

Brent Rhees, Regional Director
Upper Colorado Regional Office
US Bureau of Reclamation
125 South State Street, Room 8100
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

December 2, 2016

Dear Mr. Rhees

This letter is to convey the Grand Canyon Private Boater's Association's (GCPBA) observations and offer comments regarding the recently concluded High Flow Experiment releases from Glen Canyon Dam.

GCPBA is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocacy on issues surrounding private boater access to the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park. Founded in 1996, GCPBA represents a paid membership as well as a long-established internet constituency; was an active participant in the formulation of the 2006 Colorado River Management Plan, and was a supporting party with the NPS in the ensuing successful litigation defending the Plan.

John Vrymoed, who is on our Board of Directors and is a registered Geotechnical Engineer, was on the river during the HFE and was able to observe the impacts of the high flows starting at the beginning and end of the experiment. He observed that the overall impact on beaches was positive especially those having a gentle slope. Some of the steeply sloped beaches suffered damage due to calving as seepage had not had enough time to adjust to the receding water level during the ramp down portion of the experiment. As a result, the material that was deposited was lost. This was observed at River Mile 149 during early morning hours of Nov 13 and similarly observed at sites further down river.

It is noted that the posted ramp down rate, prior to the HFE, was 1,875 cfs/hr as flows were reduced from 36,000 to 21,000 cfs, and then 1,500 cfs/hr to 9,000 cfs. This lower ramp down rate is the same as the limit specified in the 1996 ROD operating criteria. Thus, this ramp down limit makes no distinction between normal operations and the HFE.

To enhance the positive impacts of the HFE, we recommend that consideration be given to a longer ramp down duration and lower ramp

down rate. There are various ways to achieve this without affecting the planned yearly inflow to Lake Mead such as slightly reducing the flows before and after the HFE.

Your consideration of these observations and recommendation is much appreciated. John Vrymoed can be reached at (916) 451-0684 or vrymoed@gmail.com should you or your staff wish to contact him.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter R. Rist".

Wally Rist
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Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association

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