

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

October 11, 2005

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

As of October 1, 2005, storage in the major Upper Basin reservoirs decreased by 202,900 acre-feet and storage in the Lower Basin reservoirs decreased by 1,518,900 acre-feet during September. Total System active storage as of October 5th was 34.878 million acre-feet (maf) or 59 percent of capacity, which is 5.048 maf more than one year ago.

September releases from Hoover, Davis, and Parker Dams averaged 10,500, 12,700 and 9,200 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Planned releases from those three dams for the month of October 2005 are 10,800, 12,300, and 8,700 cfs, respectively. The October releases represent those needed to meet downstream water requirements including those caused by reduced operation of Senator Wash Reservoir.

As of October 6th, taking into account both measured and unmeasured return flows, the Lower Division States' consumptive use of Colorado River water for calendar year 2005, as forecasted by Reclamation, totals 6.973 maf and is described as follows: Arizona, 2.474 maf; California, 4.203 maf; and Nevada, 0.296 maf. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) will divert 1.336 maf, of which 0.129 maf are planned to be delivered to the Arizona Water Bank. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will use about 0.695 maf in 2005, which is 55,000 acre-feet less than its 2004 use of mainstream water.

The preliminary end-of-year estimate by the Board staff for 2005 California agricultural consumptive use of Colorado River water under the first three priorities and the sixth priority of the 1931 *California Seven Party Agreement* is 3.451 maf. This estimate, by Board staff, is based on the projected use by the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Yuma Project-Reservation Division, the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. Figure 1, found at the end of this report, depicts the historic projected end-of-year agricultural use for the year.

Colorado River Operations

Final Consultation Meeting – 2006 Annual Operating Plan

On September 19, 2005, Reclamation held its final consultation meeting on the development of the 2006 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System Reservoirs (2006 AOP). Based upon current and projected hydrologic conditions within the Colorado River Basin, Reclamation anticipates that 2006 will result in a "Partial Domestic Surplus" declaration regarding the releases from Hoover Dam, the objective minimum release of 8.23 maf will most

likely control the releases from Glen Canyon Dam, and Mexico will be allowed to schedule the delivery of 1.5 maf of water during calendar year 2006.

As in the 2005 AOP, the 2006 AOP contains language for a mid-year review of the releases from Glen Canyon Dam: “In the event that the 2006 March mid-month inflow forecast projects combined live storage in Lakes Powell and Mead on September 30, 2006, to be less than actual combined live storage as of September 30, 2004, the Secretary will conduct a mid-year review to determine if hydrologic conditions warrant an adjustment to the release amount from Lake Powell for water year 2006. This review would be conducted pursuant to Article I(2) of the Operating Criteria and would take place in April 2006. Any revision to the AOP would consider the purposes and benefits of Lake Powell and Lake Mead and would occur through the consultation process as required by applicable Federal law.” None of the Basin states liked this language; however, agreement among Basin states could not be reached on substitute language to be contained in the 2006 AOP. Thus, letters from both the Upper Basin states and the Lower Basin states were sent to Secretary Norton prior to the end of the comment deadline.

On September 30th, the Lower Division states submitted their letter to Secretary Norton regarding the 2006 mid-year review. This letter indicated that the Lower Division states have considered inclusion of language calling for a mid-year review of the releases from Glen Canyon Dam in the Bureau of Reclamation's draft 2006 AOP. After considering the runoff within the Colorado River Basin resulting from the 2000 - 2004 drought; the runoff that occurred within the Colorado River Basin in 2005; and the ongoing discussions among the Colorado River Basin states to develop shortage guidelines for the Lower Basin and conjunctive management guidelines for Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions, we have concluded that inclusion of language calling for a mid-year review of the releases from Glen Canyon Dam in the 2006 AOP is not justified. This conclusion can be based solely upon the existing and projected maximum probable, most probable, and minimum probable storage conditions within the Basin in 2006 and not an interpretation of the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs ("LROC"), the Colorado River Compact or any other component of the “Law of the River.” The letter further stated that even under the minimum probable storage condition, the mid-year review would not need to occur.

