

HARRIS WATER ENGINEERING, INC.
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May 15, 2017

Re: Request for Public Comment on the draft Dolores Project Drought Contingency Plan

Dear Interested Parties,

Harris Water Engineering, Inc (HWE) was hired to prepare a Drought Contingency Plan (Plan) for the Dolores Project. The Dolores Water Conservancy District (DWCD) received a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant to fund the preparation of the Plan. The DWCD, along with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm and Ranch Enterprise (FRE) and the Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company (MVIC), provided matching cash and in-kind contributions for the grant. Staff from the three funding entities participated in the Planning Task Force which also included a representative from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Division of Water Resources.

The Planning Task Force met regularly to discuss and develop the content included in the Plan. The Plan provides a comprehensive evaluation of mitigation and response actions to reduce water shortages and provide greater drought resiliency for the Project water users. As a requirement of the grant, the following six elements were addressed in the Plan:

1. Drought Monitoring
2. Vulnerability Assessment
3. Mitigation Actions
4. Response Actions
5. Operational and Administrative Framework
6. Plan Update Process

The Plan is available for download at www.doloreswater.com. Please provide comments directly to HWE by email at comments@durangowater.com. Comments are due no later than close of business on June 23, 2017. The final Plan is to be submitted to Reclamation no later than September 30, 2017.

A public meeting will be held on June 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the DWCD Cortez Office located at 60 South Cactus Street. The purpose of the meeting is to collect comments and facilitate dialogue surrounding the draft Plan. All are welcome to attend. Please notify us if you might attend so we have a general idea of the participants.

Thank you for your time in reviewing the document.