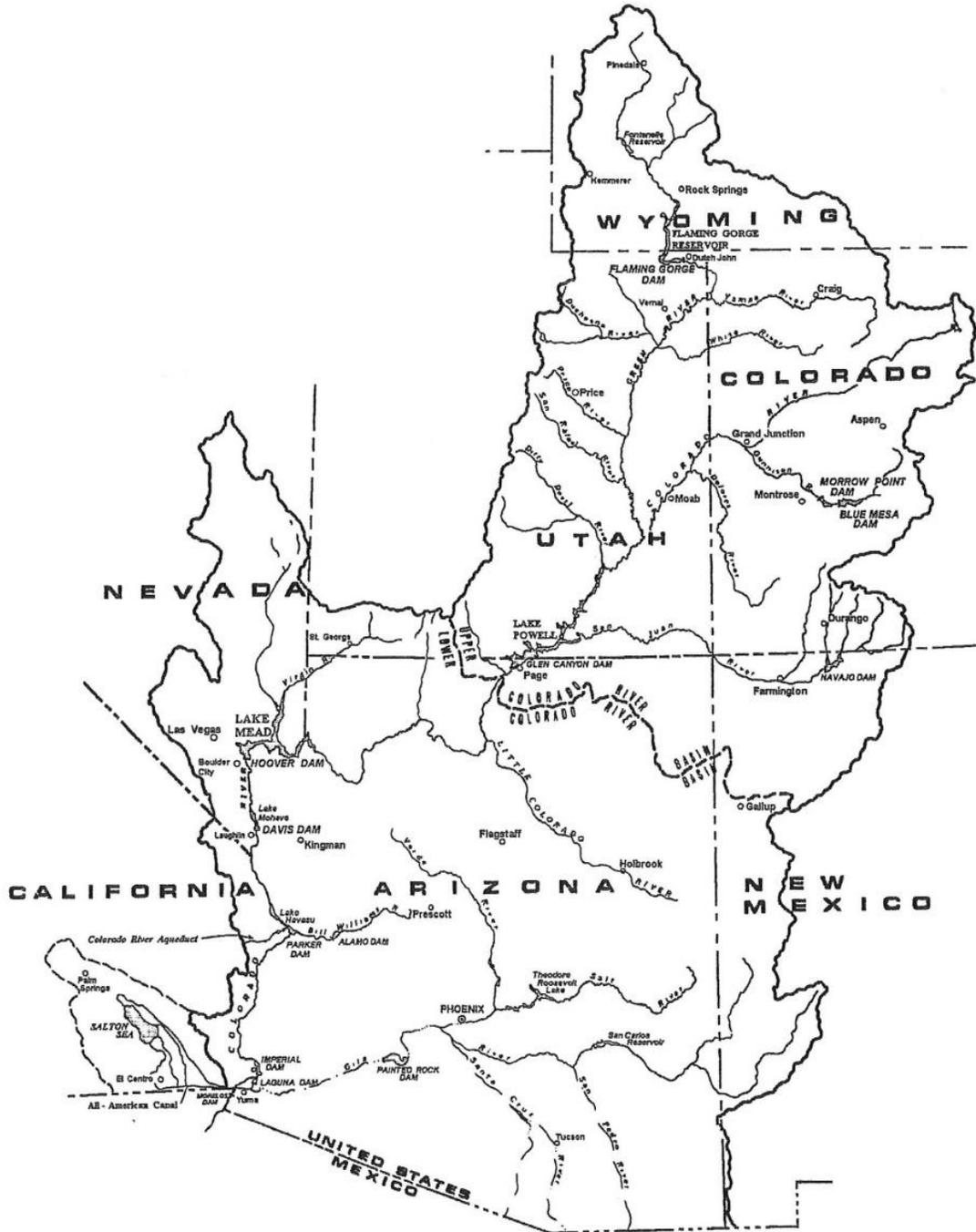


ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM

2009



COLORADO RIVER BASIN
SALINITY CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 31, 2009

For additional information, please contact:

Kib Jacobson
Designated Federal Official
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
125 S. State Street, Room 7311
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102
(801) 524-3753

Jack A. Barnett
Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, UT 84010-6203
(801) 292-4663

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

2009

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

December 31, 2009

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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). The Act was amended in 2008. The Amendments created the Basin States Program (BSP) and reinforced the Council's consultation role. The Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior (DOI) and Agriculture (USDA) and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) originally approved a charter for the Council on February 6, 1976. It was revised on June 22, 1976 and has been renewed biennially. 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 (Basin States). Governors of their respective states appoint the members. The Council membership list as of December 31, 2009, is included as Attachment B.

Many of the Council members are members of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum). The Forum is an organization created in 1973 by the seven Basin States for the purpose of interstate cooperation and to provide the Basin States with the information necessary to comply with the Water Quality Standards for the Colorado River and Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

This report provides annual recommendations to the federal agencies concerning the progress of the Salinity Control Program (SCP) and the need for specific actions by involved federal agencies. This report comments on the actions taken by the federal agencies through December 31, 2009.

The report does not attempt to fully describe or analyze the SCP. Readers unfamiliar with the SCP should refer to *Quality of Water, Colorado River Basin, Progress Report No. 22, January 2005*, and *Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System, October 2008 (2008 Review)*, for a full discussion of the SCP. The first report is available at www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/salinity/ or by contacting Kib Jacobson, the Salinity Control Program Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The second report is available at (<http://www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org>) or by contacting Jack 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.

2009 ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Council met twice in 2009. The first meeting was held on May 7, 2009, in Moab, Utah. At that meeting the Advisory Council discussed the 2008 Advisory Council Report with the federal agencies. It also began discussing the new Basin States Program (BSP) and appointed a subcommittee to draft a framework document to guide the Council's consultation role for the new BSP. The second meeting was held on October 27 and 28, 2009, in Phoenix, Arizona. At that meeting, the Council received summary reports from, and made inquiries of, the federal agencies involved in salinity control, continued to discuss the BSP and approved the budget recommendations contained in this report. Prior to the meeting, to facilitate discussion, Council members received written summaries from the federal agencies detailing their accomplishments for the year. The Council recognizes the summaries are not explicitly required; however, the Council appreciates the agencies' preparation and transmittal of these summaries in advance of the Council meetings as they provide a valuable basis for more complete and focused discussions on the progress and needs of the SCP. The Council recognizes these summaries describe the status of ongoing activities and, therefore, are not official agency reports as they contain, in some instances, incomplete data sets and preliminary statistics.

