



(760) 878-0001
FAX: (760) 878-2552

EMAIL: mail@inyowater.org
WEB: <http://www.inyowater.org>

P.O. Box 337
135 South Jackson Street
Independence, CA 93526

**COUNTY OF INYO
WATER DEPARTMENT**

November 27, 2018

Mr. Chris Ellis, Vice President and General Manager
Coso Operating Company, LLC
P.O. Box 1690
Inyokern, California 93527

Subject: Conditional Use Permit #2007-03/Coso – extension of pumping

Dear Mr. Ellis:

This letter is in reply to your letter of November 21, 2018, wherein you request an evaluation be performed to determine if pumping can be extended past May 31, 2019. Pursuant to Conditional Use Permit #2007-03/Coso and the associated Hydrologic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (HMMP), Coso Operating Company's (COC) groundwater pumping rate and duration are subject to restrictions based on ongoing analysis of monitoring data. By letter of June 27, 2017, the Inyo County Water Department approved continuation of pumping by COC from the Hay Ranch wells not to exceed 1,611 acre-feet during the period June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018, and an additional amount not to exceed 1,611 acre-feet for the period June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019, for a total of 3,222 acre-feet during that two-year period.

In the two year period beginning June 1, 2017, COC has pumped 1,286 acre-feet and indicates that no additional pumping from the Hay Ranch wells will occur in the two-year extension addressed in the Water Department's June 27, 2017 letter, leaving 1,936 acre-feet of the permitted amount unpumped. Based on the prior evaluations by Daniel B. Stephens & Associates and the groundwater elevation monitoring data collected pursuant to the HMMP, the 1,936 acre-feet of permitted pumping that has not been extracted can be safely pumped at some time later than May 31, 2019. On the condition that no pumping occur from the Hay Ranch wells until after May 31, 2019, and that pumping not exceed 1,611 acre-feet during any twelve month period or exceed a total of 1,936 acre-feet, pumping may continue through May 31, 2021. If COC does pump between now and May 31, 2019, the amount pumped is deducted from the amount allowable during the period June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2021.

This approval does not diminish the discretion afforded to the Water Department under Conditional Use Permit #2007-03 to further enforce or modify mitigation measures to protect the citizens, economy, and environment of Inyo County.

Please feel free to contact me at (760) 878-0001 or bharrington@inyocounty.us if you have any questions. Questions subsequent to

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Harrington".

Robert Harrington, Water Director

cc: Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Inyo County Water Commission
Clint Quilter, County CAO
Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel
Cathreen Richards, Planning Director
Neil Blanford, Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc.
Gary Arnold, Little Lake Ranch
Aaron Steinwand, Inyo County Water Department
Keith Rainville, Inyo County Water Department