



August 5, 2020

Central Arizona Project
Attn: Alexandra Arboleda, Board of Directors
P.O. Box 43020
Phoenix, Arizona 85080-3020
Sent Via E-Mail:
aarboleda@cap-az.com

RE: Opposition to Provisions of S. 4228

Dear Director Arboleda,

I am writing on behalf of the Water for Arizona Coalition to urge the CAP Board to oppose the provisions of S. 4228, introduced by Senator Martha McSally that mandate the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP). The five organizations in our coalition, representing over 60,000 Arizona members, oppose operation of the YDP because it would decimate the Ciénega de Santa Clara by cutting off the water supply to this 40,000-acre wetland and ecological treasure of international significance in Mexico. While we appreciate the sponsor's commitment to ensuring the success of the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), we believe there are several other viable and ecologically sound ways for Reclamation to fulfill its commitment under the DCP to create or conserve 100,000 acre- feet of water per year for additional storage in Lake Mead. These alternatives include compensated reductions in consumptive use, improvements to salinity management, and infrastructure efficiencies.

We believe the issues with potential operation of the YDP, including the trade-offs of various investments and water use scenarios, are best resolved by basin water stakeholders in the context of collaborative water planning and negotiations. Congressional action on the YDP at this time could put at risk both Mexico's existing commitments to share in Colorado River shortages and to explore the feasibility of a binational ocean desalination facility on the Upper Gulf of California. The relationships of both the United States and Arizona with Mexico are key to management of the Colorado River in times of shortage and plenty, and we want to ensure that operation of the YDP without close consultation with Mexico does not harm our relationship with Mexico.

We appreciate your consideration of our perspective on this matter and the opportunity to work with you to develop durable water solutions for our state and region.

Sincerely,



Kevin Moran
Chair of the Water for Arizona Coalition

The Water for Arizona Coalition is a community of Arizonans who support innovative practices and smart policies to ensure a reliable water supply to meet the state's needs. Organizational support is provided by solution-oriented groups like American Rivers, Audubon Arizona, Business for Water Stewardship, Environmental Defense Action Fund, and Western Resource Advocates that collectively have over 60,000 Arizona members, as well as hundreds of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts across the state. Kevin Moran, a longtime Arizonan and former government relations consultant and is the Chairman of the Coalition.

