



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Lower Colorado Region  
Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001

APR 3 2015

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
PXAO-1500  
ENV-7.00

Mr. James E. Brooks  
5401 Cresswell Road Southwest  
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Subject: Use of "Best Available Science" for New Mexico Unit Environmental Compliance

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Thank you for your letter dated February 12, 2015, concerning the use of "best available science" in developing environmental compliance documents for the proposed New Mexico Unit of the Central Arizona Project. As the lead Federal agency tasked by the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-451) with regulatory compliance for the project, we appreciate your input.

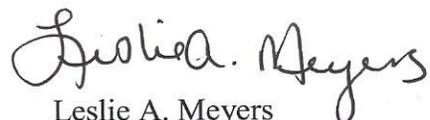
We agree the process for implementing environmental compliance must rely upon sound science, and we have every intention of using the most scientifically-defensible information available in making determinations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and other environmental laws.

The Department of the Interior has a Web site outlining our policies on the integrity of scientific and scholarly activities conducted by departmental agencies. It is available online at: <http://www.doi.gov/scientificintegrity/index.cfm>. That Web site contains links to the specific DOI policy that we will use to inform our management and public policy decisions, as well as other related scientific integrity links. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation has established a policy for peer review of scientific information and assessments that may further address some of the concerns raised in your letter. This policy also is available online at: [http://www.usbr.gov/recman/temporary\\_releases/cmptmr-30.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/recman/temporary_releases/cmptmr-30.pdf).

We encourage you to review these sites and hope that it will provide further understanding of our approach to evaluating the science used in the environmental compliance process. Additionally, as part of the NEPA process. We will be soliciting public involvement and public review of draft documents. That public review will include review of the underlying assumptions and data we used in preparation of the documents.

If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Alexander B. Smith, Chief of the Environmental Resource Management Division, at 623-773-6250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie A. Meyers".

Leslie A. Meyers  
Area Manager

Identical Letter Sent To:

Dr. David L. Propst  
607 Cedar Street Northeast  
Albuquerque, NM 87106