

TCD RELATED STUDIES, GCDAMP 2005:

Reclamation has committed \$200,000 of Section 8 funds in FY 2004 and FY 2005 to be used for assessments of habitats and biota that likely will be affected by warmer water, due to reduced reservoir elevations caused by the ongoing drought. In FY 2004 these funds are applied to new project A.29 (previously project 6, Humpback Chub Plan Actions). In the FY 2005 budget, these funds are divided between project A.20, at \$50,000, and project A.12 Temperatures and Habitat Use Monitoring at \$150,000.

Both of these projects are intended to provide information on habitats and biota that likely would be affected by a TCD delivering warmer water from Glen Canyon Dam. Therefore, it seems judicious to treat them as a combined project funded at \$200,000 for both FY 2004 and FY 2005. The primary emphasis for the project would be to monitor water temperature and biotic responses in habitats that currently are not being sampled adequately by the downstream IWQP, aquatic foodbase, or fish monitoring projects. Particular emphasis would be given to the fate of young humpback chub emerging from the Little Colorado River, and to their utilization of nearshore rearing habitats downstream of that tributary. Emphasis also would be directed at habitat use of non-native fish that may be competing with or preying upon humpback chub and other native fish, and the responses of these non-native fish to warmer temperatures should release temperatures continue to rise.

To take advantage of potentially warmer releases, it is important that these efforts be initiated in FY 2004. Reclamation and GCMRC have agreed to meet in February to plan the scope of work for this project. We will bring the results of those discussions to the March 3-4, 2004, AMWG meeting and provide more details at that meeting than currently exist in work plans. We will also make every effort to include in those discussions cooperating scientists engaged in GCDAMP aquatic studies, as well as interested TWG members and the Science Advisors.