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A R I Z O N A
THE CENTER OF CANYON COUNTRY

December 3, 2004

Regional Director
Attn: BC00-4600
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

Dear Ms. Harkins:

The City of Page, Arizona is appreciative for the opportunity to comment on the review of the Long Range Operating Criteria for the Colorado River reservoirs.

We understand that the Long Range Operating Criteria provides for the coordinated operation of the Colorado River reservoirs and for the equitable division of the use of the waters of the Colorado River system in conjunction with the 1922 Compact.

Comments:

1. The Long Range Operating Criteria should meet the intent of the 1922 Compact, yet be flexible enough to take into consideration variations in hydrologic conditions and drought.
2. The 1922 Compact intended for a flexible water delivery schedule based on 10 year averages. The existing criteria appears to dictate a minimal release that does not consider drought conditions.
3. A new minimal annual release given current conditions should be considered in the 6.5 to 7 million-acre feet range for the stabilization of both reservoirs.
4. The cost effective generation of hydroelectric power should not be jeopardized at Glen Canyon Dam; therefore, a minimum lake elevation should be established at Lake Powell.

City of Page
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In summary, the existing Long Range Operating Criteria have not only hurt the position of the Upper Basin but also jeopardized the future resources of the Lower Basin and hydroelectric generation for all the Western States.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,



J. Dean Slavens
Mayor

JDS/lts