



July 27, 2023

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the call of the Chairman, J.B. Hamby, by the undersigned Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California that a regular meeting of the members of the board is to be held as follows:

Date:	Wednesday, August 9, 2023
Time:	10:00 AM
Place:	Westdrift Manhattan Beach Beachgrass Room 1400 Parkview Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

The Colorado River Board of California welcomes any comments from members of the public pertaining to items included on this agenda and related topics. Members of the public may provide comments in the following ways: (1) Oral comments can be provided at the beginning of each board meeting; and (2) Public comments may be submitted by electronic mail, addressed to the board's Chairman, J.B. Hamby, at crb@crb.ca.gov and will be accepted up until 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Please note, written submissions will be read aloud at the public comment period to the extent they fit within the five-minute time limit.

If accommodations for individuals with disabilities are required, such persons should provide a request at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by electronic mail to board staff at crb@crb.ca.gov.

Requests for additional information may be directed to: Mr. Christopher S. Harris, Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California, 770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100, Glendale, CA 91203-1068. A copy of this Notice and Agenda may be found on the Colorado River Board's web page at www.crb.ca.gov.

A copy of the meeting agenda, showing the matters to be considered and transacted, is attached.



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 — 10:00 AM

At the discretion of the board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action by the board. Items may not necessarily be taken up in the order shown.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 minutes.)

ADMINISTRATION

1. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of the May 10th, 2023 board meeting **(Action)**
2. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of the June 14th, 2023 board meeting **(Action)**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

3. Rebecca Mitchell, State of Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission

REPORTS

4. Local and State Water Supply and Operations Reports
5. Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Operations Reports
6. Colorado River Basin Programs Staff Reports
7. Member Agency and Public Member Reports
8. Executive Director's Report
9. Chairman's Report

OTHER BUSINESS

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next Scheduled Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: Blythe, CA

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, May 10, 2023

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at the Monterey City Hall Council Chambers, 580 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA. 93940.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)	Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Gloria Cordero (MWD)	Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)	Peter Nelson (CVWD)
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)	Frank Ruiz (Public Member)
Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)	Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)	Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)	David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)	David Vigil (DFW Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)	

Others Present:

Heather Baez	Rich Juricich
Brian Brady	Robin Madaffer
Melissa Baum-Haley	Jessica Neuwerth
Dennis Davis	Abby Schneider
Dan Denham	Alexi Schnell
JR Echard	Rodney Smith
Chris Harris	Sara Tucker
Bill Hasencamp	

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Hamby invited members of the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, he moved on to the next item on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the March 15, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Madaffer moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Seiler. By roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Director Harris read aloud a Board resolution honoring Mr. Glen Peterson for his service as a Board member of the Colorado River Board of California. Mr. Nelson moved that the resolution be approved, seconded by Ms. Cordero. By roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Mr. Harris presented the draft Colorado River Board of California budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Mr. Harris presented the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Accomplishment Report and the FY-2023-2024 Planned Activities Report.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: MONTEREY ONE WATER

Mr. Sciuto, General Manager at Monterey One Water, reported on the various aspects of the agency's wastewater and water reuse services. He stated that Monterey One Water was formed in 1972 and later consolidated into a Joint Powers Agency with a ten-member board. He stated that Monterey's population is about 265,000 people. He noted that the region has scarce water supplies and Monterey One Water has been actively participating in recycled water efforts for 25 years. He explained that the recycling plant processes 17 million gallons a day (MGD) of wastewater, but the plant has a capacity closer to 30 MGD. He explained that the plant also receives agricultural drainage, packaging produce wash water (from bagged salads), and urban

and stormwater runoff from the Salinas Valley. He stated that 4 MGD of water is used to pre-wash vegetables which, historically has gone to ponds to either evaporate or percolate into the ground.

Mr. Sciuto explained that the agency also has a second treatment plant that has been producing Title 22 non-potable water for the benefit of 12,000 acres of cropland in the Salinas Valley. He explained that the water mitigates the effects of encroaching saltwater intrusion in the region. He stated 25 years ago, irrigating cropland with recycled water was unique but the agricultural community has come to rely on it.

Mr. Sciuto stated that eight years ago, Monterey's local water purveyor, California American Water, received a Cease-and-Desist order to stop its pumping of the Carmel River due to overuse. He stated that to address this issue, the agency began construction of an advanced water purification plant to process indirect potable water reuse water which is injected into the seaside groundwater aquifer called Pure Water Monterey. He stated the program has been in operation for a little more than three years and produces one-third of the potable water demand on the Monterey Peninsula. He stated that the plant is undergoing an expansion which will create 60% of the region's potable water demand by the end of 2025. He added that with the additional water supply, he hopes Monterey Peninsula's building moratorium will be lifted so that new housing can be added, and citizens can remodel their homes.

Mr. Sciuto stated that the agency is partnering with the local landfill to optimize its renewable energy resources. He explained that the Monterey Microgrid Project will bring in organics from the landfill into the Monterey One Water facility to increase the amount of energy it produces. The first phase is currently under construction and will be completed in five to ten years. He stated that the Pure Water facility will be 100% powered by renewable landfill gas.

Responding to a question from Vice Chairman Madaffer about Title 22 water, Mr. Sciuto stated that the water is provided in partnership Monterey County Water Resources Agency. The cost of the water is close to \$430 per acre foot and 12,000 AF of recycled water is delivered to cropland in the Salinas Valley. He stated that they also use an inflatable dam in the Salinas River to bring in river water to supplement the recycled water.

Responding to a question from Board member Nelson about whether Monterey's groundwater basin has been over drafted, Mr. Sciuto stated that the groundwater basin is experiencing a deficit and water from the Pure Water Project is injected into the basin. He stated that the groundwater basin is adjudicated. He explained that the groundwater basin under the agricultural lands is separate and is critically over drafted. He reported that the Groundwater

Sustainability Agency is working very hard to get into balance, but it is over drafted by many tens of thousands of acre feet.

STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS

Ms. Jones, representing the California Department of Water and Power (CA DWR) reported that the State's wet and rainy season the State has been has ended. She stated that compared to the previous dry water years, precipitation for Water Year-2023 fared very well. She added that some areas in the state received better precipitation than others.

Ms. Jones stated that reservoir storage for the San Luis and Shasta reservoirs was above the historical averages. She stated that DWR conducted a snow survey in May, which in previous years has not occurred because there is usually no snow. The survey showed that there is still a substantial amount of snow. She concluded that she hopes that the warming weather does not create additional problems related to rapid snow melting in areas where that is not desirable.

Ms. Cordero, representing The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), stated that as of May 1st, MWD's reservoir storage was about 71% capacity, and the Colorado River Aqueduct will be on a five- pump flow through July. She added that the 2023 diversion target is 827,000 AF, and as of May 4th, MWD has diverted 318,000 AF. She stated that deliveries for the first three months of 2023 were 62% average to date. She stated that the 2023 delivery target for the Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley District is at 350,000 AF.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORT

Mr. Harris reported that Mr. Juricich would be retiring from State service after thirty years. He stated that Mr. Juricich is the Board's Principal Engineer and has been a critical part of the Board's activities and operations for the past four years. He stated that Mr. Juricich will be missed and acknowledged him for all of his good work. Mr. Juricich thanked Mr. Harris for his comments and stated that he will be looking for part-time work in the private sector.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of May 8th, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,530.67 feet with 5.88 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 25% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,050.55 feet with 7.72 MAF of storage, or 30% of capacity. The total system storage was 20.41 MAF, or 35% of capacity, which is 0.09 MAF more than system storage at this time last year.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of May 4th, for Water Year-2023 (WY-2023) the forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 14.17 MAF, or 148% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 11.0 MAF, or 172% of normal. He stated that observed inflow into Lake Powell for April was 155% of normal and the May inflow forecast was 193% of normal.

Mr. Juricich reported that the snow water equivalent (SWE) above Lake Powell was 144% of median. He stated that SWE conditions throughout the Colorado River Basin were above normal, more than 150% of median, particularly in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. He reported that snowmelt has begun and there are elevated stream flow conditions across much of the Colorado River Basin.

Mr. Juricich reported on the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) April 24-Month Study. He stated that the most probable Lake Powell release is 9.5 MAF for Water Year-2023 and a 7.48 MAF release in Water Year-2024. He stated that April's most probable inflow is 14.47 MAF, or 151% of average.

Mr. Juricich reported that through the end of April, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 30,399 AF and 29,312 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico were 14,541 AF, compared to 1,068 AF this time last year. Finally, the total amount of saline drainage water bypassed to the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico was 36,146 AF through April 4th.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN STATES ACTIVITIES

Minute 323 Implementation

Mr. Harris reviewed activities related to Minute 323. He noted that activity around the Minute 323 process is ramping up after several quiet months. He noted that a Minute 323 oversight group meeting was held in San Diego in late April and that the work groups, particularly the projects and desalination work groups, will be meeting over the next couple of months.

Mr. Harris noted that there is revived interest in the All-American Canal turnout workgroup to look at the potential feasibility of routing Mexican treaty delivery water through the All-American Canal and into the Tijuana Aqueduct. He noted the rationale for this is to increase long-term urban water supply reliability in Baja California due to concerns about reliability of the Tijuana Aqueduct.

Mr. Harris noted Mexico's interest in considering the feasibility of desalination from the Sonora Coast of the Gulf of California for the Pacific coast in Baja California. Mr. Harris noted a particular interest in exploring potential binational opportunities for a desalination facility in Rosarito. He noted the rationale for this is to provide potential supply to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and MWD, in addition to improving urban water supply reliability in Baja California. He noted that a lot of environmental permitting has been done in the Rosarito area for the plant and that some want to build on this previous progress.

Mr. Harris responded to a question about whether the Colorado River water makes it as far south as Rosarito. He responded in the affirmative and explained how Colorado River water is moved in Mexico. He followed up by noting that the Mexican delegation to the workgroup is primarily interested in desalination facilities on the Pacific coast rather than the Sonora coast (i.e., the Gulf of California), that the Minute Oversight Group is receptive to this, and that it will look at this potential in more detail.

Mr. Harris discussed water conservation activities related to the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan, Mexico's drought plan related to the U.S. Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), as specified in Minute 323. He noted that the U.S. and Mexico sections of the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) are proposing to identify opportunities for additional water conservation in the Mexicali Valley and other areas that could result in additional conserved water stored in Lake Mead, in parallel with activities in the U.S. He further noted the desire for a new minute to be completed by July 2023.

Mr. Madaffer asked about how much water is allocated in Lake Mead for Mexico. Mr. Harris responded there is a cumulative cap on how much water can be withdrawn by Mexico and that he needed to check on the precise amount.

Salinity Control Program

Mr. Juricich provided an update on the Salinity Control Forum (Forum). He noted that the Forum's Workgroup (Workgroup) held a meeting at the end of April, and that the Workgroup is busy preparing a draft update to the Colorado River salinity standards for the Forum. He further noted that the Workgroup is trying to prepare the first draft for the Forum meeting in early June, followed by a draft for public comment later in June or July, followed by adoption in the fall.

Mr. Juricich noted, with a slide, that there were high flows in the Dolores River near the Paradox Valley Unit and pointed out where salinity measurements are taken for that project, but

that Reclamation assumed him that there is no damage to the measurement facilities due to the high flows.

Mr. Juricich described how the Workgroup discussed concerns about the longevity of the Paradox Valley control project as its deep injection can induce seismic activity. He noted that the last injection-induced earthquake, in 2019, shut down the project for two years and that it is now running at two-thirds capacity. He noted that the Forum is interested in finding a long-term replacement for the existing injection well and that Reclamation will seek requests for information about ideas for salinity control in the Paradox Valley. He noted that the request for information would likely be a three-month process and that the next step would be a request for proposals. Mr. Juricich explained that the general idea would be for someone to take the water from the collection wells and treat it, potentially with evaporation ponds or utilizing thermal evaporation. He noted that the Workgroup spent several hours discussing the process with Reclamation.

Finally, Mr. Juricich noted that the Workgroup toured the area around Glenwood Springs, Colorado, where the meeting was held. Mr. Juricich showed photos from the tour. He noted in particular that they visited saline hot springs that currently discharge into the Colorado River and that are of potential interest for a future salinity control project.

Mr. Harris pointed out that the saline hot springs in Glenwood was one of the original potential salinity control projects identified in the 1974 Salinity Control Act legislation, the others being Paradox Valley, Pah Tempe hot springs, and LaVerkin hot springs, and that a salinity control project in Glenwood should be actively considered over the next few years.

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Technical Work Group (TWG) of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) held a meeting in Phoenix, AZ from April 12 to 13.

Ms. Neuwerth reported on the ongoing smallmouth bass issue. Ms. Neuwerth reported that the National Park Service used electrofishing previously and this tool may be utilized again during the upcoming summer. Ms. Neuwerth stated that electrofishing is energy intensive, taking a lot of man hours.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that Reclamation is looking at installing a fish exclusion device, likely a net, in Lake Powell to prevent more fish from passing through the dam and moving downstream. The target date is 2024; however, that may be ambitious.

A question was asked regarding if the zapping was going on downstream of Powell. Ms. Neuwerth replied that yes, the electrofishing is taking place downstream with boats that go back and forth across the river below the dam all the way down to Lees Ferry, covering an approximately 14-mile stretch of the river.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that Reclamation has been working on an Environmental Assessment (EA) to change the way the dam operates in order to disadvantage smallmouth bass. Options being considered included spike flows to disrupt smallmouth bass spawning and utilizing the bypass tubes as they would intake lower elevation water that is cooler. Ms. Neuwerth reported that use of the bypass tubes is difficult because it sacrifices hydropower production.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that Reclamation received a lot of feedback on the draft EA and is now moving to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The timeline for the EIS is unclear.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the first spring high flow experiment (HFE) has been conducted at Glen Canyon Dam since 2008. A spring experiment worked out this year partly because of the release change from Glen Canyon Dam during the year from a 7 MAF release to a 9.5 MAF release, resulting in a lot of water to moving in the summer months. Ms. Neuwerth reported that the thought behind the experiment was to move sediment up on to the banks to rebuild beaches so that when they erode it's not quite as detrimental. The HFE was held at the end of April.

Status of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) met virtually on April 26.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the program recently released their annual report looking back at what happened in the previous year, what is occurring this year, and what is being planned.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the LCR MSCP spent \$27 million in 2022. The majority of the spending was on habitat creation and maintenance. More than 7,000 acres of habitat have now been established, 87% of the total habitat requirement for this program. Habitat replacement for the program is ahead of schedule.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that total habitat for the LCR MSCP is targeted at a little over 8,000 acres. The LCR MSCP aims to have this habitat built prior to 2026 when the budget starts decreasing.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the LCR MSCP is having great luck with yellow-billed cuckoos which are showing up or getting nests every year.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the southwestern willow flycatcher is not doing as well. The LCR MSCP's habitat metric meets the needs of the southwestern willow flycatcher; however, they exhibit site fidelity where they return to previous habitat regardless of the condition.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that one of California's LCR MSCP permittees, the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA), is considering withdrawing from the program. LCR MSCP permittees get water or power from the Colorado River and participate in the program to compensate for the impact of that activity. SCPPA does not have any current Hoover Dam contracts, however their member agencies have contracts.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that SCCPA would potentially withdraw as a permittee and their individual member agencies would join the program. This may require an amendment to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) permit to remove SCPPA and add the new permittees as well as an amendment to the California's funding agreement that dictates how California's LCR MSCP members pay for the program.

Ms. Neuwerth stated SCCPA's withdrawal from the LCR MSCP will probably take place over the next six months to one year.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Mr. Seiler spent several minutes, with two slides, discussing the condition of some unlined canal sections in IID's service area, the challenges associated with repairing them, and the costs associated with not repairing them, emphasizing that water is lost for use even if accounted for as return flow credit. He concluded by noting the importance of lining IID's canal system to save water.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Board member Gloria Cordero from MWD introduced Adán Ortega, president of MWD's board and thanked him for appointing her to the CRB. She prompted Mr. Ortega to speak, and Mr. Hamby agreed and welcomed him.

Mr. Ortega noted the strong agriculture-urban partnerships in Southern California as "we face some critical questions with the federal authorities." He expressed gratitude for Ms. Cordero's appointment to the CRB, noting her shared commitment to partnerships with tribal nations and understanding of issues of other MWD member agencies, including those sitting on the CRB (i.e., SDCWA and LADWP). He noted that MWD values Mr. Jim Madaffer (of SDCWA) as CRB's Vice Chairman as MWD tries to stay informed of ongoing issues and strategic matters. Finally, Mr. Ortega noted that the region, including agricultural water users, represents the majority of California's poorest residents who would bear the job, health, and quality of life impacts from potential federal actions. He thanked Mr. Hamby for his leadership and concluded with positive remarks related to future collaborations.

