

## Work Task E17: Topock Marsh Pumping

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$1,000	\$29,544.13*	\$1,134,907.04	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

\* Actual obligations for FY14 are funds that were deobligated from the 2012 Interagency Agreement at the request of the USFWS to fund the Value Engineering Study administered by Reclamation's Technical Service Center.

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**Start Date:** FY06

**Expected Duration:** FY25

**Long-Term Goal:** Avoid impacts from flow-related covered activities on covered species habitats at Topock Marsh

**Conservation Measures:** AMM2

**Location:** Reach 3, Havasu NWR, River Miles 235–244, Arizona

**Purpose:** To avoid flow-related covered impacts on covered species habitats at Topock Marsh by constructing a reliable and manageable water control structure that ensures water delivery off the main stem of the Colorado River by gravitational diversion or pumping

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future):** N/A

**Project Description:** Topock Marsh has been identified as habitat for the Yuma clapper rail and the southwestern willow flycatcher. At times, flow-related activities could lower river elevations to levels that will disrupt existing gravitational diversions of water from the river to the marsh. Construction of a new control structure that diverts water gravitationally or through pumping will ensure water can be delivered to the marsh even when river elevations are low.

**Previous Activities:** In early 2010, \$1 million was committed under the LCR MSCP toward the construction of Firebreak Canal, which improved the delivery of water to Topock Marsh by greatly reducing transmission losses that occurred when using the old, unlined inlet canal. In return for the monetary contribution, the USFWS rendered correspondence stating that the construction obligations under Avoidance Measure AMM2 have been met under the LCR MSCP.

At the LCR MSCP Steering Committee meeting on April 28, 2010, the decision was made to provide the USFWS with all the operation and maintenance funds, also required under Avoidance Measure AMM2, in a lump sum of \$2.55 million during FY12. It was agreed that, upon the USFWS's receipt of the funds, a second letter would be rendered, affirming that all operation and maintenance commitments under Avoidance Measure AMM2 have been fulfilled under the LCR MSCP. The lump sum funding under the avoidance measure was made available from under the LCR MSCP to the USFWS via an Interagency Agreement in March 2012. The final USFWS letter, stating that no further action under the LCR MSCP relating to any further commitments regarding Avoidance Measure AMM2, was presented to the Steering Committee during the October 2012 meeting.

**FY14 Accomplishments:** Monitoring of the Interagency Agreement with the USFWS continued. Construction on the pump station has not begun. A design review was initiated by the USFWS and completed in April 2013. Based on the results of the review, the USFWS scheduled a Value Engineering Study with Reclamation's Technical Services Center in July 2014 to evaluate a number of design options. Funds expended in FY14 include this study and are a portion of the \$2.55 million committed to the USFWS under Avoidance Measure AMM2.

The USFWS continues to take the steps necessary to ensure a viable water management system will be constructed. At the conclusion of FY14, approximately \$2,500,000 remained in the Interagency Agreement.

The Final Value Engineering Study Report was completed in November 2014. The USFWS continues to take the steps necessary to ensure a viable water management system will be constructed.

**Proposed FY15 Activities:** Although Avoidance Measure AMM2 is complete, the work task remains open until all funds have been expended. No further action, beyond monitoring the Interagency Agreement with the USFWS, is required under the LCR MSCP. The Final Value Engineering Study Report, for delivery of water into the marsh, was completed in November 2014.

Topock Marsh is one of four major population centers for rail species covered under the program. The highest priority under Work Task H1 is the maintenance of marshes that support these key rail population centers. Discussions are underway with the USFWS regarding what value would be gained if the remaining funds under Work Task E17 were combined with a portion of the funds from Work Task H1 for the specific goal of operating the marsh for covered rails species. A planning team is anticipated to be established this fiscal year to evaluate the benefit of combining funds.

The use of the Existing Habitat Maintenance Fund in coordination with this work task funding would not affect the commitments under the LCR MSCP.

Avoidance Measure AMM2 has been fulfilled, as concurred by the USFWS, and no further obligations to maintain Topock Marsh are required under the LCR MSCP.

**FY16 Activities:** The progress and expenditures of the USFWS, agreed to in the Interagency Agreement, will be tracked.

**Pertinent Reports:** N/A