

SEVEN COLORADO RIVER BASIN STATES REPRESENTATIVES
TO THE GLEN CANYON DAM ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

February 23, 2009

Mr. Larry Walkoviak
Regional Director and Alternate for the Secretary's Designee
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
125 S. State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1147

RE: Decision Making Process Associated with the Glen Canyon Dam Operations and
Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program

Dear Mr. Walkoviak:

As the Colorado River Basin State Representatives to the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Workgroup (AMWG), we are writing to reaffirm our support for the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program (AMP) that was established pursuant to the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 (GCPA), and we want to encourage you to continue the course that has been set forth for the AMP to obtain the needed scientific research and monitoring to meet the mandates of the GCPA. Given the ongoing litigation and significant, recent disagreements by some AMWG members regarding the AMP and the current experimental operations at Glen Canyon Dam, we felt it important for the States to indicate our continued support for the AMP and the current experiment and our willingness to meet with you.

As you are aware, the AMP was established in 1997 to comply with the consultation provisions of the GCPA and to address the many existing uncertainties regarding the possible impacts of water releases from Glen Canyon Dam to the downstream environment. The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) implemented the AMP pursuant to the 1996 Record of Decision on Glen Canyon Dam Operations (1996 ROD) to provide a process through which the potential effects of dam operations on those resources could be monitored and assessed.

An important component of the AMP is the AMWG, established pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The objective of the AMWG is to advise and recommend suitable monitoring and research programs to the Secretary concerning potential management actions and modifications to Glen Canyon Dam operations to help protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established consistent with the GCPA, 1996 ROD and other elements of the "Law of the River."

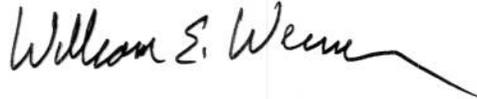
The AMWG includes members from relevant federal agencies, Native American groups, each Colorado River basin state, and two representatives from each of the following: environmental groups, recreation interests, and contractors for federal power from Glen Canyon Dam. The AMWG members with whom the Secretary is to consult provide a broad spectrum of interests and expertise. As the Secretary's designee and chair of the AMWG, you understand the importance of a forum in which these diverse interests can collectively express their views and concerns and utilize their expertise to make informed recommendations to the Secretary regarding the AMP objectives. The AMWG has served for over a decade as that forum, providing the opportunity for all these varied interests to work together in a collaborative manner to help develop research strategies and make management and dam operation recommendations to the Secretary. Because the AMWG representatives bring a broad collective understanding of the possible impacts and ramifications of any proposed experiment, the AMWG is and should continue to be the appropriate forum to provide the Secretary with a comprehensive perspective of a proposed experiment or management action.

Furthermore, because the AMWG includes a broad range of diverse interests, differences of opinions will always exist. For example, the majority of AMWG representatives are encouraged by the recent increases in the endangered humpback chub population. However, the research and monitoring to date has not been able to discern whether mechanical removal of trout, increases in the water temperature of dam releases or some other factor affecting the chub habitat has been the most significant reason for the improvement. Therefore, we believe that there is a clear need to continue the scientific research and monitoring and the stakeholder process provided by the AMP.

We understand your challenge, as the Secretary's designee, is to assist the Secretary in finding that delicate balance between water, power and environmental interests in conformance with the "Law of the River." We support and encourage Interior to continue to utilize the AMP and AMWG to find this delicate balance. The AMWG, as it currently stands, provides an essential and valuable forum for the discussion of the effects of Glen Canyon Dam operations. If you desire, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss the science and some of our ideas for improving the AMP.

In conclusion, we want to express our continued support of the AMP as the best process to obtain the needed scientific, research and monitoring to meet the mandates of the GCPA and to ensure compliance with the "Law of the River." It is our desire to continue our excellent working relationship with Interior in the AMP process, and to reaffirm our commitment to work with Interior and the other AMWG members to move the collaborative AMP process forward in addressing the mandates of the GCPA.

Sincerely,



William E. Werner
Arizona Department of Water Resources



Gerald R. Zimmerman
Colorado River Board of California



Jennifer L. Gimbel
Colorado Water Conservation Board



George M. Caan
Colorado River Commission of Nevada



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cc: AMWG Members