Ms. Cordero continued with updates from MWD. She noted that MWD's Board approved the installation of twelve in-line flow monitoring stations along the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) conveyance system, which will allow staff to monitor flows remotely and in real time at the locations, instead of with in-person visual observations. She noted that this will provide for better control and regulation of water flows through the CRA, ensuring MWD's efficiency and reliability.

Ms. Cordero described, as one of many Earth Day activities, their first sustainability expo, an in-person event that offered workshops to students and other attendees and included speakers that highlighted MWD's leadership and sustainable practices. She emphasized that this was one of the many things MWD does to advance their commitment to sustainability.

Ms. Cordero noted that as part of MWD's effort to encourage young people to consider careers in water management, MWD provided a cybersecurity internship for high school students to learn about cybersecurity and I.T. strategies that water agencies are increasingly using to manage and protect water supplies. She further discussed MWD's challenge with attracting and retaining young people in water management, at least in her district in Long Beach, and that MWD is continually seeking to address this.

Ms. Cordero noted that MWD General Manager Adel Hagekhalil is in Germany at a global water summit addressing water-related issues facing Southern California, including the Colorado River and climate change, and showcasing MWD's innovative programs including the Pure Water project.

Finally, Ms. Cordero described two MWD hosted tours. First, as explained by Ms. Cordero, MWD hosted fourteen staff members from relevant congressional offices in D.C., including providing a tour of the Colorado River, for them to learn about the system and MWDs interests in the river, supply conditions, and future initiatives. Second, MWD hosted a media tour for reporters from the L.A. Times, Spectrum News, CNN and the Associated Press. She thanked President Joaquin for meeting with the tour and talking to them about their programs and their partnership with MWD.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Board member Jim Madaffer from SDCWA, after casual introductory remarks, stated that SDCWA continues to work with others to provide a unified message to both federal agencies and state leaders. He noted that SDCWA General Manager Sandy Kerl joined with IID (including Mr. Hamby), MWD, and the California Natural Resources Agency (including Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot) to deliver a message on May 2nd to the State Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife. He noted that Ms. Kerl highlighted what SDCWA has done over the last three decades, including where they have invested in conservation and local supply development and the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement. Mr. Madaffer expressed hope that Arizona in particular will likewise implement conservation programs that support agriculture and urban interests, addressing the current water management environment. He also noted that Ms. Kerl highlighted that new conservation should consider the Salton Sea.

Mr. Madaffer noted that SDCWA joined the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce on its annual trip to Washington, D.C. to discuss several issues. He noted in particular a panel discussion in D.C. to discuss issues, including the need to address the Colorado River. The panel discussion included Reclamation Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo, as well as SDCWA Interim General Manager Dan Denham and SDCWA board member and vice chairman Nick Serrano, who moderated the discussion.

Mr. Madaffer discussed the importance of collaboration and expressed concern about the Federal government telling [Colorado River stakeholders] what to do. He further emphasized that agencies need to work together to show how much California has done and that California can do more, but that the Law of the River must be upheld and that Colorado River management actions must involve the entire basin, not just the Lower Basin and not just California.

Finally, Mr. Madaffer noted that Ms. Kerl will be retiring, and that Mr. Denham will take over as interim general manager.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Board member Peter Nelson stated that CVWD is continuing their conservation activities. He expressed gratitude for 100% allocation from the State Water Project (SWP) and that CVWD is implementing some new agreements signed in 2019 with MWD, also a SWP contractor, to whom he expressed further gratitude.

Mr. Nelson noted that CVWD is continuing to forgo deliveries to their Thomas E. Levy facility even without a contract and without California concurrence. The water is being saved to help improve lake levels in Lake Mead and Lake Powell. He expressed hope that CVWD will be able to sign a contract with Reclamation for this activity for compensation under “Bucket 1A” of the Inflation Reduction Act.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Board member Jeanine Jones from DWR began by noting that that State Water Project has a 100% allocation from the Tulare River and that the last time that occurred was 2006.

Ms. Jones noted that DWR is continuing to deal with issues surrounding Tulare Lake. She noted in particular that DWR is increasing its effort to provide large scale pumping equipment to districts aiming to divert some flood water that would otherwise flow to Tulare Lake into areas where it can be used to recharge groundwater basins to support activities under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). She noted that many recharge activities include using fallowed or otherwise unplanted fields as temporary recharge locations.

Responding to a question about whether she knows how big Tulare Lake might become, Ms. Jones noted that that’s to be determined based on the snowmelt pattern, but that it is currently at about 40% of its historical acreage. The questioner followed up asking about the validity of reports of 80,000 acres, to which Ms. Jones noted that the north half and a piece of the southeast corner of the historical lakebed is wet now. She also noted impacts to local communities, including the transportation network. The questioner followed up noting that their valley is 100,000 acres, which puts 80,000 acres in perspective.

Another participant asked whether or not water from Tulare Lake could be pumped into an aqueduct as a water supply or if there are associated water quality issues. Ms. Jones responded by noting many efforts to capture recent excess water. She also noted the flood concern due to anticipated high snowmelt and lack of sufficient channel capacity in some parts of the system.

Responding to this discussion, Mr. Madaffer noted that he has been in discussions with Mr. Pettijohn (of LADWP) to send some excess water from Owens Valley to San Diego, and that SDCWA could potentially provide desalinated water to other parts of the basin, such as in Arizona. Mr. Madaffer suggested that Mr. Harris and Mr. Denham have a conversation about this, as part of broader creative solutions for moving water around the system.

BASIN STATES ACTIVITIES

Mr. Harris reported that the Bureau of Reclamation released for review the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on potential near-term actions that are being considered to protect critical elevation in Lakes Powell and Mead. He stated that comments on the SEIS are due to Reclamation on or before May 30th.

Mr. Harris stated that the Lower Basin States, Arizona, California and Nevada, are working to put a package together that will influence the development of the final SEIS. He stated that the Lower Basin States are working on a dual track process to formally respond to the draft SEIS.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Post-2026 Integrated Technical Education Workgroup

Mr. Juricich reported that on May 3rd, Board Staff attended the Post-2026 Integrated Technical Education Workgroup (ITEW) hosted by Reclamation. He stated that the workgroup meeting was one of several planned by Reclamation. He added that there were over one hundred attendees to the meeting in person and virtually. He stated that Reclamation's purpose for hosting the Workgroup meetings is to provide technical support for the review of the different post-2026 alternatives while identifying trade-offs between system performance objectives under a wide range of uncertain future system conditions. The workgroup will also look at the robustness and vulnerability of different policies. Mr. Juricich explained that Reclamation is also developing a web platform for modelers and non-modelers to run various management strategies and policies.

Public Webinars on Draft SEIS for Updating the 2007 Interim Guidelines for Lakes Powell and Mead

Mr. Juricich reported that Reclamation is hosting several public webinars on the Draft SEIS. The webinars will discuss current drought conditions in the Basin, provide an overview of

the Draft SEIS project and information on the projected impacts including detailed water supply impacts. The webinars will also include questions and verbal comments from the public.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hamby reported that he participated in the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee informational hearing on the Colorado River. He stated that California Secretary of Natural Resources, Mr. Crowfoot, Executive Director of the CRB, Mr. Harris, Ms. Kerl, General Manager of the SDCWA, Ms. Shields, IID's Director of Colorado River, and Mr. Hagekhalil, General Manager of MWD, painted a picture of cooperation within California which has been durable over time.

Chairman Hamby added that he and Mr. Harris have engaged in dialogue with Lower Basin State counterparts, the Department of the Interior and Reclamation to develop a consensus-based preferred alternative for the SEIS using IRA-funded reductions and updated hydrology.

Chairman Hamby concluded his report stating that he and his Lower Basin counterparts have continued to keep their respective Senate offices up to date on Colorado River issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to provisions of Article 9, commencing with Section 11120, of Chapter 1 of Part 1, Division 3 of Title 2 of the government Section Program 12516 and 12519 of the Water Code, a motion was made by Mr. Madaffer to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to discuss matters concerning interstate negotiations with representatives from other states or the federal government. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board entered Executive Session at 11:23 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

The Board resumed the regular session at 11.52 a.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, June 15, 2023

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2023, at the Burbank City Council Chambers, 275 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA, 91502.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

Gloria Cordero (MWD)	
Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)	Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)	Peter Nelson (CVWD)
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)	David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)	Frank Ruiz (Public Member)
Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)	David Vigil (DFW Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)	Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)	Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)	Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)

Others Present:

Linda Bahr	David Rheinheimer
Nick Bahr	Jason Rollo
Bill Hasencamp	Shanti Rosset
Ned Hyduke	Eric Ruckdaschel
David Palomino	Jessica Neuwerth
Mojgan Poursadighi	Sabrina Tsui
Angela Rashid	Meena Westford
	Jerry Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Chairman Hamby welcomed the Board and stated that the meeting was hosted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).

Board member Pettijohn, representing LADWP welcomed the Board to the city of Burbank. He stated Board members and agency staff had a chance to tour a few of LADWPs capital improvement projects and gain insight on the agency's capital program and its vision for the future of Los Angeles.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Hamby invited members of the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, he moved on to the next item on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the April 12, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Fisher moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Pettijohn. By roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the Colorado River Board of California budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the budget be approved, seconded by Mr. Fisher. By roll-call vote, the budget was approved with abstention from Mr. Vigil.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

Ms. Sabrina Tsui, a member of LADWP's Resource Development and Watershed Management department gave a presentation about the agency's facilities and programs. She reported that LADWP is the largest municipal utility in the nation, providing water and power to approximately 4 million people within the city limits, as well as additional cities and unincorporated parts of L.A. County. She added that LADWP serves drinking and recycled water to an area of approximately 473 square miles, adding that LADWP delivers approximately 450 million gallons of water every day, which is about 500,000 AF of water per year. She stated that LADWP also has connections with neighboring cities such as Santa Monica and Beverly Hills.

Ms. Tsui stated that LADWP has invested billions into its water infrastructure system, as LADWP is invested in ensuring a resilient infrastructure to deliver high quality water to its customers. She provided an overview of LADWP's important water infrastructure noting that there is 7.4 miles of pipeline. She stated that the city's pipelines are old and LADWP has spent millions improving it and has the lowest leak rate in the nation. She added that there are several reservoirs and tanks along the L.A. Aqueduct system, yielding a total storage capacity of over 320,000 AF.

Ms. Tsui stated that LADWP receives water from the Eastern Sierra Nevada mountains via the L.A. Aqueduct. She added that LADWP also purchases water from The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) as well as the State Water Project (SWP). She stated locally, LADWP utilizes groundwater, storm water capture, recycled water and conservation, noting that these are the pillars of LADWP's supply reliability program. She added that LADWP's supply mix has evolved over the past few decades. She explained that the city uses less water than in the 1970s and 1980s. She stated that LADWP educates customers about how to use water more efficiently and has also invested heavily in repairing leaks in its pipelines. She explained that reducing waste and promoting conservation are the cornerstone of its water efficiency program. She also lauded LADWP's storm water capture program, noting that the stormwater capture facilities are also used to spread L.A. Aqueduct supplies for groundwater recharge, when needed. Ms. Tsui reiterated the importance of developing local supplies, explaining that treating its groundwater is paramount in order for LADWP to properly utilize its groundwater supplies.

Ms. Tsui stated that over the past year, severe drought conditions impacted LADWP's ability to purchase water from MWD. She stated that LADWP's customers responded quickly by reducing their demands by approximately 10% every single month. She added that outdoor irrigation was reduced from three to two days a week starting last June. She stated that LADWP increased its conservation messaging and incentives over the past year to encourage water use efficiency. She added that the water conservation program has been increased and turf replacement rebates are now \$5 per square foot. She added that customers also had the ability to participate in a hands-on drought tolerant gardening workshop. She reported that LADWP started a Flume program which provides a rebate to install a water use monitoring device to help customers improve their water use and detect leaks.

Ms. Tsui reported that the San Fernando groundwater basin is polluted with industrial contaminants and LADWP is restoring access to this local supply with the construction of treatment facilities to remediate the groundwater and add to its water supply system. She explained that another challenge to utilizing groundwater has been urbanization, which has impacted natural infiltration to the region's groundwater basin.

Ms. Tsui provided additional information about LADWP's stormwater capture projects. She stated that LADWP established the Stormwater Capture program in 2008 within the Watershed Management Group for the sole purpose of implementing various projects that benefit supply and infiltration into the groundwater basin. She noted that the Tujunga Spreading Grounds, which was part of yesterday's day tour, provides groundwater replenishment.

Ms. Tsui concluded her presentation by providing more details about LADWP's recycled water program. She provided a timeline of LADWP's recycled water efforts from 1979 to the present. She stated that LADWP is investigating and designing a groundwater replenishment program using advanced treated wastewater. She added that LADWP is currently constructing a facility for direct potable reuse of wastewater. It is anticipated that State guidelines for direct potable reuse will be finalized this year.

SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM FUNDING UPDATE

Ms. Jessica Neuwerth introduced Mr. Don Barnett, Executive Director of the Salinity Control Forum (Forum), noting that he would give an update on program funding.

Mr. Barnett reviewed funding law and sources related to the Salinity Control Program, noting the program was set up under the Salinity Control Act and that the act set up a cost share structure whereby approximately 70% of program funding comes from appropriations and 30% from cost share. He further explained that of the cost share funds, 15% comes from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and the remaining 85% comes from the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund. He explained that the Upper Basin Fund is financed through adjusting power rates as needed and that the Lower Basin Fund is financed through a continuous levy on power sold to California and Nevada power users. He finally noted that while historically there has been a surplus in the Lower Basin Fund, there is now a deficit. He indicated that the current deficit is about \$12 to \$13 million, with an imbalance of approximately \$2 million per year.

Mr. Barnett explained that an increase in the proportion paid by the Federal government is being proposed in draft congressional legislation by Senator Bennett of Colorado. This proposed change would specifically increase federal contributions to operations and maintenance of control facilities, recognizing both the responsibility of the Federal government for salinity control. He noted that with this change, obligations from the Lower Basin Fund would decrease by \$4 million, allowing the Lower Basin Fund to start paying off its current obligation.

Mr. Barnett reported that the Forum last week unanimously agreed to the legislative changes and is now working to write a letter of support from the Forum and organize letters of

support from government agencies and the seven states. He also described Senator Bennett's status in moving this legislation through the U.S. Senate.

Board member Nelson noted that Mr. Barnett mentioned California and Nevada contributing to the Salinity Fund and asked if any sales in Arizona contribute to the fund. Mr. Barnett explained that Arizona power users are charged four-and-a-half mills, but that these go to Central Arizona Project repayment, after the CAP is repaid in 2024, the mill levy on Arizona power users will drop to two mills and would then go to salinity control.

Ms. Neuwerth noted that the proposed funding change resolves the current ballooning accrual in the Lower Basin Fund, but that longer standing inequities remain. She specifically noted the desire for Arizona to contribute to the Salinity Fund at the same rates as California and Nevada and to change the cost share proportion between the Upper Basin and Lower Basin.

Mr. Barnett noted that the Forum has created a program funding committee, that Ms. Neuwerth sits on that committee, and that the committee is looking at the Arizona contribution and the Upper Basin contribution.

Ms. Neuwerth asked for comments from Mr. Bill Hasencamp, the current chairman of the Forum.

Mr. Hasencamp reiterated concerns about the equitability of the current cost share scheme, noting California contributes 61% of non-federal costs, and the need for a more equitable share for California.

Board member Pettijohn asked Mr. Hasencamp when would be a good time to move something like that forward.

Mr. Hasencamp suggested possibly 2025/2026, and that there will likely be other legislative opportunities in the future.

Mr. Barnett noted that this has been discussed before, with three of the four Upper Basin states ready to increase their cost share to 25%. This is contingent on Arizona contributing.

Mr. Hasencamp noted that Jerry Zimmerman has been trying to change the cost share for twenty years.

STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS

Ms. Jones, representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported that the State's snowpack is on the tail end of its melt phase, noting that the State had a fantastic snowpack this winter. She stated that currently, the statewide precipitation is 138% of average, snowpack is 60% of the historical April 1st average and reservoir storage is 111% of average. She explained that streamflow conditions are average to above average, adding this is not what you would usually see in June.

Ms. Jones reported that DWR has been working for some time to get the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to invest in sub-seasonal to seasonal precipitation (S2S) forecasting in the West, including funding for a pilot project, which has been a challenge. She stated that the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 is up for reauthorization. She stated that she testified at the Science Committee hearing last week, urging for the inclusion of the pilot project in the reauthorization. She stated that NOAA does not want to spend money on projects like these, especially in the Western U.S., because it is not a priority. She added that Representative Garcia sponsored a health bill last week that includes the reauthorization efforts and the pilot project. She stated that the committee is circulating a full draft bill with similar language. She stated that the U.S. House of Representatives expects to finish its bill this summer, while the U.S. Senate has not started work on this issue. She stated that the Senate may work on this issue sometime this year, rather than next year, because of the impending presidential election.

