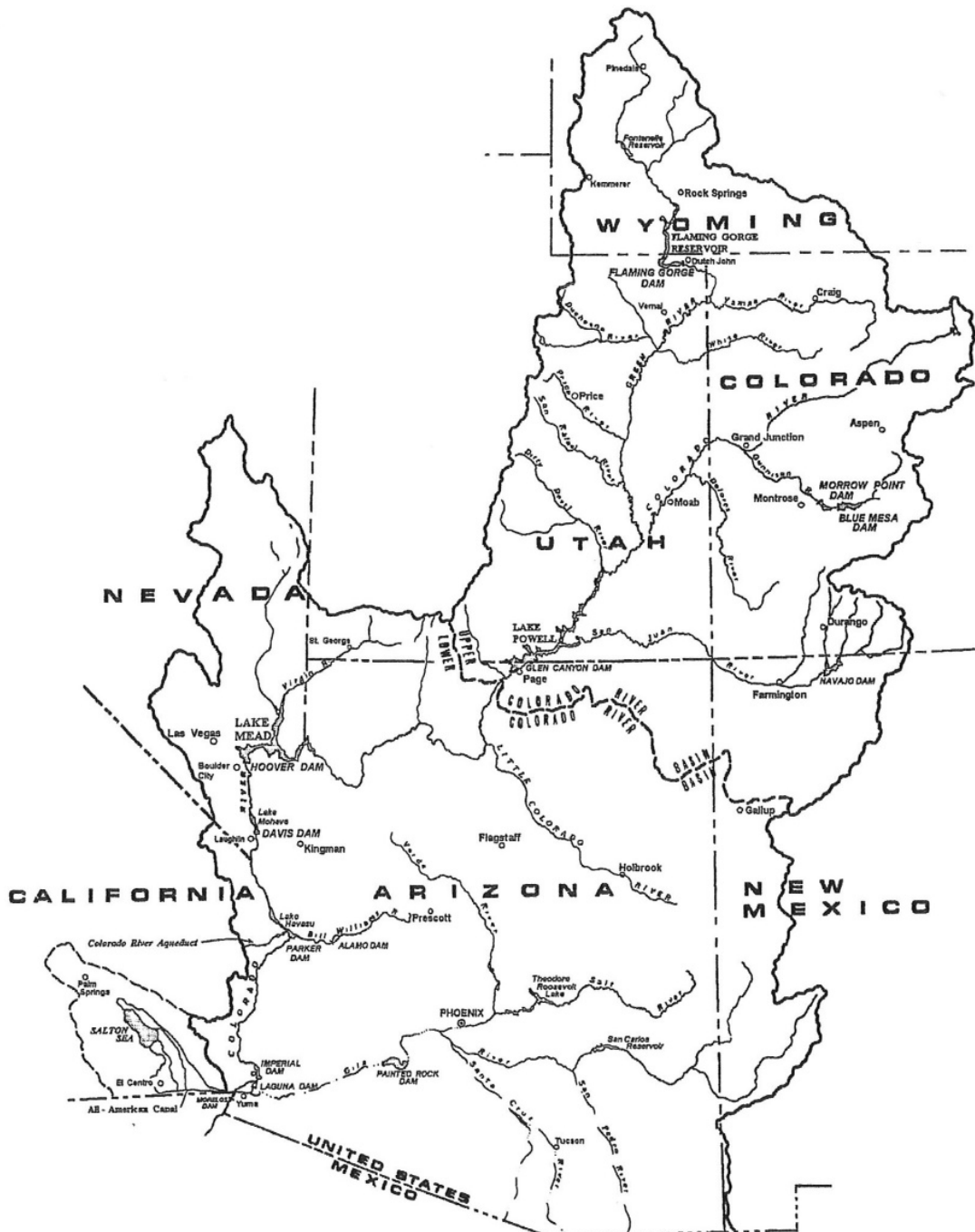


**ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN  
SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM**

**2013**



**COLORADO RIVER BASIN  
SALINITY CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**December 31, 2013**

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN  
SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM**

**2013**

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**December 31, 2013**



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## BACKGROUND

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Council) was established pursuant to Section 204 of Public Law 93-320, the "Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974" (Act). With the 2008 amendments to the Act that created the Basin States Program (BSP), the Advisory Council's consultation responsibilities have been redefined and clearly stated. The Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) originally approved a charter for the Council on February 6, 1976. In 2010, the Charter was revised to better reflect the Legislative changes that occurred to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) in 2008. The Charter was renewed again in 2012. A copy of the current Advisory Council Charter is included as Attachment A.

The Council consists of up to three members from each of the seven Colorado River Basin States. Governors of their respective states appoint the members. The Council membership list as of December 31, 2013 is included as Attachment B. The Council has created a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that it sometimes turns to for advice and analysis. The TAG includes one member from each state and the chairman is appointed by the Council Chairman.

Many of the Advisory Council members are members of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum). The Forum is an organization created in 1973 by the seven Colorado River Basin States for the purpose of interstate cooperation and to provide the states with the information necessary to comply with the Water Quality Standards for the Colorado River and Section 303 of the Clean Water Act. The Forum, like the Council, has an advisory and analytical group which is named the Forum's Work Group (Work Group).

This report provides annual recommendations to the federal agencies concerning the progress of the Program and the need for specific actions by involved federal agencies. This report comments on the actions taken by the federal agencies through December 31, 2013.

The report does not attempt to fully describe or analyze the Program. Readers unfamiliar with the Program should refer to *Quality of Water, Colorado River Basin, Progress Report No. 23, 2011* (USBR), and the *2011 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System, October 2011* (2011 Review) for a full discussion of the Program. The first report is available at [www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/salinity/pdfs/PR23final.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/salinity/pdfs/PR23final.pdf) or by contacting Kib Jacobson, Program Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) portion of the Program. The second report

is available at <http://www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org> or by contacting Don A. Barnett, the Executive Director for the Forum. The addresses and phone numbers for Reclamation and the Forum are provided at the beginning of this report.

The Council met twice in 2013. The first meeting was held on May 16-17 in Grand Junction, Colorado. At that meeting the Council heard summaries and discussed the federal agencies' responses to the 2012 Advisory Council Report. Included in this report as Attachment C are the federal written responses to the 2012 Advisory Council Report. The Council provided the federal agencies the opportunity to report orally and to explain their responses to the 2012 Advisory Council Report. The second meeting was held on December 11, 2013 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***General Issues***

As indicated in last year's Report, the Council is pleased with the current direction of the Program and the way the federal agencies are working together and cooperating with the TAG and the Work Group. The Council anticipates that this cooperation will continue into the future. The Council has long believed that there is a real potential for significant cost effective salinity control by better management of rangeland and would encourage the agencies' efforts in the Rangeland Initiative Study previously discussed with the Forum and Council. The Council also appreciates the efforts of the Science Team in providing the TAG and the Work Group valuable analysis of various issues facing the program and would recommend that this initiative continue. The Science Team was created by Reclamation to give advice and counsel on technical matters and is chaired by Reclamation, but is composed also of members from other federal agencies and organizations who have knowledge about salinity control issues.

Continuation of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU) is critical to the success of the overall Program. The Council is pleased with Reclamation's efforts to continue to move PVU Alternative Studies and NEPA analysis process forward. The Council encourages all federal agencies involved in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) efforts to continue to work cooperatively to solve issues associated with the operation of the PVU. The Council is committed to work with Reclamation to pursue opportunities to fully fund this effort until completed.

The Council and the Forum have tasked the TAG and the Work Group to begin looking at the definition of cost effective salinity control as it relates to calculation of up-front cost sharing. The Council encourages all the federal agencies to work with the TAG and the Work Group on this effort.



*U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*

*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

The Council recognizes the key and essential role that NRCS has played in reducing the salt load of the Colorado River for the benefit of downstream agricultural and municipal users. Providing these benefits has resulted from a coordinated effort between the three state NRCS offices in the Upper Basin and also the cooperation they have provided when working with other federal agencies, the TAG and the Work Group. The Council recognizes that the improvements in the implementation of NRCS's program that have been realized through the efforts of NRCS individuals involved in the program. The Council believes, however, that the efforts of NRCS's Salinity Program Coordinator have been critical to this success. The Council sees an absolute need to continue that position and recommends it be filled with a motivated and well qualified individual if the current Coordinator were to leave.

The Council continues to recommend NRCS pursue salinity control in established salinity control areas before going to other parts of the Basin with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. The Council recommends expending funds outside of established salinity control areas only after the opportunities within these areas have been met. The Council recognizes the interplay between broad policy efforts and actual implementation of contracts by those in the field when expending salinity control funds and the importance of coordination between NRCS area conservationist and district conservationist offices in achieving these goals.

The Council would also like to make NRCS aware of the Uinta and Lower Gunnison planning studies that are currently being conducted for Reclamation. These studies are nearing completion. The Council urges NRCS to work with the Council and the Forum on implementing any recommendations coming from these two planning studies.

In the Management and Budget Recommendations portion of this report, the Council recommends that funding for the USDA portion of the federal program be in accordance with Table 1 of this report.

The Council requests a written response from the USDA to recommendations contained in this report by **April 30, 2014**. This response should include comment on statements made in this section of this report and also on recommendations found in this report under the General Issues and the Management and Budget Recommendations sections.

***U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)***

***Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)***

Again the Council extends its appreciation to Reclamation for its continued oversight and coordination of the Program and the priority given the Program from the top down, including the assemblage and support of a capable and dedicated salinity team. The Council would also like to encourage increased involvement of the Lower Colorado Region (LCR) offices. In the past the LCR has not been very involved because most of the projects and activities were managed out of the Upper Colorado Regional Office. However, with the funding issues that are facing the Program and the fact that the LCR manages the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund (LCRBDF), their role has significantly increased.

In the General Issues section, the Council has expressed its support for the Paradox Valley Unit Alternative Studies and EIS process. The Council reemphasizes the need to keep these studies moving forward and to continue operating the existing PVU.

The Council also recognizes the efforts of Reclamation's salinity team to address and improve the contracting issues that have faced the Program. The Council recommends that Reclamation staff continue these efforts so that contracting issues will not handicap the Program in the future.

As Reclamation is aware, there are several funding issues facing the Program. The Forum has created a subcommittee to begin to address these issues, and the Council recommends that Reclamation continue to work with this subcommittee in attempting to identify options and strategies for resolving these issues. Prior to reaching that resolution, the Council will recommend temporary decisions related to funding and the generation of cost-share dollars in the LCRBDF. The Council appreciates Reclamation's efforts to work with the Council to appropriately manage the fund over the next several years and to assist the Forum as it studies and develops options for generation of future revenues. As part of this effort, an understanding and accurate quantification of salinity damages and the economic benefits from the Program are increasingly important, and the Council recommends that Reclamation make updating and improving the salinity damages model a priority.

In the Management and Budget Recommendations portion of this report, the Council recognizes that it is very difficult, given Reclamation's budget cycle, to make funding recommendations that

can influence Reclamation's budget request for the next two fiscal years. The Council recommends that Reclamation seek increased appropriations in FY-2015 and FY-2016 in accordance with Table 1. Reclamation is requested to give a detailed report on its efforts to secure additional funding at the next Council meeting.

The Council asks Reclamation to respond in writing to recommendations contained in this report by **April 30, 2014**. This response should include comment on statements made in this section of this report and also on recommendations found in this report under the General Issues and the Management and Budget Recommendations sections.

### ***Bureau of Land Management (BLM)***

The Council appreciates BLM's initiation of efforts to create a better understanding of salt mobilization on public lands, including a major literature search on rangelands. The Council recommends that BLM continue with this effort so that pertinent information may be used in the future to assist the Program.

The Council is pleased that BLM has initiated efforts to identify and implement salinity-specific activities in the Basin and further requests that BLM provide an accounting associated with these activities to the Forum. Recognizing, however, that the Forum is currently drafting its 2014 Review of Salinity Standards for the Colorado River, there is an important and immediate need for quantifying past salinity improvements within the Basin. The Council recommends that BLM work with the Work Group for inclusion of this information in the draft review.

As with the other federal agencies, BLM's Salinity Coordinator is considered critical to implementing a comprehensive BLM salinity control program as directed by Congress. BLM, as an Interior agency, has a vital role in assisting other agencies in implementing the Program. Part of that role is the importance of having the BLM Salinity Coordinator available to coordinate and participate directly with the other federal agencies' Salinity Coordinators in implementation of the Program. The Council recommends BLM's Salinity Coordinator allocate sufficient time and resources to achieve this role.

The Council would also like to again emphasize the importance for BLM to be an active and aggressive partner in seeking solutions for the PVU salinity control project.

The Council requests a written report responding to each of the Council's recommendations by **April 30, 2014**. This response should include comment on statements made in this section of the report as well as recommendations found in this report specific to BLM in this section and the Management and Budget Recommendations section.

### ***U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)***

The Council again wants to express its appreciation as to how responsive USGS has become in its science role for the Secretary of the Interior in assisting with moving the salinity control program forward. The Council continues to urge USGS to work with Reclamation and the Work Group to ensure that the data collection, interpretation and analysis efforts are accurate, effective and contribute to the overall goal of Program implementation.

The Council is pleased with USGS efforts to evaluate potential salinity control measures at Pah Tempe Springs and its relationship to the Virgin River and further encourages USGS to continue those efforts. The Council believes the resulting information will be important in evaluating this area as a salinity control project.

The Advisory Council wishes to thank USGS for the priority it gives to funding the basic stream gaging program on the Colorado River and encourages and supports USGS in their efforts to maintain the 20 gage network.

