

Work Task E17: Topock Marsh Pumping

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$1,000	\$1,450.25	\$1,140,618.66	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

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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 National Wildlife Refuge, River Miles 235–244, Arizona

Purpose: To avoid the impacts of flow-related covered actions 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 Yuma clapper rails and southwestern willow flycatchers. At times, flow-related activities could lower the river stage and reduce gravity diversions of water from the Colorado River to the marsh. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed construction of an inlet canal (Fire Break Canal) that diverts water by gravity, combined with pumping, to deliver water 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 concurred that the LCR MSCP has met its construction obligations under Avoidance and Minimization Measure AMM2 (AMM2).

At the LCR MSCP Steering Committee meeting held on April 28, 2010, the decision was made to provide the USFWS with all the operation and maintenance funds, also required under AMM2, in a lump sum of \$2.55 million during FY12. Lump sum funding was made to the USFWS in March 2012. The final USFWS letter, stating that no further action under the LCR MSCP relating to any further commitments regarding AMM2, was presented to the Steering Committee during the October 2012 meeting.

FY15 Accomplishments: Monitoring of the funds continued. A Value Engineering Study that evaluated options for augmenting flows within the marsh complex was completed.

In FY15, preliminary conversations with the USFWS (Ecological Services Field Office) were held to discuss leveraging remaining AMM2 funds, approximately \$2.1 million, and contributions from the Habitat Maintenance Fund (HMF) to complete infrastructure improvements at Topock Marsh. This effort will allow for enhanced management of marsh levels as outlined in AAM2 as well as benefit the HMF target species. The USFWS Ecological Services Field Office was consulted prior to initial discussions and concurred with the use of the HMF for these purposes. The USFWS Ecological Services Field Office concurred with the approach, and both parties committed to formalize the effort in FY16.

Central to this proposal is the premise that the use of the HMF in coordination with this work task would not affect previously fulfilled commitments under AMM2. The USFWS has concurred that AMM2 has been fulfilled, and no further obligations to maintain Topock Marsh are required under the LCR MSCP.

Efforts to formalize an agreement with the USFWS to leverage these two funding sources (initiated in FY15) will continue in FY16. Surveying and engineering analyses to support initial engineering evaluation and design efforts at Topock Marsh will occur in FY16.

FY16 Activities: LCR MSCP staff met with the USFWS (Ecological Services Field Office) to review the framework of the agreement. The USFWS Ecological Services Field Office was consulted prior to that meeting and confirmed that the structure of the framework is acceptable. Key components of the agreement include: all commitments under AMM2 will remain fulfilled; all AMM2 funds will be expended prior to the utilization of the HMF; prior to construction activities, the USFWS and the LCR MSCP will enter into an agreement to use the HMF, which will detail the long-term roles and responsibilities of both agencies and marsh management objectives.

Surveying and engineering analyses to support initial engineering evaluation and design efforts at Topock Marsh will be completed. The LCR MSCP Office will provide coordination and general support of these activities but will not directly implement the project.

Proposed FY17 Activities: Preliminary survey and engineering analyses activities are expected to be completed. Efforts will advance into engineering design stages for the construction of a non-gravity flow water augmentation system. When all remaining AMM2 funds are expended, the work task will be closed. A formal agreement between the LCR MSCP and the USFWS will be developed and executed, outlining the long-term roles and responsibilities of both agencies.

Pertinent Reports: N/A