Ms. Cordero, representing MWD stated that MWD's reservoir storage was at about 75% capacity, and the Colorado River Aqueduct will be on a five- pump flow through August. She stated that the 2023 diversion target is 804,000 AF, and as of June 9th, MWD has diverted 276,710 AF. She stated that deliveries for the first third of 2023, which includes immediate storage or the replenishment to its member agencies were 65% of average. The 2023 delivery target for the Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley District is at 343,000 AF.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that the snow in the Eastern Sierra Mountains is melting. He stated that LADWP's previous wettest year on record was 2016-2017 but noted that this year snowpack was 30% higher. He added that it has been very difficult to manage the large amount of water, stating that LADWP has been turning out a lot of the water into the valley floor in the Owens Valley to percolate into the groundwater basin where LADWP has groundwater pumping rights. He added that LADWP will not be able to capture most of the snowmelt coming from the Eastern Sierra. He reported that LADWP and MWD are working on an agreement, in years where there is capacity in the East branch of the State Water Project, to deliver some of that water to MWD.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that due to the supply from the Eastern Sierra, it has been the sole source of the water supply for the city of Los Angeles and no supplies were purchased from MWD. He stated that LADWP is also spreading as much water as possible into the spreading basin in the San Fernando Valley. He stated that LADWP had the exact opposite situation last year, noting that there was so little access to water that LADWP had to borrow water from the State of California to meet human health and safety needs, a first in LADWP's history. He stated that LADWP is looking for ways to manage large swings in water availability. He stated that LADWP is currently working to recover the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin to store more water in wet years and recover it in dry years.

Responding to a question from Chairman Hamby about the amount of runoff expected into the valley this year, Mr. Pettijohn stated that normally LADWP delivers 240,000 AF to Los Angeles and it is expected that LADWP will bring down close to 500,000 AF through the L.A. Aqueduct, which is the capacity of the aqueduct. He stated that any water above that capacity of the L.A. Aqueduct would remain in the Owens Valley, which is a challenge due to the potential for damage to the millions of dollars of infrastructure used to manage dust at Owens Lake.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORT

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that as of June 12th, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,571.75 feet with 8.65 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 37% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,054.76 feet with 8.03 MAF of storage, or 31% of capacity. The total system storage was 24.37 MAF, or 41% of capacity, which is 3.68 MAF more than system storage at this time last year. He noted that since May, Lake Powell's elevation rose 41 feet and Lake Mead's elevation rose 14 feet.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that as of June 6th, for Water Year-2023 (WY-2023) the forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 13.85 MAF, or 144% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 10.7 MAF, or 167% of normal. He stated that observed inflow into Lake Powell for May was 218% of normal and the June inflow forecast was 151% of normal. He reported that the May and June inflow accounted for 60% of the total forecasted water year inflow into Lake Powell. He added that precipitation to date is 119% of normal.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that SWE conditions above Lake Powell were 201% of median. He stated precipitation conditions for April were well below average for most of the Basin. In May, precipitation conditions improved in the Lower Basin, but precipitation conditions in the Upper Basin were below average, ranging from 30% to 70% of average. He explained that this contributed to the decrease in projected water year inflow into Lake Powell for June.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported on the May 24-Month Study. He presented a figure showing the end of month elevations for Lakes Powell and Mead. He explained that the figure shows a conglomeration of end of month elevation projections from April and May 2023. He noted that in June, Lake Powell's projected elevation moves up to the Upper Elevation Balancing Tier, adding that the projected most probable release is 9.29 MAF. He explained that the projections assumed that the 480 KAF of water retained in Lake Powell under the May 2022 action will be released as part of the WY-2023 balancing release. He added that although DROA releases have ceased, the model is still in DROA recovery mode for WY-2023.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that through the end of May, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 43,169 AF and 37, 313 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico were 21,959 AF, compared to 1,444 AF at this time last year.

Board member Pettijohn asked why the excess flow to Mexico was large. Ms. Neuwerth responded that is likely due to water orders made before storm events occurred. She noted that it takes three to four days for water ordered from Lake Mead to travel to farmers in Southern California, noting storms can occur during this time. She stated that not all the water can be captured in Brock or Senator Wash reservoir and ends up undelivered.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN STATES ACTIVITIES

Salinity Control Program Update

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Forum and counsel met on June 6-7. She noted that the main agenda item was the 2023 triennial review of salinity standards in the Lower Basin and whether the program will be able to meet those standards. She reported that the group recommended no changes to the EPA's salinity standards, and that the program will keep salinity below existing standards into the near future. She further noted that the triennial report is now open for public comments, which will be considered before the final report in October.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Forum received an update from Reclamation on the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU), noting that Reclamation took it offline for three years after it caused an earthquake in 2019 and that Reclamation tested it for 6 months in 2022. She further reported that Reclamation started reoperating it again in February 2023 after assessing the test run. She reported that Reclamation is planning to run it indefinitely until they detect an issue. Reclamation is operating PVU at 65% capacity. She noted that at that rate about 65,000 tons of salinity is controlled every year.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that Reclamation has a request for information from industry or the public to identify potential new solutions through public/private partnerships. She noted that the hope is to find a way to use the brine that is being produced instead of having to dig a new injection well or build evaporation ponds.

Ms. Neuwerth followed up on Mr. Barnetts earlier discussion on updating the salinity control cost share mechanism, noting in particular the ongoing effort to develop letters of support for inclusion in the upcoming Farm Bill.

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) held a virtual meeting on May 17.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that a unique spring high flow experiment (HFE) was held in April. A lot of HFEs have been held in the fall and this one was in the spring. and that initial results show the experiment met the purpose of moving sediment up on the banks prior to the high summer release.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that frequent sampling is ongoing for non-native fish. Ms. Neuwerth stated that there may have been some positive results from the smallmouth bass removal efforts over the winter and more information will be available in the coming months.

Status of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) met May 10 - 11 to look at the implementation report, the work plan, and budget for the coming year, as well as what was accomplished by the program in the previous year. Ms. Neuwerth added that the LCR MSCP has built over 7,000 acres of habitat. The program requires 8,100 acres to be built over the 55-year program and is ahead of schedule in habitat creation.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the LCR MSCP has stocked over 400,000 native fish since the program's inception in 2005. The total program goal is 1.2 million fish.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the LCR MSCP is still detecting plenty of yellow-billed cuckoos and is struggling with the southwestern willow flycatcher. The southwestern willow flycatchers pass through LCR MSCP habitat during migration, but so far they have not nested in the program's conservation areas.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee will be meeting on June 28th.

Board Member Pettijohn asked when doing fish removal like smallmouth bass, how non-native fish removal, such as smallmouth bass, is done without impacting any of the native fish? Ms. Neuwerth replied that luckily in the Grand Canyon, the areas where there are native fish and where there are non-native fish are well segregated. The removal efforts are right below the dam where the water is cold and fast moving with no sediment. Most of the fish in the area are nonnatives. Ms. Neuwerth added that electrofishing zaps the water with electricity, which stuns the fish. The fish then float up and the target species can be removed while the rest of the fish are left in the river. Ms. Neuwerth added that there are concerns about the prized non-native rainbow trout fishery. The anglers are concerned that electrofishing could decimate their fishing resource but so far this has not occurred.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Board member Jones reported that in the last month DWR issued a couple of large chunks of grants, both of which are in their final funding round. She noted that one was under the Integrated Regional Water Management grant program. She also indicated that the program is wrapping up after 20 years due to lack of a new bond measure to provide it with more funding. Ms. Jones noted that the second chunk was for DWR's large urban drought grant program. She further noted that she does not expect this program to continue in the future given that the drought ended in January although some financial assistance for very small water systems that run out of water would still be expected.

Ms. Jones discussed the budget process, noting that the legislature must pass a budget on June 15th for the governor to sign by the end of the month. She also noted that the state is now in a deficit mode after a record number of years in surplus mode.

Ms. Jones described DWR's efforts to help local agencies recharge as much groundwater as possible, including through expedited temporary permitting for groundwater recharge and renting very large capacity pumps for use by local agencies to put water in nontraditional places such as almond orchards or vineyards. She noted the difficulty of doing this at the last minute, stating that DWR estimates that these programs might result in an additional 50,000 AF in groundwater recharge, relatively little compared to the total amount of water California received last winter. She finally noted that this is why DWR is pushing hard on improved forecasting, to provide the lead time to have these activities in place well in advance of the runoff.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Board member Vigil shared slides showing CDFW's Colorado River program staff delivering water to "guzzlers and drinkers" in the desert, noting that these are artificial sources of water for wildlife. He noted that many of these were built in the early 1950s and that CDFW is adding larger tanks that hold more water and restoring old drinkers, with funding from a grant for up to 18 of them. Mr. Vigil shared photos and noted that this is the time of year when CDFW starts to haul water and monitor the drinkers.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Board member Cordero reported that in May MWD received \$80 million from the state to help advance the Pure Water Project and that last week they received an additional \$80 million in state water efficiency grant funds to increase their turf removal rebates, which, she further noted, have been popular.

Ms. Cordero reported that MWD recently hosted its first One Water Awards, honoring six projects that represented public agencies and associations that will collectively save over one billion gallons of water over the next decade and that these projects also received funds from the Water Savings Investment Program.

Ms. Cordero reported that MWD recently hosted Water Education for Latino Leaders on a recent Colorado River inspection trip and thanked Chairman Hamby for participating in that and sharing his perspective on agriculture.

Ms. Cordero reported that a current major initiative for the MWD board is their climate adaptive master plan to help the board plan for the future, perform budget prioritization, and address climate change. She reported that, while developing this plan, MWD is receiving input from its member agencies and through community engagement.

Finally, Ms. Cordero reported some of MWD's work promoting safety at facilities during National Safety Month.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Chairman Hamby called on IID Director Ms. Gina Dockstader to provide the IID report. Ms. Dockstader described IID activities related to Water Safety Month. She described their water safety mascot, Dippy Duck, noting that he was debuted in May 1966, is based on a real duck that went through a hydropower turbine on the All-American Canal who came through alive but with

no feathers. His message is to encourage children to stay out of the canals. Ms. Dockstader further described activities related to Dippy Duck and his social impact.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Board Member Heidemann reported that he would share a statement made on the new consensus-based plan for the Colorado River and provide an update on new leadership at SDCWA.

Mr. Heidemann reported that SDCWA General Manager Sandra Kerl issued a statement on the consensus-based proposal expressing general appreciation for the consensus approach and focusing on conservation rather than mandated reductions. He also noted that through the CRB, California was the only basin state to respond to Commissioner Touton's initial call last year for additional conservation, in the form of the California plan, now being rolled out in the Lower Basin consensus proposal.

Mr. Heidemann noted that Ms. Sandra Kerl will be retiring at the end of June and thanked her for her service. He followed up by stating that SDCWA expects to have a smooth transition in leadership, with Mr. Dan Denham to serve as Acting General Manager. He also announced that Ms. Alexi Schnell has been named as the Colorado River Program Manager, noting her membership in the Colorado River Program as a principal water resource specialist. He followed up with general concluding remarks about this transition.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Board member Nelson reported that last week CVWD approved their Replenishment Curtailment Program (RCP) for the Colorado River water for 2023 through 2025 as a board. He stated CVWD made its last Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) payment of \$3.285 million to the Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

Mr. Nelson reported that, with the help of its exchange agreement with MWD, CVWD has recharged about 76,000 acre-feet of water into their groundwater basin from the State Water Project supplies with their Colorado River exchange. He indicated that CVWD is recharging at a rate of about 700 cubic feet per second (CFS).

BASIN STATES ACTIVITIES

Ms. Neuwerth reported that on May 22nd, the Basin States announced that a consensus Lower Basin Plan had been submitted to Reclamation for consideration. She explained that the

Lower Basin States have been working together on a plan since the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was announced last year.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Lower Basin Plan calls for cumulative reductions of 3 MAF over the interim period, noting that this is an addition to any reductions that are triggered under the existing rules in the 2007 Guidelines and the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). She stated that up to 2.3 MAF will be compensated through funding under Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (Bucket 1) and the remainder will be funded locally or through IRA (Bucket 2). She stated that the heart of the plan was part of that which California proposed in October 2022 which called for reductions of 400,000 AF of water per year from California. She added that the Lower Basin Plan also states that if Lake Mead's elevation continues to decline below 1,025 feet, the Lower Basin States have 45 days to propose a plan to prevent Lake Mead from reaching 1,000 AF. She stated that Lake Powell releases can be adjusted to as low as 6 MAF to protect elevation 3,500 feet.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that on May 26th, Reclamation withdrew the draft SEIS in order to analyze the Lower Basin Plan as a new action alternative. She stated that the Lower Basin States and CRB Staff continue to work with Reclamation's modeling team to make sure that the proposal's assumptions are correct.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

2024 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan, Consultation Schedule

Ms. Neuwerth reported that due to on-going activities related to the SEIS process, the 2024 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan (AOP) project schedule and the timing of consultations have been adjusted. She stated that the 1st AOP consultation is scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd, while the 2nd and 3rd are scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th and Wednesday, October 25th, respectively.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hamby concurred with Ms. Neuwerth's statements regarding development and submittal of the Lower Basin plan to Reclamation. He recounted the Basin's SEIS process over that past year as well as the development of the Lower Basin Plan, noting that it has been a challenging time for everyone involved. He stated that fortunately, the Lower Basin States were able to renew their relationships with each other. He reiterated that Reclamation pulled back on the SEIS process and is in the process of analyzing the plan. He stated that the Lower Basin States

need to work throughout the summer on executing contracts to generate the IRA funding for compensated reductions.

Chairman Hamby stated that he was very heartened by the renewed relationship with his Lower Basin counterparts, noting that there will a long road to go reach a similar relationship with the Upper Basin. He stated that California will continue that process and kick off in earnest for the Post-2026 discussions that will be initiated in the next couple of weeks.

Chairman Hamby stated last month he was able to participate on a panel at an annual Colorado River Law Conference in Colorado. He stated that he participated with Mr. Gene Shawcroft of Utah and Ms. Brenda Burman from the Central Arizona Project. He stated that he shared California's historical perspective on the Colorado River. He added that he is headed to the Upper Colorado River Commission's meeting and giving an update about California's position moving forward on the Colorado River.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

7/31/2023

LOWER COLORADO WATER SUPPLY REPORT

River Operations
Bureau of Reclamation

Questions: BCOOWaterops@usbr.gov

(702)293-8373

<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/weekly.pdf>

	PERCENT	Content 1000 ac-ft (kaf)	Elev. (Feet above mean sea level)	7-Day Release (CFS)
CURRENT STORAGE	FULL			
LAKE POWELL	40%	9,349	3,580.69	18,700
* LAKE MEAD	32%	8,486	1,060.83	13,100
LAKE MOHAVE	93%	1,690	642.68	12,100
LAKE HAVASU	95%	588	448.39	10,000
TOTAL SYSTEM CONTENTS **	44%	25,876		
As of 7/30/2023				
SYSTEM CONTENT LAST YEAR	34%	20,076		
*Percent based on capacity of 26,120 kaf or elevation 1,219.6 feet.				
**Total System Contents includes Upper & Lower Colorado River Reservoirs, less Lake Mead exclusive flood control space.				
Salt/Verde System	92%	2,097		
Painted Rock Dam	0%	0	530.00	0
Alamo Dam	15%	149	1,127.67	25
Forecasted Water Use for Calendar Year 2023 (as of 7/31/2023) (values in kaf)				
NEVADA			202	
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER SYSTEM				192
OTHERS				9
CALIFORNIA			4,011	
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				803
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS				3,192
OTHERS				16
ARIZONA			1,991	
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT				856
OTHERS				1,135
TOTAL LOWER BASIN USE				6,204
DELIVERY TO MEXICO - 2023 (Mexico Scheduled Delivery + Preliminary Yearly Excess ¹)				1,418
OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION				
UNREGULATED INFLOW INTO LAKE POWELL - JULY MID-MONTH FORECAST DATED 7/17/2023				
		MILLION ACRE-FEET	% of Normal	
FORECASTED WATER YEAR 2023		13.901	145%	
FORECASTED APRIL-JULY 2023		10.700	167%	
JUNE OBSERVED INFLOW		3.646	149%	
JULY INFLOW FORECAST		1.135	118%	
		Upper Colorado Basin	Salt/Verde Basin	
WATER YEAR 2023 PRECIP TO DATE		115% (29.3")	137% (28.7")	
CURRENT BASIN SNOWPACK		NA% (NA)	NA% (NA)	

