



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

DEC 13 2016

David G. Murillo
Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
12800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Subject: Request for Cooperating Agency Participation for the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Murillo:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received Reclamation's letter inviting the EPA to serve as a cooperating agency for the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation Feasibility Study. We appreciate Reclamation's interest in working with EPA and accept your invitation.

As a cooperating agency, and to the extent that time and resources allow, the EPA intends to:

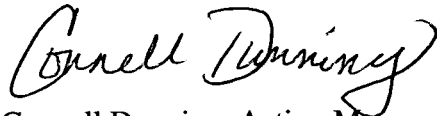
- 1) Participate in the EIS process, including attending inter-agency coordination meetings, reviewing draft documents, and participating in the public scoping process. Due to limited travel funding, participation is likely to occur via teleconference;
- 2) Assist Reclamation in identifying significant environmental issues, particularly those that relate to the EPA's special expertise and jurisdiction;
- 3) Strive to provide comments to Reclamation on preliminary versions of the draft and final EIS within 30 days;
- 4) If requested by Reclamation, assist with responses to public comments that concern the EPA's areas of expertise and jurisdictional responsibilities; and
- 5) Work with Reclamation to ensure that the EIS content is consistent with EPA program or agency requirements.

Please note that the EPA's status as a cooperating agency does not affect our independent responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to review and comment publicly on all draft EISs. Participation as a cooperating agency does not imply endorsement of the proposed project, nor can it be used as the basis to obligate, commit, or transfer funds. The EPA's cooperating agency status may be acknowledged in the document, but the EPA seal or symbol should not be used unless Reclamation receives prior written approval from the EPA, and then only if a disclaimer is attached stating that the

use of the Agency seal or symbol on this document does not imply any agency's endorsement of the proposed action. Please reference or incorporate this acceptance letter into the Draft and Final EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to be a cooperating agency on this project. Please send one hard copy and two CDs of the Draft EIS to this office (mail code ENF-4-2) at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington D.C. Office. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 947-4161 or Stephanie Gordon at (415) 972-3098 and gordon.stephanieS@epa.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connell Dunning". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Connell Dunning, Acting Manager
Environmental Review Section

Cc: Michael Dietl, Project Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Garwin Yip, National Marine Fisheries Service
Kaylee Allen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael Nepstad, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chuck Jachens, Bureau of Indian Affairs