This letter also reiterated the Lower Division states’ concerns associated with modifications of releases from Glen Canyon Dam through the AOP mid-year review process. The Lower Division states continue to maintain that a modification of releases can only be accomplished through a formal change of the LROC. The Lower Division states believe that additional technical studies and evaluations must be completed, in conjunction with continued consultations with the seven Basin states, prior to initiating formal changes to the existing LROC. The letter concludes with a request to modify the final language in the 2006 AOP to remove any language associated with potential reduction of the objective minimum release from Lake Powell via a mid-year review. A copy of the Lower Division states’ letter to Secretary Norton has been included in the Board folder.

In the Upper Division states’ letter of September 27, 2005, the Upper Division states indicated that they support the Secretary in calling for a mid-year review and agree that the Secretary has the authority to conduct such a review and to reduce the releases from Glen

Canyon Dam below the objective minimum release of 8.23 maf. The Upper Division states further supported the language contained in the draft 2006 AOP; however, it was their opinion that it would be more appropriate and correct to trigger the mid-year review solely based upon the storage in Lake Powell. A copy of the Upper Division states letter of September 27th to Secretary Norton is included in the handout material.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California – Final 2004 Water Year Storage and Interstate Release Agreement (SIRA) Storage Account Report

On September 14th The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) reported that 10,000 acre-feet was stored pursuant to MWD's existing Storage and Interstate Release Agreement with the Southern Nevada Water Authority. According to the MWD final report, the starting balance was zero with no debits. A copy of the final report is included in the Board folder.

Miscellaneous News Articles of Interest

Several news articles have been included in the Board folder associated with the following topics: 1) Nevada supports efforts to block the All-American Canal Lining lawsuit; 2) an editorial by Reclamation Commissioner John Keys; 3) a press release from Living Rivers in response to Commissioner Keys' editorial; and 4) an article reporting that Mexico has cleared its Rio Grande water debt to the United States. All of the articles have been included in the Board folder for the Board members' reference.

In the first article, Nevada water officials have indicated that they will join with federal officials to block the lawsuit filed by interests opposed to the lining of the All-American Canal. U.S. District Court Judge Kent Dawson approved Nevada's motion to intervene in the lawsuit on September 12th. Related to the Nevada intervention, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District has filed a similar motion to intervene. Neither motion was opposed by the plaintiffs.

On September 10th Reclamation Commissioner John Keys III had an editorial published in the Salt Lake Tribune. Commissioner Keys stated that the Colorado River System Reservoirs are again filling following the drought over the past five years. Commissioner Keys argues that maintaining and managing the storage capability of Lake Powell is critical to successfully managing and providing the long-term water supply to the 25 million residents of the Colorado River Basin.

In response to Commissioner Keys' editorial, the conservation organization, Living Rivers, issued a press release on September 12th. Living Rivers continues to maintain that Lake Powell is not a necessary component associated with long-term management of the water supply of the Colorado River Basin. Living Rivers states that elimination of Lake Powell, more effective management of Lake Mead, and implementing major underground water storage projects will result in more mainstream water supplies becoming available for future use within the Basin.

In the last article, it is reported that the Republic of Mexico has cleared its 13-year Rio Grande water debt to the United States. The repayment agreement was developed in March 2005 and included a series of water transfers that concluded on September 30th. In order to clear the debt, Mexico transferred approximately 717,000 acre-feet of Rio Grande water via storage in Falcon and Amistad Reservoirs.

Reclamation Initiates Public Process to Identify Methods to Recover or Replace the Bypass Flow

On September 22nd, Reclamation initiated a process to solicit information from the public and interested parties regarding potential methods to recover or replace the bypass flow discharged to the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico. Due to the effects of the recent drought, as well as projected long-term water supply demands, Reclamation believes it is time to formally address issues associated with replacing the bypass flows and/or operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP). On October 5th, Reclamation held public meetings in Yuma and Phoenix, Arizona to solicit comments and information related to potential recovery or replacement opportunities. Additionally, Reclamation is accepting written comments from interested stakeholders through November 15th. Reclamation will maintain a website to provide information about the bypass flows, concepts for bypass flow recovery or replacement, and facts about the YDP. The website can be accessed via Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region website at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/index.html>.

Basin States Discussions

Basin States' Meetings

Representatives of the Colorado River Basin states are continuing to meet and to be involved in the process established by Secretary Norton when she released her June 15th *Federal Register* notice regarding the development of management strategies associated with Colorado River reservoir operations at Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions. The Basin states prepared a joint statement that was presented at the public meetings that were held in Henderson, Nevada, on July 26th and Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 28th. In their statement, the Basin states supported the process initiated by the Secretary of the Interior to develop shortage guidelines for the release of water from Lake Mead. The statement indicated that these guidelines should be coordinated with anticipated releases from Lake Powell during low reservoir conditions. The economies of all seven Basin states depend on the effective management of the Colorado River System reservoirs. The primary objective in the development of such strategies must be the conservation of water supply consistent with the purposes for which Lakes Mead and Powell were authorized by the Congress.

