



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-8000
ENV-3.00

MAY 20 2015

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
Director
Cultural Preservation Office
Hopi Tribe of Arizona
P. O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Subject: Mohave Valley Backwater Conservation Area Project

Dear Ms. Kuwanwisiwma:

In May 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation consulted with your office about the Mohave Valley Backwater Conservation Area (MVCA). The earlier consultation was for the excavation pits to see if the location could be used to re-establish vegetation native to the Colorado River. Based on the results of this work, Reclamation proposes to construct a backwater within the conservation area.

The project is being undertaken to help fulfill commitments of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP); this program balances the use of the Colorado River water resources with the conservation of native species and their habitats. The MVCA project will provide habitat for the flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*), the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) and the bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*). The habitat will also benefit numerous migratory bird species.

The 50 acres of connected backwater habitat is on the lower Colorado River near Needles, California, within Moabi Regional Park, northwest of Topock, Arizona (see Enclosure 1). The proposed conservation area is approximately 13 miles south of Needles, California, between river miles 237 and 236, San Bernardino County, Section 6, Township 7 N, and Range 24 E.

The MVCA lands are composed of sediment spoils from dredging efforts conducted by Reclamation. Dredging of the Colorado River upstream of Topock Gorge has been done by Reclamation to prevent flooding. Reclamation mechanically dredged the river sediments and deposited the dredge spoil materials at the river's margins.

F OFFICIAL FILE COPY		
RECEIVED 6/5/15		
REPLY DATE		
DATE	INITIALS	CODE
Classification		
Project		
Control No.		
Folder I. D.		
Keyword		

No previously recorded archaeological sites have been identified in the project area. A recent pedestrian surface survey conducted in 2011 for the expansion of the facilities at Park Moabi Regional Park did not identify sites in the project area.

As shown in Enclosure 2, creation of the MVCA backwater involves mechanical excavation, planting of MSCP native land cover types, creation of a gravel boat ramp, and construction of two water control structures. All excavated materials will remain on site, along the northeastern portion of the project area. Reclamation biologists will monitor the site, and signs will be used to educate the public and define public access.

Should you have questions regarding the project, please contact me at 702-293-8555 or at jswett@usbr.gov and/or Mr. Mark C. Slaughter at 702-293-8143 or at mslaughter@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

no historic properties
significant to the
Hopi Tribe affected

[Handwritten signature]
Kuwawichuwa

[Handwritten signature]

John Swett
Program Manager
Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program

Enclosures

6-2-15

Identical Letters Sent To:

Mr. Edward D. "Tito" Smith
Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P. O. Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Ms. H. Jill McCormick
Cultural Resource Manager
Cocopah Indian Tribe
[Redacted]
Somerton, AZ 85350

Ms. Sherry Cordova
Chairperson
Cocopah Indian Tribe
[Redacted]
Somerton, AZ 85350

Ms. Wilene Fisher-Holt
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Colorado River Indian Tribes
[Redacted]
Parker AZ 85344