Also included in this report as Attachment C are the federal responses to the 2008 Advisory Council Report.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General Issues

The final Planning Report, prepared by Reclamation in consultation with the Council, was received by Congress on September 14, 2009, was before Congress for more than 30 days, and there were no inquiries or comments received. Thirty days after that submittal, with no comments from Congress, the 2008 amendments to the Act became effective. The Council is currently working on a draft framework document which will better describe the coordinated consultation efforts the Council plans between the Council and the federal agencies. When this draft is completed, the Council will provide it to the federal agencies for their review and comment. The Council has created a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Council and, while it remains important that the federal agencies continue to work with the Forum and its Work Group on general SCP issues, the federal agencies should begin working with the Council's TAG, especially on issues dealing with expenditures of SCP funds. The Council continues to be pleased with the progress of the SCP.

2009 ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Council encourages the federal agencies to continue to utilize the existing partnerships with the states of Utah, Wyoming and Colorado to ensure an efficient and cost effective BSP.

The Council is required to make this report each year to the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the EPA. This requirement is intended to place this annual report before high levels of management. The Council is concerned with reports by federal managers that this report is only read and responded to by the direct program managers who are already most familiar with the SCP and the issues and meet many times a year with Council members and others involved. The Council requests that each federal agency advise the council as to how this report might be considered at higher management levels where needed funds for the SCP are discussed and determined.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

A review completed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) shows the value of the partnership between the USDA and the Forum. Significant benefits to the entire Basin, not just the Upper Basin, are realized by that partnership. The Council values and appreciates that partnership and NRCS's efforts, both in the Basin and in Washington, to continue to fund NRCS's portion of the SCP at the current levels.

The Council believes major progress has been made in understanding, defining and developing strategies to address the impacts to the SCP as installed measures reach their useful life and require replacement. The Council encourages the NRCS to continue to work with the Forum's Work Group on this issue.

The Council is waiting to see the final results of the NRCS's trial incentive program in the Plateau Creek area of Colorado and is hopeful such a program will allow producers to continue in the SCP as NRCS restructures their cost dockets.

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, 2010. This response should include comment on statements made in this section of this report and also on comments found in this report under the headings of General Issues and Management and Budget Recommendations.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

Bureau of Reclamation (*Reclamation*)

The Council appreciates Reclamation's efforts in completing the Planning Report to Congress pursuant to requirements of the amended Act. The report provides guidance as to how the BSP will be implemented.

The Council continues to have concerns with the announcing of Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and how the awarding of contracts under the SCP will proceed. The Council encourages Reclamation to work with all affected parties to ensure that the expectations of those entities have been addressed prior to the announcing and awarding of contracts under future FOAs. The Council encourages Reclamation to work with the Council, the Council's TAG, the Forum and the Forum's Work Group to resolve any outstanding concerns, not only with future contracting, but with any other changes in how Reclamation administers the SCP.

During this year, Reclamation received a much-needed financial boost to its Basinwide Program when funds, generally referred to as stimulus funds, were infused into the SCP. The use of these funds came with mandates as to prompt expenditure and detailed accounting. Reclamation moved promptly, put out a special FOA and awarded all of the funds. The Council would appreciate an accounting of the funding commitments and status reports as salinity control features are constructed.

The Advisory Council continues to be concerned about some Title I issues. The Council appreciates reports given to it by the Lower Region concerning the differential. The Council is also concerned about proposed changes in storage in the Lower Basin that could allow some water to be stored in the U.S. for later deliveries to Mexico. This storage could make the differential more difficult to make. The Council asks that it be briefed on a regular basis by Reclamation, or

2009 ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Reclamation with assistance from the International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC), on these two evolving issues.

The Council is pleased that Reclamation was able to reprogram other available Reclamation funds to ensure the continuation of current and future efforts at the Paradox Unit. This unit is critical to meeting the overall goals of the SCP. It is important that appropriate studies are completed and available to make timely decisions on the future direction of this unit. The Council encourages Reclamation to continue to work with the Forum's Work Group as it moves forward developing studies and analyzing future opportunities and with the Council's TAG to develop funding recommendations for completing such studies.

The Council believes that Reclamation has been given a leadership role with respect to coordinating salinity control efforts by all federal agencies. The Council observes that a very effective coordinating tool was created when Reclamation created the Science Team. The Council recommends that Reclamation look for additional ways to foster good coordination of all salinity control efforts.

In the Management and Budget Recommendations portion of this report, the Council requests that Reclamation seek increased appropriations in FY 2011 and FY 2012 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.

The Council asks Reclamation to respond in writing to recommendations contained in this report by **April 30, 2010**. This response should address the Council's statements made in this section of this report and also comments found under the headings of General Issues and Management and Budget Recommendations.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The Council is pleased with the efforts of the BLM's Basinwide Salinity Control Coordinator to make field personnel more aware of how salinity control can be incorporated into, and even become, a major portion of their land management planning efforts and to leverage the funding currently available to the Coordinator to get additional funding to assist in the efforts. Salinity control on public land could be one of the most cost-effective ways of providing salinity control for the Basin,

2009 ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

hence the Council encourages BLM to find ways to implement salinity control measures on the ground.

The Council encourages the BLM to continue with efforts to stop the discharge of any flowing saline wells by plugging these wells on public lands.

In the Management and Budget Recommendations portion of this report, the Council recommends that the BLM seek funding of \$5,200,000 to be used by the BLM on activities that do, in part, control salinity in the Colorado River Basin (see Table 1). Potential activities that are focused on salinity control have been identified that could readily utilize \$1.5 million in FY 2011, of which about 65% is identified for implementation of on-the-ground projects. The Council recommends that the \$1.5 million be designated from the BLM's on-going budget for direct salinity control work. The Council remains ready to assist the BLM in achieving additional funding for salinity control. The Council also recommends that sufficient funding from the Land Resources Subactivity Soil, Water, and Air Management be used for monitoring and maintenance of implemented projects.