The Council requests that USGS respond to the Council on its continued ability to perform important data gathering and review functions by **April 30, 2014**.

### ***U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)***

The Council appreciates USFWS's role in finding, reviewing and supporting viable wildlife replacement projects and the service that the USFWS provides in reviewing and tabulating replacement by areas and as requested. The Council recommends that USFWS continue these activities and proactively assist the other agencies in moving the Program forward.

The Council requests a written response to the above recommendations by **April 30, 2014**.

### ***Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)***

The Forum is currently preparing the 2014 Review. As this will be fulfilling its Clean Water Act obligations through the triennial review, the Forum will be coordinating its efforts with the EPA's Denver office. The Council recommends that EPA cooperate with and support the Forum in its ongoing efforts.

The Council also appreciates the EPA as an effective and helpful cooperator on the Paradox Valley Unit Alternatives Study/EIS. The Council has found that the Denver Region of the EPA has been most responsive to issues it has been asked to address, and the Council would be pleased if this coordination assignment were to remain with the Denver Region.

## MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The funding level recommendations contained in this report are consistent with and support the conclusions regarding the funding required to accomplish the Plan of Implementation (Plan) adopted by the Forum as part of its 2014 Review. The Program includes a significant amount of non-federal cost sharing. The states provide, in total, 30 percent cost share for the Program from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund. The states are currently the second largest contributor to the Program behind USDA. In addition to the states' cost share, the local farmers cost share in the USDA on-farm program. The non-federal participants (states, landowners, irrigation districts, etc.) are ready in FY 2014 to contribute their share of the Program costs as up-front payments. The Council continues to be pleased with the funding made available to USDA as authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA). The Council continues to be concerned that Reclamation funding is lagging behind USDA funding in geographic areas where coordinated implementation is essential. The potential impact of such a lag is a slowed-down, less cost-effective program. The Council urges Reclamation to vigorously pursue adequate funding so as to allow timely implementation of its portion of the Program as described in the Forum's 2014 Review.

The Council is encouraged by BLM efforts in the Basin and recommends that, absent receiving the full funding contained in Table 1 for BLM, BLM make available to the Program at least \$1.5 million to fund on-the-ground salinity-specific control measures. While the Council recognizes the complexities of BLM's budgeting process, it and the Forum stand ready to assist BLM in achieving this funding goal.

Table 1 contains the Council's recommendations for federal funding for FY 2014 through FY 2017. These funds are for the construction activities necessary to meet the Program objectives as set forth in the Plan. The Forum will transmit these recommendations to the Congress and will actively seek the Congressional support necessary to maintain adequate funding for the Program. The Council wishes to emphasize that funding delays and funding in lesser amounts will render the Program unable to meet the Plan objectives, as measured in tons of salt-load reduction.

As indicated in Table 1, the funding recommendations therein are for the federal portion of project implementation costs only. The Council also urges the agencies to provide adequate funding to support operation and maintenance, technical and education assistance, monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects and planning for future projects. The Council recommends funds for these activities be provided in addition to the funds recommended in Table 1. The Council requests that

in their responses, federal agencies specifically comment on funding for these non-construction activities.

Recognizing the need for the salinity control set forth in the Plan, the Advisory Council makes the following funding recommendations:

### ***U.S. Department of the Interior***

#### ***Basinwide Program (Reclamation)***

Reclamation has already received a FY 2014 appropriation of approximately \$6.1 million for the Basinwide Program. The Council recommends Reclamation not reduce this appropriation any further through budgetary manipulations and that, in fact, it attempt to increase this appropriation by reprogramming any Reclamation-wide excess FY 2014 appropriations into the Basinwide Program prior to the end of the fiscal year. The Basinwide Program has proven its ability to effectively and efficiently utilize such end-of-the-year funding. Reclamation has provided the Forum and Advisory Council with data that indicates that approximately 21,000 tons per year of new salinity control is needed if Reclamation is to meet its goal set out in the 2014 Review. Recognizing this fact, the Council recommends that as the FY-2015 budget process progresses, Reclamation make every attempt to appropriate \$17,317,000 to the Basinwide Program and that as it begins budgeting for FY 2016 and FY 2017, it budgets \$18,245,000 and \$19,172,000 respectively. The Council requests that Reclamation continue to budget sufficient funds for required operation and maintenance of constructed units and for plan formulation, including the PVU alternatives studies and EIS process.

#### ***Bureau of Land Management***

For a number of years, the Advisory Council has struggled with its funding recommendations for BLM and the accounting of salinity control activities performed by this agency. For many years, BLM has not been able to recite the amount of salinity control which was accomplished through its programs. BLM's salinity control funding comes through its Soil, Water and Air Program. This program is funded at about \$35 million nationwide annually. In the past, the Council has recommended that BLM spend about \$5.2 million annually from this account on projects within the Colorado River Basin which, among other benefits, will reduce salt loading to the Colorado River. Absent any new information, the Council continues to recommend this amount, but it requests that BLM better define how those recommendations can be made. In addition, in more recent years, at the request of the Council, BLM, through a manager's discretion, has set aside approximately

\$800,000 per year for specific salinity control activities within the Colorado River Basin. The expenditure of the funds in this manner has proven very beneficial to the Program by developing and testing methods of controlling salinity on public lands. The Council now recommends \$1.5 million for the next four fiscal years be set aside for specific salinity control on public lands within the Basin.

### ***U.S. Department of Agriculture***

#### ***EQIP (NRCS)***

The Council appreciates levels of funding made available to the salinity control effort through EQIP. Traditionally, on-farm salinity control has been some of the most cost-effective salinity efforts available. While much of the less expensive salinity control has now been accomplished and there has been a notable increase in on-farm salinity control costs in the last couple of years, cost-effective salinity control opportunities still exist. Continued funding is needed to meet the goal identified in the 2014 Review for the Department of Agriculture. The Salinity Control Program is a small part of EQIP and, in the past, the Council has developed its funding recommendations independent of input from the Department of Agriculture based on the overall EQIP appropriation. The Council has now determined that it will make its recommendations for the allocation of EQIP funding for the salinity control effort based on the Three-Year Funding Plan developed by the NRCS State Conservationists for Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The funding allocations made by NRCS under EQIP generally do not come out until several months after the new fiscal year has begun and, therefore, input to NRCS is more immediate and projections out four years not nearly as germane. Further, the Three-Year Funding Plan put forth by the State Conservationists does not go out to 2017. However, to be consistent with other agencies, the Council has simply preliminarily used the 2016 amount for 2017.

Based on the information provided in the Three-Year Funding Plan and in support of that plan, the Council recommends the following fiscal year allocations for salinity control in the Basin: FY 2014 - \$17,357,500, FY 2015 - \$17,482,500 and FY 2016 - \$17,607,500, with \$17,607,500 as a preliminary amount for FY 2017.

