

Draft Resolution 13-002
Work Task E28
April 24, 2013

WHEREAS, the Yuma East Wetlands (“Wetlands”) is located along the Colorado River between the confluence of the Gila River and the Ocean to Ocean Bridge in Yuma, Arizona;

WHEREAS, restoration and development of the Yuma East Wetlands began in 2000 and is managed through a collaborative partnership between the Quechan Tribe, City of Yuma, Arizona Game & Fish Commission, and Yuma Crossing National Heritage;

WHEREAS, the LCR MSCP (or “Program”) has been funding Work Task E28 Yuma East Wetlands since 2010, providing assistance in operations and maintenance of 350 acres of established land cover types (cottonwood-willow, mesquite, marsh and open water) that support LCR MSCP covered species;

WHEREAS, numerous covered species have been detected on the Wetlands since 2004 and the potential exists for even more covered species to utilize the area with additional adaptive management practices;

WHEREAS, water needs to support the Wetlands have been and will continue to be met through the Quechan Tribe and City of Yuma’s existing Colorado River water allocations;

WHEREAS, the LCR MSCP’s participation in the Yuma East Wetlands is supported by the Fish and Wildlife Service and provides the LCR MSCP with the opportunity to receive credit of 350 acres of habitat under the Program;

WHEREAS, LCR MSCP’s participation in the Yuma East Wetlands is cost effective since the LCR MSCP does not have to provide compensation to any party for the use of land, water or other resources on the site, nor reimburse any party for the \$11 million of prior restoration and development costs;

WHEREAS, cost to the LCR MSCP to operate, maintain and adaptively manage the Wetlands is not expected to increase significantly over the 50 years of the Program and may, in fact, decrease slightly as native vegetation matures;

WHEREAS, the Program Manager has worked with the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, City of Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to develop a Land Use Agreement that is consistent with the principles described above;

RESOLVED that the Steering Committee supports incorporating the Yuma East Wetlands into the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.

Draft Motion

Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee supports incorporating the Yuma East Wetlands into the LCR MSCP.