

Exhibit _____

**Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District
Extraordinary Water Conservation Project – Land Fallowing**

ICS Category: Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus

Subcategory: Land Fallowing

Term: 2019 through 2026

Background:

Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District is an Arizona municipal corporation established by a resolution and order dated July 23, 1951, as adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Yuma County, Arizona in conformity with the provisions of Article 2, Chapter 75, of the Arizona Code of 1939, now codified as Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) Chapter 19, Title 48, Sections 2901-2923. The resolution and order are filed in Docket 40, Pages 513-521, records of the County Recorder, Yuma County, Arizona.

Article 13, Section 7 of the Arizona Constitution states “Irrigation, power, electrical, agricultural improvement, drainage and flood control districts, and tax levying public improvement districts, now or hereafter organized pursuant to law, shall be political subdivisions of the State, and vested with all the rights, privileges and benefits, and entitled to all the immunities and exemptions granted municipalities and political subdivisions under this Constitution or any law of the state.”

A.R.S 48-2901 specifically states “All irrigation districts organized under the laws of this state are declared to be municipal corporations for all purposes.”

As a political subdivision of the State of Arizona, the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District does not have organizational bylaws. The District’s governing statutes are prescribed by the State and can be found at Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.), Title 48, Chapter 19.

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to provide Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (the "District") an additional tool to manage inadvertent overruns, insure efficient use of the District's Colorado River entitlement, and allow District participation in the Arizona Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Conservation Program.

Land Following Project Implementation:

- a. Following of up to 3,000 acres of agricultural land, with a recent history of irrigation (three of the last four years), on either an annual, seasonal, or crop basis, or combination thereof, to create up to 10,000 acre-feet per year of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS).
- b. District-owned land will have first priority for full year following. In case of landowner interest exceeding available program acreages, the District's Board will select participating fields to insure impacts and benefits are spread throughout the District and among interested landowners.
- c. Compensation will be based on an annual or monthly per-acre basis in alignment with common land rental practices within the District.
- d. Participating landowners will be required to pay the District's full annual per acre O&M assessment.
- e. Landowners will be responsible for weed, dust, and nuisance control. Lands fallowed for a full year must have a cover crop (e.g., Bermuda grass) established at the beginning of the fallowing period or must implement other suitable land conservation practices.

Annual ICS Creation Amount: Up to 10,000 acre-feet per year of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

Quantification Methodology:

The Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District holds a consumptive use entitlement (diversions less return flows) of 278,000 acre-feet per year of Colorado River water to irrigate up to 62,744 acres of agricultural land within the boundaries of the District. Depending on cropping patterns, actual acreage farmed and weather, the District diverts

between 360,000 and 415,000 acre-feet of Colorado River Water per year and returns between 100,000 and 140,000 acre-feet per year as pumped drainage water.

- a. Annual fallowing: agricultural land with a recent history of irrigation (three of the last four years) will be fallowed for a 12-month period, either January through December or October through September. Participation will be on a full field (single delivery point) basis only. The conserved water yield will be based on the previous three years of water use history for the specific field fallowed, and calculated on a per-acre basis as:

Field specific Three-Year Average Per-Acre Water Use less Three-Year average Return Flow per Acre calculated as (Total District Return Flow Volume/Total District Acreage Irrigated).

- b. Seasonal fallowing: agricultural land with a recent history (three of the last four years) of irrigation will be fallowed for a four-month period, approximately April 15 through August 15. Participation will be on a full field (single delivery point) basis only. The conserved water yield will be based on one-third of the annual water use of the field for the prior three years, adjusted for return flow as described in (a) above.
- c. Crop Basis Fallowing: on agricultural land with a recent history of irrigation (three of the last four years), a full season non-hay spring crop usually grown in rotation with fall produce crops, will not be grown. The primary target crop is wheat with a December through May growing period. The conserved water yield will be based on the three-year average District-wide water application rate for that specific crop, adjusted for return flow as described in (a) above. Participation will be on a full field (single delivery point) basis only.

Verification Methodology:

- a. Fallowed field locations will be provided to the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as soon as landowner participation agreements are executed.
- b. Participating fields will be coded as non-irrigable in the District's water accounting system, thereby prohibiting water orders from being entered for those fields.

- c. All delivery gates in the District are Reclamation-designed Constant Head Orifice (CHO) gates. The gate wheels will be removed to secure the delivery gate and avoid inadvertent irrigation.
- d. District staff will monitor participating fields to ensure compliance.
- e. In addition to field verification by the District, Reclamation will conduct an independent inspection and verification.
- f. Diversion reduction accounting will be at the District's diversion point at Imperial Dam (the Gila Gravity Weir) by adding an average loss of 6% between the diversion and the field.

Limitation on the ICS Creation Amount:

The maximum amount of ICS that the District may create in any year pursuant to Exhibits _____ and _____ is limited to the amount of Colorado River water, that if added to its consumptive use, would not result in an Inadvertent Overrun pursuant to the October 10, 2003 Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy.

The total amount of ICS created pursuant to Exhibits _____ and _____ shall not exceed 10,000 acre-feet per year for storage in Lake Mead, and shall not exceed 20,000 acre-feet in aggregate.

Certification:

Pursuant to Section XI.F, XI.G, and Section 3.D.1 of the *Record of Decision, Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead*, dated December 2007, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District acknowledges the requirement to submit a Certification Report for the Secretary's review and verification containing appropriate information to demonstrate the amount of ICS created and that the method of creation was consistent with the above ICS Plan and a Delivery Agreement.

Delivery:

ICS created under this Exhibit shall be delivered in accordance with a Delivery Agreement between the United States of America and the Wellton Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, subject to a maximum annual delivery volume of 10,000 acre-feet or the total ICS volume created under this Exhibit and remaining undelivered, whichever is less.