

Good morning –

I'm Kathy Flanagan (F L A N A G A N) with the Southern Nevada Water Authority speaking today in support of items F10 and F11.

The Colorado River is experiencing severe and ongoing drought, which has dramatically reduced Lake Mead's water elevation to historically low levels.

As a result of these dire conditions, the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery's raw water intake has been rendered inoperable causing the hatchery to suspend operations until a new water delivery system can be designed and constructed.

Over the years, the SNWA has engaged in successful partnerships with many local, state and federal agencies. This crisis has created another opportunity for collaboration and partnership. The SNWA, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Nevada Department of Wildlife seek to partner to implement a project for the design and construction of a new water pipeline that will convey water from existing SNWA intake facilities. The SNWA intakes are located at deeper elevations than the original hatchery intake. This will provide both a more reliable water source for the hatchery and better-quality water, which will improve conditions for fish rearing. It is important to note that water used by the fish hatchery will be returned to the lake, so the project will not impact water availability and will not contribute to a greater consumptive use of water.

This project is needed to get the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery back online so that Nevada can continue to implement the goals of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program for the conservation of federally endangered fish and comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you approve the use of these federal funds in support of this much-needed project.

Thank you.