Tables 1 and 2 summarize the Council's funding recommendations to the federal agencies. It should be noted that the funds identified in the tables do not include funds needed to continue to operate and maintain salinity control features and that where there is a responsibility to provide needed operation and maintenance funding, the agencies will include the required funding in their budgets.



**TABLE 1**  
**Colorado River Salinity Control – Department of the Interior**  
**Funding Recommendations (2014-2017)**  
**December 31, 2013**

	Fiscal Years			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bureau of Reclamation <sup>1,2</sup>	n/a	\$17,317,000	\$18,245,000	\$19,172,000
Bureau of Land Management <sup>3</sup>				
Soil, Water and Air (general)	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000
Salinity Specific	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000

Notes:

1. The Council anticipates and requests that Reclamation budget sufficient funds for required operation and maintenance of constructed units and for plan formulation in addition to these amounts.
2. Funding recommendations in Table 1 do not include funds recommended for studies and future implementation at the Paradox Valley Unit. The Council needs the assistance of Reclamation to determine the level of funding needed to support the Paradox Valley Unit.
3. The Council anticipates and requests that BLM budget sufficient funds for inventory and ranking, planning, maintenance, monitoring, evaluation and support.

**TABLE 2**  
**Colorado River Salinity Control – Department of Agriculture (EQIP)**  
**Funding Recommendations (2014-2017)**  
**December 31, 2013**

STATE	FY 2014 <sup>1</sup>	FY 2015 <sup>1</sup>	FY 2016 <sup>1</sup>	FY 2017 <sup>2</sup>
<b>COLORADO</b>				
FA	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
TA	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000
State Total (FA & TA)	\$8,750,000	\$8,750,000	\$8,750,000	\$8,750,000
<b>UTAH</b>				
FA	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
TA	\$1,920,000	\$1,920,000	\$1,920,000	\$1,920,000
State Total (FA & TA)	\$7,920,000	\$7,920,000	\$7,920,000	\$7,920,000
<b>WYOMING</b>				
FA	\$550,000	\$650,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
TA	\$137,500	\$162,500	\$187,500	\$187,500
State Total (FA & TA)	\$687,500	\$812,500	\$937,500	\$937,500
<b>GRAND TOTALS (FA &amp; TA)</b>	\$17,357,500	\$17,482,500	\$17,607,500	\$17,607,500

Notes:

1. Based on State Conservationists' Three-Year Funding Plan (2014-2016)
2. Same as FY2016. Advisory Council recommendation for guidance when developing 2015-2017 Three-Year Funding Plan

## CONCLUSION

The Council recognizes and appreciates its responsibility to submit comments and recommendations on salinity control activities to the federal agencies. As indicated in the General Comments section, the Council is pleased with the agencies' efforts put forth in 2013 and looks forward to providing a framework for future coordination and consultation. The Council requests that written responses to this report be provided by **April 30, 2014**. Responses should be sent to the Advisory Council Chairman, Mr. Larry Dozier, at the following address:

Larry R. Dozier, Chairman  
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council  
323 West Irvine Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85086

It would be appreciated if copies of the responses are sent to Mr. Kib Jacobson, Reclamation's Program Manager for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (who also serves as the Designated Federal Officer to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council), and to the Forum's Executive Director, Mr. Don Barnett, at the following addresses:

Kib Jacobson, Program Manager  
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
125 S. State Street, Room 7311  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102

Don A. Barnett, Executive Director  
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum  
106 West 500 South, Suite 101  
Bountiful, UT 84010

## **Attachment A**

### **Advisory Council Charter**



**U. S. Department of the Interior  
and  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
and  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control  
Advisory Council**

**Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The official designation of this Federal advisory committee is the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council was established by Section 204(a) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, Public Law 93-320, Title II, as amended by Public Laws 98-569, 104-20, 104-27, 106-459, and 110-246 (Act), and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Council will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior (Interior) and Agriculture (Agriculture) and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as stated in paragraph 4.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Council shall be advisory only and shall:
  - a. Act as liaison between both the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and the Administrator of the EPA and the States in accomplishing the purposes of Title II;
  - b. Receive reports from the Secretary of the Interior on the progress of the salinity control program and review and comment on said reports;
  - c. Recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the EPA appropriate studies of further projects, techniques, or methods for accomplishing the purposes of Title II; and
  - d. Provide to the Secretary of the Interior advice and consultation regarding implementation of the Basin States Program to carry out salinity control activities.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Council will report to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and the Administrator of the EPA through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).
6. **Support.** Support for the Council will be provided by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

7. **Estimated Annual Operating Cost and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$75,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and .20 staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Council and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council is subject to biennial review and will become inactive 2 years from the date this Charter is filed, unless prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** Membership of the Council is specified in Title II as being comprised of no more than three representatives from each of the seven Basin States (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California). The representatives will serve at the discretion of the Governors of the state that appointed them.

Members of the Council serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, members engaged in Council or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees can be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO.

15. **Recordkeeping.** The records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
and  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
and  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control  
Advisory Council**

**Charter**

Counterpart Signatory Page



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Interior

**OCT 10 2012**

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Date Signed

**OCT 17 2012**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed




**U. S. Department of the Interior  
and  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
and  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control  
Advisory Council**

**Charter**

Counterpart Signatory Page

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Agriculture

10.15.12  
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Date Signed

OCT 17 2012

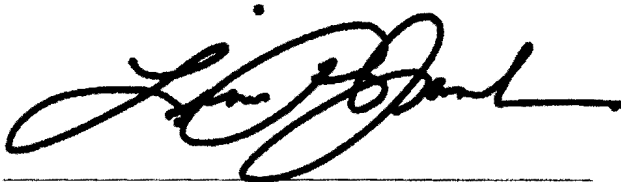
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**U. S. Department of the Interior  
and  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
and  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Control  
Advisory Council**

**Charter**

Counterpart Signatory Page



\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency

OCT 16 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

OCT 17 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed

## **Attachment B**

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

**December 31, 2013**

#### ARIZONA

Thomas Buschatzke  
Phoenix, Arizona

Larry R. Dozier  
Phoenix, Arizona

Linda Taunt  
Phoenix, Arizona

#### NEVADA

Leo M. Drozdoff  
Carson City, Nevada

John J. Entsminger  
Las Vegas, Nevada

McClain Peterson  
Las Vegas, Nevada

#### UTAH

Gawain Snow  
Vernal, Utah

Dennis J. Strong  
Salt Lake City, Utah

John Whitehead  
Salt Lake City, Utah

#### CALIFORNIA

Tom Howard  
Sacramento, California

Bill Hasencamp  
(alternate to Pete Silva)  
Los Angeles, California

Tanya Trujillo  
Glendale, California

#### NEW MEXICO

Estevan López  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Scott Verhines  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

#### WYOMING

Dan S. Budd  
Big Piney, Wyoming

Patrick T. Tyrrell  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Kevin Frederick  
(alternate to John  
Wagner)  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

#### COLORADO

James Eklund  
Denver, Colorado

Steven H. Gunderson  
Denver, Colorado

David W. Robbins  
Denver, Colorado



## **Attachment C**

### **Federal Responses to the 2012 Advisory Council Report**



APR 17 2013

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 2890  
Washington, D.C. 20013

APR 05 2013

Mr. Larry Dozier  
Chairman  
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council  
323 West Irvine Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

Dear Mr. Dozier:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2013, and the 2012 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. I apologize for the delayed response.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service appreciates the long standing support and commitment of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council to improving salinity levels in the Colorado River and to environmental improvements in the Colorado River Basin. The enclosure addresses each of your comments and recommendations as requested.