This letter indicated that the Basin states are committed to work cooperatively together with the Department of the Interior in the development of these strategies. The Basin states have agreed that shortage guidelines should be designed to delay the onset and minimize the extent and duration of shortages in the Lower Basin. Also, they have agreed that management strategies should maximize the protection afforded to the Upper Basin by Lake Powell against possible calls upon the Upper Basin to curtail uses. Finally, agreement has been reached that the

shortage guidelines should be premised upon proportionate sharing of shortages by Mexico pursuant to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty.

In a second letter regarding the scope of the process initiated by Secretary Norton, the Basin states, on August 25th, finalized and sent a letter to Secretary Norton commenting on the scope of the process to develop Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines and explore potential management opportunities for Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions. In their letter the Basin states indicated that any reservoir operational strategy should be limited to an interim period; that operational strategies must be coordinated between Upper and Lower Basins; that shortages to Mexico would be shared proportionally to those incurred by users in the United States; that the Department of the Interior should implement basin-wide water conservation measures (e.g., additional regulatory storage, saltcedar eradication, etc.); and that the Department of the Interior should implement a water supply augmentation program within the Basin. A copy of the Basin states' letter has been included in the Board folder.

Since the August 25th meeting, the Basin States Technical Group has continued to work with Reclamation staff to identify potential reservoir operating strategies that may meet the two objectives that have were identified in the Basin states' July 28th letter to Secretary Norton. The alternatives operating strategies have been narrowed to three strategies: 1) Stepped Releases from Lake Powell, 2) Balancing Reservoir Contents in Lakes Powell and Mead, and 3) a Hybrid of the two previous strategies. Each of these alternative operating strategies are being refined in an attempt to best meet the identified objectives to delay the onset and minimize the extent and duration of shortages in the Lower Basin and to avoid, to the extent possible, a Compact call requiring the Upper Basin to curtail its uses.

On a parallel track, the Technical Committee and the Lower Basin states' representatives are meeting to address the issues associated with the proposals being advanced by the State of Nevada to meet its current and future water needs. In general, these include: full consumptive use of all water supplies to the Southern Nevada Water Authority; non-system groundwater development in the Coyote Springs Valley, the Three Lakes and Tikaboo South Valleys, and in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties; retirement of Virgin and Muddy Rivers agriculture; and the Virgin River Surface Water Project.

Because of the issues that have been raised by the Basin states regarding the Virgin River Surface Water Project associated with further development of the tributaries within the Lower Basin, Nevada has identified a number of alternatives for deferring the development of the Virgin River Project. These projects include: funding Lower Basin System efficiencies (regulatory storage facilities), off-stream banking in Arizona and California groundwater basins, Lake Mead banking, land fallowing and forbearance agreements with Arizona and California, amend the Interim Surplus Guidelines, fund operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant, and temporary use of the Virgin River water rights and conveyance of the water through Lake Mead. Each of these alternatives has issues and precedent-setting ramifications associated with them. The Basin states are currently evaluating these issues and ramifications to determine, as states, which of these alternatives are we willing to proceed with at this time.

The next meeting of the Basin states is scheduled to be held in Denver, Colorado, on October 28th. Prior to this meeting, the Lower Basin states' representatives will meet to further discuss obtaining a unified Lower Basin position regarding the next steps to be taken in both Secretary Norton's process to identify management opportunities for Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions and to address Nevada's current and future water supply needs.

Related to the ongoing Basin states discussions, a Colorado conservation organization, Rock the Earth, submitted written comments to Reclamation associated with the development of management strategies for Lakes Powell and Mead during shortage conditions. Rock the Earth maintains that the existing reservoir system is not operated efficiently, leads to continuing environmental degradation, reduces recreational and tourism opportunities, and contributes to reduced safety associated with flood control operations. Rock the Earth recommends the following: 1) that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement be prepared; 2) the option of decommissioning Lake Powell should be considered; 3) manage Lake Mead as the primary reservoir; 4) bank surplus or unused water supplies in underground storage facilities; 5) implement water conservation strategies; 6) update and modify the "Law of the River;" 7) implement feasible habitat restoration projects; and 8) study and develop plans for sediment transport and removal from Lakes Powell and Mead and other impoundments. A copy of the Rock the Earth comments and recommendations are included in the Board folder.

