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## United States Department of the Interior



**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office  
1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234  
Reno, Nevada 89502  
Ph: (775) 861-6300 ~ Fax: (775) 861-6301

November 8, 2007

Noah Matson  
Vice President for Land Conservation  
Defenders of Wildlife  
1130 Seventeenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Matson:

**Subject: Status of the Moapa River Memorandum of Agreement**

This is in response to your letter of September 11, 2007, regarding the status of the Muddy River Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), dated January 27, 2006. We apologize for the lateness of our response, however we wanted to ensure that the information we are providing is as accurate and up to date as possible. We have restated your questions below, followed by our responses.

**1) What is the status of financial commitments made by other parties to the MOA, specifically:**

**(a) SNWA funding of \$300,000 to develop the Recovery Implementation Program;**

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) entered into an agreement with a third-party consultant, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000, for the planning and development of the Muddy River Recovery Implementation Program (RIP). The consultant is working with members of the Muddy River Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Executive Committee and Biological Advisory Committee to develop the plan. We expect a final draft of this plan to be complete by early 2008.

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IN AMERICA 

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**(f) CSI annual funding of \$50,000 for a period of four years for the restoration of Moapa dace outside the boundaries of the Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge on the Apcar stream.**

CSI has set aside these funds and will make them available upon request by the Service. The Service is awaiting completion of the final draft RIP prior to requesting funds transfer.

**(2) Have the technical representatives to the Hydrologic Review Team (HRT) prepared their written analysis of regional groundwater pumping data and impacts, i.e. the baseline analysis? If so, please provide copies of such written analysis for each party.**

A draft Regional Baseline Pumping Analysis was completed in April 2007, and finalized in October 2007. An electronic copy of the analysis is enclosed with this letter.

**(3) Have the parties produced any Annual Determinations based upon the baseline analysis? If so, have such Annual Determinations been issued by consensus? Please provide all Annual Determinations.**

No Annual Determinations have been completed to date.

**(4) Have the parties produced any Annual Determinations Reports? If so, please provide copies.**

No Annual Determinations Reports have been completed to date.

**(5) Have the parties produced any Annual Technical Representative's Reports?**

No Annual Technical Representative's Reports have been completed to date.

**(6) Have any Annual Determinations been referred for peer review? If so, please provide copies.**

No Annual Determinations have been completed to date.

**(7) Have SNWA and CSI located and drilled one or more new production wells in the northern part of the Coyote Spring hydrologic basin?**

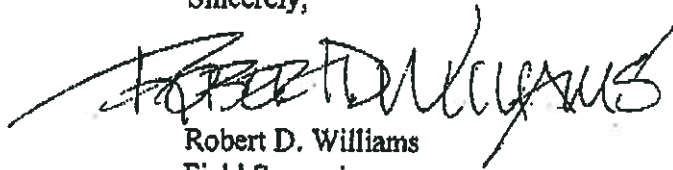
No. These wells will not be drilled until authorizations have been permitted under section 7 or section 10 of the Endangered Species Act.

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or other conservation organizations might have in the activities of the Hydrological Review Team (HRT). Please contact me at your convenience to further discuss your ideas about your participation.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Williams  
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc:

Deputy General Counsel, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Las Vegas, Nevada  
General Counsel, Wingfield Nevada Group, Sparks, Nevada  
General Manager, Moapa Valley Water District, Logandale, Nevada