

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or a copy of the proposed collection of information, contact Ms. Nancy DiDonato at 702-293-8532.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of Reclamation, including whether the information shall have practical use; (b) The accuracy of Reclamation's estimated burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, use, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home address of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by

law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials or organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Title: Diversions, Return Flow, and Consumptive Use of Colorado River Water in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

OMN No.: 1006-0015.

Abstract: Reclamation delivers Colorado River water to water users for diversion and beneficial consumptive use in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada. Under Supreme Court order, the United States is required, at least annually, to prepare and maintain complete, detailed, and accurate records of diversions of water, return flow, and consumptive use. This information is needed to ensure that a State or a water user within a State does not exceed its

authorized use of Colorado River water. Water users are obligated by provisions in their water delivery contracts to provide Reclamation information on diversions and return flows. Reclamation determines the consumptive use by subtracting return flow from diversions or by other engineering means. Without the information collected, Reclamation could not comply with the order of the United States Supreme Court to prepare and maintain detailed and accurate records of diversions, return flow, and consumptive use.

Description of respondents: The Lower Basin States (Arizona, California, and Nevada), local and tribal entities, water districts, and individuals that use Colorado River water.

Frequency: Monthly, annually, or otherwise as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

Estimated total number of respondents: 54.

Estimated total number of annual responses: 330.

Estimated total annual burden hours: 290.

ESTIMATED BURDEN FOR EACH FORM

Form No.	Estimated number of respondents	Total responses per year	Estimated annual burden hours per form
LC-72	6	78	54
LC-72A	8	20	30
LC-72B	15	51	78
Custom Forms	25	181	128

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Reclamation will display a valid OMB control number on the forms. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on March 18, 2003 (68 FR 12932). Reclamation received comments from one entity on this collection of information during the comment period which offered ways to improve our current information collection practices. The comments were (i) publish the information collected in a more timely fashion by updating the monthly consumptive use records shown in the provisional report accessible on Reclamation's Web site at <http://www.lc.usbr.gov/g4000/use2002.pdf>; (ii) subject the information collected to a more stringent quality control process prior to publication of the provisional report; and (iii) for forms

LC-72 and LC-72A delete the option on the forms of reporting less frequently than monthly as more precise forecasts of the amount of unused water potentially available to other users is necessary. For the first comment, the provisional monthly report has typically been updated on or about the 18th day of each month with the water user records available to Reclamation. However, we are in the process of implementing a real-time water use monitoring system that will provide daily estimates of water use-to-date, as well as forecasts for end-of-year use. Although full implementation of the system is expected to take approximately 3 years, we expect to begin posting daily updates on our Web site (<http://www.usbr.gov/lc.region/>) on or about June 15 of this year, using all available daily data and estimates for those users for which daily data is not available. Automatic data collection devices will be installed over the 3-year period in priority order and will include

some of the entities listed in the respondent's letter dated May 15, 2003. As automation continues, the forecast will become more precise. Since these provisional records will continue to form the basis for the final annual reporting of uses, we will be able to publish that report in a more timely fashion after year's end. In addition, we are working with the U.S. Geological Survey to provide a mid-year finalization of the priority records to further increase the accuracy of the forecasts. For the second comment, we agree that quality control is extremely important and will continue to improve our quality control processes. For the third comment, annual reporting of water use by smaller water users, when such discretion is allowed by the water delivery contracts, is consistent with the intent of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) Therefore, we do not intend to change forms LC-72 and LC-72A.