

**Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District  
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program  
Program Decision Document 07-001: Land and Water Approval CVIDD**

**Steering Committee Resolution**

The Steering Committee approves Reclamation entering into a long-term lease with Mohave County, to secure 1,309 acres of land and 1,300 acre-feet of water in the Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District. The Steering Committee approves Reclamation securing 1,500 acre-feet of water from the Hopi Tribe.

**Resources**

Land and Water

- 1,300 acre-feet of MSCP Option Water (4<sup>th</sup> Priority)<sup>1</sup> and 1,309 acres of land owned by Mohave County Water Authority
- 1,500 acre-feet of MSCP Option Water (4<sup>th</sup> Priority)<sup>1</sup> owned by the Hopi Tribe
- 119 acre-feet of existing Reclamation water entitlement
- **TOTAL of 2,919 acre-feet of water for LCR MSCP use**

**Approach to Secure the Resources**

Reclamation proposes entering into a long-term lease with Mohave County Water Authority for the term of the LCR MSCP (April 2055).

- Lease covers: 1,309 acres of land and 1,300 acre-feet of water
- Lease will be phased allowing Reclamation to develop land over a period of time
- Farmers will continue to farm land through a lease with Mohave County Water Authority until Reclamation calls on the land for phased habitat development
- With Reclamation’s approval, the title to land and water could be transferred to Arizona Game and Fish Department

Reclamation has begun discussions with The Conservation Fund and the Hopi Tribe to secure 1,500 acre-feet of water.

**Cost**

Mohave County Water Authority	\$2,093,000 <sup>2</sup>
Hopi Tribe	\$2,415,000 <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL cost for securing land and water for term of the program</b>	<b>\$4,508,000</b>

Just over **700 acres of habitat** (mix between cottonwood-willow for southwestern willow flycatcher/dry yellow-billed cuckoo habitats and honey mesquite habitat) is anticipated to be developed with these resources. The remaining acres (approximately 590 acres) will be available for program purposes in the future should the opportunity to secure additional water become available.

<sup>1</sup> In January 2007, the estimated cost of the water is \$1,610 per acre-foot, per The Conservation Fund/MCWA/Hopi Tribe Purchase Agreement, Section 19

<sup>2</sup> Final costs will be adjusted for inflation in accordance with The Conservation Fund/MCWA/Hopi Tribe Purchase Agreement, Section 19

The estimated overall cost of securing land and water for these 700 acres of habitat for the term of the program is **\$6,440 per acre (2007 dollars)** (\$4,508,000/700). This estimate does not cover developmental costs. Program documents assumed the cost of private land and water acquisition to be \$6,000 per acre (\$6732 in 2007 dollars) and leases with Tribes to be \$325 per acre per year (\$364 in 2007 dollars). The overall costs of this transaction is below the program estimate.