

Hon. Mark Lewis, Director, Central Arizona Project

2515 E. Thomas Rd. # 16-852
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7964

1.602.499.3095 (fx) 1.480.609.0444
E-mail: mark@waterresources.org

Congressman Gosar
122 N. Cortez Street, Suite 104.
Prescott, AZ 86301

7/8/2014

RE: Support of Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014 H.R. 4924

Dear Congressman Gosar,

I am the senior elected Director on the Central Arizona Project board representing Maricopa County. I am writing to you **in support of the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014, H.R. 4924**. While most of the bills subject matter does not directly affect the Central Arizona Project or my constituents in Maricopa County, I personally support this water settlement bill. This bill is one of many Indian Water Rights settlements passed and funded over the years, and is a great first step in settling the remaining Tribal claims in Arizona.

Maricopa County residents, whom I represent, contribute a small share of the \$626 million dollar partnership between 3 states and the USBOR for Multi Species Conservation Program “MSCP” as our contribution to preservation of wildlife and habitat on the Colorado River, which in turn is part of the conditions for our Environmental Permits to withdraw water from the river. Maricopa County residents struck a grand balance between water withdraws from the river and environmental protection of wildlife, plants and river Biology. This legislation and the donation of the water rights from the Planet Ranch by natural resource companies saves tax dollars and promotes the MSCP program.



There are 26 species “covered” by the LCR MSCP; 6 threatened and/or endangered species and 20 non-federally listed species. There are an additional five “evaluation” species, which could be added to the covered species list for the LCR MSCP. Among the threatened and endangered species covered are the razorback sucker, the bonytail chub, the humpback chub, the southwestern willow flycatcher, the Yuma clapper rail, and the desert tortoise.¹

Because of my senior position on the board, and my conservative desire to maintain our water withdraw permits for Maricopa County; I support the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014.

And while I do not speak for the Board, and I am providing my own opinion as the most senior elected director representing Maricopa County I am happy to support H.R. 4924.

Thank you,

Mark Lewis

Mark Lewis, Director, Central Arizona Project
Representing Maricopa County

¹ http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/LowerColoradoRiverMulti-speciesConservationPrograms.shtml