Again, thank you for writing and for your continued leadership and support of Colorado River Basin salinity control activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason", is written over the typed name.

Jason A. Weller  
Acting Chief

Enclosure

cc:

Don A. Barnett, Executive Director, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum,  
Bountiful, Utah

Kib Jacobson, Designated Federal Official, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Cole Rossi, Salinity Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake City, Utah

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

The Council continues to be pleased with the direction the Program is headed and the way Federal agencies are working together and cooperating with TAG and the Forum's Work Group.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) appreciates the productive relationship among the Federal coordinators and with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the Forum's Work Group. NRCS will continue to seek out opportunities to further knowledge, science, and understanding of the salt loading processes as well as refining its technical and financial delivery systems as appropriate with its authority.

NRCS will continue to maintain a substantive presence on the Science Team and look for collaborative means to further the goals of the Program.

The Council is pleased with the State Conservationists' approach to determine the level of funding needs for the next 3 years. The Council also appreciates that NRCS continues to allocate EOIP funds to its salinity control efforts in the Basin.

NRCS continues to assess the need and workload in the salinity project areas. The 3-year-plan will be updated annually with new information as it becomes available, and NRCS will consult with the Council as it prepares the plan.

The Council is pleased to hear that NRCS is attempting to address the issue of future replacement of salinity measures that have reached their expected life and may not be as effective in some cases as when first installed.

NRCS is considering the extent of aging systems in relation to the need and demand for assistance to install first-time improvements.

The Council was pleased to hear that NRCS may be bringing the Henrys Fork Salinity Project to the Council for consideration as an approved salinity area this next year.

It is NRCS' intention that the decision to implement the Henrys Fork Salinity Control Project will occur in the spring of this year as events allow. Comments on the Henrys Fork Environmental Impact Statement are being considered and incorporated. Landowner interest and support is high, and NRCS expects to move forward with contracting in fiscal year (FY) 2013.

The Council is concerned over reports of potential travel restrictions being placed on NRCS personnel. The Council would point out that the Basin States Program is providing a significant administrative cost share to NRCS to help ensure this participation.

NRCS is committed to supporting the Council in the most effective and efficient manner. The agency will continue to operate within its travel resources and policies to determine travel needs.



The Council also urges the agencies to provide adequate funding to support operation and maintenance, technical and education assistance, monitoring, and evaluation of implemented projects and planning for future projects. The Council recommends funds for these activities be provided in addition to the funds recommended in Table 1. The Council requests that in their responses, Federal agencies specifically comment on funding for these non-construction activities.

In addition to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), NRCS is utilizing its other authorities such as Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) to conduct inventories, planning and scoping, and evaluation of potential new projects. NRCS will continue to provide assistance, upon request, throughout the Upper Basin of the Colorado River as resources allow.

The Council has determined that it will make its recommendation for the allocation of EQIP funding for the salinity control effort based on the 3-Year Funding Plan developed by the State Conservationists for Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Based on the information provided in the 3-Year Funding Plan and in support of that Plan, the Council recommends the following fiscal year allocations for the salinity control in the Basin: FY 2013 - \$15,688,800, FY 2014 - \$17,308,900, and FY 2015 - \$17,809,300 with \$17,809,300, as a preliminary amount for FY 2016.

NRCS acknowledges the Council's requested funding number for FY 2014 and the out years FY 2015 and 2016. Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming will be requested to provide their 3-Year Funding Plan (FY 2014-2016) by September 2013.



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Upper Colorado Regional Office  
125 South State Street, Room 6107  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UC-240  
RES-9.00

**APR 11 2013**

Mr. Larry Dozier, Chairman  
Colorado River Basin Salinity  
Control Advisory Council  
323 West Irvine Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Dear Chairman Dozier:

On behalf of Secretary Ken Salazar and Commissioner Michael Connor, I am responding to your letter of February 4, 2013, regarding the 2012 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Salinity Control Program), prepared by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Council). The Council contributes greatly to the success of the Salinity Control Program. We truly value your partnership, participation, and recommendations in the Salinity Control Program. The Salinity Control Program continues to make measurable progress in controlling the salinity problem. The following are our responses to the specific recommendations in the report for the Bureau of Reclamation.

## Advisory Council Charter (Charter)

**BACKGROUND:** The Council suggested that Reclamation look into the opportunity to adjust the timing of the approval of the Charter to better coincide with the time of the Advisory Council Meetings.

**Response:** Presently, the Charter is renewed in October every 2 years. This is just weeks before the Council holds its fall meeting. Planning and notices of the meeting occur without the knowledge that the Charter will be renewed. Reclamation will begin the re-chartering process earlier with the intent to have the Charter renewed in the summer of 2014.

## Opportunities for Salinity Control in the Colorado River Basin

**COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - General Issues:** The Council recommends that the agencies continue to work with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the Forum's Work Group to improve and develop additional tools that will help identify future opportunities for salinity control in the Colorado River Basin (Basin).

**Response:** The Lower Gunnison Basin and Uinta Basin Planning Studies are underway and the consultant, URS Corporation, has made reports of its accomplishments to the study teams

of each basin. This provided an opportunity for the study teams to know the approaches that URS is taking, the data collected so far, and to provide input to URS Corporation as it continues the planning studies. When completed, the planning studies should help the TAG, Forum's Work Group, Reclamation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) identify salinity control opportunities and impediments in these basins. Understanding the opportunities and impediments in these basins should help with salinity control efforts in other basins.

In the approved Salinity Control Program areas there remains an estimated 1.1 million tons for potential future controls. Approximately half of the remaining potential is in the Lower Gunnison Basin alone. Additionally, results of the SPARROW TDS model indicate there are more than 1 million tons in agricultural areas outside approved program areas. Investigations are ongoing to identify future salinity control opportunities in these areas.

### Contracting Process

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) - Reclamation: The Council is concerned with reports that the actual contracting of the projects remains an issue. The Council is concerned that the Basinwide Program and the Basin States Program will continue to be handicapped because of problems in the agency's contracting process, thus impacting the whole Salinity Control Program. The Council looks forward to a report at its next meeting that the contracting issues have been resolved.

