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Sent: Friday, June 29, 2007 01:57 PM Pacific Standard Time

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Subject: Announcement

All,

I tried to call many of you this afternoon, but got mostly voicemails. But I wanted to make sure you all got this news from me personally, and not from someone else. If I missed someone, please pass this news along.

The time has come for me to end my tenure at the Department of the Interior in order to pursue opportunities in the private sector here in Washington, D.C. With mixed emotions, I have submitted my resignation to President Bush and Secretary Kempthorne effective Friday, July 13, 2007.

I have enjoyed my time in public service immensely, and most of all, I have enjoyed working with and getting to know all of you throughout the past five and a half years. And, one of the many regrets that I have in leaving is that I will not be serving with Secretary Kempthorne through the remainder of his term of office. Words cannot describe how much I have enjoyed working with the Secretary, and I wish him only the best in the future.

The work we all collectively have accomplished (and are still accomplishing, I hope) over these past few years is nothing short of remarkable. All of you have played a major role in that, and rightly so. You are the gatekeepers for your respective states, and represent the many communities, farms, and families who depend on the waters of the Colorado River for their very survival. I hope we at Interior have, in some way, helped facilitate the great work you have done, and I want you all to know the team I leave here at Interior, led by Secretary Kempthorne and Commissioner Bob Johnson, all are committed to finishing up what we have started.

I also must thank the many career public servants who work at Interior. Their dedication and devotion to the great work we do here is truly inspiring to me, and I will never forget their assistance and guidance throughout my tenure.

Finally, I want to publicly thank my family - my wife, Cindy, my children Jennifer, Melissa, Allison, and Lawrence (who probably bore the brunt of our move to the East Coast the most), my son-in-laws Chris and Scott, and my grandchildren, Ryan, Matthew, Markus, Zak, and Taylor. They all sacrificed much in order to support me as I accepted my political appointments.

In closing, I wish all of you the very best in the future for peace and prosperity on the river - for all of you have contributed in building the foundation for this to occur. Thank you all for the support and friendship.

Sincerely,

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