

## Memorandum

Date: November 6, 2013

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
California Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

Subject: Reciprocal License Agreement with Arizona on the Colorado River

California and Arizona have recognized each other's licenses on the Colorado River through an agreement signed in 1976 pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 375 and 7180-7186. This agreement also required each state to issue a special stamp for residents of either state and to exchange revenues from the sales of the other state's stamp.

Recently, the State of Arizona amended laws and rules that regulate hunting and fishing and simplified Arizona's licensing structure to reduce impediments to hunting and angling. Part of this streamlining eliminated the Colorado River Stamp, provided for in Fish and Game Code section 7180. Fish and Game Code section 7185 established the term of the article (e.g. all sections pertinent to the Colorado River stamp) as effective so long as each state offered substantially similar licenses and stamps. The changes in Arizona law have eliminated the similarity and ended the authority for either state to require a Colorado River special use stamp. This, unfortunately, will reduce revenue to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) by about \$70,000 a year. However, there is still a need to recognize each state's license by the neighbor state in the shared waters of the Colorado River.

The Department has reviewed the attached agreement concerning the reciprocal recognition of licenses between the states of Arizona and California on the Colorado River boundary water between the two states. A valid license for either state will allow anglers to take fish or amphibians on the waters or on either shore of the Colorado River. An angler will be responsible for following the laws and regulations of the state license they have in their possession.

The Fish and Game Commission is signatory agency for the ratification of the Agreement, and the Department recommends ratification.

Attachment

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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