Public Notice
Review of Colorado River Water Quality Standards
August, 2014

In 1975, Colorado joined with the other six Colorado River Basin States to adopt water quality standards with respect to salinity for the entire Colorado River Basin in the United States, as required under the newly enacted Clean Water Act. The standards contain two elements:

- Flow weighted annual TDS levels in the River at 3 numeric criteria stations in the Lower Basin: below Hoover Dam, below Parker Dam and at Imperial Dam.
- A Plan of Implementation consisting of scheduled construction of control measures, application of the Forum’s policies with respect to salinity discharges in the administration of the NPDES permit program by the States, and State implementation of non-point source management plans.

Every three years the States, through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), have reviewed these standards in compliance with the Clean Water Act. The Forum has issued its review of the standards covering the period 2014 – 2017 in a draft report entitled “2014 Review Water Quality Standards for Salinity Colorado River System”. The Forum and each of the States are soliciting public comments on the draft 2014 Review report. The draft can be found at: www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org or by contacting Steve Miller at the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Comments should be submitted before September 15, 2014 to:

Don Barnett, Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 W. 500 S. Suite 101 Bountiful, Utah 84010
or by email to dbarnett@barnettwater.com.

In general, the 2014 Review found that:
1) The salt load in the Colorado River has been reduced by 1.326 million tons per year thus far through the implementation of the Salinity Control Program.
2) There is no need to change the adopted numeric criteria or the Forum NPDES policies.
3) The Plan of Implementation identifies another 67,000 tons of annual salt removal to be accomplished by the year 2017.
4) With the Plan of Implementation in place, there is a very low probability (4% or less) of exceeding the numeric between now and 2017.
5) Salinity damages in the Lower Basin remain significant, but would have been much higher without the program.
6) The Forum and the states intend to continue their support of an aggressive salinity control program.

Please also send questions and copies of any comments to:
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