Determination of a Reservation of an Additional 350 Acre-Feet of the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project Water for Federal Use

Introduction. This determination reserves from the first stage of the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (Project) 350 acre-feet of water to be consumptively used in the State of California at Federal facilities or on Federal lands adjacent to the Colorado River. The use of the water is for domestic, municipal, industrial, and recreational purposes only, as authorized by the Lower Colorado Water Supply Act. This amount is in addition to the 1,150 acre-feet of water committed to the Bureau of Land Management pursuant to Agreement No. 8-07-30-W0375 dated September 29, 1998.

Initially, up to 100 acre-feet of the 350 acre-feet water reservation will be used for the Parker Dam Camp facilities located on Reclamation-administered lands in California. The remainder of the water reservation is for anticipated Reclamation use or other Federal use when appropriate arrangements are made with Reclamation. Reclamation will give notice in the Federal Register of the place of use for the remaining 250 acre-foot reservation, together with the identity of the Federal agency putting the water to use in California, as such information becomes available.

Legal and Policy. The authority for this determination is the Lower Colorado Water Supply Act dated November 14, 1986.

Before the Lower Colorado Water Supply Act was enacted, a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Lower Colorado Water Supply Study Planning Report/Environmental Assessment, No. LC-86-5, dated July 1986 was submitted to Congress.

Background. A 1975 Task Force on Water for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Other Noncontract Users in the Lower Colorado River Basin acknowledged California's 4.4 million acre-feet per year apportionment was already contracted for and California's then
present water needs exceeded 4.4 million acre-feet. The Task Force’s recommended course of action became the basis for the Lower Colorado Water Supply Act.

That act authorized the construction, in stages, of a well field in the Sand Hills area in Imperial County near the All-American Canal. The well field can pump no more than 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year. The Project is to supply water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and recreational purposes only for Federal and non-Federal entities whose lands or interests in lands are located adjacent to the Colorado River in the State of California who do not hold rights to Colorado River water or whose rights are insufficient to meet their present or anticipated future needs, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

The first stage of the Project has a capacity of 5,000 acre-feet. The City of Needles, on behalf of itself and its subcontractors, has contracted for 3,500 acre-feet of first stage capacity, and BLM has an entitlement of 1,150 acre-feet of first stage capacity for use on BLM-administered lands. There remains 350 acre-feet of uncommitted first stage capacity.

**Effect of this determination.** This determination reserves the final uncommitted annual consumptive use of 350 acre-feet of water from the first stage of the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project. The water is to be used in the State of California at Federal facilities or on Federal lands adjacent to the Colorado River. This determination is effective on the date shown below.

Dated **12/27/04**  
Robert W. Johnson  
Regional Director