Scoping Meetings on Preparation of Shortage and Conjunctive Management Guidelines

The informal scoping process that Secretary Norton initiated on June 15th has now become a formal NEPA process. On September 30, 2005, the Department of the Interior released a *Federal Register* notice indicating its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and to solicit comments and hold public scoping meetings on the development of Lower Basin shortage guidelines and coordinated management strategies for the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir conditions. Through this NEPA process, Reclamation is considering development of: 1) specific guidelines that will identify when releases from Lake Mead will satisfy Lower Basin mainstream consumptive use requirements of less than 7.5 maf and the manner in which those releases would be reduced and 2) coordinated management strategies for the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Alternatives to be considered in the EIS will be developed through this NEPA process.

The dates for the four public scoping meetings to receive comments are:

- November 1, 2005, in Salt Lake City, Utah
- November 2, 2005, in Denver, Colorado
- November 3, 2005, in Phoenix, Arizona
- November 8, 2005, in Henderson, Nevada

Written comments will be received by Reclamation through November 30, 2005. Copies of the *Federal Register* notice and the news release announcing the initiation of the public scoping process are included in the Board's handout materials.

Miscellaneous Related News Articles of Interest

Related to the Basin states discussions, a recent article in the Salt Lake Tribune discusses the issues associated with the Basin states use of tributary flows in the Colorado River Basin. The article reports that the Basin states had reached general agreement on how the Colorado River should be managed during low-reservoir years, but were unable to reach agreement about water releases from Lake Powell in the upcoming year. Additionally, the article reports that there is still no agreement on how individual states can utilize water supplies from those tributaries that flow into the mainstream. The article points out that the Upper Basin states have long protested Arizona's claim to the waters of the Gila River, and now are protesting Nevada's proposal to utilize water from the Virgin River. A copy of the article is included in the Board folder.

Similarly, a recent article in the Casa Grande, Arizona newspaper reports on the status and importance of the current Basin States negotiations and discussions associated with the reservoir management strategies and shortage guidelines and potential impacts to Arizona's surface and groundwater users. The article describes, in some detail, the letter submitted by the seven Basin States to Secretary Norton on August 25th. A copy of the article is included in the Board folder.

A recent article in the Las Vegas Sun reported that a study panel from the Southern Nevada Water Authority recently completed an evaluation of potential water supply options for the southern Nevada metropolitan region. The panel submitted twenty-two specific recommendations including ocean water desalination, water conservation, water use efficiency improvements, as well as continuing to develop water supplies from the Virgin and Muddy Rivers. A copy of the article has been included in the Board folder.

Colorado River Environmental Activities

Implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)

Pursuant to the LCR MSCP Funding and Management Agreement (FMA) executed on April 4, 2005, twenty-five percent (25%) of the total annual funding commitment for Fiscal Year 2006 was due on September 30th. Based upon Section 8.3 of the FMA, California's share of the non-federal funding commitment for FY-2006 will be \$3,491,619.08. The remaining increments of California's share will be due on January 1st, April 30th, and July 31st.

The California LCR MSCP financial contributors have amended the Joint Payment Agreement (JPA) to reflect that the California contributors are now responsible for making their annual payments directly to Reclamation. Toward this end, I can report that the California financial share of LCR MSCP implementation for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 has been made by all of the contributors with the exception of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, who require City Council approval and authorization.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

On August 29th, The Salt Lake Tribune published an article describing a flow release experiment to be conducted in the Grand Canyon reach of the Colorado River. The flow experiment was intended to reduce high- and low-water fluctuations to roughly half of what they were during that period in late-August. The intent of the modified flow releases from Glen Canyon Dam was to analyze and evaluate potential impacts and effects to aquatic habitats utilized by native endangered fishes, including the humpback chub. During the three-day test flow, the flows were reduced from a range of 10,000-18,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a range of 6,500-9,000 cfs. The flows were adjusted to a steady flow 8,000 cfs on September 21st, with the reduced high-low flows resumed on October 8th through the end of October. A copy of the news article is included in the Board folder.