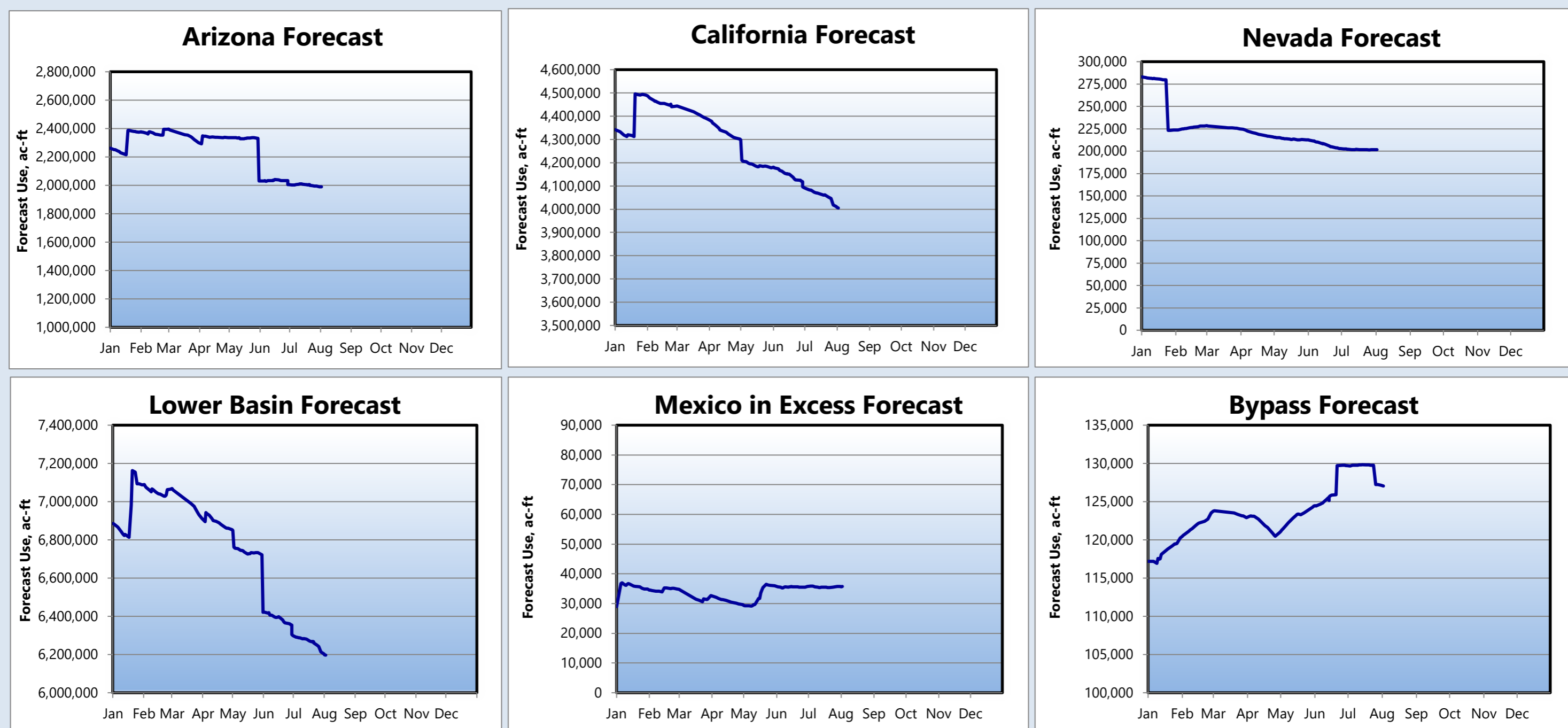
¹Delivery to Mexico forecasted yearly excess calculated using year-to-date observed and projected excess.


BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION
CY 2023

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, MEXICO
 FORECAST OF END OF YEAR CONSUMPTIVE USE
 FORECAST BASED ON USE TO DATE AND APPROVED ANNUAL WATER ORDERS ¹
 (ACRE-FEET)

WATER USE SUMMARY	Use To Date CY 2023	Forecast Use CY 2023	Approved Use² CY 2023	Excess to Approval CY 2023
Arizona	1,306,127	1,990,193	2,132,956	(142,763)
California	2,358,186	4,004,937	4,306,455	(301,518)
Nevada	117,230	201,685	201,685	0
States Total³	3,781,543	6,196,815	6,641,096	(444,281)
Total Deliveries to Mexico ⁴	952,864	1,382,698	1,382,698	
Creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings ⁵	0	30,000	30,000	
Creation of Mexico's Water Reserve ⁶	11,208	17,302	17,302	
Total to Mexico in Satisfaction of Treaty Requirements ⁷	964,072	1,430,000	1,430,000	
To Mexico in Excess of Treaty ⁸	22,674	35,786	28,963	
Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242 ⁹	79,013	127,056	117,192	
Total Lower Basin & Mexico ¹⁰	4,836,094	7,742,355	8,169,949	

¹ Incorporates 80 daily reporting stations which may be revised after provisional data reports are distributed by the USGS. Use to date has been updated through May for users reporting monthly and estimated for users reporting annually.
² These values reflect adjusted apportionments. See Adjusted Apportionment calculation on each state page.
³ Includes unmeasured returns based on estimated consumptive use/diversion ratios by user from studies provided by Arizona Department of Water Resources, Colorado River Board of California, and Reclamation.
⁴ Includes scheduled deliveries to Mexico at the Northerly International Boundary, Southerly International Boundary, Limitrophe, and Diversion Channel Discharge; and diversions at Parker Dam for Emergency Delivery to Tijuana. Volume shown does not include Creation of Mexico's Water Reserve or Creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings.
⁵ Water deferred by Mexico pursuant to Section IV of IBWC Minute 323 and the *Joint Report of the Principal Engineers with the Implementing Details of the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin* dated July 11, 2019. (Mexico's required Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Contribution).
⁶ Water deferred by Mexico pursuant to Section V of IBWC Minute 323.
⁷ In accordance with Section XI.G.2.D.1.b of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, a Tier 2 Shortage Condition will govern the operation of Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River in 2023. In accordance with Section III.A of Minute 323, Mexico's scheduled deliveries incorporate the required reduction of 70,000 AF from its 1.5 million AF Colorado River water allotment. "Total to Mexico in Satisfaction of Treaty Requirements" adds in creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings and Mexico's Water Reserve.
⁸ "To Mexico in Excess of Treaty" forecast is based on the 5-year average for the period 2017-2021.
⁹ "Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242" forecast is based on the average for the period 1990-2021.
¹⁰ Includes States Total, Total Deliveries to Mexico, To Mexico in Excess of Treaty, and Water Bypassed Pursuant IBWC Minute 242.



Graph notes: January 1 forecast use is scheduled use in accordance with the Annual Operating Plan's state entitlements, available unused entitlements, and over-run paybacks. A downward sloping line indicates use at a lower rate than scheduled, upward sloping is above schedule, and a flat line indicates a use rate equal to schedule. Lower priority users such as CAP, MWD, and Robt.B.Griffith may adjust use rates to meet state entitlements as higher priority use deviates from schedule. **Abrupt changes in the forecast use line may be due to a schedule change or monthly updating of provisional realtime diversions.**



**LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION
CY 2023**

ARIZONA WATER USERS

Forecast end of year diversion/consumptive use
Forecast based on use to date and approved annual water orders
[Arizona Schedules and Approvals](#)

NOTE:
 • Diversions and uses that are pending approval are noted in *red italics*.
 • Water users with a consumptive use entitlement - **Excess to Estimated Use** column indicates overrun/underrun of entitlement. Dash in this column indicates water user has a diversion entitlement.
 • Water user with a diversion entitlement - **Excess to Approved Diversion** column indicates overrun/underrun of entitlement. Dash in this column indicates water user has a consumptive use entitlement.

WATER USER	Use To Date CY 2023	Forecast Use CY 2023	Estimated Use CY 2023	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2023	Diversion To Date CY 2023	Forecast Diversion CY 2023	Approved Diversion CY 2023	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2023
TV Marble Canyon, AZ LLC	7	10	10	---	10	15	15	0
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mead	32	65	68	---	32	65	68	-3
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mohave	148	248	248	---	148	248	248	0
McAlister Family Trust	5	7	7	---	7	10	10	0
Bureau of Reclamation - Davis Dam Project	1	2	2	---	7	10	10	0
Bullhead City	4,089	8,071	8,699	---	6,287	12,543	13,730	-1,187
Mohave Water Conservation District	435	770	749	---	650	1,149	1,115	34
Mohave Valley I.D.D. ¹	7,336	15,544	21,209	---	13,585	28,787	39,276	-10,489
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, AZ	22,987	38,238	44,280	---	42,569	70,811	82,000	-11,189
Golden Shores Water Conservation District	189	287	287	---	284	432	432	0
Havasu National Wildlife Refuge	1,668	2,637	3,564	---	13,900	25,261	41,835	-16,574
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. - CSA No. 1	325	561	527	---	499	862	810	52
Crystal Beach Water Conservation District	48	73	73	---	74	112	112	0
Lake Havasu City	4,797	8,766	9,052	---	7,737	14,139	14,600	-461
Arizona State Parks (Windsor Beach)	7	11	11	---	11	17	17	0
Central Arizona Water Conservation District ²	598,632	856,061		---	598,632	856,061		--
Hillcrest Water Company	14	21	21	---	21	32	32	0
Springs Del Sol Domestic Water Improvement District	1	2	2	---	2	3	3	0
Frontier Communications West Coast	1	1	1	---	1	1	1	0
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. - CSA No. 2 (formerly Brooke Water, LLC)	168	308	327	---	252	461	489	-28
Town of Parker	164	334	418	---	405	786	912	-126
Colorado River Indian Reservation, AZ	237,334	352,333	360,641	---	336,814	571,244	662,402	-91,158
GM Gabrych Family	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Ehrenberg Improvement District	161	271	260	---	242	397	365	32
B&F Investment	3	7	8	---	6	10	11	-1
North Baja Pipeline	132	200	200	---	203	308	308	0
Arizona State Land Department - Domestic	23	40	40	---	35	60	61	-1
Cibola Valley I.D.D.	2,804	4,336	5,322	---	3,923	6,065	7,443	-1,378
Red River Land Co.	182	242	214	---	255	339	300	39
Hopi Tribe	1,062	2,211	3,061	---	1,486	3,091	4,278	-1,187
GSC Farms, LLC	8	28	28	---	10	35	35	0
Arizona Game & Fish	1,641	2,029	2,029	---	2,296	2,838	2,838	0
Cibola Island	464	705	705	---	649	986	986	0
Cibola National Wildlife Refuge	8,725	14,229	14,264	-35	14,071	22,947	23,005	-58
Western Water, LLC	137	299	379	---	192	419	530	-111
Cibola Sportsmans Club	106	170	154	---	146	237	216	21
Bishop Family Trust	166	293	300	---	231	410	420	-10
Cathcarts	51	89	90	---	74	127	126	1
Imperial National Wildlife Refuge	2,210	3,758	3,799	-41	2,949	5,446	6,128	-682
BLM - Leased by L. Pratt	38	58	58	---	59	89	89	0
BLM Permittees (Parker Dam to Imperial Dam)	836	1,271	1,271	0	1,287	1,956	1,956	--
Fisher's Landing Water and Sewer, LLC	5	7	7	---	7	11	11	0
Shepard Water Company	12	18	18	---	18	28	28	0
U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds	200	410	486	---	200	410	486	-76
JRJ Partners, LLC	337	621	666	---	519	958	1,025	-67
Cha Cha, LLC	814	1,372	1,365	---	1,252	2,110	2,100	10
Beattie Farms Southwest	465	717	722	---	717	1,103	1,110	-7
Gila Monster Farms	2,651	4,084	4,833	---	4,701	7,256	8,500	-1,244
Wellton-Mohawk I.D.D.	150,485	243,969	278,000	-34,031	220,416	373,496	424,350	-50,854
BLM Permittees (Below Imperial Dam)	72	110	110	0	111	169	169	--
City of Yuma	8,434	14,558	15,151	-593	13,707	25,399	27,500	-2,101
U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma	626	1,131	1,265	---	626	1,131	1,265	-134
Union Pacific Railroad	16	28	29	---	28	48	48	0
University of Arizona	432	801	897	---	432	801	897	-96
Yuma Union High School District	48	111	150	---	62	149	200	-51
Desert Lawn Memorial	18	27	27	---	25	38	38	0

WATER USER	Use	Forecast	Estimated	Excess to	Diversion	Forecast	Approved	Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use	Use	To Date	Diversion	Diversion	Diversion
	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023
North Gila Valley Irrigation District	6,137	8,500	9,486	---	23,825	39,054	43,500	-4,446
Yuma Irrigation District	19,734	33,973	38,958	---	36,753	64,366	73,100	-8,734
Yuma Mesa I.D.D.	50,681	87,111	104,430	---	96,838	182,724	230,252	-47,528
Unit "B" I.D.D.	9,357	14,093	13,421	---	14,582	25,059	28,300	-3,241
Arizona State Land Department - Agriculture	2,713	4,428	4,295	---	4,231	6,867	6,607	260
Ott Family	177	269	269	---	272	414	414	0
Ogram Boys' Enterprises	392	595	595	---	603	916	916	0
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation	2,055	3,123	3,123	---	3,161	4,804	4,804	0
BLM - Leased by M. Lee	95	145	145	---	147	223	223	0
Armon Curtis	84	127	127	---	128	195	195	0
Yuma County Water Users' Association	151,682	252,745	277,259	---	207,711	346,337	367,400	-21,063
R. Griffin	20	30	30	---	30	46	46	0
Power	49	74	74	---	75	114	114	0
Cocopah Indian Tribe (PPR No. 7)	121	184	184	---	186	283	283	0
Griffin Ranches (PPR No. 7)	49	74	74	---	75	114	114	0
Milton Phillips (PPR No. 7)	29	44	44	---	44	67	67	0
Griffin Family Ltd. Partnership (PPR No. 7)	11	17	17	---	17	26	26	0
Cocopah Indian Reservation	725	1,703	1,820	---	821	2,336	2,812	-476
Bureau of Reclamation - Yuma Area Office	136	206	206	---	136	206	206	0
Arizona Public Service Company	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Gary Pasquinnelli	128	202	209	---	197	310	321	-11
Total Arizona	1,306,127	1,990,193	2,096,917		1,682,694	2,716,377	2,990,686	
Central Arizona Project (CAP)	598,632	856,061				856,061		
All Others	707,495	1,134,132	1,240,860			1,860,316	2,134,639	
Yuma Mesa Division, Gila Project	76,552	129,584	152,874			286,144	346,852	
Total 242 Well Field Pumping ³	19,792	33,500	48,129					

ARIZONA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

Arizona Basic Apportionment	2,800,000
Reduction for Tier 2a Shortage ⁴	(400,000)
Reduction for Arizona DCP Contributions ⁵	(192,000)
System Conservation Water - Pilot System Conservation Program ⁶	(500)
System Conservation Water - GM Gabrych Family ^{7,8}	(3,240)
System Conservation Water - Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (FMYN) ^{7,9}	(13,933)
System Conservation Water - Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) ^{7,10}	(125,000)
System Conservation Water - Reclamation (Estimated) ¹¹	(2,371)
Delivery of ICS (CAWCD)	up to 70,000
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	2,132,956
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	(142,763)
Estimated Allowable Use for CAP	1,003,367

¹ Approved/forecasted values include up to 1,250 AF of diversion for domestic use pursuant to MVIDD's Subcontract No. 09-101 with the Mohave County Water Authority.

² Forecast Use incorporates CAWCD's operational schedule dated July 17, 2023.

³ In accordance with the Colorado River Water Conservation Letter Agreement 16-XX-30-W0603, Revision No. 1 (Revised Letter Agreement) between Reclamation and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), pumping above the Historical Average Baseline (31,129 AF), up to 32,000 AF per year, will remain in Lake Mead as Colorado River System water.

⁴ In accordance with Section XI.G.2.D.1.b of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, a Tier 2 Shortage Condition will govern the operation of Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River in 2023, resulting in a 400,000 AF reduction to the state of Arizona's Colorado River basic apportionment.

⁵ In accordance with Section III.B.1.a of *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations* (LBOs), the state of Arizona is required to make DCP Contributions of 192,000 AF in 2023. CAWCD agrees to fulfill Arizona's DCP Contributions in accordance with Section II.3.b of the *Agreement Regarding Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Obligations*. In accordance with LBOs, CAWCD anticipates making its required DCP Contributions through the simultaneous creation and conversion of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS to DCP ICS and the creation of Non-ICS Water (reductions in consumptive use). CAWCD has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 100,000 AF of EC ICS in 2023. The actual amount of EC ICS created by CAWCD and converted to DCP ICS and credited toward the DCP Contribution will be based on final accounting and verification. In accordance with Section XI.G.3.B.4 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Section IV.B of LBOs, the total amount of EC ICS that may be created by the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada in 2023 will be limited to 625,000 AF. Additionally, the total amount of EC ICS, Binational ICS and DCP ICS accumulated in Arizona, California and Nevada's ICS Accounts will be limited in accordance with Section IV.C. of LBOs.

