Compact Commission Questionnaire

1. Please identify the compact to which you are referring in this response.

2. If your compact does not define with specificity the water resource that is the subject of the compact, how are (1) imported water, (2) conserved water, (3) stored water, and (4) groundwater treated in administering compact entitlements or obligations?

3. What problems, if any, have been encountered in administering compact entitlements or obligations?

4. If a particular issue is not addressed by the compact, how is it resolved? Does the Commission consider that it may take appropriate action not expressly provided for in the compact as long as it is not in conflict with the compact’s objectives? Please provide examples.

5. Has the Commission issued regulations, orders, guidelines, interpretations or any other formal or informal guidance for administration of the compact? If so, please provide copies. Were they developed in a public process?

6. What role, if any, does the Commission play in setting or enforcing water quality standards under the Clean Water Act?

7. How are the compact’s entitlements and obligations monitored and by whom?

8. What is the composition of the Commission’s staff, i.e., independent commission employees or officials of the compact states? What disciplines are represented? If the Commission staff is compensated, what is the source of the funds? Does the Commission retain outside legal counsel? If so, please provide contact information.

9. What action, official or unofficial, does the Commission take with respect to determination of water supply and uses relative to the compact entitlements or obligations?

10. What is the composition of the Commission? How are the members selected and for what terms? Are they compensated for their service? If so, what is the source of the funds?

11. What kind of vote is required for official Commission action, e.g., unanimous, majority, etc.? How are tie votes resolved? Is there a federal member and, if so, does he or she vote?

12. Has the Commission established technical or policy advisory committees? If so, what is their composition and how are members selected?
13. How are differences among the Commission members resolved?

14. Are reports prepared by the Commission or staff? If so, what kind of reports are prepared, how frequently, for what purpose are they used, and to whom are they submitted?

15. What state and federal agencies affect or are affected by Commission actions? How does the Commission coordinate its activities with these agencies? Considering state and federal agencies separately, how would you rate the success of such coordination efforts on a scale of 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent)? What are the principal problems, if any, that the Commission has encountered in such efforts? What recommendations would you make for improvement?

16. How are the Commission’s operations funded and at what level over the past 5 years? Is such funding adequate? If not, what level would be required to carry out the Commission’s responsibilities more satisfactorily? What are the realistic prospects for increased funding by the respective state legislatures?

17. Does any portion of funding for the Commission’s operations come from a federal agency or agencies? If so, have funds been available as anticipated?

18. Does the Commission consider its powers under the compact adequate to manage the basin’s water resources and to deal with serious supply shortages? If not, what additional powers would be necessary to do so? Has the Commission ever requested such powers? If not, why not? If so, what result?

19. Are the compact states generally satisfied with the compact? In light of the Commission’s experience, what changes, if any, would you recommend if the compact were to be renegotiated?

20. What has been the effect on compact entitlements or obligations of federal environmental or species protection laws enacted subsequent to Congressional consent to the compact, such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act? Please provide specific examples.

21. Please list and describe in relative order of importance the most serious problems the Commission has encountered in administering the compact. Have these problems been resolved? If so, how?

22. Do you have a written history or transcript of the compact negotiations? If so, would you be able to provide a copy for our files? We would be pleased to pay the reproduction costs.