

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	97-AFC-01C
<b>Project Title:</b>	High Desert Power Plant
<b>TN #:</b>	212881
<b>Document Title:</b>	Letter from the Watermaster of the Mojave River Basin
<b>Description:</b>	Letter from Mojave Water Agency to Energy Commission staff in response to Energy Commission's letter of August 11, 2016.
<b>Filer:</b>	AbdelKarim Abulaban
<b>Organization:</b>	Mojave Water Agency/K. Brill
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public Agency
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August 19, 2016

Robert P. Oglesby, Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: High Desert Power Project (97-AFC-01C)

Dear Mr. Oglesby:

On July 27, 2016, in accordance with approvals by the CEC, the Watermaster took action to approve a new storage agreement requested by Victorville Water District which allows for delivery and percolation of water for storage on behalf of High Desert Power Project for project operations and to further their efforts toward drought proofing.

In reviewing the Docket Log on your website we have noticed many references to MWA or Watermaster being involved in a potential study related to use of recycled water and Alto Transition Zone riparian habitat needs (water balance study). Additionally, we received a letter from you today (Dated August 11, 2016) suggesting that Watermaster and CDFW are "in discussions about the scope of work of such a study". This is an incorrect assumption.

Watermaster is in the process of updating ongoing work that evaluates the Alto Subarea and Transition Zone water levels. The work will include an assessment of the water supply available to downstream Subareas, including the Transition Zone, as required by the Judgment, and evaluate the possible effect on Subarea Obligations. This work may provide additional insight to you in your ongoing evaluations and we are willing to share this information with you once it is completed and presented to Watermaster. Our meetings are open to the public and your staff may attend when this information is presented. However, we would like to make it clear that we are not currently participating in workshops or any other studies with regard to any action other than our Judgment.

Abdel-Karim Abulaban-CEC

August 19, 2016

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MWA and Watermaster's responsibility is to interpret and enforce the provisions of the Judgment that relate directly to minimum flow obligations between Subareas (Alto and Centro for example) and report to the Court. From a hydrologic perspective the Alto Transition Zone water levels have shown seasonal variability and long term stability for decades and that condition still exists. The Judgment provides a mechanism to protect the Alto Transition Zone, however, the protection comes at the expense of all of the other Parties to the Judgment in Alto. VVWRA discharges are a fundamental part of the Alto Transition Zone water supply.

As previously noted in our letter dated March 8, 2016 the MWA and Watermaster support actions consistent with the MOU between CDFW and VVWRA regarding minimum flow requirements at Lower Narrows as well as minimum total discharges by VVWRA to the Alto Transition Zone. Neither MWA or Watermaster were a party to this agreement, but we support it in that it reflects a compromise of all the parties at the time it was put together as well as a balance of all interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirby Brill", written over a horizontal line.

Kirby Brill  
General Manager

cc: William J. Brunick, Esq.