

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

November 29, 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.

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.

To enhance the positive impacts of the HFE, we recommend that consideration be given to a longer ramp down duration. There are various ways to achieve this without affecting the overall yearly inflow to Lake Mead such as reducing the duration from 4 days to 3 days and similarly increasing the ramp down period.

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,

Walter R. Rist

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