April 30, 1991

Colorado River Studies Office—UC 1512
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 11568
Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

Gentlemen:

This letter is being written on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, and through them, the water users served by our District. As the official agency with a repayment contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, we have more than a passing interest in current studies being conducted regarding the operation of Glen Canyon Dam.

At the outset, I want to respectfully commend each of the members of the Study Team for the diligent way in which you have approached this very complicated and emotional problem. I had the pleasure of serving as President of the seven state Colorado River Water Users Association for the past three years, and at each of our Annual Meetings, we heard detailed reports from Regional Directors, relative to annual operations and plans for the review of the operations of Glen Canyon Dam.

Our first reaction is to maintain the status quo, because it has worked so successfully for so many years. By the same token, we are keenly aware of requests and demands from individuals and organizations that modifications be considered. We hope a balance can be reached. We strongly support the continued releases to maintain the production of electrical energy, which has been largely responsible for the sound economic growth in areas served. We also feel the absolute necessity for maintaining a balance in water storage in the various Colorado River storage reservoirs, which permit the proper management of water during times of shortage and the storage during times of surplus. We respect the ability and professional knowledge of the Study Team members to find the fine line between those activities and strong requests from recreation interests. We are confident reason will prevail.

Respectfully,

Charles L. Thomson
General Manager

CLT/tg

sc: Board of Directors of the District
Mr. Thomas E. Cahill, Executive Director, Colorado River Resources Coalition
May 1, 1991

Colorado River Studies Office--UC 1512
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 11568
Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

Gentlemen:

This is a direct follow-up to my letter of April 30, 1991 to you regarding the extensive study your Committee is doing, regarding the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. In reviewing my letter I find I was not as specific as I intended to be.

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District is extremely interested in the outcome of your studies, due to fact we are the contracting agency for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which receives water from the Colorado River system. We are, therefore, most concerned over the possibility of any recommendation which might modify, amend, or alter the operation of mainstem Colorado River projects, and the delivery of water. I would also like to reemphasize my comments relative to the possible reduction in the production of electrical energy, which is so essential to the economic stability of the vast area served, as well as providing scheduled revenues for the operation and maintenance of Projects along the Colorado River.

It is imperative, in my opinion, that a proper balance be maintained as between those uses and recommend recreational purposes.

Respectfully,

Charles L. Thomson
General Manager

CLT/tg

sc: Board of Directors of the District
Mr. Thomas E. Cahill, Executive Director, Colorado River Resources Coalition
Mr. James S. Lochhead, Esq, Upper Colorado River Commission for Colorado