



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

In Reply Refer To:
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MAK 23 2016

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senator
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery (NFH) Pipeline Project. Following receipt of your letter dated March 7, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) staff participated in a phone conversation with members of your staff on March 9, 2016. During the call, we discussed the estimated timeline for work on this project and the increased costs due to additional modifications to the contract.

The original contract cost awarded to replace the pump system pipeline at Willow Beach NFH was \$801,506. In a partnership agreement, those repair costs are being shared by the Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), with AZGFD providing \$389,000 toward the project.

Our engineering and contracting staff worked with AZGFD to determine specifications and the timeline for bidding the contract and completing the work. Following a competitive bid process, we selected Performance Systems, Inc. to complete the project. After the contractor was selected, discussions and a walk-through of the project led to modifications being added to the project at an additional cost of \$191,704. These modifications include installing safety measures for regular maintenance once the replacement pipeline is in place and creating a barrier to prevent invasive species such as the quagga mussels from entering the pipeline when it is not running. The proposed project incurred additional costs for engineering design work and for a bathymetric survey at an increase of \$17,389. The project now costs \$1,010,599. The Service will cover these additional costs to the contract. After the modifications were approved, the contractor was given the notice to proceed with the project on August 14, 2015. Barring any unforeseen issues, such as inclement weather conditions or equipment failure, the project is scheduled to be completed by June 6, 2016. The Service will then conduct administrative completion of the project by July 29, 2016.

As soon as the project is physically completed, the system will be tested before beginning trout production. After the testing is complete and water is available, trout production will recommence

at Willow Beach NFH. To better meet the needs of anglers, the Service will continue to work with AZGFD to expedite initial production of trout. We are working with other Regions within the Service to pre-order trout eggs for production. Additionally, the AZGFD has agreed to provide fingerling trout. This will shorten the timeframe for catchable size trout to be available for fishing. The size and number of trout available will be determined later in the spring by AZGFD. It is expected that catchable size trout could be stocked from the Willow Beach NFH in the winter of 2016-2017. We will work on a schedule with the AZGFD for stocking trout to ensure that the fishing experience can be enjoyed the entire season.

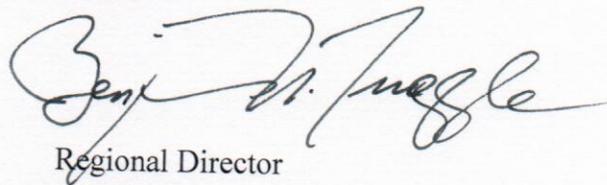
Below is the revised timeline beginning August 2015 to the projected completion of this project:

- Contract awarded - August 14, 2015
- Design phase completed (this phase included adding modifications to the project) - January 6, 2016
- Project modification negotiations and contract adjustment - January 22, 2016
- Contractor pre-construction work (equipment and materials ordering and equipment transport) January to March, 2016
- Construction phase start date - March 28, 2016
- Construction phase end date - June 6, 2016
- Administrative close-out of project - July 29, 2016

We are committed to ensuring this work is done within this timeline and meeting our shared goals. While the construction work is taking place, we will provide monthly updates to your office and to AZGFD to keep you apprised of the progress. If any unforeseen issues arise the contractor is instructed to notify the Service immediately and we will provide an update to your office.

Again, we appreciate your continued interest in this project. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 505-248-6282; or Stewart Jacks, Assistant Regional Director for Fish and Aquatic Conservation at 505-248-6620.

Sincerely,



Regional Director

The Honorable John McCain

3

cc: Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ
Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation, Albuquerque, NM
The Honorable Paul Gosar, State Representative, Washington, D.C.
Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs, Albuquerque, NM
Performance Systems Inc, Meridian, ID (Attn: Dave Miller)
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