



February 17, 2022

Commissioner Camille Touton
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Re: Implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Dear Commissioner Touton,

Thank you for taking time recently to meet with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) to discuss implementation by the Bureau of Reclamation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The 40 million people who rely on the Colorado River are experiencing a 22-year mega-drought that is causing increasing uncertainty about our future. The Infrastructure Law provides a unique opportunity to invest in ways to make our western water supplies more resilient. We must make sure that every dollar counts. With that in mind, we ask that you prioritize the areas below where the Infrastructure Law could make a significant difference to water management in our region.

Protect and Conserve Colorado River supplies¹

- We would encourage you to target funds on improvements in the Lower Basin that can produce water system savings on an ongoing basis, such as:
 - Brock Reservoir
 - Senator Wash
 - 242 Wellfields
 - Minute 323 Sanchez Mejorada Canal
 - Yuma California Waterway Spillway Gate Improvement

Address Significant Water Supply Concerns in Arizona and Prepare for Further Shortage

- Implement projects for the Ak-Chin Indian Community that address water quality concerns for their CAP water delivered via the Santa Rosa Canal.
- Invest in SCIF – SRP to CAP Interconnect Facility. This one piece of infrastructure could allow significant flexibility for the movement of non-project

¹ Many of these projects would qualify for multiple areas of funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as well as the \$250M for implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan in the Lower Basin specifically.

water into the CAP canal during times of shortage and further connect the two largest surface water conveyance systems in Arizona.

- Further the implementation of our joint System Use Agreement by funding CAP System Improvement Projects.

Modernize Agricultural Infrastructure and Invest in Groundwater Recovery

- Invest in N-Drip and similar technologies to increase agricultural efficiencies and reduce total water use.
- Invest with CAWCD and other water agencies in recovery wells and infrastructure to aid in firming tribal supplies.

Address Current and Future Environmental Responsibilities

- Formulate and invest in a more permanent solution for the Salton Sea to support conservation of Colorado River water.
- Accelerate investment in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) to address the effects of increased water conservation and scarcity in the lower basin.

Again, we want to thank you for the opportunity to provide further feedback on the Infrastructure Law. Please reach out to us with any questions or if we can provide further information. We appreciate our working relationship with you and your Phoenix Area Office and Lower Colorado Basin staff on these important projects and programs.

Sincerely,



Theodore C. Cooke, DBA
General Manager