⁶ The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created by the City of Bullhead City pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA) No. 15-XX-30-W0587, as amended. This System Conservation Water will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

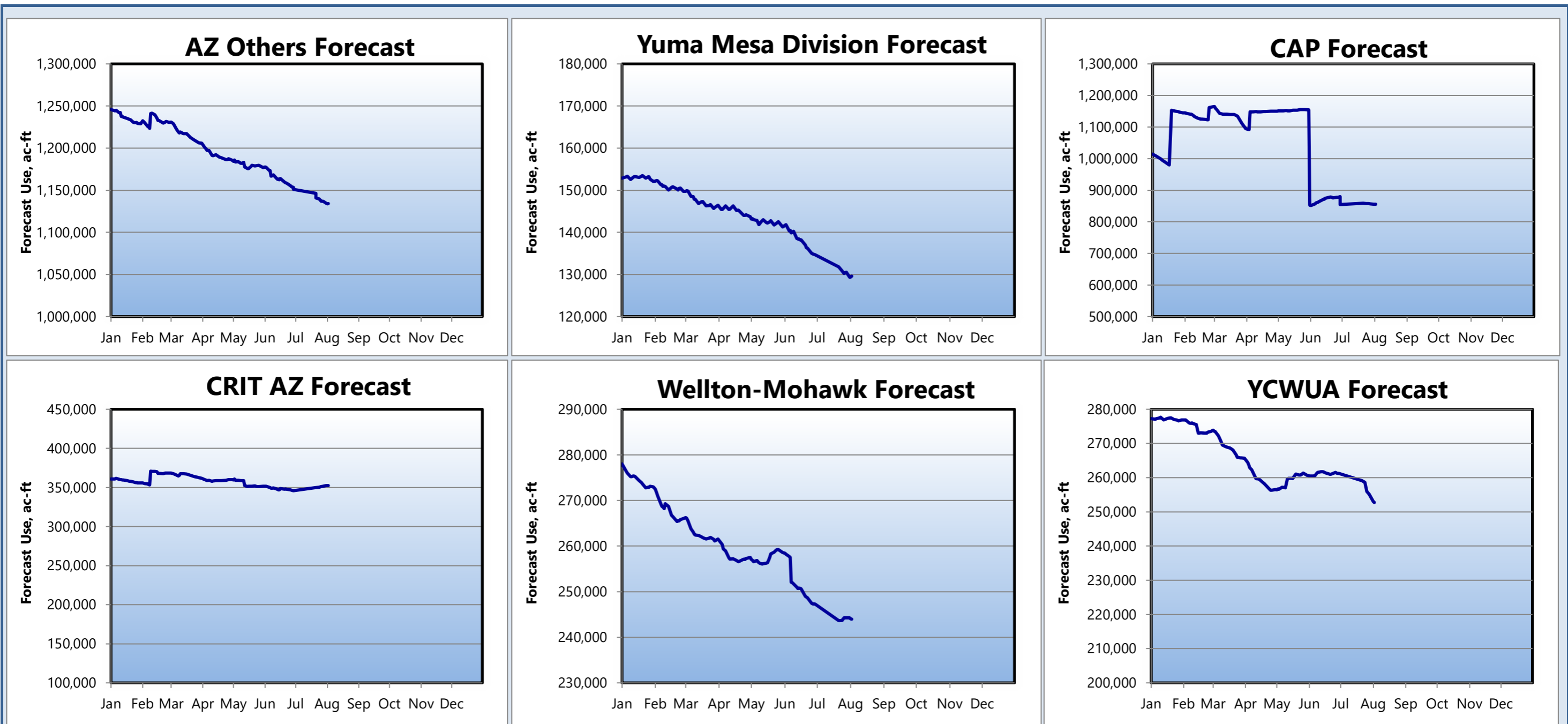
⁷ In accordance with the applicable system conservation agreements and Section 3.b of the *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement*, the Bureau of Reclamation intends to apply all or a portion of this water towards the Secretary of the Interior's commitment to create or conserve 100,000 AF per annum or more of Colorado River System water to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs in the Lower Basin.

⁸ System Conservation Water being created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W-774, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

⁹ CAP water being created by FMYN pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0750, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

¹⁰ CAP water being created by GRIC pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0760, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

¹¹ The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created by additional pumping from the 242 Well Field Expansion pursuant to Letter Agreement No. 16-XX-30-W0603, Revision No. 1, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.



NOTES: Click on Arizona Schedules and Approvals above for incoming diversion schedules and approvals.



**LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION
CY 2023**

CALIFORNIA WATER USERS

Forecast end of year diversion/consumptive use
Forecast based on use to date and approved annual water orders
[California Schedules and Approvals](#)

NOTE:
 • Diversions and uses that are pending approval are noted in *red italics*.
 • Water users with a consumptive use entitlement - **Excess to Estimated Use** column indicates overrun/underrun of entitlement. Dash in this column indicates water user has a diversion entitlement.
 • Water user with a diversion entitlement - **Excess to Approved Diversion** column indicates overrun/underrun of entitlement. Dash in this column indicates water user has a consumptive use

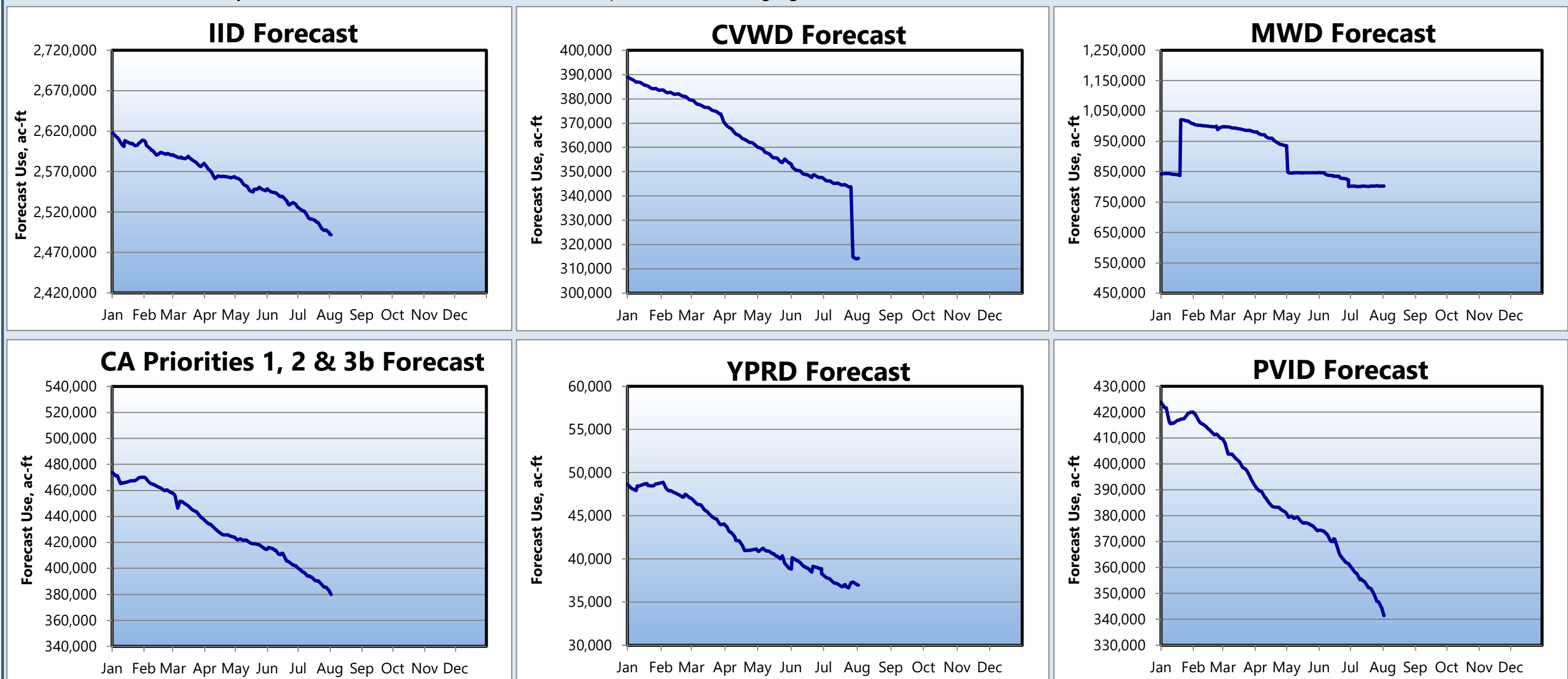
WATER USER	Use	Forecast	Estimated	Excess to	Diversion	Forecast	Approved	Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use	Use		To Date	Diversion	Diversion
	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, CA	4,197	7,401	8,994	---	7,802	13,758	16,720	-2,962
City of Needles (includes LCWSP use)	641	1,308	1,605	-297	1,125	2,063	2,261	-198
PPR No. 30 (Stephenson)	13	19	19	---	22	34	34	0
PPR No. 38 (Andrade)	16	25	25	---	30	45	45	---
PPR No. 40 (Cooper)	4	6	6	---	7	10	10	---
Chemehuevi Indian Reservation	120	183	183	---	7,462	11,340	11,340	0
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ¹	401,081	802,645	---	---	402,754	805,356	---	---
Colorado River Indian Reservation, CA	2882	4,380	4,380	---	4,776	7,258	7,258	0
Palo Verde Irrigation District	206,617	341,460	423,836	---	438,401	756,175	862,000	-105,825
PPR No. 31 (Mendivil)	2	3	3	---	4	6	6	0
Yuma Project Reservation Division	20,560	36,989	46,057	---	43,501	79,320	93,850	-14,530
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Bard Unit	---	---	---	---	17,631	36,144	46,452	-10,308
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Indian Unit	---	---	---	---	25,870	43,176	47,398	-4,222
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Ranch 5 (Surface Delivery)	686	1,162	1,194	---	1,242	2,103	2,160	-57
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Other Ranches (Pumpers)	748	1,137	1,137	---	1,354	2,058	2,058	0
Yuma Island Pumpers	963	1,463	1,463	---	1,742	2,647	2,647	0
Imperial Irrigation District	1,542,912	2,491,877	2,617,800	-125,923	1,559,809	2,586,875	2,767,270	---
Coachella Valley Water District	176,360	314,295	354,000	-39,705	184,047	333,644	375,438	---
Other LCWSP Contractors	346	526	526	---	539	819	819	0
City of Winterhaven	38	58	58	---	53	81	81	0
Total California	2,358,186	4,004,937	4,264,520		2,654,670	4,603,592	4,949,659	

CALIFORNIA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

California Basic Apportionment	4,400,000
System Conservation Water - Pilot System Conservation Program ²	(145)
System Conservation Water - CVWD ^{3,4}	(35,000)
System Conservation Water - PVID Following Program ^{3,5}	(58,400)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	4,306,455
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	(301,518)

Estimated Allowable Use for MWD 1,104,163

¹ Forecast Use is based on MWD's operational projected diversion of 0.803 maf.
² System Conservation Water to be conserved by the City of Needles pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreement No. 15-XX-30-W0596, executed under the Pilot System Conservation Program. This water will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.
³ In accordance with the applicable system conservation agreements and Section 3.b of the *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement*, the Bureau of Reclamation intends to apply all or a portion of this water towards the Secretary of the Interior's commitment to create or conserve 100,000 AF per annum or more of Colorado River System water to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs in the Lower Basin.
⁴ The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0764.
⁵ The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to Funding Agreement No. 21-XX-30-W0714.



NOTES: Click on California Schedules and Approvals above for incoming diversion schedules and approvals.



**LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION
CY 2023**

NOTE:
 • Diversions and uses that are pending approval are noted in *red italics*.
 • Water users with a consumptive use entitlement - **Excess to Estimated Use** column indicates overrun/underrun of entitlement. Dash in this column indicates water user has a diversion entitlement.
 • Water user with a diversion entitlement - **Excess to Approved Diversion** column indicates overrun/underrun of entitlement. Dash in this column indicates water user has a consumptive use entitlement.

NEVADA WATER USERS

Forecast end of year diversion/consumptive use

Forecast based on use to date and approved annual water orders

[Nevada Schedules and Approvals](#)

WATER USER	Use	Forecast	Estimated	Excess to	Diversion	Forecast	Approved	Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use	Use	To Date	Diversion	Diversion	Diversion
	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023	CY 2023
Robert B. Griffith Water Project (SNWS)	251,343	427,905		---	251,343	427,905		---
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mead	386	1,059	1,500	---	386	1,059	1,500	-441
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mohave	134	325	500	---	134	325	500	-175
Basic Management, Inc.	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
City of Henderson (BMI Delivery)	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Nevada Department of Wildlife	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Pacific Coast Building Products, Inc.	524	881	928	---	524	881	928	-47
Boulder Canyon Project	116	177	177	---	197	300	300	0
Big Bend Water District	1,459	3,484	4,688	---	3,096	7,252	10,000	-2,748
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	1,633	3,214	4,624	---	2,438	4,796	6,900	-2,104
Las Vegas Wash Return Flows	-138,365	-235,360	-231,289	---				
Total Nevada¹	117,230	201,685	223,000	0	258,118	442,518	462,000	-5,515
Southern Nevada Water System (SNWS)	112,978	192,545				427,905		
All Others	4,252	9,140				14,613		
Nevada Uses Above Hoover	114,138	194,987				430,470		
Nevada Uses Below Hoover	3,092	6,698				12,048		

Tributary Conservation (TC) Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Creation of TC ICS (Approved)² 44,000

NEVADA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

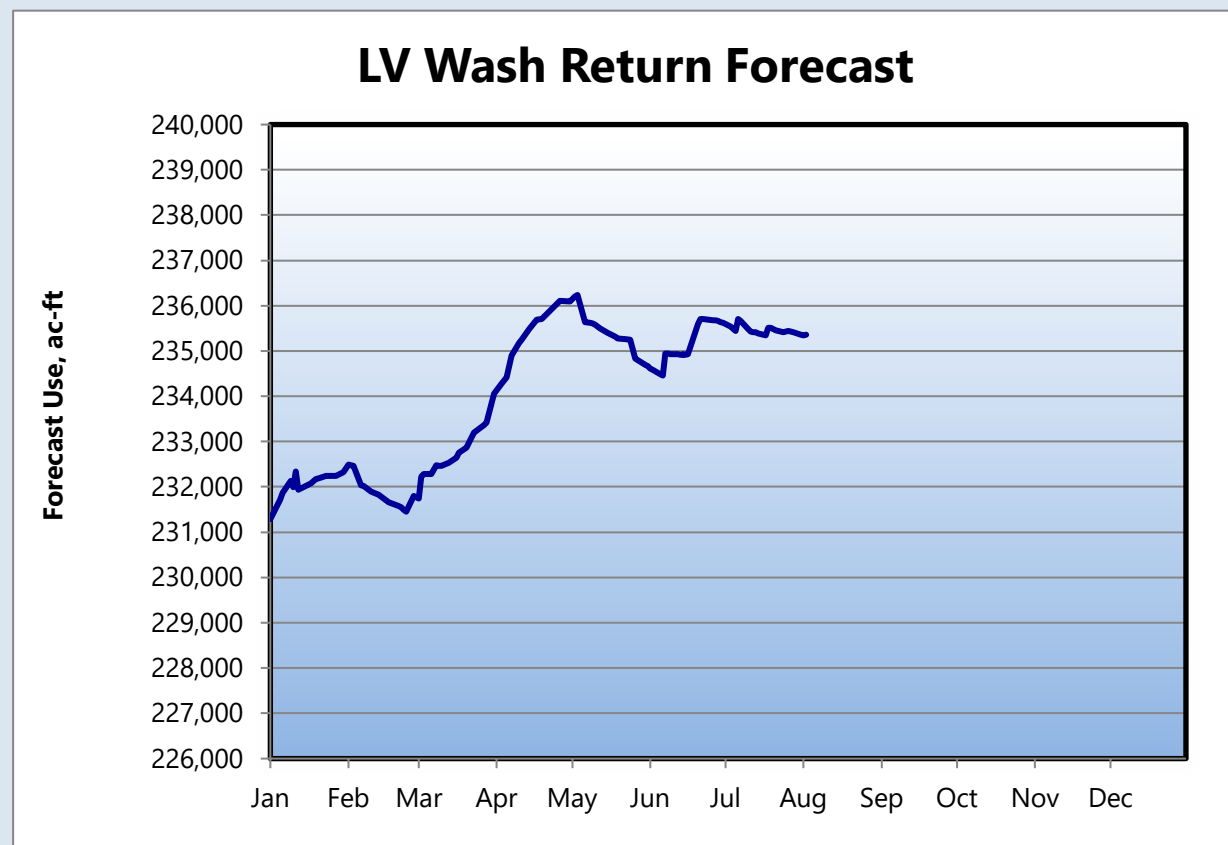
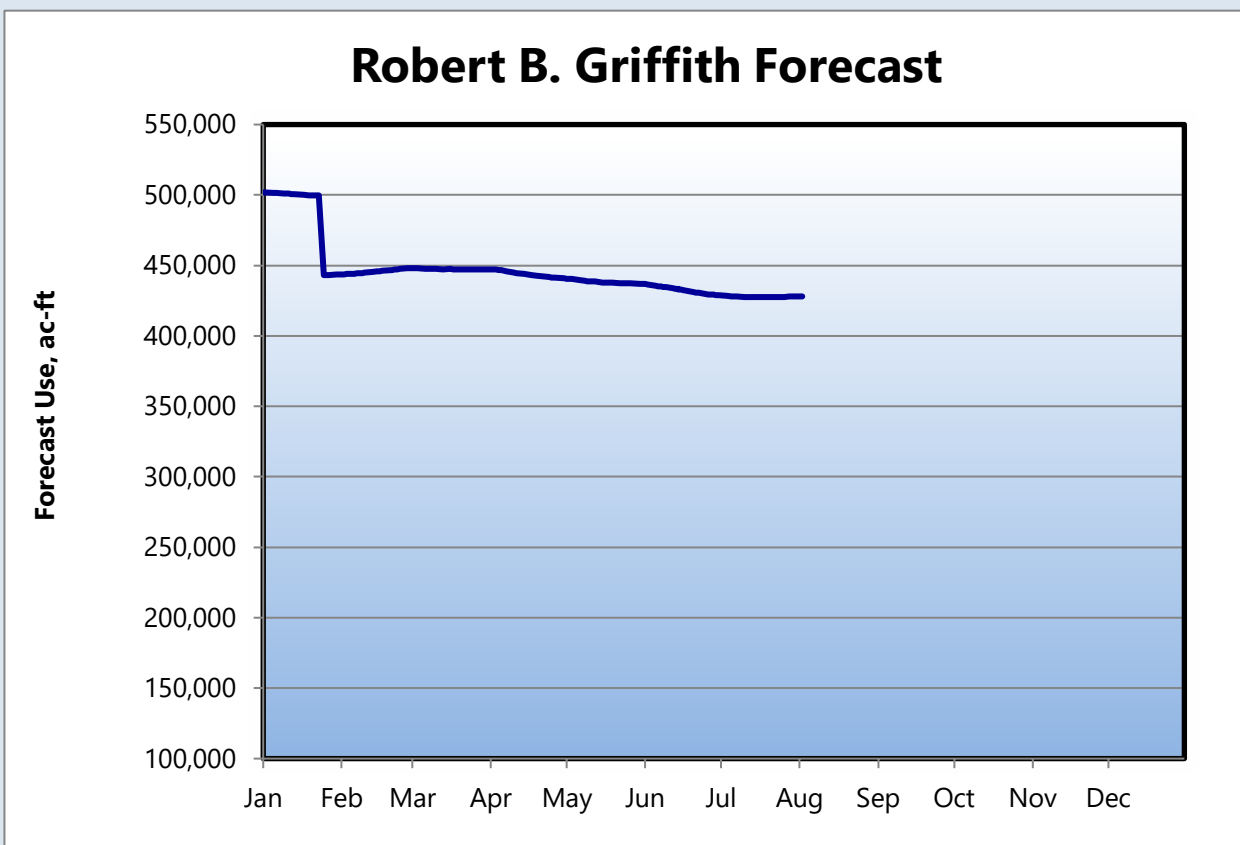
Nevada Basic Apportionment	300,000
Reduction for Tier 2 Shortage ³	(17,000)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - SNWA (Estimated) ⁴	(81,315)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	201,685
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	0

