

GOVERNMENT (continued)

the native fish and aquatic habitat of the Grand Canyon and Colorado River by stopping the ongoing destruction caused by the current operations of Glen Canyon Dam, but it does not seek to decommission the dam.

The lawsuit can be viewed at www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/press/grand-canyon-complaint2-15-2006.pdf.

Fort Huachuca to Revisit San Pedro River Impacts

from the Center for Biological Diversity

In March, the U.S. Army's Fort Huachuca announced that it would revisit its obligations to protect southern Arizona's San Pedro River and will reinstate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), a nonprofit conservation organization, had filed a lawsuit against the fort in June 2005 for the Army's failure to consult on impacts to the river and endangered species resulting from new military missions and population increases in the region owing to the fort's presence.

In the 2002 Biological Opinion (BO) issued by FWS, the fort was charged with mitigating the overdraft groundwater use in the Upper San Pedro River/Sierra Vista subwatershed. The fort also agreed to not expand by more than 500 people

through 2011. Since that time, the fort has added or committed to adding more than 2,500 people. With the addition of those troops, their families, contractors, and others, CBD estimates the overall population increase using standard multipliers would be nearly 12,000.

According to CBD, new information has become available that also triggers the need for reinitiating consultation: recent estimates of the groundwater deficit are double the amount estimated in the 2002 BO; groundwater pumping for the fort and the city of Sierra Vista has been found to intercept water that would otherwise contribute to the baseflow of the river; the San Pedro went dry for the first time on record last year; and surviving locations of the endangered Huachuca water umbel, a plant that relies on the perennial flow of the San Pedro, have subsequently been reduced.

Visit www.biologicaldiversity.org.

CA Agencies Ordered to Comply

In February, the California State Water Resources Control Board imposed a cease-and-desist order against the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the threatened violation of their permit and license conditions, which requires compliance with salinity objectives in

the interior southern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The board concluded that DWR and Reclamation are responsible for meeting the salinity objective in that area of 0.7 millimhos per centimeter electrical conductivity at specified compliance stations between April 1 and Aug. 31 each year. Further, the agencies must comply with a detailed plan and schedule to bring them into compliance by July 1, 2009, and report potential violations and take corrective action to prevent them.

To meet the goals, the agencies, which operate the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project, might have to pump less water out of the delta, which would impact millions of water users in the Central Valley and southern parts of the state, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Other options include releasing more water from upstream reservoirs to dilute the salinity in the delta, and improving flow within the delta.

Liz Kanter, spokesperson for the water board, called the action "historic" for its hard-line approach, reported the *Times*. Representatives from the affected agencies were not so enthusiastic, saying they were being held accountable for pollution for which they were not responsible, said the newspaper. Jerry Johns, deputy director of DWR, said reducing water exports would not improve water quality because the salinity is introduced by local discharges.

Visit www.waterboards.ca.gov and www.latimes.com.

HydroFacts

Scant precipitation in winter and spring in Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas, and southwestern Colorado has people looking forward to rain from the North American monsoon, which typically begins between July 3 and July 8 and affects only this region of the United States. Above-average water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico are causing some to speculate that this year's monsoon could be a wet one. The monsoon contributes a significant percentage of annual precipitation in the area.

City	July-Sept. avg. monsoon precip. (inches)	Avg. yearly precip. (inches)	% yearly precip in monsoon months
Albuquerque, NM	3.8	8.6	44
El Paso, TX	4.5	8.6	52
Flagstaff, AZ	7.3	21.6	34
Phoenix, AZ	2.8	7.7	36
Tucson, AZ	5.8	12.2	48

Source: National Weather Service

Lawsuit vs. All-American Canal Lining Dismissed Temporarily

A lawsuit to block the lining of a 23-mile section of the All-American Canal that was filed by two California environmental groups and a Mexicali economic development council was dealt a major blow in February, with U.S. District Judge Philip Pro dismissing all but one of eight counts in the lawsuit, reported the Colorado River Board of California. The Imperial Irrigation District is planning to recoup about 67,000 acre-feet per year