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Colorado River Basin Study Comments--Phoenix (City of), Arizona

William L. Chase

Phoenix (City of) Arizona

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to Western Water Policy Review

fax #: (303) 236-4286 Phone: (303) 236-6211

re: Comments on Draft Colorado River Basin Study

date: April 8, 1997

pages: 3, including this cover sheet

Mr. Chase asked that this information be faxed to you today. The original letter will be sent via US mail.

APR | | 1997

From the desk of...

Jane Cartledge
Administrative Secretary
City of Phoenix
200 W Washington 12 floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

261-8855
Fax: 468-5650



City of Phoenix
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Winner of the
Carl Bertelsmann
Prize



April 8, 1997

**Western Water Policy Review
Advisory Commission
P O BOX 25007, D-5001
Denver, CO 80225-0007**

Gentlemen:

Re: Comments on Draft Colorado River Basin Study

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Draft - Colorado River Basin Study for the Western States Water Policy Review Advisory Commission" dated March, 1997.

In general, I feel the study presents a very useful summary of the current water resource management issues within the Colorado River Basin. Also the recommendations are thought provoking and worthy of further consideration and discussion. One major theme of the report is that future decision making processes need to be more inclusive of all affected interests. While I agree with that observation, it is important to stress that major public and private investments and multi-billion dollar economies have been built on past and current understandings of the "Law of the River." That body of law has largely fully allocated both the water and power resources within the Basin. As the report aptly points out, there are a number of disagreements, even among existing users about the interpretation of the law of the river. The addition of potential new users will only serve to further complicate an already complex situation. So, while I agree that additional players should be brought to the table, I expect that changes will come slowly. All of which argues for greater involvement of the federal government in helping to facilitate resolution of these problems in the future, not less.

I also have a number of specific comments on the study which follow.

Page 5, paragraph 2: please check the population figure for the Basin. There are more than 2.5 million people in the portion of the basin which is in Arizona alone.

Page 40, paragraph 2, sentence 3: correct the sentence to read "some water was priced at \$17/af and some at \$27/af, both of which were scheduled to increase at \$1/af/year for the next 10 years."

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Page 54, paragraph 5: change the first sentence to read, "In Arizona, over 140,000 af/year of effluent is being used statewide, including: about 60,000 af/year for the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant west of Phoenix, 30,000 af/year sold to the Buckeye Irrigation Company under long term contract and 30,000 af/year exchanged with the Roosevelt Irrigation District for potable water under a long term contract."

Page 69, paragraph 3, sentence 5: modify the sentence to read, "Reclaimed water will have salinity levels greater than 1000 ppm if the salinity of the potable water supply increases above 700 ppm." Our experience indicates that TDS increases approximately 300 ppm as a result of municipal use.

Page 75, paragraph 1, last sentence: strike "during times of shortage" from the end of the sentence.

Page 79, paragraph 1, last sentence: rewrite the sentence to read, "Except for some limited leasing of 13,300 af of water to seven Cities in Maricopa County for 99 years, the Act restricts off reservation uses."

I hope these comments are helpful.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please call me at 602/261-8855.

Sincerely,



**William L. Chase, Jr
Water Advisor**