¹ The State of Nevada has been approved to consumptively use up to 283,000 AF in CY 2023. Forecast Use shown here is based on Nevada's operational projected consumptive use of 223,000 AF.

² SNWA has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 44,000 AF of TC ICS in 2023. The actual amount of TC ICS created by SNWA in 2023 will be based on final accounting and verification.

³ In accordance with Section XI.G.2.D.1.B of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, a Tier 2 Shortage Condition will govern the operation of Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River in 2023, resulting in a 17,000 AF reduction to the state of Nevada's Colorado River basic apportionment.

⁴ SNWA has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 100,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2023. The actual amount of EC ICS created by SNWA in 2023 will be based on final accounting and verification. In accordance with Section XI.G.3.B.4 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Section IV.B of *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations* (LBOs), the total amount of EC ICS that may be created by the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada in 2023 will be limited to 625,000 AF. Additionally, the total amount of EC ICS, Binational ICS and DCP ICS accumulated in Arizona, California and Nevada's ICS Accounts will be limited in accordance with Section IV.C. of LBOs.



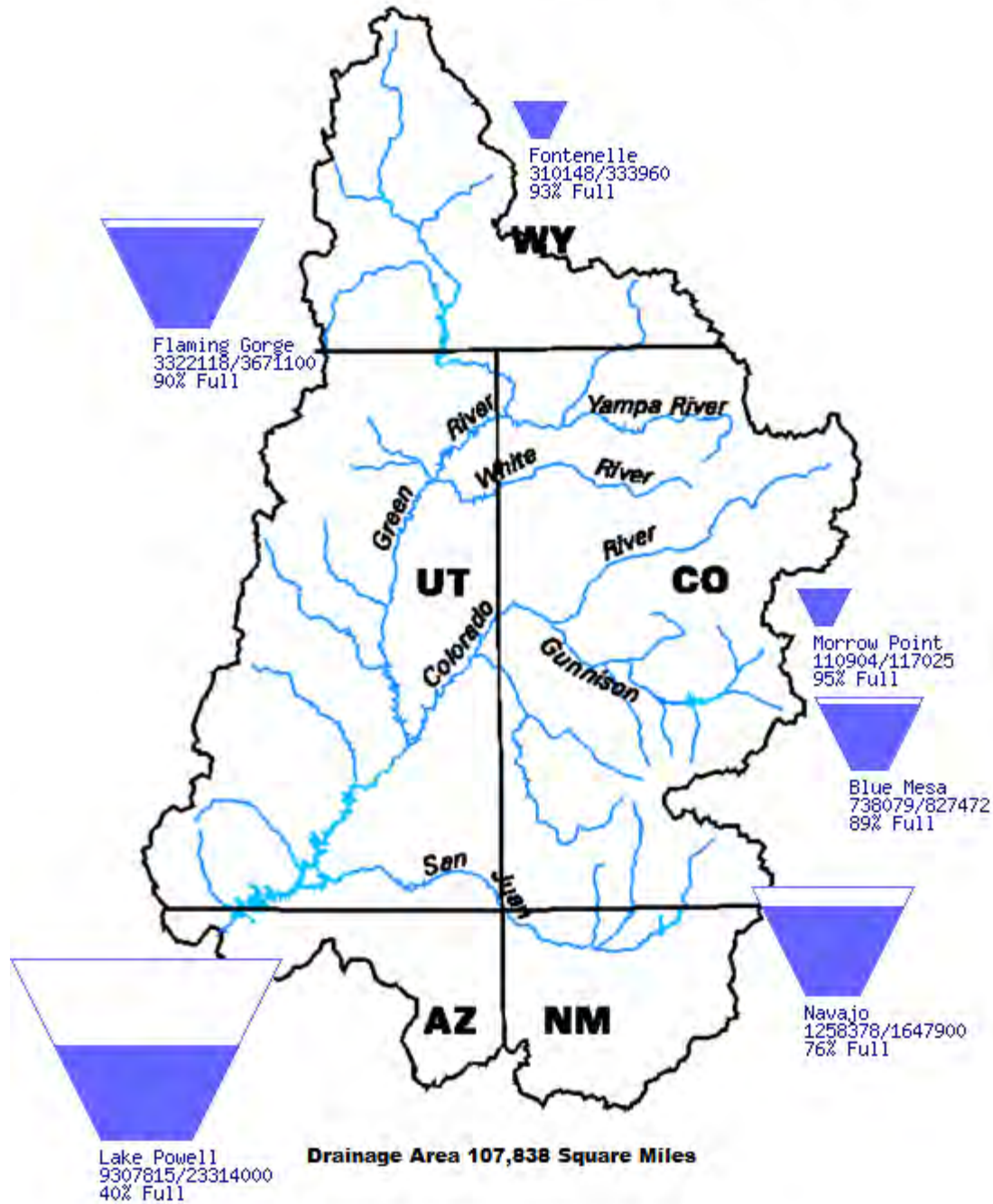
NOTES: Click on Nevada Schedules and Approvals above for incoming diversion schedules and approvals.

Upper Colorado Region Water Resources Group

River Basin Tea-Cup Diagrams

Data Current as of:
08/01/2023

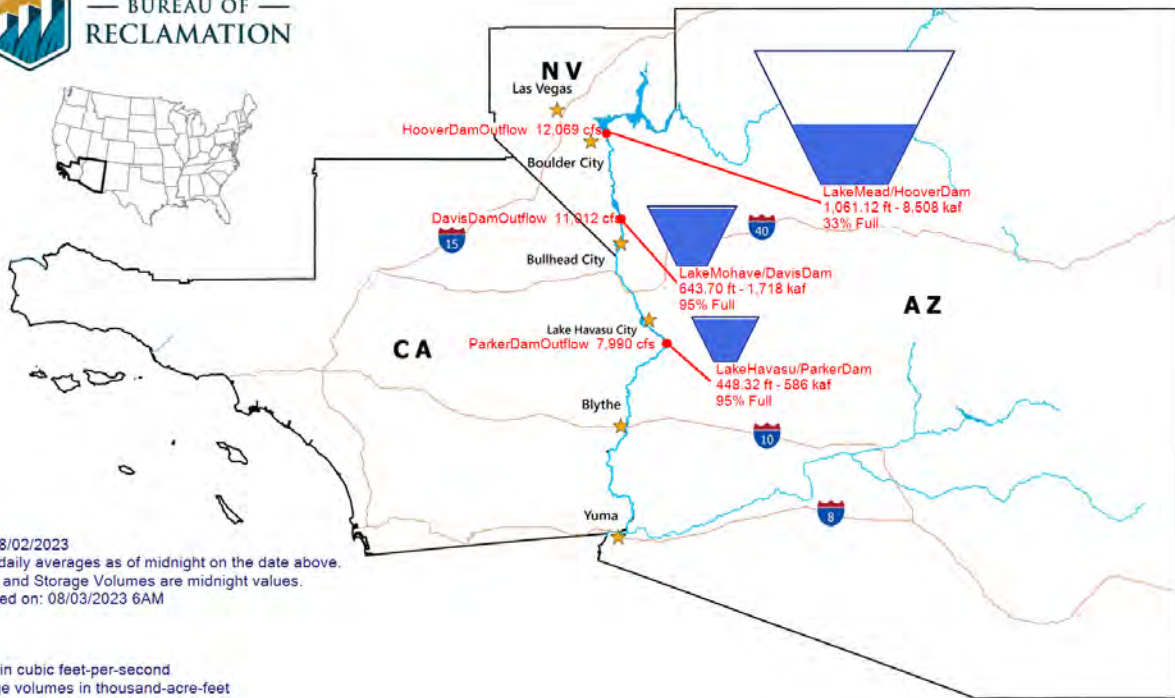
Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



Lower Colorado River Teacup Diagram



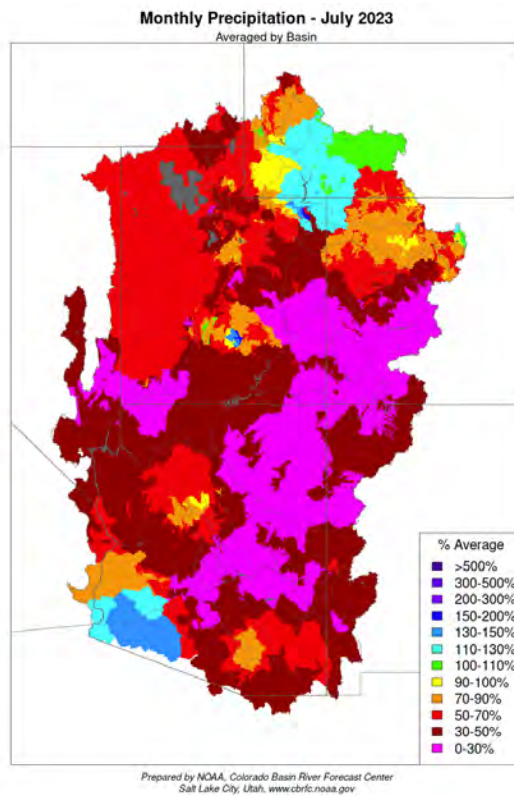
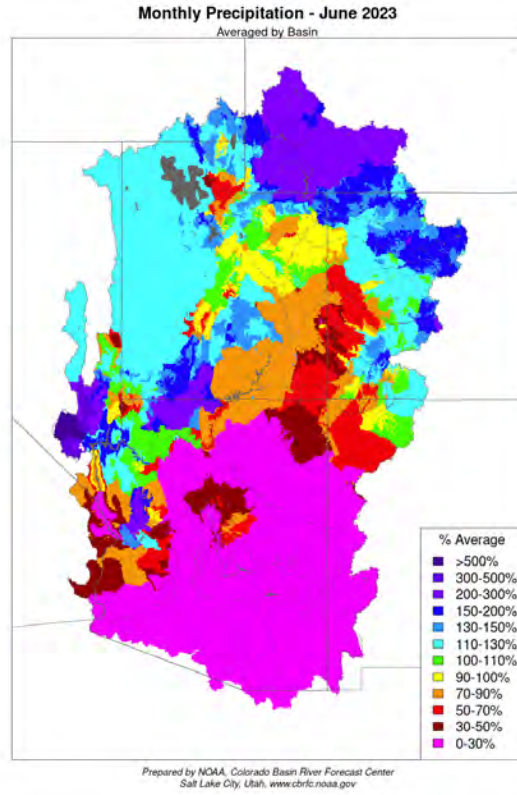
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION



Data for: 08/02/2023
 Flows are daily averages as of midnight on the date above.
 Elevations and Storage Volumes are midnight values.
 Last updated on: 08/03/2023 6AM

LEGEND:
 cfs: Flows in cubic feet-per-second
 kaf: Storage volumes in thousand-acre-feet
 ft: Elevations in feet above mean-sea-level

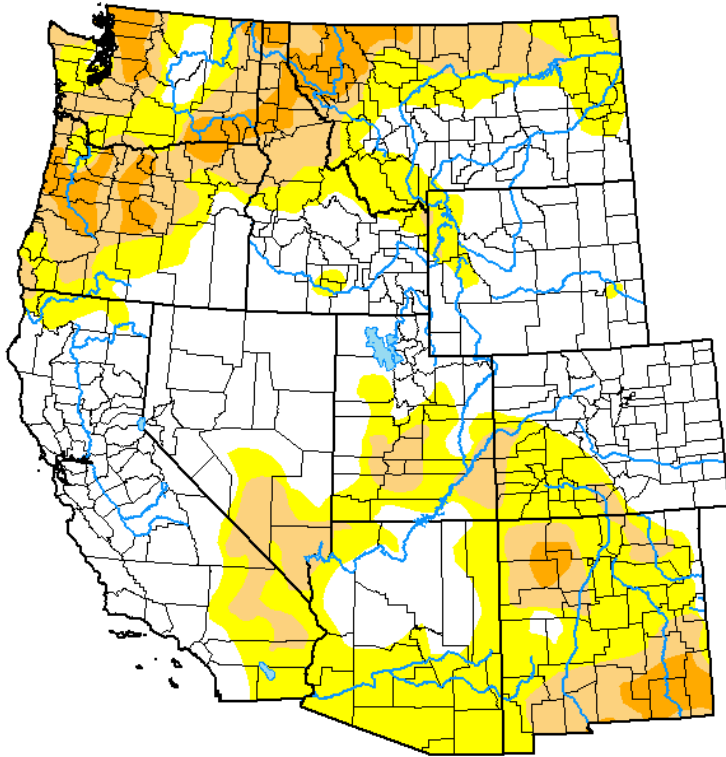
NOAA National Weather Service Monthly Precipitation Map June and July 2023





U.S. Drought Monitor West

August 1, 2023
(Released Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	50.18	49.82	21.14	5.63	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>07-25-2023</i>	54.87	45.13	17.67	4.25	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>05-02-2023</i>	46.41	53.59	25.19	6.17	1.19	0.05
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-03-2023</i>	12.08	87.92	62.42	38.84	12.41	0.27
Start of Water Year <i>09-27-2022</i>	3.89	96.11	73.90	47.71	19.37	2.63
One Year Ago <i>08-02-2022</i>	16.64	83.36	70.56	54.68	28.61	6.01

