United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Ecological Services Office
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In Reply Refer to:
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22410-2004-F-0161

September 25, 2020

Memorandum

To: John Swett, Program Manager, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City, Nevada (LC-8000)

From: Jeffrey A. Humphrey, Field Supervisor, Arizona Ecological Service Field Office

Subject: Acceptance of Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program *Consistency Review for Final Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2019 Accomplishment Report*

This responds to your memorandum of July 2020, requesting consistency review by the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) of the combined document containing the Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2019 Accomplishment Report Accomplishment Report for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP). This combined document encompasses the reporting requirements of the LCR MSCP section 10(a)(1)(B) permit dated April 4, 2005, (TE-086834-0) and the biological and conference opinion dated March 4, 2005, as amended March 5, 2018; and requirements of the Funding and Management Agreement sections 7.4.2. and 7.4.3.

The Fiscal Year 2019 Accomplishment Report details the activities undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to implement the LCR MSCP in accordance with the section 10 permit and biological opinion. The report also lists the Federal actions and non-Federal activities included in the LCR MSCP as covered actions that were implemented during Fiscal Year 2019 covered by the LCR MSCP (October 1, 2018-September 31, 2019), including the reporting of incidental take that occurred during this period. The LCR MSCP Steering Committee voted to approve the report and submission to the Service on June 24, 2020.

We have reviewed the information provided and conclude that the document meets the requirements for the annual report for the LCR MSCP under the section 10(a)(1)(B) permit and the reporting requirements of the terms and conditions of the biological and conference opinion. All covered actions and activities and implementation of the Conservation Plan are suitably described and documented.

The Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan and Budget contains the work tasks and estimated costs for LCR MSCP implementation during Fiscal Year 2021 beginning on October 1, 2020. We have reviewed the Work Plan and determined that its implementation is directly applicable to meet the conservation requirements and is consistent with the LCR MSCP section 10(a)(1)(B) permit and biological opinion.

We appreciate the positive working relationship between the Service and Reclamation on the implementation of the LCR MSCP. The opportunity to review and contribute to the development of the Accomplishment Report and Work Plan is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your significant efforts to conserve listed and special-status species through the LCR MSCP.

If there are any questions or concerns about this response, please contact Jessica Gwinn, or me at (602) 242-0210.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Humphrey

cc (electronic):
Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM (ARD-ES, Marty Tuegel)