



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor

THOMAS BUSCHATZKE
Director

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 310
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
602.771.8500
azwater.gov

May 22, 2019

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Governor, State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Report on the Signing of Drought Contingency Plan Agreements Pursuant to SJR 1001

Dear Governor Ducey,

On January 31, 2019, the Arizona Legislature passed, and you signed into law, Senate Joint Resolution 1001 (Joint Resolution) authorizing me, on behalf of the State of Arizona, to enter into several interstate agreements necessary to put the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) into effect in the Lower Colorado River Basin. The Joint Resolution requires me to promptly provide a written report to you and legislative leadership, regarding any agreement I enter into pursuant to the Joint Resolution. This letter serves as that report.

On May 20, 2019, I participated in a signing ceremony at Hoover Dam for the signing of agreements related to the DCP. The following documents were fully executed on May 20th:

1. Agreement Concerning Colorado River Drought Contingency Management and Operations. This agreement was signed by the Secretary of the Interior, through Timothy Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and representatives of the Seven Basin States, including myself on behalf of the State of Arizona.
2. Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement. This agreement was signed by the Secretary of the Interior, through Timothy Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and representatives of the Lower Basin States, including myself on behalf of the State of Arizona.

With the signing of the interstate agreements described above, the DCP is now in effect in the Lower Basin. The Lower Basin DCP will provide greater water security to Arizona water users through provisions designed to protect Lake Mead from falling to critically low levels. This will be accomplished through

contributions of water for storage in Lake Mead by all three Lower Basin States at certain Lake elevations and through the creation of greater capacity for storage of intentionally created surplus in the Lake.

The Lower Basin States are not acting alone to protect the sustainability of the Colorado River System. At the May 20 signing event, agreements were signed by representatives of the Upper Basin States and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through Assistant Secretary Petty, putting the DCP for the Upper Basin into effect. Additionally, the signing of the DCP agreements allows the Republic of Mexico's Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan to come into effect, a plan in parity and alignment with the Lower Basin DCP. Together, the DCPs for the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin and the provisions of the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in Mexico will improve the sustainability of the Colorado River system and reduce the risks of temporary or prolonged reductions to water supplies for Arizona users of Colorado River water pursuant to long-term entitlements or contracts.

In addition to signing the interstate DCP agreements described above, I also signed several Arizona intrastate agreements on May 20, 2019. These agreements are part of the plan developed by the Lower Basin DCP Arizona Implementation Steering Committee to implement the Lower Basin DCP in Arizona (AZ LBDCP Implementation Plan). Representatives of other Arizona parties were also present at the May 20 signing event and signed intrastate agreements as part of the AZ LBDCP Implementation Plan. The intrastate agreements that were signed on May 20 are described in my letter to you dated May 17, 2019. At the May 20 signing event, I was given the honor of speaking in support of the DCP, not only behalf of the State of Arizona, but for the other Lower Basin States of California and Nevada as well. That honor was reflective of the strong support for the DCP in Arizona as evidenced by the Arizona Legislature's passage of the Joint Resolution and S.B. 1227, which contains statutory amendments to implement the DCP in Arizona, and your signing of those measures into law on the same day they were passed by the Legislature.

Arizona has a rich history of proactive leadership when it comes to water management. Your contributions, as well as those of the Arizona legislative leaders, facilitated the execution of the interstate DCP agreements and the associated intrastate DCP agreements. Those actions exemplify Arizona's tradition of forward-thinking leaders who have ensured that Arizona will have water supplies to support its health and economic growth long into the future.

I would like to thank you and the Arizona legislative leaders for your actions to make the DCP a reality. I look forward to working with you as we continue our progress toward securing Arizona's water future.

Sincerely,



Thomas Buschatzke
Director

cc: Speaker Rusty Bowers
President Karen Fann
Madam Chairman Gail Griffin
Madam Chairman Sine Kerr