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

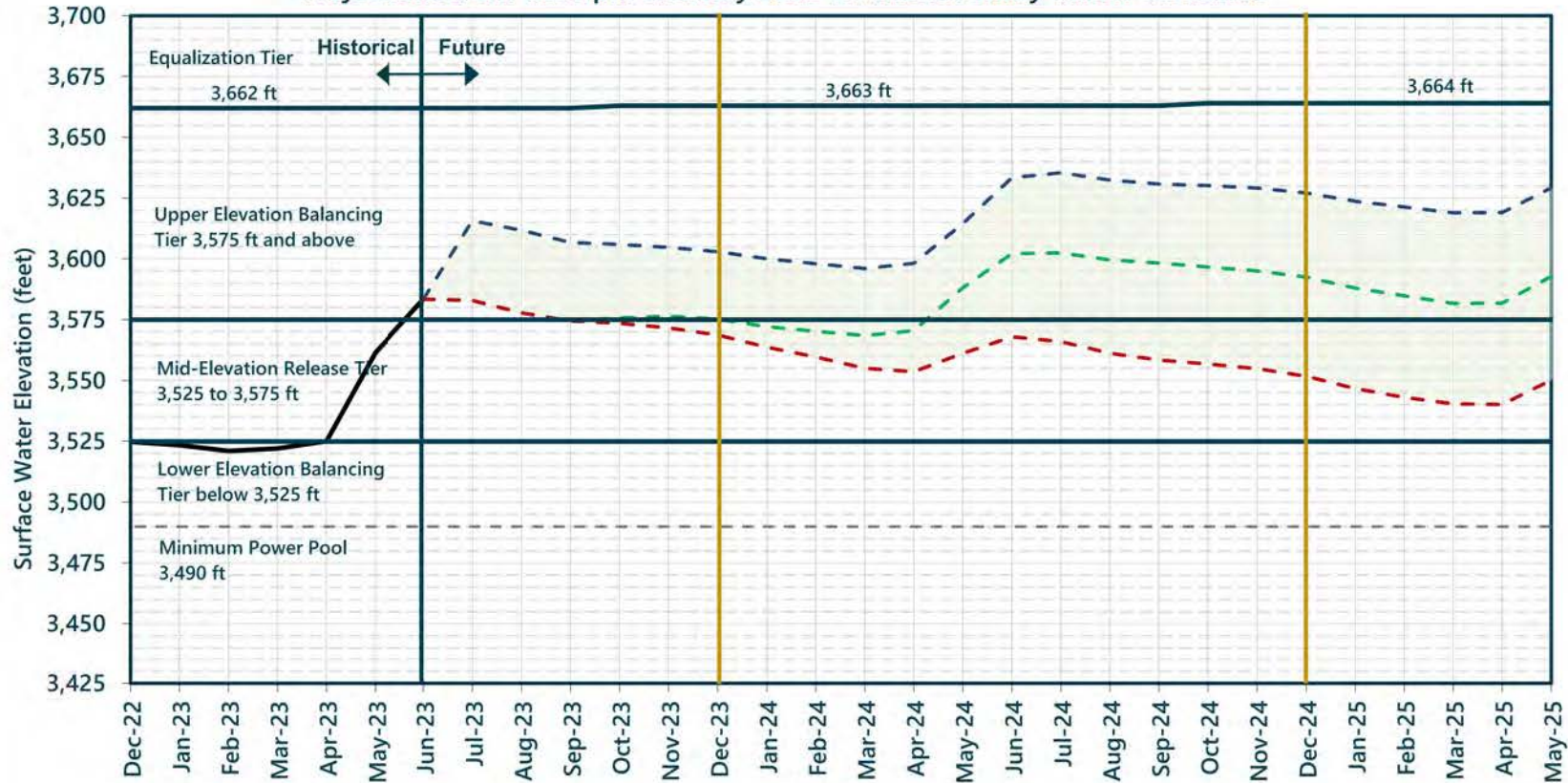
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Lake Powell End of Month Elevations

Projections from the April and July 2023 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



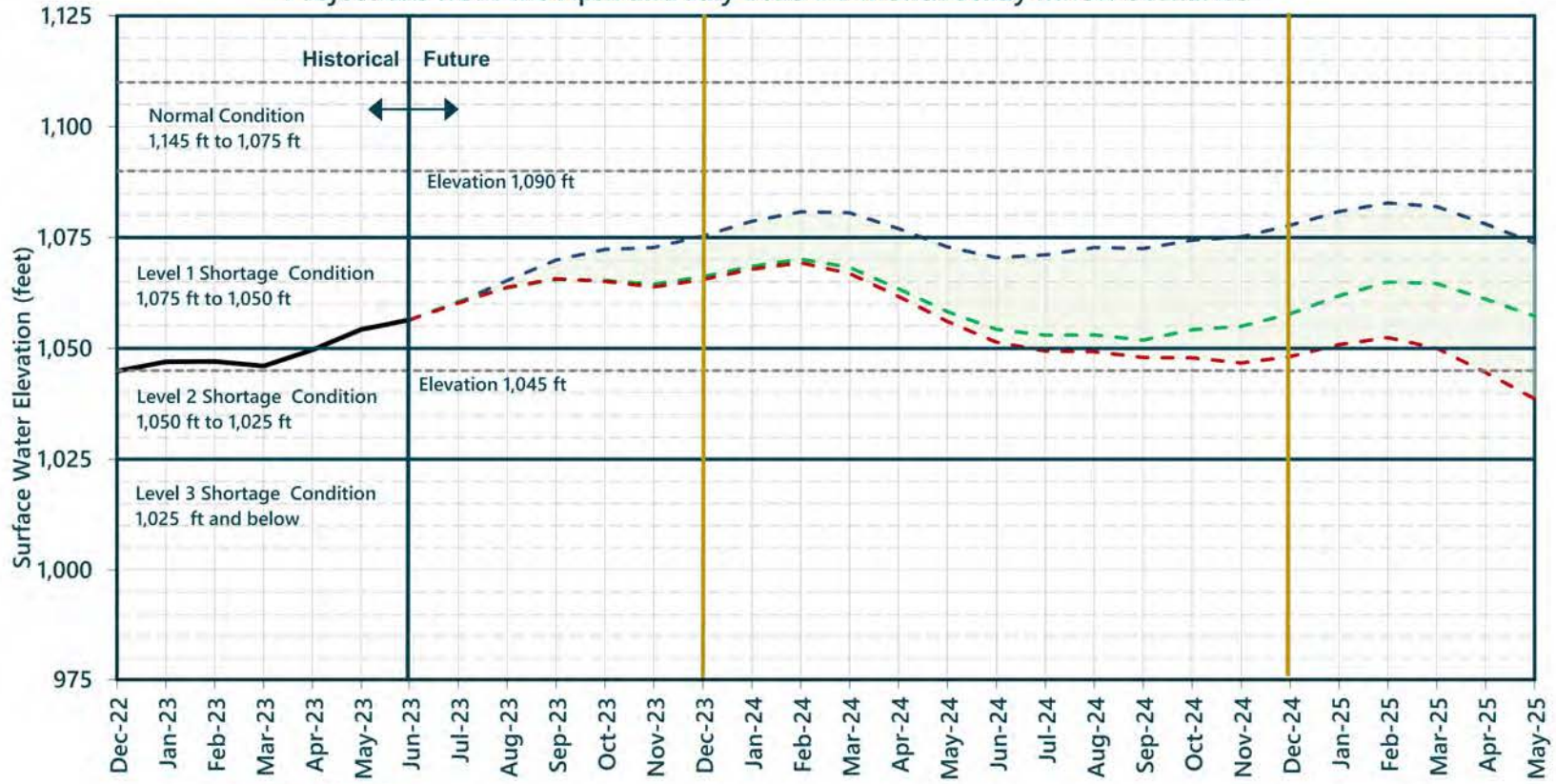
- Historical Elevations
- - - April 2023 Maximum Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 9.50 maf in WY 2023 and 9.00 maf in WY 2024
- - - July 2023 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 9.04 maf in WY 2023 and 7.48 maf in WY 2024
- - - July 2023 DROA Minimum Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 9.09 maf in WY 2023 and 7.48 maf in WY 2024

The Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) is available online at: <https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/finaldocs.html>.



Lake Mead End of Month Elevations

Projections from the April and July 2023 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



- Historical Elevations
- - - April 2023 Maximum Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 9.50 maf in WY 2023 and 9.00 maf in WY 2024
- - - July 2023 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 9.04 maf in WY 2023 and 7.48 maf in WY 2024
- - - July 2023 DROA Minimum Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 9.09 maf in WY 2023 and 7.48 maf in WY 2024

The Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) is available online at: <https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/finaldocs.html>.



CA Current Conditions

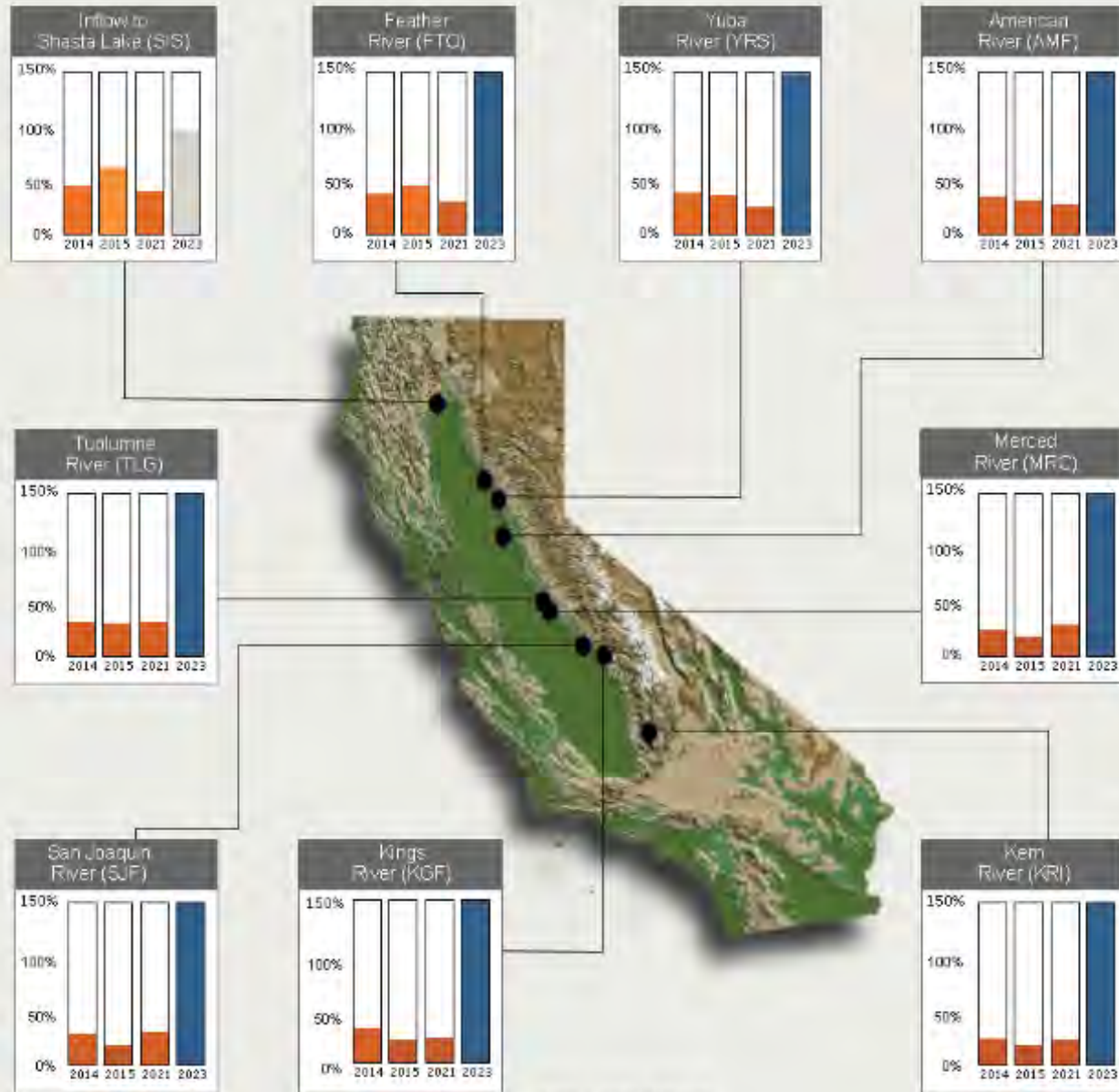
- Statewide precipitation: 137% of average for this date
- Statewide reservoir storage: 127% of average for this date
- Monitoring Wells Below Normal Level: 43%
- Dry Wells Reported – Year to Date: 345

As of 8/2/2023

Full Natural Flow at DWR Forecast Points on Selected California Rivers

Shown as a Percent of Average to Date

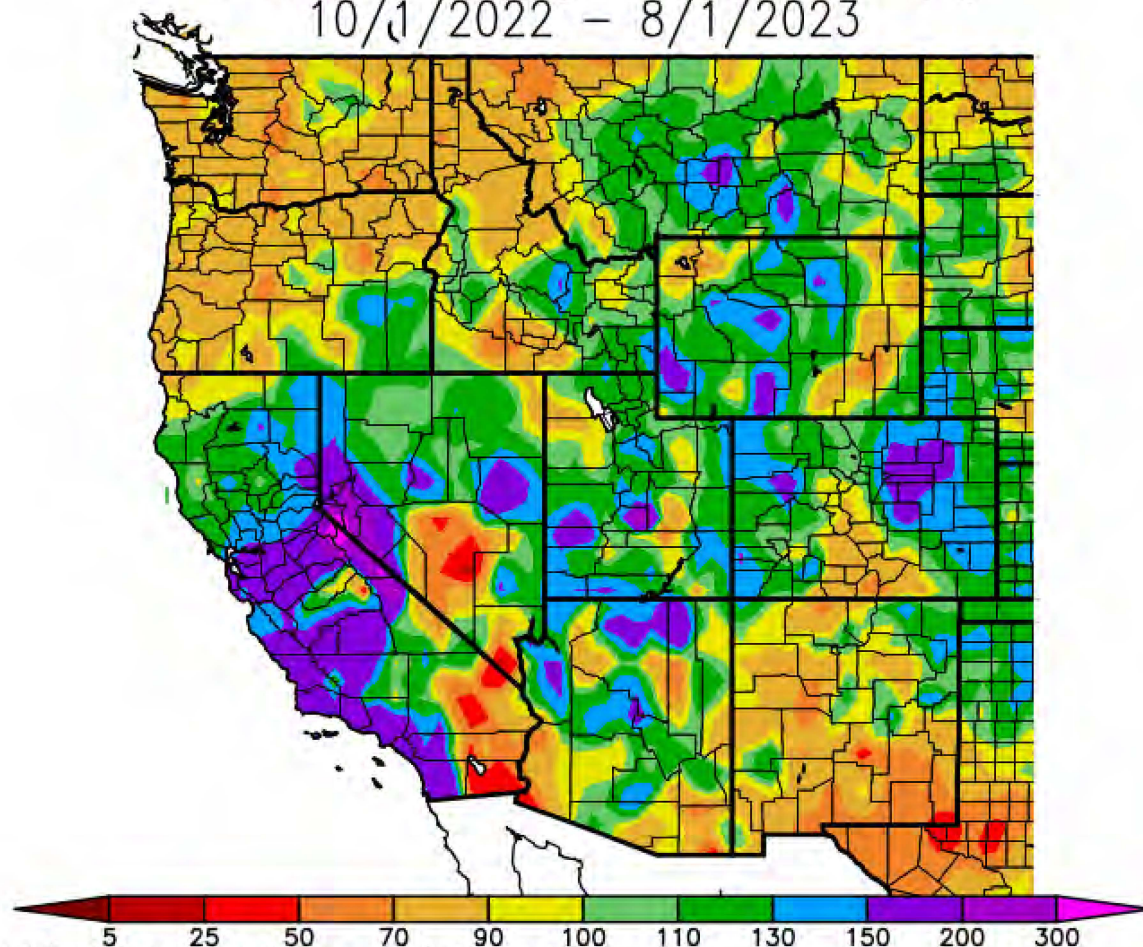
Data as of Midnight: 01-Aug-2023



(XYZ) = CDEC Station ID

Date Created: 08/02/2023

Percent of Average Precipitation (%) 10/1/2022 – 8/1/2023



Generated 8/ 2/2023 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Colorado River Information as of 08/01/2023



Precipitation Statistics (period of record: 1981-current)

Colorado River as of 08/01/2023

Water Year to Date: **4.42"**

% of Average: **98%**

Precipitation % of average for full water year through September 30th: **82%**

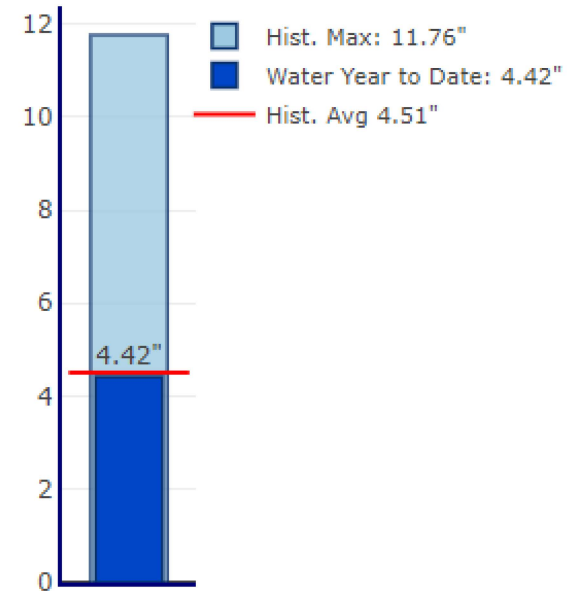
Historical Record to Date:

