



June 19, 2015

Warren Turkett  
Natural Resource Analyst  
Colorado River Commission of Nevada  
555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3100  
Las Vegas, NV 89101-1065

RE: Colorado River Commission Comments on Nevada's Water Quality Standards

Dear Mr. Turkett,

Thank you for the March 12, 2015 letter in response to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) 2015 water quality standards triennial review. In this and a similar letter submitted on January 30, 2014 the Colorado River Commission of Nevada (CRC) expressed concern about the temperature criteria to protect the aquatic life beneficial use for the Colorado River below Hoover Dam.

NDEP acknowledges the issues raised by the CRC and we appreciate the details you provided regarding the Razorback Sucker and the Lower Colorado River Multi Species Conservation Program. As noted, NDEP has initiated a technical workgroup of fisheries biologists from a variety of agencies including U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada and Southern Nevada Water Authority to develop technical guidance that lays a scientific foundation for revising temperature standards across the State. We expect this process to span at least a one year timeframe and will keep the CRC informed as progress is made with the technical workgroup.

NDEP also intends to initiate a review of all water quality standards for the Las Vegas Wash, Las Vegas Bay, Lake Mead and the Colorado River in the near future. We expect to utilize the results of the workgroup to evaluate the temperature standards for those waterbodies. As a major stakeholder in the region, the CRC's participation in the standards review process will be critical. NDEP will contact you once we have determined more details and a timeline for the review.

Please contact me at (775) 687-9449 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John O. Heggeness, Supervisor  
Water Quality Standards and Monitoring Branch  
Bureau of Water Quality Planning

Enclosure: CRC March 12, 2015 letter to NDEP