The Council requests a written report responding to each of the above recommendations herein by **April 30, 2010**. This response should include comments on statements made in this section of this report and also on comments found under the headings of General Issues and Management and Budget Recommendations.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The Council appreciates the USGS's efforts to bring a science-based approach to the development and analysis of projects that will benefit the SCP. The Council recognizes the value of the application of the SPARROW model to the implementation of salinity control in the Basin and encourages the USGS to continue to refine and find other opportunities for uses of the model. The Council requests that the USGS and Reclamation now make efforts to compare findings of the SPARROW model with the old Irons model and report these findings back to the Council. The Council urges the USGS to continue to work with Reclamation to ensure that the data collected is accurate, to identify any differences or discrepancies in that data and to resolve those errors.

The Council requests the USGS to assess and report to the Council on its continued ability to perform these important functions by **April 30, 2010**.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The Council encourages the use of the best available science by the USFWS as it addresses selenium and endangered species issues in the Basin.

The Council requests a written report responding to the above recommendations by **April 30, 2010**.

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 adopted by the Forum as part of its 2008 Review. The Program includes 30% upfront cost sharing from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund (Basin Funds). The money in the Basin Funds comes from rate increases on the power sold from the power plants on the Colorado River system. Moneys from the Basin Funds represent the second largest contribution to the Program behind the USDA. In addition to the cost share from the Basin Funds, the local farmers cost share in the USDA on-farm program. The non-federal participants (the states, landowners, irrigation districts, etc.) are ready in FY 2010 to contribute their share of the SCP costs as up-front payments. The Council continues to be pleased with the funding made available to the USDA as authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA). At the October Advisory Council meeting, Reclamation provided a graph that showed current Reclamation funding levels are not sufficient to allow the Plan of Implementation approved for the 2008 Review to be accomplished. The Council continues to be concerned that lack of sufficient funds may cause a violation of the standard in the future. The Council is also 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 SCP. The Council is encouraged by the BLM efforts in the Basin and recommends that, absent receiving the full funding contained in Table 1 for the BLM, the BLM make available to the SCP \$1.5 million to fund on-the-ground salinity control measures. The Council and Forum stand ready to assist the BLM in achieving this funding goal.

Table 1 contains the Council's recommendations for federal cost share for FY 2011 and FY 2012. These funds are for the construction activities necessary to meet the SCP objectives as set forth in

2009 ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

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 SCP. The Council wishes to emphasize that funding delays and funding in lesser amounts will render the SCP unable to meet the Plan of Implementation objectives, as measured in tons of salt loading 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.

Table 1		
FEDERAL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS		
	Fiscal Years	
	2011	2012
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		
Bureau of Reclamation ¹	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000
Bureau of Land Management ²	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	not less than \$20,000,000 ³	not less than \$20,000,000 ³
Notes:		
¹ The Council anticipates and requests that Reclamation budget sufficient funds for required operation and maintenance of constructed units and for plan formulation.		
² The Council anticipates and requests that BLM budget sufficient funds for inventory and ranking, planning, maintenance, monitoring, evaluation and support.		
³ If the FY2009 continuing resolution or appropriation for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) allotment equals \$1.2 billion, the recommendation would equal \$30 million; if the FY 2009 EQIP allotment equals \$1.3 billion, the recommendation would equal \$32.5 million.		

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 interagency efforts put forth in 2009 and looks forward to providing a framework for future coordination and consultation. The Council requests written responses to this year's report be provided by **April 30, 2010**. Responses should be sent to the Advisory Council Chairman, Patrick T. Tyrrell, at the following address:

Patrick T. Tyrrell, State Engineer
State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 02002-0370

It would be appreciated if a copy of the responses also be sent to Reclamation's Salinity Coordinator, Kib Jacobson, and the Forum's Executive Director, Jack Barnett, at the following addresses:

Kib Jacobson, Designated Federal Official
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
125 S. State Street, Room 7311
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102

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

Attachment A

Advisory Council Charter

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

CHARTER

1. Official Designation: Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council.
2. Scope and Objectives: 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) on all matters relating to efficient and timely planning and execution of salinity control measures and procedures specified in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (Public Law 93-320, Title II, as amended by Public Laws 98-569, 104-20, 104-127, and 106-459).
3. Description of Duties: By statute, the Council will serve in an advisory capacity only and will:
 - 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 Secretaries on the progress of their salinity control programs and review and comment on said reports;
 - c. Recommend to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and the Administrator of the EPA appropriate studies of further projects, techniques, or methods for accomplishing the purposes of Title II; and
 - d. Review the allocation of salinity costs between the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund established by section 5(a) of the Colorado River Storage Project Act (70 Stat. 107) and the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund established by section 403(a) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (82 Stat. 885).
4. Duration: The Council will remain active through the planning, construction, operation, and repayment of the features and programs authorized under Title II.
5. Agency or Official To Whom the Council Reports: The Council will report to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and the Administrator of EPA.
6. Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will coordinate the support activities for the Council.
7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs: The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$7,500, including all direct and indirect expenses.

There are also 0.04 FTE allocated as staff support.

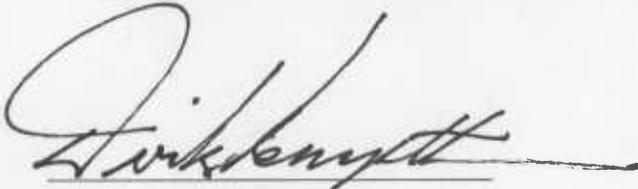
8. Allowances for Committee Members (Compensation, Travel, Per Diem, etc.): There will be no Federal financial support for Council members who are employees of State or local governments. Public members of the Council serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, public members engaged in Council business approved by the Designated Federal Officer will 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.
9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings: The Council will meet to review program activities and conduct related business, no less than once a year, with other meetings called as deemed necessary by the Council and the Designated Federal Officer.
10. Termination Date: The Council is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of section 9 of FACA have been complied with. Pursuant to Title II, as amended, the Council has the statutory requirement to remain active through the planning, construction, operation, and repayment of the features and programs authorized under Title II. The Council is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date this charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, the charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of FACA.
11. Committee Membership: Membership on 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 States involved, with the membership balanced in terms of points of view represented and functions to be performed. The Commissioner of Reclamation, or his or her representative, will act as the Designated Federal Officer for the Council.
12. 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.
13. Designated Federal Officer: Kib Jacobson, Salinity Control Program Manager, UC-240, Bureau of Reclamation, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84138.
14. Subgroups: The Council may have workgroups or subgroups that the Council and the Designated Federal Officer deem necessary for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such workgroups and subgroups must act only under the direction of the Council and must report in full to the Council.