WATER QUALITY

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group (Work Group) has had two meetings since the last Board meeting. The first meeting was on August 29-31, 2005, and the second meeting was on October 3rd, both in Salt Lake City.

The August Work Group agenda was as follows: 1) Eden Lateral Project, 2) Parallel Program review, 3) EQIP report card and draft recommendation letter, 4) 2005 Review public comments and responses, 5) Paradox financial issues, 6) Economic Detriment study, 7) New Forum Report Outlines, 8) Energy Development, 9) Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area – USGS, 10) Executive Director’s Report, and 11) Future Meetings.

The October 3rd meeting was scheduled to further discuss two of the August meeting agenda items and issues that needed more information, i.e., salt load factor and Paradox Project issues.

Eden Lateral Project

Based on discussions at the July Work Group meeting in Cortez and the Work Group request, representatives from Wyoming Water Development (WWD), NRCS (Wyoming), and Water District (on the phone from Wyoming State Engineer’ Office) were present and provided additional information. The main issue was the availability of the discretionary Funds for cost sharing (that was discussed at the Cortez meeting) and more importantly the availability of the fund in timely manner to accommodate the implementation of the project. All parties involved, confirmed that to move on with the project implementation, a commitment by the Forum to provide approximately \$1.6 million (50% of the cost) within a year is needed (the funds do not have to be available at this time). The Work Group concluded that with the amount of the money available this year (from 2004) and the funding for 2005 (which will be available by the end of the year), it would recommend that the Forum approve this project.

Parallel Program Review

Based upon the tour of the projects in the Cortez Area in July, there were some concerns whether all projects that were funded by the Parallel Program were qualified and are cost-effective (some projects that were rejected through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process have been able to get Parallel funding). Because of this issue, it was concluded that the Work Group needs to review the salt-loading factor criteria and the cost-effectiveness of the projects (different projects use different methodologies for salt-load factor for cost-effectiveness calculations). It was suggested that no further canal lining projects be approved before the salt-loading factor issue is resolved.

At the October 3rd meeting, the issue of salt-load factor was discussed in detail. Reclamation made a presentation on its methodologies for determining the salt-load factors for Pico River Basin, San Rafael River Basin, and Uinta Basin in Utah to consider in the RFP process. For the Uinta Basin, the factor will be the tonnage per acre-foot; however, a different approach will be used in Pico River Basin, and San Rafael River Basin. Reclamation reported that the salt load factors, which have been used in Colorado, have been reviewed and appear to be acceptable. During the meeting the Work Group concluded that it now has a better understanding of the salt-load factor calculations; however, more detailed information is needed.

Reclamation intends to release the RFPs for the next funding cycle in December. Reclamation has requested the Forum's continued support of the RFP process. The Work Group has suggested that it be afforded the opportunity to review the draft RFP process before making any recommendations to the Forum and suggested that Reclamation may want to provide the Advisory Council with the information regarding the RFP process at its October 25th meeting in Riverside and to seek direction from Advisory Council.

EQIP Report Card and Draft Recommendation Letter

For the purpose of the making recommendations for the distribution of the EQIP funds among the states, the projects are evaluated and ranked based on various factors; however, the primary factor is the cost-effectiveness. The Work Group concluded that it can recommend a 50/50 distribution of the available funding between Colorado and Utah, after any money needed by Wyoming is subtracted from the available funds.

2005 Triennial Review Report, Public Comments and Responses

No comments were received from the public during the review process on the 2005 Triennial Review Report. The report will be presented to the Forum at its October 26th meeting in Riverside, at which time Forum approval will be sought to finalize the Triennial Review Report.

Paradox Project Accounting Issues

There are several inter-related issues associated with Paradox Project; however, the main issue is the repayment schedule as it relates to the life of the Project. It is defined that the repayment schedule is based on the life of the Project, or 50 years, whichever comes first. Reclamation estimates that the existing well may be functional until 2013, which makes the life of the project to be 16 years. Consequently, the repayment would be approximately \$800,000 per year and the first payment would be due in 2007. There is concern by the states that the Project has not functioned as it was intended; and thus, the states do not have any obligation to repay the associated costs of the Project.

