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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470



IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-4220  
2.2.4.23

May 15 2020

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Henry Martinez  
General Manager  
Imperial Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Subject: Resolution of the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) Commitment to Restore Water to the Colorado River System

Dear Mr. Martinez:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received IID's *2019 Additional Conserved Water Documentation Report* (Documentation Report), as revised, dated April 10, 2020. This Documentation Report identifies the conservation measures implemented by IID in calendar year (CY) 2019 to create 46,546 acre-feet (AF) of excess extraordinary conservation, with the intention of leaving the water in Lake Mead for the purpose of restoring water to the Colorado River system to resolve the outstanding issue regarding IID's 2010 advance mitigation deliveries to the Salton Sea without conserving an equivalent amount of Colorado River water.<sup>1</sup> Subsequent to prior correspondence between our agencies, IID recently notified Reclamation of its commitment to resolve this issue through its revised CY 2019 water order letter dated December 19, 2019.<sup>2</sup> Reclamation approved IID's revised CY 2019 water order by letter dated March 10, 2020.

As outlined in the Documentation Report, IID utilized 35,868 AF from its Main Canal Seepage Interception System (MCSIS) and 10,678 AF from its Tailwater Recovery Systems (TRS) to create the 46,546 AF of excess extraordinary conservation in CY 2019 to leave that water in Lake Mead.

Reclamation has reviewed IID's Documentation Report and confirms that the information adequately demonstrates that IID created 46,546 AF of excess extraordinary conservation in CY 2019 from its MCSIS and TRS conservation programs. Additionally, Reclamation acknowledges that, consistent with IID's revised CY 2019 water order, IID left the 46,546 AF of excess extraordinary conservation

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<sup>1</sup> As first reported in the 2010 *Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Arizona, California, and Nevada* (and subsequent reports), in 2010 IID delivered 46,546 AF of Colorado River water to the Salton Sea with a stated intention to store the water for use for Salton Sea mitigation requirements in 2011 and half of 2012. IID did not conserve an equivalent amount of water in 2011 and 2012 for delivery to the Salton Sea resulting in a Colorado River system storage depletion of 46,546 AF.

<sup>2</sup> By letter dated January 14, 2020, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California notified Reclamation of its support for IID's approach to resolving the issue.

**INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN**

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