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

CHARTER

Counterpart Signatory Page

15. Authority: The Statutory authority for the Council is contained in section 204(a) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (Public Law 93-320), which states: There is hereby created the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council composed of no more than three members from each State appointed by the Governor of each of the Colorado River Basin States.



Secretary of the Interior

SEP 18 2008

Date

OCT 17 2008

Date charter filed: _____

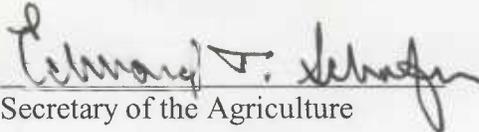
Party 1 of 3

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

CHARTER

Counterpart Signatory Page

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Secretary of the Agriculture

30 Sept 08
Date

Date charter filed: OCT 17 2008

Party 2 of 3

**COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

CHARTER

Counterpart Signatory Page

15. Authority: The Statutory authority for the Council is contained in section 204(a) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (Public Law 93-320), which states: There is hereby created the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council composed of no more than three members from each State appointed by the Governor of each of the Colorado River Basin States.



Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

OCT 17 2008

Date

Date charter filed: OCT 17 2008

Party 3 of 3

Attachment B

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

December 31, 2009

ARIZONA

Perri Benemelis
Phoenix, Arizona

Larry R. Dozier
Phoenix, Arizona

CALIFORNIA

Gerald R. Zimmerman
Glendale, California

Dorothy Rice
Sacramento, California

COLORADO

David W. Robbins
Denver, Colorado

Jennifer L. Gimbel
Denver, Colorado

Steven H. Gunderson
Denver, Colorado

NEVADA

Leo M. Drozdoff
Carson City, Nevada

McClain Peterson
Las Vegas, Nevada

Kay Brothers
Las Vegas, Nevada

NEW MEXICO

John R. D'Antonio Jr.
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Jay Groseclose
Santa Fe, New Mexico

UTAH

Dennis J. Strong
Salt Lake City, Utah

John Whitehead
Salt Lake City, Utah

Randy Crozier
Roosevelt, Utah

WYOMING

Dan S. Budd
Big Piney, Wyoming

Patrick T. Tyrrell
Cheyenne, Wyoming

John F. Wagner
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Attachment C

Federal Responses to the 2008 Advisory Council Report

MAY 13 2009



United States Department of Agriculture

APR 27 2009

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

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

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Thank you for your letter of February 12, 2009, and the "2008 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program". We appreciate your recommendations concerning the progress of the program and enclosed is our response.

State Conservationists will work with the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (the Council) and other partners on non-Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assisted activities consistent with our other programmatic authorities and available resources. In addition to EQIP, other authorities do exist to provide Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) technical assistance (TA) for salinity control. For example, at the State Conservationist's discretion, they may and have expended Conservation Technical Assistance Program funds to provide TA to service contracts developed using the Bureau of Reclamation Basin Funds via Economy Act interagency agreements. NRCS will also continue to explore ways to assist the State administering agencies to build their capacity to provide such TA.

The Council is also encouraged to look at the following Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) conservation programs and initiatives for possible funding or for leveraging of funds for salinity control activities: Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, Conservation Stewardship Program, and other related conservation initiatives that may be funded through EQIP.

We thank the Council for its continued leadership and support of Colorado River Basin salinity control activities. A similar letter is being sent to Patrick T. Tyrrell.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Vilsack".

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

USDA's Response to Recommendations Provided by the Colorado River Basin Advisory Council in the "2008 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Program"

Recommendation: *"Now that the review is completed, NRCS should work with the Council, Forum and Forum's Work Group to implement any changes to its program that may be required based on that review."*

Response: NRCS is incorporating the recommendations and findings of the review as appropriate and consistent with current authorities. NRCS will continue to keep its partners informed through the established channels of communication to maintain the great degree of success in implementing salinity control measures in the Colorado River Basin.

Recommendation: *"The Council encourages NRCS to continue to work with the Forum's Work Group to understand, define, and develop strategies to address the impacts to the Program as installed measures reach their useful life and require replacement."*

Response: NRCS plans to continue working with the Forum's Work Group, as well as other partners. Consistent with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) authorities, regulation, and policy, NRCS will offer technical assistance (TA) and payments to replace systems that have exceeded their designed life, as well as offer technical assistance and payments for adopting new technology or upgrades that provide increased conservation benefits. Also, NRCS will cooperate with its partners to collect and analyze data to understand the impacts from trends in land use changes, especially conversion of agricultural lands to other uses.

Recommendation: *"The Council is pleased with the efforts of NRCS to test an incentive program. Hopefully such a program will encourage producers to continue to participate in the program as NRCS restructures its cost docket."*

Response: NRCS recognizes that cost considerations are extremely important to producers and will analyze and report on the progress of the Plateau Valley project. The Plateau Valley area is currently eligible for conservation program payments for landowners willing to make irrigation system improvements through EQIP, which is administered by NRCS. The proposed pilot project action is to add a salinity reduction incentive payment proportional to the salinity reduction benefits resulting from improvement. The additional salinity payment will be funded from the Colorado Basin's State program. The added incentive payment will encourage additional landowners to make improvements on 800 acres that will result in reducing seepage from the lateral ditches and increasing the irrigation efficiency to reduce salt loading by approximately 400 tons per year.

NRCS will continue to seek ways to optimize the efficiency, effectiveness, and particularly the cost effectiveness of its program delivery.

Recommendation: *“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.”*

Response: The NRCS Chief will assess, annually, the amount of funds requested in the 3-year funding plans submitted by the State Conservationists from Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming for the salinity control project areas to determine if funds may be available commensurate with local need and national priorities. State Conservationists will be expected to continue to develop a 3-year funding plan proposal for salinity control activities in collaboration with the salinity control project partners and reflective of partner’s contributions.

Recommendation: *“The Council encourages USDA to continue to fund Colorado River Salinity Control activities. In the Management and Budget recommendations portion of your report, the Council recommends that funding for the USDA portion of the Federal program be in accordance with Table 1 of this report, i.e. “not less than \$20 million for fiscal years (FY) 2009 and 2010.”*

Response: The allocation for EQIP salinity control activities in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control project areas for FY 2009 is \$18,158,689. As stated in our FY 2009 budget guidance to Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, the EQIP funds allocated for salinity control activities may not be used for any other purpose within the designated salinity control project areas. Funding allocations to States for FY 2010 will be made upon receiving an apportionment for that fiscal year.

We will remain in communication with the Council as the FY 2010 funding situation for EQIP becomes clearer.

Recommendation: *“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.”*

Response: State Conservationists will consult with their State Technical Committees to evaluate the respective fiscal year demand in their State for funding salinity control activities. The State Conservationist and the State Technical Committees need to consider how Colorado River Salinity Control activities address EQIP National program priorities, State natural resource concern priorities, and historic trends of program interest in determining the amount of funding needed to address the above activities.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UC-240
RES-9.00

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Regional Office
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147



APR 29 2009

Mr. Patrick T. Tyrrell
Colorado River Basin Salinity
Control Advisory Council
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0370

Subject: The 2008 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
Prepared by the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Council)

Dear Mr. Tyrrell:

On behalf of Acting Commissioner McDonald, we thank you for the subject Report. The Commissioner has requested that I respond on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Council contributes greatly to the success of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program). We truly value your partnership, participation, and recommendations in the Program. The Program continues to make measurable progress in controlling the salinity problem.

The following are our responses to the specific recommendations in the Report for Reclamation. The first recommendation was made in the General Issues section, the next eight recommendations were made in the Reclamation section, and the last two recommendations were made in the Management and Budget Recommendations section.

1. The economic stimulus package - the Program and the Colorado River Basin may be an area where projects could be developed and funding spent in an expedient manner. Reclamation has projects that could be funded if funding was made available.

Reclamation has been successful in its application for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). It was recently announced by Secretary Salazar that the Basinwide Salinity Control Program is to receive \$10 million to put into new salinity control projects. Reclamation released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) on March 31, 2009, that is to close on May 14, 2009. Reclamation is pleased with the interest that has been expressed by numerous potential applicants for the ARRA funding.

2. Review of the Program Administered by Reclamation - The Council encourages Reclamation to work with the Council, Forum and Forum's Work Group to resolve any outstanding concerns and to implement any changes in how Reclamation administers the Program.

Reclamation is committed to involving the Forum's Work Group as much as possible and to keep the Council and Forum informed as Reclamation resolves the outstanding issues from the Review and implements necessary changes in how it administers the Program. The enclosed table contains a list of the issues identified in the Review, the recommendations on how to resolve the issues, and the status of the issues.

3. The Council has concerns with the outcome of Reclamation's Review regarding how contracts will be awarded under the Basinwide Program and how the Basin States will participate in that process.

The FOA process and the awarding of agreements to successful applicants from the FOA process are governed by Reclamation statute, rules, and regulations. The statutes, rules and regulations limit participation by non-federal entities, such as the Basin States. Reclamation is committed to involving the Forum's Work Group as much as possible in the FOA process. Members of the Work Group participated in the 2008 Application Review Committee (ARC) process and will be invited to participate in the 2009 ARC process. Also, please refer to Reclamation's response under recommendation number 5.

4. The Council encourages Reclamation to continue this coordination and cooperation as the Council develops strategies for the implementation of the new provisions of the [Salinity Control] Act dealing with the Basin States Program (BSP).

Reclamation, with input from the Council, prepared a draft Planning Report that is presently being reviewed within the Department of Interior. It is Reclamation's intent to begin implementing the BSP October 1, 2009. Reclamation is committed to consulting with the Council as the necessary procedures, guidelines, and agreements for the BSP are put in place.

5. In preparation for future FOA's, the Council encourages Reclamation to seek input from the Council, Forum, and Forum's Work Group on the 2008 FOA, especially the Evaluation Criteria.

Reclamation is committed to seek input from the Council, Forum and Work Group members on the 2008 FOA and the 2009 FOA, once it is complete, in preparation for future FOA's. Reclamation may not be able to discuss certain details of the FOA in public meetings, such as Work Group meetings, since this could give, or be perceived to give, an unfair advantage to some applicants.

6. Paradox Valley Unit (PVU) - The Council encourages Reclamation to continue to work with the Forum's Work Group as it moves forward developing studies and analyzing future opportunities.

Reclamation appreciates the partnership it has with the Council and Forum on the PVU and is committed to working with the Work Group and to keep the Council and Forum informed of the studies and future opportunities at the PVU.

7. Reclamation should continue its effort to coordinate with the USDA and the USGS in determining the appropriate salt loading for the various project areas in the Program, and

continue to work with the USGS to resolve data discrepancies within the Upper Basin and at the Northern International Boundary (NIB).

For an update on the efforts to determine salt loading for various project areas and to resolve data discrepancies in the Upper Basin, please refer to the enclosed table, Issue No. 2.

Reclamation will continue to work with the USGS, other federal agencies, and Mexico government agencies to resolve data discrepancies at the NIB.

8. The Council encourages Reclamation, as the Program lead, to work with both the USEPA and the USFWS to develop appropriate roles for those agencies within the Program.

For an update on the efforts to develop an appropriate role for the USFWS, please refer to the enclosed table, Issue No. 4.

Reclamation will initiate discussions with USEPA and the Basin States to develop an appropriate role.

9. Reclamation is requested to give a detailed report on its efforts to secure additional funding at the next Council meeting.

Reclamation will report to the Council at its next meeting on Reclamation's efforts to secure additional funding. Also, please refer to Reclamation's response under recommendation number 1.

10. The Council urges Reclamation to vigorously pursue adequate funding so as to allow timely implementation of its portion of the 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. The recent announcement of \$10 million of ARRA funds for the Basinwide Program is an example of Reclamation effort and success.

Reclamation takes every opportunity to make known the successes and the needs of the Basinwide program at all levels of Reclamation and within the Department of the Interior. Reclamation welcomes the opportunity to work with the Advisory Council and Forum to identify and prioritize the activities to be funded by appropriations received for the Salinity Control Program.

11. 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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 for operation, maintenance, monitoring, and technical assistance of the salinity units of Grand Valley, Paradox Valley, and McElmo Creek, Reclamation expended appropriations of \$881,000, \$2,684,000, and \$392,000, respectively. In FY 2009, \$1,395,000, \$2,366,000, and \$311,000 have been appropriated for operation, maintenance, monitoring, and technical assistance of the same units respectively. Reclamation feels that the units are being adequately operated, maintained, monitored, and technical assistance provided with the funding received. Also, in FY 2009, Reclamation will provide \$200,000 for a hydrogeology study of the Paradox Valley to be performed by the USGS.

Reclamation provided from its Salinity Control Program to the USGS for streamgaging on the Colorado River about \$72,000 in FY 2008 and about \$85,000 in FY 2009. This will assist in continuing the long-term monitoring that demonstrates the effectiveness of the implemented salinity projects.

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

Sincerely,



Larry Walkoviak
Regional Director

Enclosure

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

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

Mr. John W. Shields
State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**Issues Identified in the Review of the
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
Administered by the Bureau of Reclamation
Completed June 2008**

Issues Identified	Recommendations	Status – as of April 22, 2009
<p>1. Reimbursement requirement for operation and maintenance (O&M) for salinity control improvements</p>	<p>Assemble a team of Reclamation’s salinity coordinators and appropriate Area Office staff and Regional Office staff to evaluate the issue and possibly pursue options. Involve operating entities and Work Group members from Colorado to discuss and possibly pursue options.</p>	<p>No action has occurred.</p>
<p>2. Procedures for determining the tons of salt claimed</p>	<p>Reclamation has begun a process with a team of Reclamation and NRCS staff to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the total irrigation-induced tons of salt for a salinity area. 2. Of the total irrigation-induced tons of salt, identify the tons associated with on-farm improvements and off-farm improvements. 3. Allocate the tons of salt identified with off-farm improvements to individual canals in salinity areas. 4. Work with the Salinity Control Science Team and Work Group to identify and prioritize areas for additional data collection and studies. 	<p>This work is done for Reclamation’s Lower Gunnison Basin Unit (Uncompahgre Project area), Grand Valley Unit and McElmo Creek/Dolores Project.</p> <p>A team of Reclamation and NRCS staff has completed tasks 1 thru 3 for most of the other salinity areas in the Upper Basin and created the “Salinity Bible”.</p> <p>Reclamation has been consulting with the Science Team and the Work Group to identify and prioritize areas.</p>
<p>3. The Request for Proposals (RFP) and agreement processes</p>	<p>Instead of soliciting proposals through the RFP process, they will be solicited through a process called Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA). Instead of evaluating the proposals in the TPEC process, they will be evaluated in the Application Review Committee (ARC) that will be chaired by the Program Manager and have representatives from the Work Group and Reclamation area offices.</p>	<p>A FOA was released in February 2008 and closed May 2008. An ARC was convened that was chaired by the Program Manager and had representatives from the Work Group and Reclamation area offices.</p>

	<p>In the past issues have arisen in the RFP/TPEC process of screening out projects that may have a competitive cost-effectiveness figure, but have an unknown or untested process to remove salt, and ranking projects lower that have more risk.</p>	<p>Reclamation developed Evaluation Criteria that established how the applications would be evaluated. To be evaluated the applications had to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be Responsive to the FOA Requirements. - Be submitted by a legal entity capable of contracting with Reclamation. - Not use unproven Technology - Not be of a nature that creates undue financial risk for Reclamation. <p>Applications were evaluated in four categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost effectiveness 2. Uncertainty associated with salt load reduction estimates 3. Risk associated with construction and operation 4. Risk associated with joint on-farm irrigation improvements. <p>To obtain American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (stimulus) funds into the Basinwide, Reclamation released a FOA March 31, 2009, that will close May 14, 2009. The Evaluation Criteria and the ARC process established for the 2008 FOA will be used in the 2009 FOA.</p>
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<p>4. Differing standards and requirements for habitat replacement</p>	<p>Reclamation plans to have its salinity coordinators and environmental staff meet with appropriate FWS Field Office staff to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. assess the habitat replacement issues identified by Reclamation and the Review Team 2. review and discuss the purpose and conclusions of their draft Report 3. develop, implement, and/or institutionalize appropriate standards and definitions 4. discuss FWS' s role in the Salinity Program 	<p>Reclamation continues to require proportional and concurrent habitat replacement on salinity projects funded by the Basinwide Program.</p> <p>A team has been formed with Reclamation staff and the FWS Salinity Coordinators to discuss and make recommendations on tasks 1 thru 4. The goal is to prepare a report that provides guidance.</p> <p>A team has not been assembled yet.</p> <p>NRSC standards for irrigation installations are being used.</p>
<p>5. Salinity control improvements on Federal facilities versus non-Federal facilities</p>	<p>Assemble a team of Reclamation's salinity coordinators and appropriate staff, Work Group, and others as needed to evaluate the issue and pursue options. In future solicitations for proposals it will be recommended that as a minimum NRCS standards for irrigation installations be used.</p>	<p>PL 110-246 was enacted on June 18, 2008, creating the BSP.</p> <p>Reclamation in consultation with the Advisory Council prepared a Draft Planning Report that was submitted to Reclamation's Washington DC office for review.</p> <p>The Parallel Program has been extended to September 30, 2009.</p>
<p>6. The use of funds from Basin Funds</p>	<p>On June 18, 2008, Congress enacted legislation that amended the Act. This has created a Basin States Program (BSP). The legislation also requires that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Secretary of Interior, through Reclamation, implement the BSP 2. The funding for the BSP come from the Basin Funds as up-front cost-sharing to appropriations received in the future for authorized project construction and O&M and Basinwide and USDA salinity programs. 3. The Secretary, through Reclamation, will prepare, and submit a planning report to Congress describing how the BSP will be implemented. <p>Reclamation is working with the Advisory Council to prepare the planning report for the Secretary.</p>	<p>Reclamation in consultation with the Advisory Council prepared a Draft Planning Report that was submitted to Reclamation's Washington DC office for review.</p> <p>The Parallel Program has been extended to September 30, 2009.</p>

MAY 22 2009



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Washington, D.C. 20240

<http://www.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:
7240 (280)

MAY 15 2009

Mr. Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman
Colorado River Basin Salinity
Control Advisory Council
Herschler Bldg, 4th Floor East
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0370

Dear Mr. Tyrrell:

Thank you for your recent recommendations in the Advisory Council's 2008 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).

General Issues:

1. *"The BLM continued to make strides in bringing better awareness to its field personnel of the role salinity control plays in the BLM's overall land management activities. The Council continues to have concerns with the impacts energy development in the Upper Basin may have on salinity of the Colorado River. The Council believes this development will continue to increase for the near future and the impact on the salinity of the Colorado River should be a concern for not only the state entities but all the federal agencies involved in Colorado River salinity control. The Council urges the federal agencies, especially the BLM, to continue to work with the Forum's Work Group to assess the salinity impacts of ongoing and proposed energy development on water resources and water quality."*

The BLM is completing work with the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center on a regional modeling effort that will assess energy-related, surface disturbance throughout the Upper Colorado River Basin up to and including 2007 with their Spatially Referenced Regressions on Watershed attributes (SPARROW) model. The BLM and the University of Wyoming are ready to use the USGS modeling information on a local watershed scale which we feel will enhance our ability to respond to BLM management questions. In addition to directly funded salinity projects, there are two large habitat studies related to energy development in southwestern Wyoming and the Piceance Basin in western Colorado that should indirectly aid our ability to assess salinity impacts. In addition to these efforts, the BLM's Fluid Minerals group has implemented a number of new provisions that will assist in reducing erosion. The "Gold Book" dealing with best management practices (BMPs) was updated and a website with BMPs and training is up and running <http://www.blm.gov/bmp>. We have increased our number of inspectors and

new BLM offices that focus on energy development activities have been setup within the energy-producing states in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

2. *"The Council suggests in recognition of the economic difficulties in the U.S. and the discussion by the new Administration of the need for an economic stimulus package that the Program and the Colorado River Basin may be an area where projects could be developed and funding spent in an expedient manner."*

The BLM has proposed and targeted a number of watershed restoration projects for economic stimulus funds in the Upper Colorado River Basin that will benefit salinity control. No specific projects have been selected at this time; they are pending approval.

Specific issues:

1. *"The Council is pleased with the efforts of the BLM's basinwide salinity control coordinator to make field personnel more aware of how salinity control can be incorporated into and even become a major portion of the land management planning efforts. The Council continues to encourage the BLM to begin using tools that have been developed to begin implementation of programs which will result in salt retention on BLM lands. Salinity control on public land could be one of the most cost-effective ways of providing salinity control for the Basin."*

Beginning in FY 2009, the BLM has been coordinating with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to implement salinity-control measures on public and adjacent private land near Price, Utah. Through our partnership efforts we hope to create a number of tools that lessen erosion and associated salt runoff from the land. We are in the planning stage now and will have more to report next year.

2. *"The Council encourages the BLM to address the issue of discharges from flowing saline wells on public lands. These flowing saline wells are often the result of previous decades of oil and gas exploration where test wells were not properly abandoned."*

Colorado (one well), New Mexico (one well), and Utah (two wells) are the states where we have plugged flowing wells in the last six years. Currently, on BLM administered land, there are no known saline-flowing wells that require plugging. We appreciate any new information from the Council, which may assist us in plugging saline-flowing wells in the future.

3. *"Now there is a new and major wave of energy development occurring on BLM-administered lands and also on other lands where the BLM administers the production rights. The Council appreciates the efforts of the BLM and the USGS to follow and report this new development. The Council urges the BLM and the USGS to continue this monitoring, analyzing and reporting effort."*

The BLM's Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring funding supported a regional energy development land disturbance study that utilized a statistical model

(SPARROW) created by the USGS Water Sciences Center. The BLM funding was matched with Basin States funding through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum's recommendation. A good deal of work went into creating the ArcGIS layer (2007) representing the Upper Basin area. For any future energy-related, land-disturbance assessments, the existing layer only needs to be updated in order to support improved analysis.

4. *"In the Management and Budget Recommendations portion of this report, the Council recommends that the BLM seek funding of \$5,900,000.00 to be used by the BLM on activities that do, in part, control salinity in the Basin."*

Competition for limited funding within our Soil, Water, and Air program makes it difficult to target additional internal funding towards salinity control at this time. The salinity coordinator will continue to do the best work possible with limited internal funds, foster partnerships with other BLM initiatives that have synergies with salinity control, and actively search out and apply for sources of external funding.

5. *"Potential activities that are focused on salinity control have been identified that could readily utilize \$1.5 million in FY 2009, of which about 65% is identified for implementation of on-the-ground projects. The Council recommends that the \$1.5 million be designated from the BLM's on-going budget for direct salinity control work. The council also recommends that sufficient funding from the Land Resources Subactivity Soil, Water, and Air Management be used for monitoring and maintenance of implemented projects."*

A 5-year average (2006-2010 projected) from BLM's electronic database that houses proposals for salinity control projects is \$1.84 million per year. The salinity control program is currently funding \$0.80 to 0.86 million of salinity control work. On average, over this 5-year term, 37% of funding is allocated for on-the-ground projects. The BLM recognizes and appreciates the Council's support on this item.

The BLM appreciates the Salinity Forum's partnership, participation, and recommendations and will strive to make measurable progress in controlling and reporting on salinity reduction efforts in the Upper Colorado River Basin. If you have additional questions or information needs please contact Heidi Hadley, BLM Salinity Coordinator, at (801) 524-3886.

Sincerely,

Edwin L. Roberson
Assistant Director,
Renewable Resources and Planning

cc: **Jack Barnett, Executive Director**
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Heidi Hadley, BLM Salinity Coordinator
USBR UC 247 Rm 6107
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

WO280 rf

WO280:LS:Heidi Hadley:(801) 524-3886:ys:5/11/09

Colorado R Advisory response 032709



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 150
#2009214-DO

MAY 27 2009

Mr. Patrick T. Tyrrell, Chairman
Colorado River Basin Salinity
Control Advisory Council
122 West 25th Street
Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0370

Dear Mr. Tyrrell:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Advisory Council's recommendations presented in the *2008 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program*. We are pleased that the Advisory Council continues to find the support of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) beneficial to the overall Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (CRBSCP) and to participating agency decisionmakers. Our participation, in a science support role, with the CRBSCP Forum, Advisory Council, Work Group, and particularly with the CRBSCP Science Team has allowed us to optimize our efforts and science products to better aid the CRBSCP in achieving its goals.

The following addresses the Advisory Council's specific recommendations to the USGS to continue to work with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to ensure that the data collected by the USGS and Reclamation in support of the CRBSCP are accurate and to identify and resolve any differences or discrepancies in the data collected by the two agencies.

USGS support to the CRBSCP through USGS programs and through cooperation with CRBSCP participating Federal agencies includes the collection of basic data supporting regional salinity load quantification and modeling. The bulk of these data are collected in the 20-station monitoring network in the Colorado River Basin operated and maintained by the USGS. The network is relied upon to estimate monthly and annual salinity concentrations and loads. These estimated loads are, in turn, incorporated in Reclamation model applications to simulate current and future salinity load conditions in the Colorado River and its tributaries. Reclamation also collects water-quality data at some stations in this network and discrepancies have been observed between the two data sets for some stations. The USGS understands the critical role that these Reclamation models play in the implementation and management of the CRBSCP and considers

optimizing the utility of data from the 20-station network to be an important component of its overall data program in the Basin. The USGS has been working with Reclamation to identify differences in data collection methods in the network and among collecting agencies to ensure accuracy and consistency across data sets and the appropriate application of these data in CRBSCP and Reclamation planning and simulation tools.

In 2007, the USGS and Reclamation initiated a review of data collection procedures of the two Bureaus. The review included a comparison and coordination of the timing and location of sampling in the network and a quality assurance check of laboratory results for Total Dissolved Solids from the Reclamation lab in Boulder City, Nevada, and the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory. This review will conclude in fiscal year (FY) 2009 and the results will be documented by Reclamation. The USGS and Reclamation will work together, on the basis of the review results, to optimize monitoring approaches for both agencies.

The USGS also continues to improve and enhance data collection throughout the 20-station network. In FY 2008, the USGS upgraded water-quality data collection in 5 of the 20-station network sites to optimal levels for computation of daily loads. The enhancements were made through improved efficiencies in monitoring methods and instrumentation with no additional cost to the monitoring program.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to address the Council's comments and recommendations concerning USGS science and the CRBSCP. We will continue to report on the results of our activities and studies and provide support to CRBSCP decisionmakers on the use of our data and assessment tools.

If you would like any additional information, please contact Mr. Patrick Lambert, USGS Utah Water Science Center Director, and USGS representative to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (801-908-5033; plambert@usgs.gov).

Sincerely,



Suzette M. Kimball
Acting Director

Copy to: Jack A. Barnett, Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, Utah 84010

MAY 04 2009



United States Department of the Interior

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
ES/GJ-6-CO-Salinity
TAILS: 65413-2009-FA-0032

April 29, 2009

Patrick T. Tyrrell, Chairman
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council
State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0370

Dear Mr. Tyrrell:

This conveys the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) response to the Colorado River Basin salinity Advisory Council's 2008 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

During the past year the Service transferred the responsibility of the Salinity Coordinator position from Salt Lake City to Grand Junction, Colorado. Rick Krueger assumed the responsibilities that Lucy Jordan, who retired in 2007, had held for the past several years. Rick has been involved with the Salinity Program in Colorado since 1981 when the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, began some of the first salinity efforts in the Grand Valley, Lower Gunnison, Paradox and McElmo Creek Salinity areas. He has also been involved in the early planning for the Mancos, Silt and most recently the Grand View salinity remediation areas in Colorado. Rick has worked closely during the past year with Kib Jacobson, Travis James and others within the salinity program to visit many of the sites in Utah to become more familiar with the projects there and the programs that have been implemented to reduce salinity and replace wildlife values forgone.

As you encouraged in the 2008 Annual Report, Rick has been working closely with the Bureau and the Forum's Work Group to develop a wildlife habitat replacement program that provides for wildlife values forgone, due to salinity control, in a manner that is fair and equitable to all parties working within the salinity control programs. It is our opinion that a good working relationship between all parties is key to developing a successful program to reduce salinity loading within the Upper Colorado River Basin and to replace the wildlife habitat values forgone. We plan to continue to work closely with the Bureau and NRCS, as we have done over the past several



MAR 27 2009

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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MAR 24 2009

Patrick T. Tyrrell, Chairman
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council
Herschler Building, 4th Floor East
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0370

Dear Mr. Tyrrell:

I am responding to your letter dated February 12, 2009, to Administrator Lisa Jackson requesting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) review of the 2008 Annual Report on the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

While EPA staff appreciates the concern expressed by the Council because of the shift in EPA coordination leadership, we would like to reassure the Council that EPA continues to be dedicated to supporting the outstanding salinity control efforts by the Council and the Forum in the Colorado River Basin. Staff is also particularly grateful that Region 8 has continued its commitment to support salinity control efforts in the upper basin states where the majority of the salinity problem originates and where nearly all the current salinity control efforts are located.

If you have any questions, the current contact person on my staff in Region 9 is Phil Woods who may be reached at (415) 972-3405.

Sincerely,

Alexis Strauss 24 March 2009
Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division

cc: Jack Barnett, Executive Director, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
Michelle Counts, EPA, Region 9, Regional Administrator's Office
Jim Luey, EPA, Region 8, EPR-EP