Response: We are aware of the Council's concerns and recognize suggestions that have been made in the past to improve the acquisition process. Reclamation is continuing to implement processes, procedures, and staff assignments that will be responsive to the Council's needs. We will be able to provide an update at the Advisory Council spring meeting.

### Funding

1. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, DOI - Reclamation: The Council stands ready to assist Reclamation in evaluating longer-term funding opportunities for the implementation of alternatives that might be identified by the studies (Paradox Valley Unit (PVU) Alternative Studies and Lower Gunnison Basin and Uinta Basin Planning Studies). The Council encourages Reclamation to continue to work with the Forum's Work Group as it moves forward with these studies and analyzing future opportunities.

Response: Reclamation appreciates the support the Basin States provides to budget funding requests for the Salinity Control Program. Reclamation is requesting funding for the PVU as it develops future budgets. Reclamation will look for opportunities to utilize Reclamation funds, as they become available, for PVU activities. Reclamation is committed to working with the Basin States in developing studies, analyzing future opportunities for salt disposal and finding funding for studies and salt disposal options.

2. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, DOI - Reclamation: The Council does, however, recommend that Reclamation seek increased appropriations in FY 2014 and FY 2015 in accordance with Table 1 herein. Reclamation is requested to give a detailed report on its efforts to secure additional funding at the next Council meeting.

See response #5 below:

3. MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: The Council continues to be concerned that Reclamation funding is lagging behind the USDA funding in geographic areas where coordinated implementation is essential. The potential impact of such a lag is a slowed down, less cost-effective Program. The Council urges Reclamation to vigorously pursue adequate funding so as to allow timely implementation of its portion of the Program.

See response #5 below:

4. MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS, DOI - Basinwide Program (Reclamation): Reclamation has already received a FY 2013 appropriation of approximately \$8 million for the Basinwide Program. The Council recommends Reclamation not reduce this appropriation any further through budgetary manipulations and that, in fact, it attempt to increase this appropriation by reprogramming any Reclamation-wide excess FY 2013 appropriations into the Basinwide Program prior to the end of the fiscal year.

See response #5 below:

5. MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS, DOI - Basinwide Program (Reclamation): . . . the Council recommends that as the budget process for FY 2014 progresses, Reclamation make every attempt to appropriate \$15,400,000 to the Basinwide Program and that as it begins budgeting for FY 2015 and FY 2016, it budgets \$17,253,000 and \$18,178,000 respectively.

Response: Reclamation appreciates the support the Basin States provides to budget funding requests for the Salinity Control Program. Reclamation is making every effort to fund the Basinwide Program at the highest levels possible while balancing the needs of other high priority projects and programs within a flat-to-declining-budget environment. Reclamation also endeavors to transfer as many funds as possible not utilized in other programs into Reclamation's Salinity Control Program. Reclamation's UC Region takes every opportunity to make known the successes and the needs of the Salinity Control Program at all levels of Reclamation, within the Department and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Reclamation welcomes the opportunity to work with the Basin States to identify and prioritize the activities to be funded by appropriations received for the Salinity Control Program. Reclamation will report to the Council on its efforts to secure additional funding.

6. MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: The Council also urges the agencies to provide adequate funding to support operation and maintenance, technical and education assistance, monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects and planning for future projects. The Council recommends funds for these activities be provided in addition to the funds recommended in Table 1. The Council requests that in their responses, federal agencies specifically comment on funding for these non-construction activities.

See response #7 below:

7. MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS, DOI, Basinwide Program (Reclamation): The Council requests that Reclamation continue to budget sufficient funds for required operation and maintenance of constructed units and for plan formulation including the Paradox Valley Unit's several studies.

Response: In fiscal year (FY) 2012 for operation, maintenance, monitoring, and technical assistance of the salinity units of Grand Valley, Paradox Valley, and McElmo Creek, Reclamation expended appropriations of \$972,002, \$2,704,272, and \$372,000, respectively. In FY 2013, \$1,496,000, \$2,519,000, and \$622,000 have been appropriated for operation, maintenance, monitoring, and technical assistance of the same units respectively. Reclamation feels that the units are being adequately funded to operate, maintain, monitor, and provide technical assistance.

Reclamation provided from its Salinity Control Program to the U.S. Geologic Survey (Survey) for streamgaging on the Colorado River about \$420,000 in FY 2012 and about \$510,000 in FY 2013. This will assist in continuing the long-term monitoring that demonstrates the effectiveness of the implemented salinity projects.

Reclamation also provided non-Salinity Control Program funding to the Survey for streamgaging on the Colorado River about \$550,000 in FY 2012 and about \$515,000 in FY 2013.

#### Parallel Program

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, DOI – Reclamation: As the Parallel Program comes to an end, the Council would like to thank Reclamation for its flexibility in administering this program. Significant salinity control was accomplished under the Parallel Program and the Council looks forward to Reclamation's concluding report.

Response: Reclamation plans to have a concluding report of the Parallel Program by the Council's fall 2013 meeting.

## Basin Funds

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, DOI – Reclamation: Based on the presentation provided to the Council on the Basin Funds, the Council encourages Reclamation to work with the Forum's Work Group to develop a better understanding within the Work Group of the complexities of administering these funds.

Response: Reclamation is currently working with its own accountants to verify expenditures from the Basin Funds. Reclamation is planning to hold a meeting in April 2013, with members of the Forum's Work Group, the TAG Chairman, and the Forum's Executive Director to go over the accounting and workings of the Basin Funds. The intent is to provide a report to the Council on the status of the Basin Funds, particularly, the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund.

We thank you again for your support and for being such an active and aggressive partner in the Salinity Control Program. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kib Jacobson at 801-524-3753 or [kjacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:kjacobson@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,



Larry Walkoviak  
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Don Barnett  
Executive Director  
Colorado River Basin  
Salinity Control Forum  
106 West 500 South, Suite 101  
Bountiful, UT 84010

Mr. Kib Jacobson  
Designated Federal Officer  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
125 South State Street, Room 7311  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1147

Mr. Patrick Dent  
Central Arizona Water Cons. District  
P.O. Box 43020  
Phoenix, AZ 85080-3020

Mr. Tim Henley  
Chairman, Work Group  
3550 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85012





United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Washington, D.C. 20240  
<http://www.blm.gov>



APR 08 2013

In Reply Refer To:  
1703 (280)

Mr. Larry Dozier, Chairman  
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council  
106 West 500 South, Suite 101  
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Dear Mr. Dozier:

Thank you for your recent recommendations in the Advisory Council's 2012 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. As requested, this letter addresses the Council's recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

