



**Governor's Representatives on Colorado River Operations
States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and
Wyoming**

May 20, 2011

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

Honorable Mr. Michael Connor
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Honorable Edward Drusina, P.E.
Commissioner,
United States Section
International Boundary and
Water Commission
Commons Building C, Suite 306
4171 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902

Re: Seven Colorado River Basin States' Representation and Participation in Bi-National Water Management Opportunities Between the United States and Mexico

Dear Commissioners Connor and Drusina,

The seven Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) write this letter to affirm our continued interest in and dedication to working with the United States and Mexico to explore bi-national opportunities and develop cooperative efforts for addressing Colorado River needs in both countries. This letter identifies the principal representative(s) for each of the respective states and sets forth our continued commitment to the bi-national negotiation process with a goal of further improving the efficient management of the Colorado River system.

The Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of State, through the International Boundary and Water Commission, have worked diligently with the Basin States over the last several years to identify mechanisms for improving Colorado River water management consistent with the framework of the 1944 Water Treaty between the United States and Mexico. As memorialized in April 2007 correspondence with Secretary Kempthorne and December 2008 correspondence with Commissioner Ruth, we have engaged in this process to institute new mechanisms for the benefit of water users in both the United States and Mexico. Last year, the process resulted in finalizing Minutes 316, 317 and 318 with the Basin States' consensus support. We recognize and greatly appreciate both of your efforts in these endeavors.

Although last year's efforts represent tangible achievements, they also serve to highlight the need for further comprehensive, cooperative efforts on the Colorado River. The effects of the historic drought continue to significantly affect water users and the natural environment throughout the Basin. Moreover, water supply projections continue to identify potential gaps between future water supplies and demands basin-wide. As such, the need to develop and promote comprehensive mechanisms for the United States and Mexico to enhance Colorado River management has never been greater.

As you know, development and implementation of any water management mechanism on the Colorado River risk affecting the rights and obligations of the Basin States and their respective stakeholders. Hence, the significant progress on the Colorado River during the recent past has required extensive collaboration, consultation and consensus-based problem solving among and between the Basin States and the federal government. Meaningful progress in the bi-national process undoubtedly will require the same. In particular, Basin State participation, cooperation and acceptance will continue to be important to the successful completion and implementation of a comprehensive agreement with Mexico.

Faced with these realities, the Basin States are committed to participating in the bi-national process to develop consensus on comprehensive water management efforts consistent with the framework for the 1944 Water Treaty as part of the compacts, decree, laws and regulations that are collectively referred to as the "Law of the River." We further appreciate Reclamation and IBWC's commitment to provide for continued transparency and meaningful participation by the Basin States' representatives as the bi-national discussions progress. In keeping with these efforts, the Basin States gladly accept the invitation to participate in the 2011 kick-off meeting for the bi-national discussions on June 1, 2011 in Tijuana, Mexico. We further identify that the following principals and alternates will represent the Basin States' interests:

Arizona

*Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney, Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources*

*Perri Benemelis
Arizona Department of Water Resources*

Colorado

*Jennifer Gimbel, Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board*

*Alexandra Davis,
Assistant Director for Water
Department of Natural Resources*

New Mexico

*John D'Antonio,
New Mexico State Engineer*

*Estevan Lopez, Director
Interstate Stream Commission*

Wyoming

*Pat Tyrrell,
Wyoming State Engineer*

*Peter Michael
Chief Deputy Attorney General
State of Wyoming*

California

*Dana B. Fisher, Jr., Chairman
Colorado River Board of California*

*Gerald R. Zimmerman,
Executive Director Emeritus
Colorado River Board of California*

*Christopher S. Harris,
Colorado River Board of California*

Nevada

*Patricia Mulroy, General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority*

*James D. Salo
Colorado River Commission*

Utah

*Dennis Strong, Director
Division of Water Resources*

*Robert King,
Division of Water Resources*

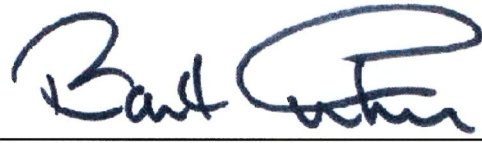
Note: Additional technical and legal staff will be identified as appropriate for different aspects of the negotiations.

Sincerely,

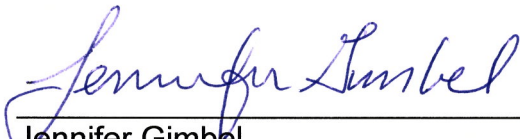
[Signatures on next page]



Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney
Acting Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources



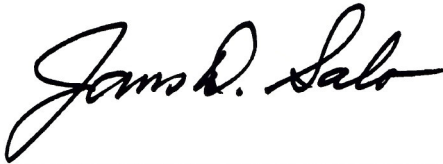
Dana B. Fisher, Jr.
Chairman
Colorado River Board of California



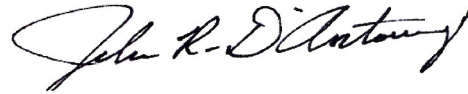
Jennifer Gimbel
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Patricia Mulroy
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Southern Nevada Water Authority



James D. Salo
Executive Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada



John R. D'Antonio, Jr.
Secretary
New Mexico Interstate Stream
Commission



Dennis Strong
Director
Utah Division of Water Resources
Utah Interstate Stream Commissioner



Patrick Tyrrell
State Engineer
State of Wyoming