



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DEC 16 2020

DECISION MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary

From: Timothy R. Petty, Ph.D.
Secretary's Designee, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Subject: 2020 Recommendations from the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) Federal Advisory Committee

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) Federal advisory committee consists of a diverse group of stakeholders that provide scientifically informed and broadly supported resource management recommendations to protect downstream resources in the Grand Canyon, downstream of Glen Canyon Dam. The AMWG has reviewed and provided input on the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) planned research and monitoring for fiscal years (FY) 2021 through 2023.

The AWMG recommends, by consensus, the GCDAMP Triennial Budget and Workplan for FY2021 – FY2023 (final draft dated September 4, 2020). The proposed annual budget for each fiscal year is \$11,360,000.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Upper Colorado Basin Region is responsible for administering funds for the GCDAMP and providing those funds for monitoring, research, and stakeholder involvement. The majority of program funding is derived from hydropower revenues generated by Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) facilities; however, supplemental funding is provided by various Department of the Interior (Department) agencies that receive appropriations. These agencies include Reclamation, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

The budget and workplan for FY2021 – FY2023 was developed in consideration of the Record of Decision for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP ROD) and on the basis of outcomes from previous work plans. Common issues related to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam include, as consistent with the Grand Canyon Protection Act, satisfying water rights, protecting endangered species, protecting and monitoring cultural resources, addressing concerns of local tribes, protecting and improving the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established, and supporting hydropower production. The activities proposed in the GCDAMP FY2021 – FY2023 budget and workplan address research and monitoring within these focus areas.

CONSTRAINTS ON SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ACTION (include Office of Solicitor input if legal rationale is provided as a limitation on action):

Under the 1992 Grand Canyon Protection Act (GCPA), the Secretary of the Interior is required to conduct research and monitoring and to consult with certain stakeholders on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. The AMWG is a Federal advisory committee established to fulfill GCPA consultation requirements. The AMWG is tasked with providing input and recommendations on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam, and on associated research and monitoring activities. The AMWG has reviewed and provided input on the GCDAMP planned research and monitoring activities, as specified in the recommended GCDAMP Triennial Budget and Workplan for FY2021 – FY2023.

Implementation of an approved GCDAMP budget and workplan is subject to the availability of funds. The authorizing legislations for the GCDAMP states that the Secretary of the Interior may use CRSP hydropower revenues and/or appropriations to fund these activities. The House-passed FY2021 Energy and Water appropriations Bill (H.R. 7617, Division C, Sec. 306) provides \$21,400,000 in hydropower revenues to support CRSP environmental programs, of which \$11,360,000 would be made available to the GCDAMP. The Senate has not yet taken up the bill. However, beginning in FY2023, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) intends to reduce the level of support provided by hydropower revenues from \$21,400,000 per year to \$12,500,000 per year. Reclamation and WAPA are working with partners to identify and mitigate impacts to the GCDAMP due to the potential funding reduction.

The GCDAMP triennial budget and work plan is reviewed and revised each year in consultation with the AMWG and its subcommittees. You or your Designee to the AMWG may revisit this budget and workplan and associated documents and recommendations at any point in time. The AMWG regularly makes recommendations for your consideration on proposed adjustments to the budget and workplan for the upcoming year.

OPTION 1: APPROVE the AMWG recommendation to adopt the *Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Triennial Budget and Workplan for FY 2021-2023 (final draft dated September 4, 2020)*

Views of other DOI Bureaus:

The DOI bureaus affected by the proposed budget and work plan (Reclamation, USGS, NPS, USFWS, and BIA), are members of the AMWG Federal advisory committee, participated in the development of this recommendation and have expressed support for the GCDAMP Triennial Budget and Workplan for FY2021 – FY2023.

Consistent with relevant EO's or SO's? (specify):

N/A

Secretarial Priorities Advanced by Option:

The proposed FY2021 – FY2023 triennial budget and workplan supports the following Secretarial Priorities:

- 1(a) Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment
- 1(e) Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands
- 3(a) Strengthen communication and coordination with state, local, and tribal officials and local communities
- 4(a) Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty
- 7(b) Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis

The GCDAMP triennial budget and workplan's primary purpose is to conduct science that informs the development of best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in Glen and Grand Canyons below Glen Canyon Dam. As with past Biological Opinions related to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam, implementation of the budget and workplan will ensure there is good science and information available for future Endangered Species Act decisions. **(Goals 1a and 7b)**

The AMWG is made up of a diverse group of 25 stakeholders from Federal, State, and tribal governments; contractors who purchase power from Glen Canyon Dam; and environmental and recreational organizations. Approving the consensus recommendation of this diverse group regarding proposed research and monitoring ensures balanced stewardship and use of public resources and strengthens communication and coordination with these groups. **(Goals 1e and 3a)**

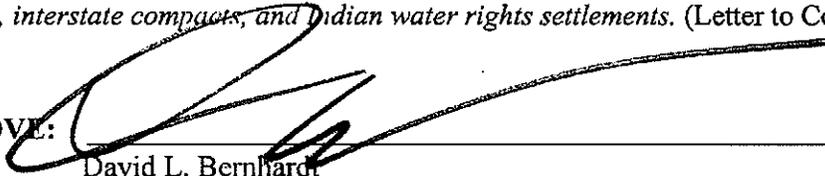
The proposed budget and workplan allocates funding to tribal AMWG members to ensure meaningful participation of the five associated Tribes in the AMWG and the GCDAMP. In addition, funding is allocated to tribal monitoring projects and tribal and cultural resources projects; these projects rely on tribal expertise and input. **(Goal 4a)**

Outside Perspectives - Members of Congress; Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and local government; and Citizen groups:

In a recent letter, the Colorado River basin states expressed support for the GCDAMP, stating:

These programs embody effective partnerships among states, tribes, federal agencies, water users, CRSP power customers and environmental organizations throughout the basin, and they guarantee the requirements under NEPA and the ESA are met while protecting water supplies for human needs. They have broad grassroots and congressional support and operate in a manner consistent with state water laws, interstate compacts, and Indian water rights settlements. (Letter to Congress dated July 3, 2018)

APPROVE:



David L. Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior

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OPTION 2: DECLINE to APPROVE the AMWG recommendation to adopt the *Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Triennial Budget and Workplan for FY 2021-2023 (final draft dated September 4, 2020)*

Views of other DOI Bureaus (if applicable):

If the AMWG recommendation to adopt the FY2021 – FY2023 Triennial Budget and workplan is not approved by the Secretary, Reclamation and the USGS would require guidance from the Secretary or his Designee regarding what activities (including consultation, research and monitoring) should be completed to meet requirements of the GCPA.

Consistent with relevant EO's or SO's? (specify):

N/A

Secretarial Priorities Advanced by Option:

None.

Outside Perspectives - Members of Congress? Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and local government?: and Citizen groups?:

If the GCDAMP FY2021 – FY2023 budget and workplan is not approved, members of the AMWG and associated stakeholder groups would likely have questions and concerns regarding a path forward for the GCDAMP in FY2021 – FY2023, as well as future budget years given the extensive collaboration and work undertaken to arrive at the consensus recommendations. This collaboration included five DOI bureaus as well as the diverse 25 stakeholder membership of the AMWG.

DECLINE to Approve: _____

David L. Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior