

August 2, 2013

Anne J. Castle
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Room 6655, MS-6640 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Castle,

It is with a mixed sense of pride in the Adaptive Management Work Group's collective accomplishments, a sense of dissatisfaction at accomplishments not yet realized, and a deepening sense of urgency about the Colorado River's future that we respectfully relinquish our seat within the AMWG process.

Since its inception, AMWG has offered some of the greatest possibilities for science-based adaptive management in our nation's history. The time and resources invested in this effort have been tremendous. Such investments have improved river management protocols overall, and evolved our collective thinking about the complicated nexus between conservation, economics, policy, and politics.

Since AMWG's inception, however, the world has changed, and is now changing at an ever-increasing rate. Climate change and likely long-term drought are stressing the entire Colorado River system at unprecedented levels, as are increasing demands for water and energy development across the Basin. Invasive species threaten riverine ecosystems that have already been dramatically altered from their natural state and from which many native species have been extirpated.

As is indicated by the recently published Colorado River Basin Study, we are facing in the coming years a set of immensely important societal challenges related to Colorado River management. To meet these challenges we need more so than ever something different than a segmented and often constrained set of discussions regarding management of the river across its various reaches. Across the entirety of the Basin, we need the most creative minds, the most rigorous and consequential science, and the strongest and most authentic political leadership - all directed at identifying river management strategies that ensure the river's



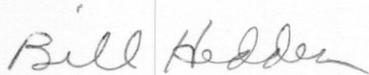
health for our generation and many generations to come. Importantly, we also need venues for the consequential involvement of the American public.

We believe that AMWG has been helpful. We also believe that there is a need for new collaboration, planning, science, decision-making, and public engagement venues that meet the challenges of our day more adequately. We look forward to helping to design, support, and provide leadership within these venues in the years to come.

The Colorado River is truly the lifeblood of the Southwest. The long-term health of the river will always be an environmental, social, and economic bellwether of immeasurable importance. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the river and to all species that depend upon it.

Thank you for the honor of participating in the AMWG process. We very much look forward to crossing paths with you and other AMWG participants soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Hedden".

Bill Hedden
Executive Director
Grand Canyon Trust