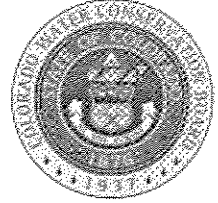


STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

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August 25, 2006

Mr. Les Lampe
Project Manager
Black & Veatch
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Kansas City, MO 64114

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Assistant Project Manager
CH2MHill
2485 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95833-2937

Ref: Colorado River Long-Term Augmentation Options

Gentlemen,

Pursuant to our July 14, 2006 request to Colorado River water interests on options for long-term augmentation of the Colorado River, we received responses from Colorado's major water users, a few environmental interests, and proponents for several specific water projects. Colorado indicated in our request to all our water interests that we wanted to coordinate all comments so that the study team would receive a consolidated version of those comments and the states' perspective on those comments.

It is appropriate to distinguish between (1) long-term augmentation water sources and (2) water management improvements and increased efficiencies in water uses. Water management and increased efficiencies in water use, while extremely important to maximizing the efficient use of water in the Colorado River Basin, do not constitute long-term augmentation sources. In fact, many of these types of activities are being utilized to create ICS or ICUA. Therefore, we believe that this study needs to focus on the introduction of "new water" into the basin. Once "new water" resources are identified and evaluated, then it would seem appropriate to evaluate how best to manage the "new water" brought into the basin. A discussion on whether or not any augmentation source is system water or non-system water will be an important part of any evaluation.

We suggested in our request of Colorado's water interests that the augmentation options be divided into two categories, (1) Lower Basin Augmentation Options and (2) Augmentation Options that could be applicable to both the Upper and Lower Basins. The responses received were heavily in favor of pursuing augmentation options limited to those that could be

Bill Owens
Governor

Russell George
Executive Director

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CWCB Director

Dan McAuliffe
Deputy Director

implemented in the Lower Basin. We concur with this response and believe that such should be the focus of the study effort.

Given the above background Colorado suggests the following options be evaluated in this augmentation study:

Lower Basin Augmentation Options

1. Potential Desalination Projects involving both sea water and brackish groundwater in the Lower Basin States and Mexico
2. Groundwater Imports
 - Aquifer storage and recharge programs
 - Conjunctive Use and Management Options
3. Land fallowing
 - Permanent dry up
 - Rotating fallowing programs
4. Vegetative Management
 - Control of Tamarisk and similar non-native vegetation
5. Importation from other basins
 - Snake and Columbia River Basins have been mentioned for years but never developed beyond the conceptual stage
 - Mississippi Basin as described in a 1-page paper titled "A sustainable source of water for the western United States"

These importation options have been mentioned over the years and comments received from our constituents pursuant to this request were again strongly divided on the issue. Environmental interests were strongly opposed and our major water users strongly believe such options are simply not viable and a waste of time.

6. *Weather Modification options are being addressed in a separate study effort and outside the scope of this effort*

Water Efficiency and Management Options:

We want to emphasize that we believe these efforts are not true augmentation strategies and should not receive any extensive focus during this study. These efforts however are important to an overall water strategy for the basin. These efforts should be limited to the Lower Basin and are already receiving significant consideration as part of the Lower Basin strategies to develop ICUA and ICS.

1. Matrix of conservation actions prepared by Dennis Underwood during previous water supply discussions and in large part as part of a package to help address Mexican Delta issues.
2. Coordination with other water conservation programs, improved irrigation projects and canal lining actions, such as the Colorado River Salinity Control Program, all could derive benefits from efforts to reduce system losses and conserve water.
3. Identification of existing or other surface or groundwater reservoir sites, either in or outside the basin, which could meet multiple in basin needs. Other significant reservoir sites that would greatly improve water management in the basin. We have deliberately left out the mention of specific water projects in the Upper Basin. Lower Basin projects mentioned in this category included:

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- a. Cadiz Groundwater Management Basin -- an aquifer storage and recovery program.

We hope these comments will help better direct the long-term augmentation study efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Kuharich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "K".

Rod Kuharich