

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
ARIZONA STATE PARKS
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**CONCERNING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITHIN THE BILL
WILLIAMS RIVER WATERSHED IN SOUTHWEST ARIZONA**

I. Introduction

This agreement is entered into among the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to facilitate and implement an adaptive approach to water resource management and watershed health that aims to ensure the long-term ecological integrity, while meeting human needs, of the Bill Williams River watershed.

Further, this agreement formalizes the establishment of the Bill Williams River Corridor Steering Committee (hereafter Steering Committee) that will meet on an as necessary basis.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide a collaborative, science-based framework that can inform decision-making and lead to: (1) the preservation and enhancement of the last, best, intact riparian ecosystem in the Lower Colorado River corridor while addressing the flood control, recreation and water supply needs of current and future generations; (2) identification of appropriate data needs and coordination and implementation strategies for maintaining and enhancing the overall health of the Bill Williams River watershed.

III. Cooperation

The parties to this memorandum of understanding agree to:

- A. Participate in the Steering Committee that will meet regularly to accomplish the purpose identified in Paragraph II.
- B. Coordinate available agency or organizational resources to efficiently advance the common mission of the Steering Committee.

IV. Implementation and Administration

The parties to this memorandum of understanding agree to:

- A. There will be an annually rotating chair of the Steering Committee with the chair passing between the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The primary responsibility of the chair will be to provide the Steering Committee with administrative support.
- B. Sitting members of the Steering Committee established by this memorandum of understanding will be responsible for briefing their management and coordinating within their individual agency or organization.
- C. The Steering Committee will provide a progress report semi-annually for participant and public review. In addition, individual project reports, plans, etc. will be provided as required. The Steering Committee may consider establishing a web site, through one of the member organizations if possible, to enable providing the above information.
- D. The Arizona Department of Water Resources will serve in an advisory capacity to the rest of the Steering Committee members.
- E. The City of Scottsdale shall be a participant on the Steering Committee pursuant to the Letter of Support and Participation attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

V. Limitations

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as limiting or affecting the legal authorities or decision-making of any of the participants of this MOU, or require expenditure of funds. Any party to this agreement may terminate its participation in this agreement by written notification at least 30 days prior to the termination date.

VI. Agreement Term

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in effect for a period of 25 years from the date of execution.

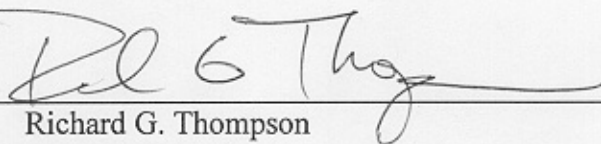
**EXECUTION PAGE FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITHIN THE BILL WILLIAMS RIVER
WATERSHED IN SOUTHWEST ARIZONA**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Authority to Enter into This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, may enter into agreements regarding the operation of Alamo Dam on the Bill Williams River pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 22 December 1944 (Public Law 534, 78th Congress, 2d session) which authorized construction of the dam, and 33 CFR Part 222, Section 222.7 (Engineer Regulation 1110-2-240, Water Control Management) which prescribes policies and procedures for carrying out water control management activities.

Participation on Steering Committee: I do () / do not () (place an "X" in the appropriate spot) desire to have my organization represented on the Bill Williams River Corridor Steering Committee. Organizations that desire to have representation on the steering committee agree to provide a representative to said committee (Articles III. & IV. of the MOU).

By



Richard G. Thompson
Colonel, US Army
District Engineer

3-12-04

Date

EXHIBIT A
BWRCSC MOU

14 January 2004

Mr. Andrew Hautzinger, Chair
Bill Williams River Corridor Steering Committee
c/o United States Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

RE: Letter of Support and Cooperation
Bill Williams River Corridor Steering Committee

Dear Mr. Hautzinger:

As you know, several federal and state natural resource agencies, together with The Nature Conservancy, have agreed to enter into a 25-year memorandum of understanding ("MOU") regarding cooperation and coordination within the Bill Williams River watershed in southwest Arizona. This MOU formalizes the establishment of the Bill Williams River Corridor Steering Committee (hereafter Steering Committee) that will meet on an as necessary basis.

The mission of the Steering Committee is to facilitate and implement an adaptive approach to water resource management and watershed health that aims to ensure the long-term ecological integrity, while meeting human needs, of the Bill Williams River watershed.

As stated in the MOU, the purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide a collaborative, science-based framework that can inform decision-making and lead to: (1) the preservation and enhancement of the last, best, intact riparian ecosystem in the Lower Colorado River corridor while addressing the flood control, recreation and water supply needs of current and future generations; (2) identification of appropriate data needs and coordination and implementation strategies for maintaining and enhancing the overall health of the Bill Williams River watershed.

The City of Scottsdale supports the mission and purpose of the Steering Committee. However, the City of Scottsdale interests in the Bill Williams River watershed are relatively short term and remain limited to that portion of the watershed directly impacting its property at Planet Ranch. Therefore, the City does not believe that it is appropriate to sign the MOU at this time.

In lieu of signing the MOU, the City submits this Letter of Support and Cooperation. The City looks forward to participation on the Steering Committee as appropriate, and will coordinate available agency or organizational resources as feasible to efficiently advance the mission of the Steering Committee as it relates to Planet Ranch.

Please contact my office should you have any questions regarding the intent of this letter.

Sincerely,

David M. Mansfield, General Manager
Water Resources Department
City of Scottsdale, Arizona