Reclamation is going to study the alternatives for the Project beginning in 2006. This study will take about two years to complete. Reclamation has indicated that the development of a second well was included in the EIS; and thus, if a second well is developed, it would be considered a part of the original Project and will extend the life of the Project. The Work Group has raised the issue that the repayment is scheduled to begin in 2007; however, if the studies are not be complete by then, this situation raises a number of questions for the states. During the Work Group meeting on October 3rd, Reclamation provided more financial data regarding the Project. However, there are still a number of issues that remain unresolved. The Work Group concluded that it needs to report the status of these discussions to the Forum at its October 26th meeting in Riverside and to seek further direction from the Forum.

Economic Detriment Study

An update on the Economic Damage Study, which was based on 2003 costs, was presented to the Work Group. The estimated damage above 500 mg/L salinity is approximately \$306 million per year. The breakdowns of the damages on different segments of the study are: \$148.3 million for agriculture, \$80.4 million for household, and \$22.3 million for commercial, \$13.7 million for utilities, \$15.9 million for industrial, and \$25.0 million for policy related. Also, the results of the model for scenarios with and without salinity control programs were presented. It was concluded that with the salinity control program, there is approximately \$76.5 million of savings, which equates to about \$187 per ton of salt removed.

New Forum Report Outlines

At the Cortez meeting in July, Work Group members were given assignments to prepare outlines for the different sections of the report and bring them to the August meeting. These outlines were presented and were discussed. The format of the report and the outlines will be presented to the Forum at its October meeting.

Energy Development

The USGS will have a detailed presentation at the Advisory Council Meeting in October on this issue. A related issue in Wyoming was discussed.

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area – USGS

The USGS made a detail presentation on the results of a scientific study on the relation between salinity, selenium and sediment for the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. It was very informative.

Executive Director's Report

The Forum's Executive Director, Mr. Jack Barnett, brought up two issues: (1) the EQIP cost share percentage with the project owners, which seems to be a concern in the future. The reason for bringing up this issue was his recent meeting and tour with NRCS authorities; and (2) the need for the Work Group to recommend the level of funding to the Forum that it would recommend to the Advisory Council. The economic damages should be a basis for the recommendation of the level of funding. There was discussion on whether we should continue to ask for a percentage of the EQIP or a fixed amount. It was concluded that the language of letter would be different this year

Future Meetings

The schedule for the October Work Group, Advisory Council and Forum meetings in Riverside are as follows:

- Work Group Meeting: October 24th at 1:00 p.m. at the Salinity Lab.
- Advisory Council Meeting: October 25th, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Mission Inn
- MWD-sponsored tour: 1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Forum Meeting on October 26th

Department of Energy's ROD for Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Site Remediation Project

Included in the Board folder is a copy of Department of Energy's (DOE) News Release notifying that a Record of Decision (ROD) clearing the way for the removal of 11.9 million tons of radioactive uranium mill tailings from the banks of the Colorado River in Utah has been signed by the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Samuel W. Bodman. Under the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Site ROD, the tailings will be moved, predominately by rail, the proposed Crescent Junction site, Utah, more than 30 miles from the Colorado River.

Also, included in the Board folder is a copy of a DOE News Release. DOE announced that it plans to hold two public meetings on the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project: 1) Wednesday, October 5th in Moab, Utah, and 2) Thursday, October 6th in Thompson Springs, Utah. This is the first public meeting since the DOE released its ROD to move the tailings from the banks of the Colorado River. DOE wants to keep the affected communities informed of its plans.

Status of the Clean Water Coalition Systems Conveyance and Operations Program (SCOP) Process

Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region and the National Park Service's Lake Mead National Recreation Area, recently prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to evaluate the potential impacts associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of the Systems Conveyance and Operations Program (SCOP).

The Clean Water Coalition (CWC) is comprised of the three agencies currently responsible for wastewater treatment in Las Vegas Valley: the City of Vegas, the City of Henderson, and the Clark County Water Reclamation District. The CWC proposes to implement the SCOP, which would include an Effluent Interceptor pipeline plus one or a combination of alternatives to discharge the highly treated effluent into the Lower Colorado River System via Lake Mead, while minimizing the impacts to water quality and other natural resources. The SCOP would provide an alternative discharge point for the effluent, which is currently discharged to Lake Mead through the Las Vegas Wash.

In the Board folder, you will find the information on the DEIS Public Hearings dates and locations and how to provide comments. Representatives from CWC plan to attend the October 12th Board meeting and provide an update and status report on the SCOP project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald R. Zimmerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director