1. *"In last year's Advisory Council Report, the Council requested that BLM promptly fill the vacant Salinity Coordinator position. A year later, this appears to have occurred. The Council is pleased that this has happened, but is concerned that the coordinator may only be assigned to salinity issues on less than a full-time basis. The Council believes BLM's program has been more focused since the creation of this position, is anxious that momentum not be lost and believes that the salinity coordination needed would seem to justify a full-time effort. If funding of the position on a full-time basis is part of the issue, the Council would like to be so advised. The Council does look forward to working with the new BLM Salinity Coordinator."*

The BLM made organizational changes to the Salinity Coordinator position by 1) transferring administrative responsibility from the Washington Office (WO) to the National Operations Center, and 2) combining job duties with a national water-quality specialist position. The vacancy took much longer to fill than usual because of the amount of time needed to coordinate these administrative changes. The administrative changes were made in response to a BLM-wide effort to reduce the number of remotely assigned positions reporting to the WO, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of services provided, and to ensure the Salinity Coordinator position continues to be physically located in Salt Lake City to facilitate collaboration with other Federal agencies including the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The BLM is pleased to have Dr. Cole Rossi as part of our national Soil, Water and Air Management team placed in Salt Lake City. Her background and skills will be a great asset to address the challenges of salinity control currently and into the future. Sufficient travel funds to allow Dr. Rossi to participate in meetings are available; however, the 2013 Federal sequestration may impact Dr. Rossi's and BLM's Washington Office managers' abilities to participate in meetings for the remainder of the fiscal year (FY). We recognize there may be challenges in meeting all expectations of the combined

position and will continue to work with the Council and our Federal partners to ensure priorities are addressed in a timely manner.

2. *"The Council appreciates BLM's efforts to coordinate with Reclamation on the Paradox Valley Unit Alternative Study and with the other agencies involved in the Rangeland Initiative Study. A portion of this latter study was funded by BLM and this is appreciated. The Council continues to recommend that sufficient funding from the Land Resources Subactivity be used for monitoring and maintenance of implemented projects. The Council appreciates the state reports the BLM provides but is concerned that there is still some confusion about which state projects are actually located in the Colorado River Basin. The Council is pleased with the process of funds that are designated for salinity control being allocated and used for research and control. The Council urges the new Coordinator to continue with this effort."*

The BLM and the BOR have been coordinating efforts regarding the draft Paradox Valley Environmental Impact Statement. They have been working together to identify potential appropriate actions that may be taken to implement the selected alternative. The BLM acknowledges the importance of the salinity funding and the responsibility of the coordinator to work with the BLM's soil, water and air state leads to encourage coordination and efficiency to increase project productivity toward reducing salt loads. The San Luis Valley, CO, study that evaluated water quality in high salinity wetlands to macro invertebrate density and species composition in FY 2012 was funded with one-time monies due to a reporting error (rather than a lack of awareness of the Basin boundaries).

3. *"The Council is concerned that BLM has not been able, and is not now able, to even make a good estimate of its salinity control accomplishments nor is it able to, with accuracy, report funds expended that result in salinity control. The Council requests that the new Coordinator be tasked with the challenge to implement better recording and reporting of efforts and funds spent."*

The BLM proposal tracking system allows for success stories. Higher accountability, as applicable, will be requested from projects as data is collected or photos document evidence of project accomplishments. The BLM is continuously working toward improved documentation of all funded activities, including but not limited to terrestrial transport processes at various temporal and spatial scales. Tools such as spend plans, reporting of statistical methods used to evaluate data, mid-year progress reports and end-of-year reports with literature citations, and independent peer reviews of appropriate materials such as government publications and toolboxes produced from the project results will be part of the annual reporting. The BLM is committed to improved reporting for all soil, water and air projects. Dr. Rossi plans to assist in increasing and standardizing reporting requirements for the Colorado River Salinity Projects. It is anticipated that accomplishment reports will indicate from which BLM budget subactivity or cross-cutting initiative projects in the Colorado River Basin receive funding (e.g., soil, water and air; riparian; climate change; or healthy landscapes).



4. *In the General Issues and Management and Budget Recommendations sections of this report, the Council recommends that the BLM: 1) make available to the Program at least \$1.5 million to fund on-the-ground salinity specific control measures over the next four years to implement specific salinity control projects on public lands within the Basin; 2) expend \$5,200,000 annually from its Soil, Water, and Air Program for activities that will reduce salinity loads in the Colorado River Basin; 3) better define how the Council can request this funding recommendation.*

The BLM appreciates the Council's funding goal and distinguished regard for salt reduction in the Colorado River Basin; however, unlike the BOR, the BLM does not receive a line-item appropriation to support the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. The BLM has utilized discretionary funding from the Soil, Water and Air Management subactivity for many years to conduct salinity control activities and support the Salinity Coordinator position. It is still unclear what the FY 2013 funding will be given the recent passage of a budget agreement, and sequestration may additionally impact funding; however, it is anticipated that soil, water and air funding for FY 2013 will be approximately \$44,600,000, about \$2,000,000 below FY 2012 funding levels. This funding level is not sufficient to meet existing requirements and includes approximately \$17,500,000 targeted for climate change projects throughout the nation. The BLM cannot increase soil, water and air funding for salinity control projects as recommended by the Council because it lacks discretionary funding. The BLM understands the Council's concerns about funding issues and will continue working to improve the effectiveness of future expenditures. The Council could help with these efforts by working with Dr. Rossi to prioritize projects or identify geographic areas for BLM to focus efforts. The BLM recognizes the Council's concerns regarding funding issues and will continue working to improve the effectiveness of priority efforts.

We would like to thank the Council for their support and recommendations. The BLM will continue efforts to make quantifiable efforts toward reducing salt loading within the Colorado River Basin.

If you have additional questions or information needs, please contact Nancy Dean, Division Chief for Environmental Quality and Protection, at (202) 912-7136, or Dr. Cole Rossi, BLM Salinity Coordinator, at (801) 539-4028.

Sincerely,



Edwin L. Roberson  
Assistant Director  
Renewable Resources and Planning  
Directorate



## United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Office of the Director  
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:  
Mail Stop 101  
GS13000352

MAY 20 2013

Mr. Larry Dozier, Chairman  
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council  
323 West Irvine Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

Dear Mr. Dozier:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Advisory Council's comments and recommendations presented in the 2012 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (CRBSCP). We are pleased to hear of the Council's appreciation for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) science support to the CRBSCP and that the wide-range of science activities we conduct collaboratively with CRBSCP participating agencies is informing program management and implementation. We feel our ability to respond to CRBSCP information needs has been greatly aided through participation in the science planning process implemented by the CRBSCP Technical Advisory Group and Science Team. This process has facilitated the efficient combination of basic data collection and scientific investigation toward an improved understanding of current and future salinity conditions, and of remediation opportunities in the Colorado River Basin.

