

**RESOLUTION**  
**of the**  
**COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Regarding the Lower Basin Drought Contingency**  
**Planning Efforts**

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Board of California has been organized under California law since 1937 under California Water Code Sections 12500 et seq., with the purpose and duty to confer with representatives of other States in the Colorado River Basin, representatives of the United States, and others concerning problems and measures relating to the development of the Colorado River Basin, the use of the water of the Colorado River System, and the protection of the interests therein of the State, and to negotiate and make recommendations respecting such problems and measures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928, the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968, the Consolidated Decree in Arizona v. California, 547 U.S. 150 (2006) and other elements of the Law of the River have established the rights and responsibilities of the State of California and its water users with respect to the use of waters of the Colorado River; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River provides significant economic benefits to the State of California and its water users by providing water for domestic, agricultural, industrial and recreational uses, including the provision of hydropower; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Basin States, water management agencies and the Department of the Interior have a long history of working together within the Law of the River to meet challenges as they arise and develop innovative water management strategies for the benefit of the Colorado River System; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2007, the Secretary of the Interior executed the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead for implementing the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs Pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act (the 2007 Guidelines); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 Guidelines set forth coordinated, operational protocols between Lakes Mead and Powell to allow the system to operate more efficiently during drought, establish shortage guidelines in the Lower Basin, and implement the Intentionally Created Surplus mechanism for the storage and retrieval of water in Lake Mead and it is the desire of the Colorado River Board of California to support the continued successful implementation of the 2007 Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, several water management agencies within California entered into the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and related agreements, which have been successfully implemented along with other successful water management strategies and agreements to result in the conservation and transfer of over two million acre-feet of water from agricultural users to municipal users within California, which have helped

ensure California's water uses are maintained within its lawful apportionment under the Law of the River; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Board of California supports the continued implementation of the QSA and related agreements, and other water management agreements that enable California to continue to efficiently utilize its Colorado River resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Board of California recognizes the need to continue to address ongoing challenges associated with the current drought within California and in the Colorado River Basin; and

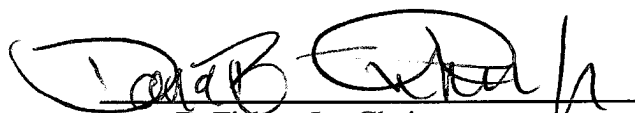
**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Board of California and water management agencies in California have participated with the other Lower Division States of Arizona and Nevada, the Upper Division States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and a number of water management agencies located in those states, the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation in the development of strategies and programs that federal, state and local entities can take in a coordinated fashion to plan for and respond to drought and sustainability in the Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, drought contingency planning efforts within the Lower Division States have included the goals of voluntary development of additional quantities of water stored in Lake Mead, allowing for increased flexibility for water users during low reservoir levels, and reducing the risks associated with the ongoing drought in the Colorado River Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, in support of the ongoing Lower Basin drought contingency planning efforts, the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Colorado River Board of California and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada have developed a Memorandum of Understanding for Pilot Drought Response Actions; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Colorado River Board of California supports the ongoing drought contingency efforts within the Colorado River Basin and among the Lower Division States and water users, and authorizes the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California to execute the Memorandum of Understanding for Pilot Drought Response Actions.

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION** is approved and adopted by the Colorado River Board of California, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014.

  
Dana B. Fisher, Jr., Chairman