

On Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 11:57 AM, Austin Cox <austincox@utah.gov> wrote:

Eric,

Please see the attached letter the Governor received a copy of from Victor Baker to Secretary Jewell. You should have also received a copy. Do you recommend our office do anything further with this letter?

Thanks for your review,
Austin

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Austin Cox
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From: "Eric Millis" <ericmillis@utah.gov>
Date: Oct 19, 2015 3:32 PM
Subject: Re: Victor Baker letter to Secretary Jewell
To: "Austin Cox" <austincox@utah.gov>
Cc: "Robert King" <robertking@utah.gov>, "Darin Bird" <darinbird@utah.gov>, "Todd Adams" <toddadams@utah.gov>
Hi Austin:

Thanks for asking. We've reviewed this letter and would not recommend the Governor do anything that would encourage the Secretary of Interior or the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on this.

In the 2015 state legislative general session, Senator Jim Dabakis ran SJR012 to encourage the National Research Council, a part of the NAS, to do this type of research on the Colorado River. That resolution failed in committee. The Colorado River is one of the most studied and regulated rivers in the world. In addition to the seven Colorado River Basin states, there are a host Native American tribes, numerous federal

agencies representing science as well as management, and numerous stakeholders representing environmental interests, recreational use, fishing, etc. that cooperatively participate in the study and management of the river. Given this amount of study and effort, it seems much work would be required on the part of the NAS to build up enough speed to be on par with the current efforts. There would also be significant redundancy as the NAS proposes to do work already being done by the science and management agencies. We are also concerned about additional involvement that may dilute the states' voice in the management of the Colorado River. We are therefore not supportive of this study concept.

Thank you,

Eric

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