As noted by the Advisory Council, the USGS has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and other CRBSCP participating agencies to assess salinity loading to the Dolores River in Paradox Valley, Colorado, and via Pah Tempe Springs discharge to the Virgin River in Utah. These locations represent two of the largest point salinity load sources to the Colorado River Basin river system. The USGS will continue the development and application of groundwater-flow simulation models to aid in the assessment of salinity control options in the Dolores River as part of Reclamation's Paradox Valley Unit Alternative Study. The USGS will also continue to work with Reclamation in Pah Tempe Springs to provide scientific assessments needed to understand the feasibility and impact of diverting the springs' salinity load from the Virgin River.

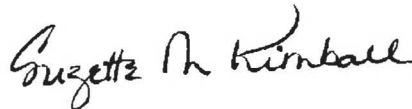
Twenty streamflow and water-quality monitoring sites in the Colorado River Basin extend from near the headwaters to the Mexican border. Flow and salinity data at the 20 sites are used to assess compliance salinity-level criteria and also long-term trends related to salinity control work. These data are also incorporated in the Reclamation planning model known as the Colorado River Simulation System, or CRSS, to simulate both flow and salinity throughout the

Colorado River Basin. The USGS recognizes the importance of the 20 site network to CRBSCP management and to Reclamation flow and salinity transport modeling efforts, and understands the Advisory Council's concern that the network continues to be maintained in USGS programs. In 2012, the USGS provided a report to Reclamation defining the current status of data collection at the 20 sites and the funding sources for the network. In fiscal year (FY) 2012, the USGS funded approximately 48 percent of the operation and maintenance of the network, mainly through the USGS National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) and the USGS Cooperative Water Program (CWP). About 18 percent of total funding for monitoring comes from State and local cooperators. About 34 percent is provided by Reclamation, mainly for the collection of water-quality data.

As is the case with other Federal agencies working in, or with, the CRBSCP, the USGS is facing uncertainty in the level of funding to programs, including in NSIP and CWP funding; it is possible there may be reductions in program funding in FY 2013. However, Colorado River Basin monitoring sites, including those in the salinity monitoring network, are historic gages with substantial periods of record, and are of significant Federal interest. The USGS will continue to work within these programs to maintain funding for these monitoring sites in FY 2013 and beyond. We will work closely with Reclamation and CRBSCP work groups to address the impact of any budget changes in these programs on the data provided from this network. Reclamation also collects water-quality data at locations along the Colorado River and its tributaries. We continue to work with them to ensure consistency in data collection methods, to maximize data comparability, and to look for efficiencies in our efforts.

Again, let me thank you for the opportunity to respond to and address the Council's comments and recommendations. If you would like any additional information or have questions, please contact Patrick Lambert, Director of the USGS Utah Water Science Center and the USGS Representative to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum at (801) 908-5033 or [plambert@usgs.gov](mailto:plambert@usgs.gov).

Sincerely,



Suzette M. Kimball  
Acting Director

Copy to: **Don Barnett, Executive Director, CRBSC Forum**  
Kib Jacobson, Designated Federal Officer, CRBSC  
Advisory Council



APR 12 2013



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services  
Colorado Field Office  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC (65412)  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
ES/CO: BR/Salinity  
TAILS: 06E24100-2013-CPA-0008

APR 08 2013

Larry R. Dozier, Chairman  
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council  
323 West Irvine Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Dear Mr. Dozier:

We have reviewed the Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program-2012, and offer the following comments on the issues addressed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in the Report.

We acknowledge your appreciation of the helpful service provided by Rick Krueger as the Fish & Wildlife Salinity Coordinator, and know that Barb Osmundson will strive to continue this good working relationship with the Salinity Control Program and Advisory Council members. As she becomes more familiar with the Service coordinator position, Barb plans to focus more on Fish and Wildlife Service accomplishments for the 2013 Federal Accomplishments Report, such as reporting the Service's recent involvement and letter of support for the Grand Valley Habitat Replacement Project.

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (43 U.S.C. 1571-1599) authorized the Salinity Program and directed the Secretary of Interior to implement the salinity control policy for the Colorado River. With this legislation, DOI agencies became involved with salinity control efforts and acquired a statutory responsibility to assist in salinity load reductions, and meet salinity standards as mandated by the Clean Water Act. We appreciate that the Advisory Council recognizes that the Service, along with the other DOI agencies, has many statutory responsibilities that are balanced along with Colorado River salinity control responsibilities. The DOI agencies participate in the Salinity Control Program pursuant to authorities and responsibilities set forth in the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Along with salinity control responsibilities, the DOI agencies share the responsibility to replace any wildlife habitat lost due to salinity control efforts. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), (FWCA) provides that "fish and wildlife conservation shall receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water-resources development programs whenever the waters of any stream or other body of water are proposed or authorized to be impounded, diverted, the channel deepened, or the stream or other body of water otherwise controlled or modified for any purpose whatever,



including navigation and drainage". The FWCA applies to activities of greater than 10 acres surface size planned by any department or agency of the United States or by any public or private agency under Federal permit or license.

The FWCA further stipulates that such department or agency first shall consult with the Service and the state wildlife agency with a view to the conservation of wildlife resources by preventing loss or damage to such resources as well as providing for the development and improvement thereof in connection with such water-resource development. The Service and the state wildlife management agency are authorized to conduct investigations and prepare a report with recommendations for wildlife conservation and development, lands to be utilized or acquired for such purposes, the results expected, the damage to wildlife attributed to the project and the measures proposed for mitigating or compensating for these damages.

The Service participates in the Salinity Control Program by providing technical assistance on fish and wildlife resource impact assessment, restoration, and management, through implementation of the Federal statutes identified above. We also act as liaison to state wildlife management agencies. The Service provides independent review and oversight of program aspects dealing with fish and wildlife resources, including our assessment of the degree to which fish and wildlife have received due consideration in project planning and incidental fish and wildlife values foregone have been replaced.

What may sometimes appear as conflicting mandates to the Salinity Advisory Council, e.g. Paradox evaporation pond alternative and protection of migratory birds, actually demonstrates the benefits and strength of having Service involvement in the Salinity Control Program. Through FWCA and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) authorities, it is a Service responsibility to evaluate and identify potential impacts to wildlife resulting from salinity control projects, and in turn to assist the Salinity Control Program in the identification of planning measures that can prevent impacts. The Service is committed to working with the Salinity Control Program to evaluate Paradox alternatives, with the goal of controlling salinity loads in the Colorado River, and also minimizing project impacts on the environment.

We will continue to work with the Federal partners to address fish and wildlife values forgone and assist with meeting their mitigation goals. Please contact Barb Osmundson on any wildlife related issues at (970)243-2778, extension 21.

Sincerely,



Susan C. Linner  
Colorado Field Supervisor

Cc: Kib Jacobson, Program Manager, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, U.S.  
Bureau of Reclamation, 125 S. State Street, Room 7311, Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102  
Don A. Barnett, Executive Director, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, 106  
West500 South, Suite 101, Bountiful, UT 84010