United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-8000
ADM-1.10

AUG 17 2005

Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program
Steering Committee Members

Subject: Request for Final FY04 Financial Credit

Dear Steering Committee Members:

As outlined in Program Decision Document 05-001 "Process for Receiving and Utilizing Financial Credit for LCR MSCP Work Tasks Performed in FY 2004 and FY2005", Reclamation is providing the following information for obtaining final FY04 financial credit.

- At the June 22, 2005 Steering Committee Meeting, Program Decision Document 05-002 "Review and Recommendation on Reclamation FY04 Credit Request" was approved by consensus (Motion 05-010).

- On July 11, 2005, Reclamation forwarded the LCR MSCP FY04 Work Tasks and Obligations report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their review.

- In a letter dated July 29, 2005 (enclosed), the FWS indicated that all of the funded activities in the workplan have direct application to the implementation needs of the LCR MSCP.

Based on the response from the FWS, Reclamation is seeking final approval of financial credit for FY04. I certify that the FY04 obligation of funds was $3,381,440.00. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me at 702-293-8555.

Sincerely,

Lorri Gray

Lorri Gray
Program Manager
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species
Conservation Program

Enclosure

United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951
Telephone: (602) 242-0210 FAX: (602) 242-2513

In Reply Refer to:
AESO/SE

FILE COPY

July 29, 2005

Memorandum

To: Program Manager, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City, Nevada (LC-8000)

From: Field Supervisor

Subject: Request for Financial Credit for Conservation Actions Accomplished by Bureau of Reclamation During Federal Fiscal Year 2004

This responds to your July 11, 2005, request for review by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of financial credit for conservation actions undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as part of the advanced implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP). Reclamation anticipated completion of the LCR MSCP by Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 and had requested funding to support implementation of the program in that year. The LCR MSCP was completed in April, 2005, and the first full year of funding will be FY 2006. Reclamation will make a separate request to the FWS regarding funds expended in FY 2005 for LCR MSCP implementation.

The subject request primarily concerns funds expended in FY 2004; however, some of the funding provided for the conservation actions described in the *Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Work Tasks and Budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2004*, provided to us with your request for review, dates back to FY 2001. The total request for financial credit is $3,381,440.00. Specific projects and the funding provided for them are detailed in the work tasks document. This figure is the total financial credit being requested, and additional requests for financial credit from Reclamation for expenditures prior to FY 2005 are not anticipated.

We have reviewed the work tasks document provided to us. The conservation actions described therein are directed to the implementation needs of the LCR MSCP in several areas, including research on riparian and backwater restoration techniques, management of restoration areas, background information for system- and species-monitoring needs, information management, equipment for monitoring programs, and hatchery production of native fish for augmentation. All of these funded activities have direct application to the implementation needs of the LCR MSCP and allow for an expedited start in the accomplishment of the conservation measures.

Based on our review of the FY 2004 work tasks document, we approve $3,381,440.00 in financial credit for Reclamation to use in future implementation of the LCR MSCP in accordance

with sections 8.1.2 and 8.7.4 of the Funding and Management Agreement. Our approval is for financial credit only, and any future habitat credit related to the projects described in the FY 2004 work tasks document will require separate consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and consider your request for financial credit. We appreciate the level of detail and effort undertaken by Reclamation during the development of the LCR MSCP and your efforts to address important questions regarding the implementation of the program prior to completion of the conservation plan. If there are any questions regarding this response, please contact me (602) 242-0210 (x244) or Lesley Fitzpatrick (x244)

Steven L. Spangle

cc: Lower Colorado River Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service, Phoenix, AZ

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