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Director

Memorandum

To: Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Steering Committee

From: W.E. Werner, Spokesperson
LCR MSCP Conservation Area Site Selection Guidelines Technical Work Group

Subject: Reporting of *Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas (August 10, 2006)*

Date: August 11, 2006

Background:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) distributed the *Draft Conservation Area and Project Selection Criteria* and *Draft Backwater Site Selection Criteria* documents to the LCR MSCP Steering Committee (Steering Committee) for review on December 2, 2005, and posted it on the LCR MSCP website. A Conservation Area Site Selection Guidelines Technical Work Group (Work Group) met with Reclamation on December 13, 2005, and January 11, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada, to provide input and discuss the draft documents and other comments received by Reclamation. After revision and combination of the two documents, the *Draft Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas (April 5, 2006)* was distributed to the Steering Committee for review on April 5, 2005, and posted on the LCR MSCP website. The Work Group met April 18 and 19, 2006, in Phoenix, Arizona, to provide input and discuss the revised document and other comments received by Reclamation. On July 28, 2006, a *Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas (July 26, 2006)* was distributed to the Steering Committee for review and posted on the LCR MSCP website. On August 3, 2006, the Work Group held a teleconference call to review any remaining issues.

Based on the Work Group teleconference call, minor revisions were made to the document, addressing the remaining issues raised by commenters. The *Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas (August 10, 2006)* was distributed to the Steering Committee on August 16, 2006, and posted on the LCR MSCP website. The Work Group hereby presents the document to the Steering Committee for acknowledgement.

Draft Motion:

Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee acknowledge the *Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas (August 10, 2006)* with the recognition that it is the intent of the Program Manager that the document remain in draft form for one full cycle for the securement of at least one riparian habitat and one backwater habitat creation site through the annual work plan process.