



City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765
www.cityofneedles.com

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake

City Manager Rick Daniels

April 25, 2023

Reclamation
2007 Interim Guidelines SEIS Project Manager
Upper Colorado Basin Region
125 South State Street, Suite 8100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
CRinterimops@usbr.gov

RE: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

To Whom it May Concern,

Since 1885 the City has had Present Perfected Rights ("PPR") #43 to 1,500 acre-feet ("AF") of diversion from the Colorado River ("River") which provides 950 AF of consumptive use. Set by U.S. Supreme Court decree AZ v. CA as amended in 2006 Present Perfected Water Rights (PPR's).

The highest priority rights to River water are "perfected rights" that are based on historical use of river water prior to the construction of the large Federal projects to dam and divert the river water. It is sometimes stated as "First in use, first in right" The use must be for beneficial purposes.

In 1995, the City purchased additional PPR #44 from the Santa Fe Railway Company for 1,250 AF of diversion and 273 AF of consumption. Added together, these PPR allow the City to divert up to 2,760 AF of water (1,500 AF allowed the City via its 1885 PPR diversion and 1,260 AF via the City's acquisition of Santa Fe Railway Company's 1896 PPR diversion) and consume 1,223 AF.

In addition to the PPR's above within the City limits of Needles exist nine (9) other PPR's #30, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 49 which provides entitlements for the landowners to equitably distribute the division of these water rights. The priority dates on this PPR range from 1893 to 1928.

On behalf of the City and the City Council, please accept this letter as a recommendation to honor the historical Present Perfected Rights set by the U.S. Supreme Court decree AZ v. CA.

Respectfully,

Janet Jernigan, Mayor
817 Third St.
Needles, CA 92363