



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 02 2019

The Honorable Martha McSally
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water and Power
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman McSally:

Enclosed is a response prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation to a question for the record submitted following the Subcommittee's March 27, 2019, hearing on "An Examination of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this material to the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
Ranking Member

**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power**

**March 27, 2019 Hearing: *An Examination of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan*
Questions for the Record Submitted to the Honorable Brenda Burman**

Questions from Senator Martha McSally

Questions: Commissioner Burman, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Grijalva and I, working with the seven states, developed legislation to ensure water conservation activities in the Colorado River Basin can begin in 2019 and be built in to the planning of operations for 2020. The statutory language was drafted to ensure the transmitted Drought Contingency Plan agreements can be immediately executed and implemented in a manner consistent with the environmental analyses undertaken for the 2007 Interim Guidelines and other relevant compliance documents for Colorado River System Project reservoirs above Lake Powell. As such, any further environmental compliance would only be required if future federal actions are outside the range of effects analyzed in these documents.

Have you seen the final legislative language that Chairman Grijalva and I have agreed to and introduced on April 2, 2019, and is my characterization of NEPA and ESA compliance in line with the way the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Interior would interpret this statute?

Response: Chairman McSally, thank you for your leadership on this issue. Yes, I have seen the final legislative language you and Chairman Grijalva introduced on April 2, 2019 and signed into law by the President on April 16, 2019. Your characterization of the environmental compliance is accurate. Further, we anticipate immediate execution by Interior, and implementation following execution of the transmitted Drought Contingency Plan agreements by the non-federal parties.



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MAY 02 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Huffman:

Enclosed is a response prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation to a question for the record submitted following the Subcommittee's March 28, 2019, hearing on "The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this material to the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
March 28, 2019 hearing on
“The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan”

Questions for the Record

Questions from Representative Napolitano

1. Director Burman, will the Bureau commit to working with Rep. Ruiz, me and this Committee to mitigate and improve the environmental degradation of the Salton Sea?
 - a. What are the Bureau’s plans to address this issue?

Response: Yes, Reclamation commits to working with the Committee on Salton Sea issues. As you are aware, in 2016, the Department of the Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Natural Resources Agency for the purposes of coordinating efforts at the Sea, including a commitment by the Department to pursue \$30 million in funding to help support operation, maintenance, and monitoring costs of State-initiated efforts. To date, Interior has met its funding commitments under the MOU. Recognizing the State of California's role as lead on Salton Sea management, Reclamation and the Interior look forward to continuing to coordinate on Salton Sea issues with the State, as well as tribal and local entities.



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MAY 15 2019

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Chair
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Haaland:

Enclosed are responses to follow-up questions from the April 2, 2019, legislative hearing before your Subcommittee on H.R. 306, H.R. 434, H.R. 823, and H.R. 1708. These responses were prepared by the National Park Service.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to you on these matters.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
Office of Congressional and
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Don Young
Ranking Member

Questions for the Record
House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
April 2, 2019 Legislative Hearing
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Dan Smith

Questions from Chair Debra Haaland

Question 1: In your written testimony, when speaking to H.R. 823, you stated that “Due to the complexity of Title IV, and the need for coordination between the three Bureaus (BLM, BOR, and NPS) as well as inter-Departmental cooperation between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, due to U.S. Forest Service involvement, the Administration is continuing to review this Title.”

- a. When can the Committee expect to receive the Department’s position on Title IV of H.R. 823, The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act?

Response: Title IV’s provisions, including proposed land transfers, affecting Curecanti National Recreation Area would impact lands currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service (under the Department of Agriculture), and the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service (all under the Department of the Interior). We are currently working on getting the views of these four bureaus aligned, but we do not have a unified Administration position on Title IV at this time.

Question 2: The Committee is aware that in November 2018 the Woolsey Fire burned nearly 100,000 acres in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

- a. Does NPS know, or have an estimate of, the extent to which the fire damaged natural and cultural resources within the proposed expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA?

Response:

We estimate that the Woolsey fire burned approximately 20,914 acres of Rim of the Valley lands that are proposed to be included in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area under H.R. 1708. However, we are not assessing fire damage to natural and cultural resources on these lands, as they are not within the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area boundaries.