

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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RESOLUTION OF THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GLEN CANYON ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

March, 2001

WHEREAS, Glen Canyon Dam was authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act of April 11, 1956 (CRSPA) and construction was completed in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Glen Canyon Dam is operated in accord with the 1970 Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, CRSPA makes the generation of hydropower an incidental purpose, Section 7 of CRSPA also directs that CRSPA reservoirs be operated "so as to produce the greatest practicable amount of power and energy;" and

WHEREAS, during conduct of environmental studies in the 1980's it became apparent that the operations of Glen Canyon Dam were affecting certain resources in Grand Canyon National Park; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon Protection Act was passed in 1992 that required the Secretary of Interior to modify operations of Glen Canyon Dam in a manner that protects, mitigates adverse impacts to and improves the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established, but such modified operations are to be fully consistent with the Colorado River Compact, the Upper Colorado River Compact, the Water Treaty of 1944 with Mexico and all other documents comprising the "Law of the River;" and

WHEREAS, the 1992 Act also required the Secretary of Interior to conduct an EIS on the long-term operations of Glen Canyon Dam and to consult with the Colorado River Basin States and the general public during the process; and

WHEREAS, the Final Record of Decision (ROD) for the Glen Canyon Dam EIS included an environmental commitment to an adaptive management program and the establishment of an Adaptive Management Workgroup (AMWG) chartered pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA); and

WHEREAS, the preferred alternative (Modified Low Fluctuating Flow) in the ROD was not selected to maximize benefits for the most resources, but rather to find an alternative dam operating plan that would permit recovery and long-term sustainability of downstream resources while limiting hydropower capability and flexibility only to the extent necessary to achieve recovery and long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, funding for implementation and monitoring of the preferred alternative was to be provided by CRSPA power revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) was established pursuant to the 1992 Act in November 1995 to provide the monitoring and research required by the 1992 Act; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Secretary for Water and Science, the Director of the USGS, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, in consultation with the AMWG oversee operations of GCMRC; and

WHEREAS, the GCMRC is funded by CRSPA power revenues; and

WHEREAS, the GCMRC budget was managed by Reclamation until this past year when operations were formally transferred to the USGS; and

WHEREAS, the amount of CRSPA power revenues that can be used to support the AMP and GCMRC were capped in the 2001 USBR appropriations bill (H.R. 4733); and

WHEREAS, the AMP and GCMRC budgets are seeking appropriations in addition to CRSPA power revenues for the conduct of activities in FY 2002 some of which may fall outside the scope of the preferred alternative identified in the ROD; and

WHEREAS, AMWG participants are being requested to participate in lobbying activities to secure these additional appropriations from Congress, similar to what the basin states have done for several years to obtain funds for recovery programs in the upper basin; and

WHEREAS, the Board is of the opinion that this activity is not appropriate at this time since CRSPA power revenues appear adequate to support what is required by the preferred alternative in the ROD; and

WHEREAS, the Board is not convinced that the AMP is more important than the collection of basic water resource data the USGS is charged to do.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it is the policy of the Colorado Water Conservation Board with respect to the appropriation of funds in addition to the CRSPA power revenues for the AMP and GCMRC that:

1. Only those activities that are within the scope of the "Operation of Glen Canyon Dam ROD" be funded with CRSPA power revenues.
2. The AMP may seek appropriations or funds for activities outside the scope of the ROD so long as those activities support the overall goal of implementing the ROD as quickly as possible.
3. The appropriations for the AMP or GCMRC do not impair the USGS ability to carry out, or result in cuts to, the basic water resource data collection program for the state.
4. The Board has reviewed the AMP and GCMRC budgets and approved support for additional appropriations for the AMP or GCMRC above and beyond the CRSPA power revenues currently provided.

Done this 27th day of March, 2001