

Colorado River Regional Sewer Coalition (CRRSCo)
Status Update
December 6, 2006

In recent months Lake Havasu City staff was presented with and reviewed a DRAFT copy of the Lower Colorado River Protection Act legislation prepared by Bracy, Tucker, Brown and Valanzano (BTBV), CRRSCo's Washington, DC lobbyist. This legislation, if passed, would enable congress to appropriate funds (approximately \$70 Million annually) to protect the Colorado River, including projects to eliminate septic systems along the river. City staff has also provided considerable information to BTBV to support the efforts of CRRSCo relating to the past efforts and accomplishments of Lake Havasu City on our Wastewater System Expansion Program, and also historical data on cost escalations that have been experienced during the past few years.

Over the past year CRRSCo has received monthly or bi-monthly reports from BTBV on their activities surrounding the legislation they drafted and other efforts made on the part of CRRSCo. These reports were subsequently distributed to CRRSCo members, and staff from BTBV have participated via telephone conference call at some of the CRRSCo meetings.

On March 2, 2006 Lake Havasu City received notification from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the FY 2006 appropriation for the EPA included \$1,500,000 for Lake Havasu City (less \$66,400 for EPA's administrative costs). This notification also outlined an extensive application process that was required for Lake Havasu City to be eligible to receive the grant funds included in the appropriation. Upon further investigation, it was determined that a significant amount of effort would be required on the part of Lake Havasu City to file the appropriate paperwork with the EPA to obtain the grant, which Lake Havasu City staff was unaware of (it was assumed that the city's (and CRRSCo's) previous engineering consultant had prepared the necessary paperwork at the time this grant was originally included in Senator Kyl's appropriation request, when in fact they hadn't). BTBV was contacted to assist with this process, and on behalf of Lake Havasu City and CRRSCo, BTBV over the last 8+ months has provided considerable guidance to city staff in completing the paperwork, and has held numerous meetings and conversations with representatives of Senator Kyl's office as well as the EPA to facilitate approval of the grant paperwork on Lake Havasu City's behalf. At the present time, the grant application, work plan, environmental assessment, procurement procedures and other required documents have been submitted to the EPA, initial comments on several of the documents have been received, and the EPA has indicated that if the most recent submittal meets their requirements, the public notification will be advertised sometime within the next 60 days. If no objections are received, Lake Havasu City will be in a position to receive the grant funding sometime in February, 2007.

Staff has been in contact with BTBV and received confirmation that they would visit Lake Havasu City and brief the City Council on the current status of their activities in

January. While plans have not been finalized at this time, this is tentatively scheduled to occur at the January 9, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting.