United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

SEP 21 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle
Secretary's Designee, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Assistant Secretary—Water and Science

Subject: Report and Recommendations from the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Federal Advisory Committee

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) convened on August 24-25, 2010, in Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was well attended and positive. The Operating Procedures of the AMWG require the Secretary's Designee to provide the Secretary with a report on all meetings, and to transmit any recommendations. The meeting addressed a number of issues, including a recommended flow release schedule from Glen Canyon Dam (known as the "hydrograph") for the 2011 water year, the budget for 2011-2012, and development of a narrative set of desired future conditions for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The AMWG and its subgroups are continuing their hard work to provide advice and recommendations relative to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam in accordance with section 1804 of the Grand Canyon Protection Act, and other associated activities of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. I am also pleased to provide AMWG's recommendations to you, which reflect the AMWG's best advice on the delicate task of balancing and discharging the many responsibilities affected by the operation of Glen Canyon Dam.

First, the AMWG has recommended that the Secretary adopt the hydrograph for the 2011 water year that was jointly developed by the Department of the Interior AMWG agencies (the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey) and the Western Area Power Administration.

The recommended hydrograph is consistent with the Law of the River including the Grand Canyon Protection Act, and is designed to enhance protection of downstream resources. It can be implemented consistent with existing environmental and operational limitations applicable to Glen Canyon Dam, the annual water delivery and release requirements of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, applicable operating criteria for Glen Canyon Dam, and the 1996 Glen Canyon Dam Record of Decision (ROD) and an ongoing program of experimental fall steady flows. This approach to operations does not modify the Interim Guidelines, operating criteria, or ROD and falls within the parameters of the Modified Low Fluctuating Flow alternative adopted in the ROD. This recommended hydrograph received broad support and passed by a vote of 16 to 1, with 5 abstentions.

Second, the AMWG has recommended that the Secretary adopt the FY 2011-12 Draft Budget and work plan, attached hereto, along with the full text of the motion. The budget passed by a vote of 21-1-0.

Third, I am also pleased to report that we are making tremendous progress on a number of backlogged issues, including the development of desired future conditions (DFCs) to guide our management and assist in decision-making as part of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The first phase of our effort is to develop a set of narrative DFCs; the next phase will then translate the narrative provisions into objective and measurable parameters. I want to recognize the excellent work done by the Interior agencies internally in creating a draft set of DFCs, and by the DFC Ad Hoc Group formed by the AMWG to provide AMWG input to the process. The DFC Ad Hoc Group presented its draft recommended DFCs to the AMWG, which requested an opportunity to provide additional comment. These new comments will be provided by September 24, 2010. At that time, the DFC Ad Hoc Group will incorporate the comments, provide a new recommended version of the DFCs, and forward it for your consideration.

We are continuing to make progress to implement your commitment to a new path forward for management and operation of Glen Canyon Dam. I commend the members of the AMWG for their hard work and thoughtful contributions as we debate practical new ideas, based on sound science that will allow us to make better decisions. We still have much work to do, but I believe that we have achieved a great deal, consistent with your commitment to honor all of our obligations on the Colorado River while preserving and supporting the unique and special significance of one of the most majestic landscapes on Earth, the Grand Canyon.

I recommend that you adopt AMWG's proposed recommendations on the 2011 hydrograph and the 2011-12 Draft Budget.

I approve:

Ken Salazar
Secretary

9/22/2010
Date

cc: Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife & Parks
Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

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Attention: Ms. LaVerne Kyriss

The Hualapai Tribe, PO Box 310, Peach Springs, AZ 86434
Attention: Ms. Loretta Jackson-Kelly

Director, Cultural Preservation Office, The Hopi Tribe, PO Box 123
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Attention: Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma

National Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129,
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023
Attention: Mr. Steve Martin

Navajo Nation, Historic Preservation Department, PO Box 4950,
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Attention: Mr. Alan Downer

Pueblo of Zuni, PO Box 339, Zuni, NM 87327
Attention: Mr. Arden Kucate

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, PO Box 2656, Tuba City, AZ 86045

Southern Paiute Consortium, Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation,
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Attention: Mr. Charley Bulletts

State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Office,
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Attention: Mr. Sam Spiller

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Attention: Ms. Perri Benemelis

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Attention: Mr. Gerald Zimmerman

Colorado Water Conservation Board, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 718,
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Attention: Ms. Jennifer Gimbel

Colorado River Commission of Nevada, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3100,
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New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, PO Box 25102, Santa Fe, NM 87504
Attention: Mr. Estevan López

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Attention: Mr. John Shields

Director, Division of Water Resources, PO Box 146201, Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Attention: Mr. Dennis Strong

Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, PO Box 1315, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
Attention: Mr. Larry Stevens

Grand Canyon Trust, 2601 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Attention: Mr. Nikolai Lash

Grand Canyon River Guides, PO Box 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
Attention: Mr. Sam Jansen

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, 10429 S. 51st Street, Suite 230,
Phoenix, AZ 85044
Attention: Ms. Leslie James

Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, 2825 E. Cottonwood Parkway, Suite 200,
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
Attention: Mr. Ted Rampton

Upper Colorado Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,
125 S. State Street, Room 6107, Salt Lake City, UT 84138
Attention: Mr. Dennis Kubly

Adaptive Management Work Group Alternates
Technical Work Group Members and Alternates
(Via e-mail)