

Peer Review Plan for “West-Wide Climate Risk Assessments: Hydroclimate Projections Technical Memorandum”, prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation West-Wide Climate Risk Assessment Implementation Team

Purpose: The subject and purpose of this report is to support Reclamation’s SECURE Water Act Section 9503(c) Report to Congress, Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program. This report addresses the statutory reporting requirement under the SECURE Water Act Section 9503(c) by documenting projected effect of global climate change on the quantity of water resources located in each major Reclamation river basin. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the 2011 West-Wide Climate Risk Assessments: Bias-Corrected and Spatially Downscaled Surface Water Projections report (<http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/docs/west-wide-climate-risk-assessments.pdf>) based on the CMIP5 climate and hydrology projections.

Document Type: The document is not influential or highly influential as defined by Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677) and the Reclamation Manual Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments Policy Temporary Release (CMP TRMR-30). This report is undergoing discretionary peer review. The report is not a decisional document; public comment is not being sought.

Peer Review Scope and Methodology: Peer review will be conducted by two groups of individuals to encompass reviewers both internal and external to Reclamation. It is expected that 5 – 10 individuals will provide peer review internally within Reclamation with expertise in the application of climate and hydrology projections in long-term collaborative water resource planning studies. For external technical expert review, 5 – 10 reviewers are expected from the science and engineering community with expertise in climate science and hydrology projections for water resources management. Organizations with expertise identified above who were asked to provide review include the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. The internal and external technical expert peer review will occur concurrently.

Peer Review Timing: The review will take place between January 6th and January 29th, 2016. The peer review plan will be posted to Reclamation’s Peer Review website. Inquiries to learn the specifics of the peer review plan may be directed to Katharine Dahm, Water Resources and Planning Division, Policy and Administration (303) 445-2495.