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September 6, 2017

Memorandum

To: Dolores Water Conservancy District - Board and Staff

Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company - Board and Staff

From: Carrie Lile and Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering, Inc.

Re: Draft Dolores Project Drought Contingency Plan

As many of you know, 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 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 and the Bureau of Reclamation participated in the Planning Task Force (aka Funding Stakeholders).

Since the first draft of the Plan became available in May 2017, the Planning Task Force has conducted two public meetings and received almost 50 comments regarding the draft Plan. HWE compiled all comments and summarized these comments for the Planning Task Force review. HWE then incorporated all comments and concerns such as editorial, formatting, and/or need for clarifying statements. Each section of the new draft Plan lists the comments concerning that section. The Planning Task Force met several times to review comments and discuss how best to address and incorporate comments into the updated draft Plan.

Attached is the updated draft Plan and for your convenience, all edits were made using the “red-line track changes” function in the Word document. While “red-line track changes” is the recognized term used when making track changes, you’ll notice the document has edits in multiple colors due to multiple authors editing the document. Regardless of the author, all edits are in color and underlined. No comment authors were specifically called out and all red-line edits were reviewed by the Planning Task Force. The biggest changes to note are:

1. Additional sections specific to McElmo Creek – Many concerns on the potential effects of proposed mitigation actions in the draft Plan on downstream users were raised. Section 4.1.6 was added to address vulnerabilities within McElmo Creek. Section 5.1.5.3 was added to address future opportunities to stabilize the water supply of McElmo Creek.
2. Fishery Downstream of McPhee Reservoir – Section 4.1.4 was revised to incorporate comments and concerns raised by The Nature Conservancy, Colorado

Parks and Wildlife, and other public stakeholders. The Planning Task Force worked with these entities to address their concerns and rewrite this section.

3. Incorporating Comments – When applicable, at the bottom of each section an additional paragraph and list of comments was added to describe public stakeholder concerns specific to this action.
4. Section 9 – Section 9 originally summarized and proposed priorities of mitigation and response actions. Based on the public comments received this section was modified to remove priorities and this section is now only a summary section with all actions presented in a summary table format.

For future review and discussion of the draft Plan, HWE and the Planning Task Force have developed the following schedule which should be discussed with the Boards and modified as appropriate.

- 1) Each Board is provided the updated draft Plan at their September meetings.
- 2) MVIC would hold a work session (1 - 2 hours) to discuss updates made to the Plan following their October 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- 3) DWCD holds a work session (1 - 2 hours) to discuss updates made to the Plan prior to their October 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (starting at 5:00 to 6:00).
- 4) A joint Board meeting would be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> (starting at 7 p.m.) to jointly discuss the draft Plan and the comments received.

After the Boards have reviewed the updated draft Plan, the DWCD Board will need to adopt a resolution accepting the draft Plan. The Plan must be provided to the Bureau of Reclamation for their own 30 day review period before the Plan may be finalized. Attached is the timeline and milestones for the remaining grant time period.

Once the draft red-line version of the Plan and appendices is provided at the September Board meetings the Plan will be public and the Task Force recommends the document be posted on the DWCD website. HWE would email a notice to the public stakeholders who provided comments or attended a public meeting. The public stakeholder notice will state: (1) the red-line version of the Plan is available on the DWCD website; (2) the draft Plan is currently under review by the Boards; (3) comments are not being accepted by HWE or the Planning Task Force; and (4) the Boards may accept comments at any public meeting they may hold.

Thank you for time in reviewing the draft Plan. We look forward to our future meetings to discuss the Plan and its final updates.

# COMPLETION SCHEDULE

Month	Activity	Date(s)
<b>September 2017</b>	✓ Provide red-line version of the draft Plan to the Boards for review	DWCD Board Meeting – 9/14 MVIC Board Meeting – 9/12
	✓ Distribute updated draft Plan for public review	Draft posted to website – 9/15
<b>October 2017</b>	✓ Board work sessions to discuss edits made to draft Plan	DWCD Board Meeting – 10/12 MVIC Board Meeting – 10/10
	✓ Joint Board meeting to discuss edits made to draft Plan	Board to Board – 10/17
<b>November 2017</b>	✓ Provide final draft of Plan to Boards; discuss any comments as necessary; Boards recommend/approve draft Plan	DWCD Board Meeting – 11/9 MVIC Board Meeting – 11/14
	✓ Final draft of Plan submitted to Bureau of Reclamation for review	Submit Plan – 11/17
<b>December 2017</b>	✓ No actions this month	
<b>January 2018</b>	✓ Boards review any comments provided by Bureau of Reclamation; possible Boards' action of acceptance of the Plan (depending on level of comments received)	DWCD Board Meeting – 1/9 MVIC Board Meeting – 1/11
<b>February 2018</b>	✓ Possible Boards' action of acceptance of the Plan	DWCD Board Meeting – 2/8 MVIC Board Meeting – 2/13
<b>March 2018</b>	✓ Final Plan due to Bureau of Reclamation	Due By – 3/31