Max: **11.76"**

Mean: **4.51"**

Min: **0.82"**

[Download Image](#)



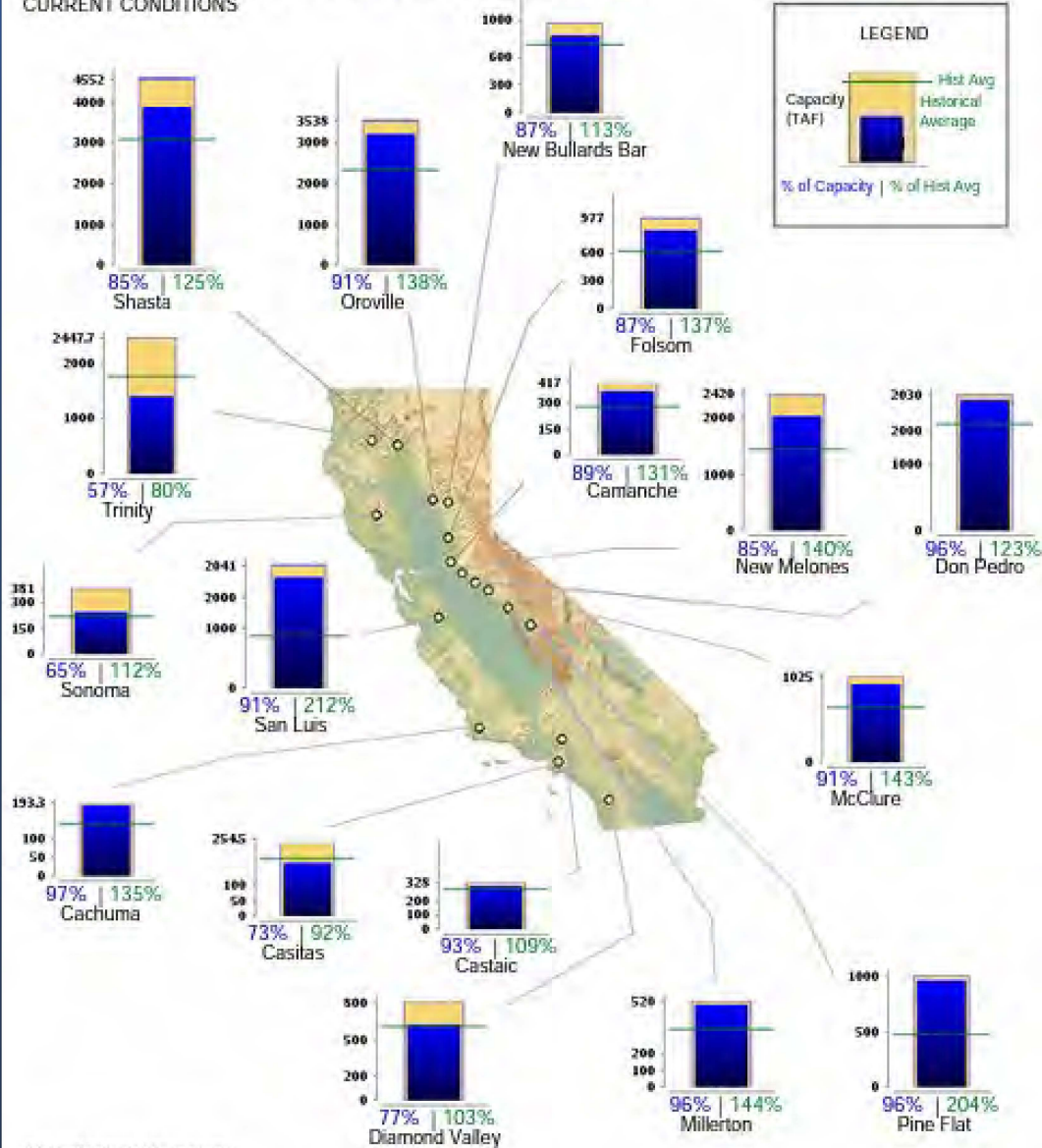
Precipitation for water year to date is 98% of historical average



CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

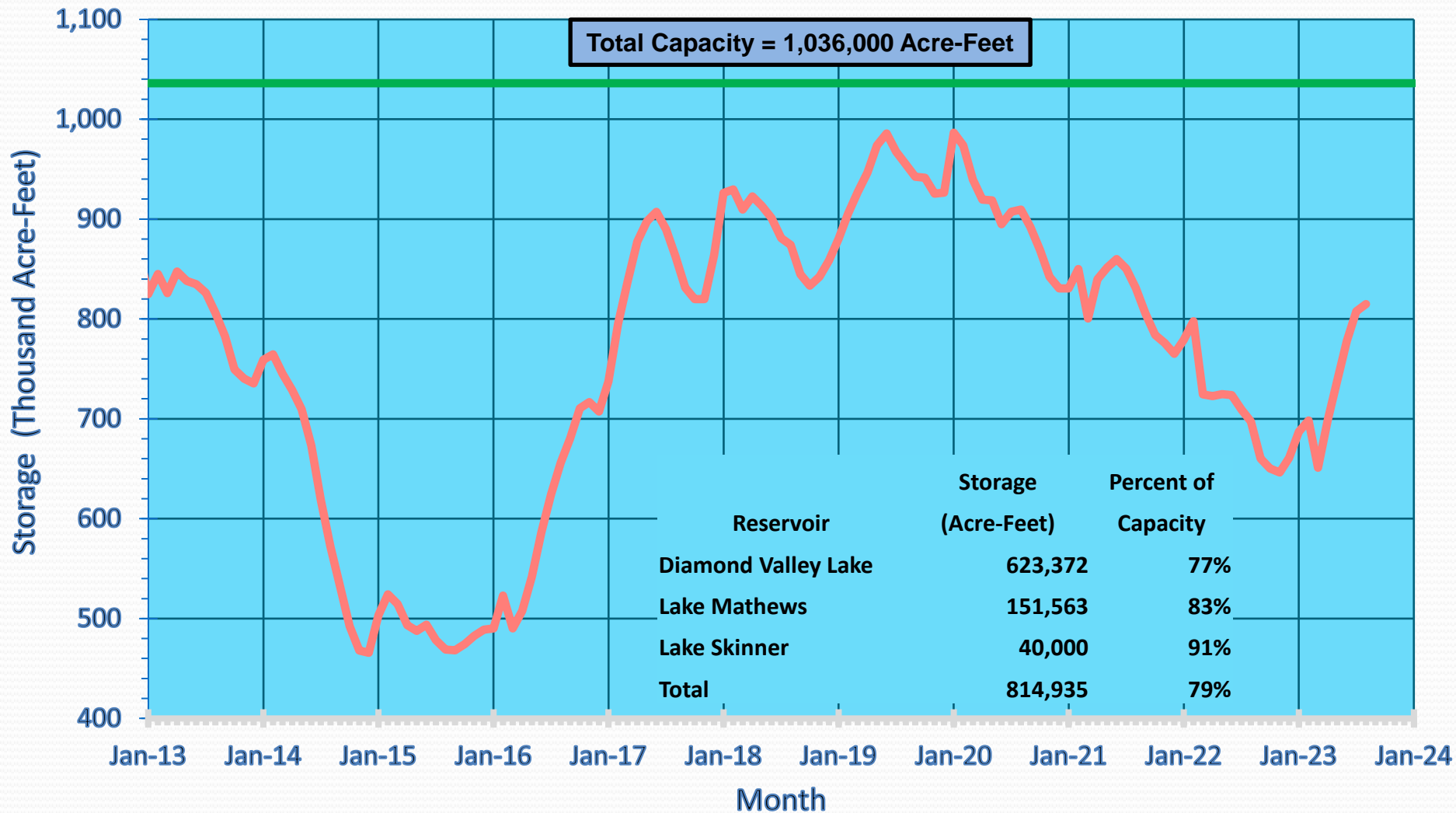
CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS CURRENT CONDITIONS

Midnight - August 1, 2023



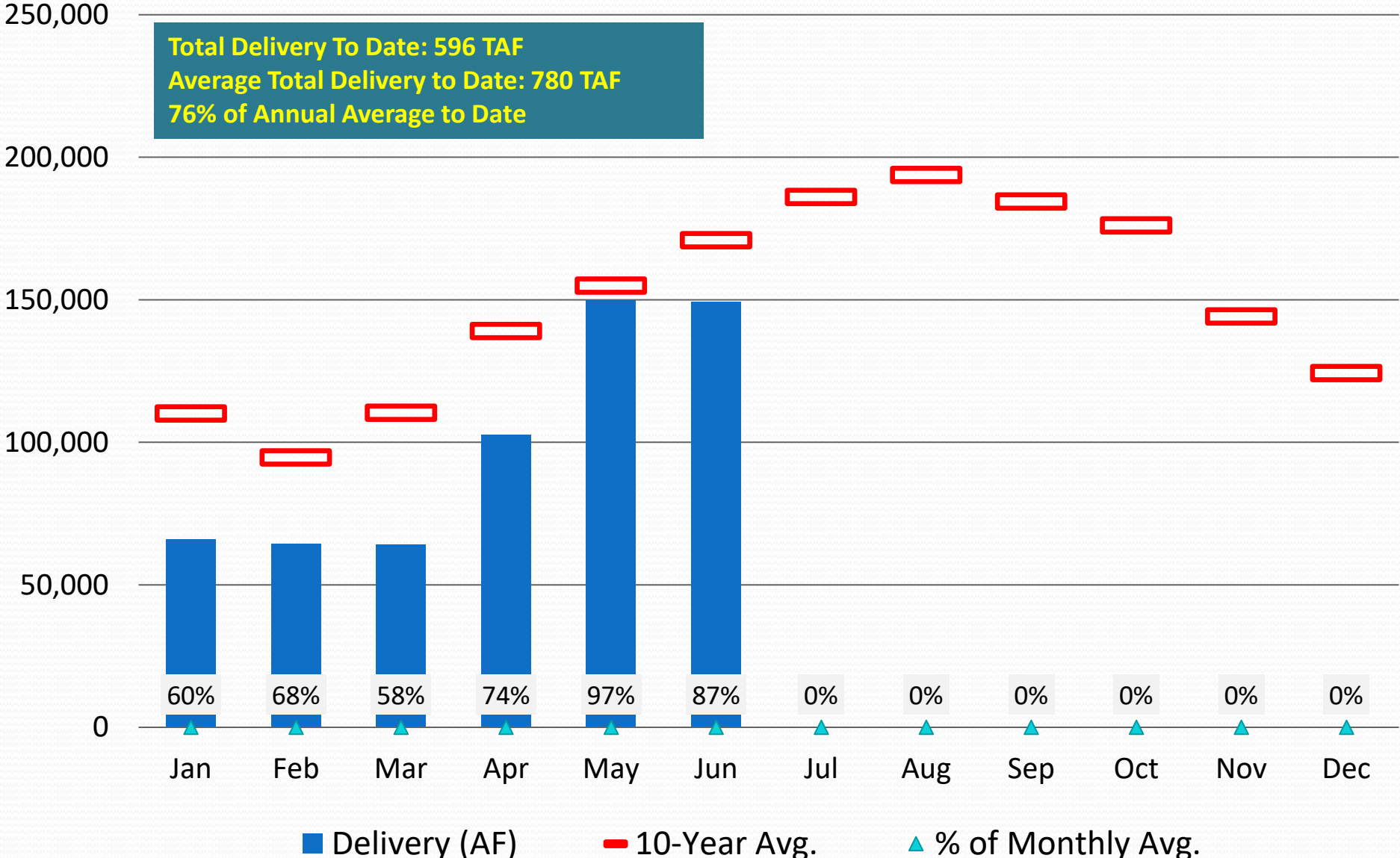
MWD's Combined Reservoir Storage as of August 1, 2023

Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake



2023 Water Deliveries to Agencies (AF)

Total Delivery To Date: 596 TAF
Average Total Delivery to Date: 780 TAF
76% of Annual Average to Date

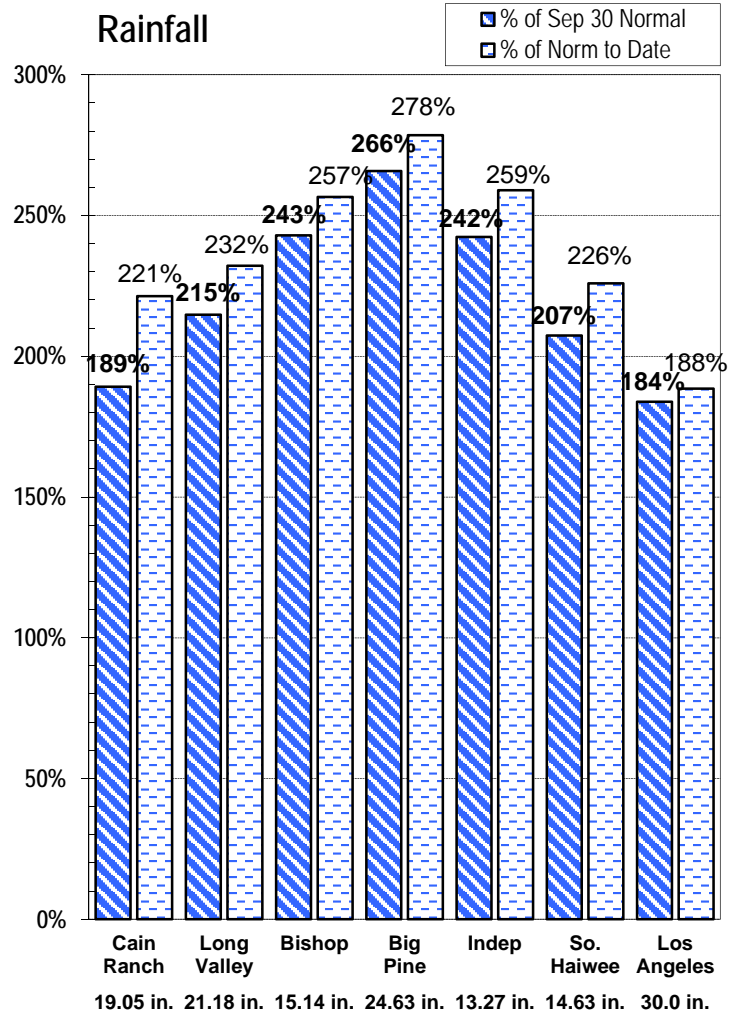
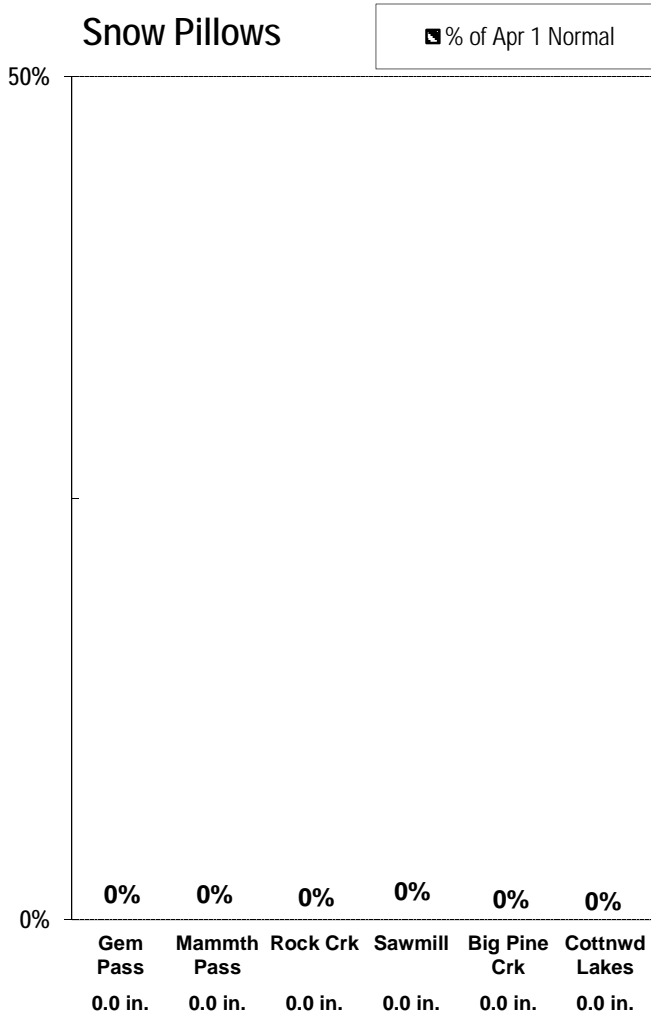
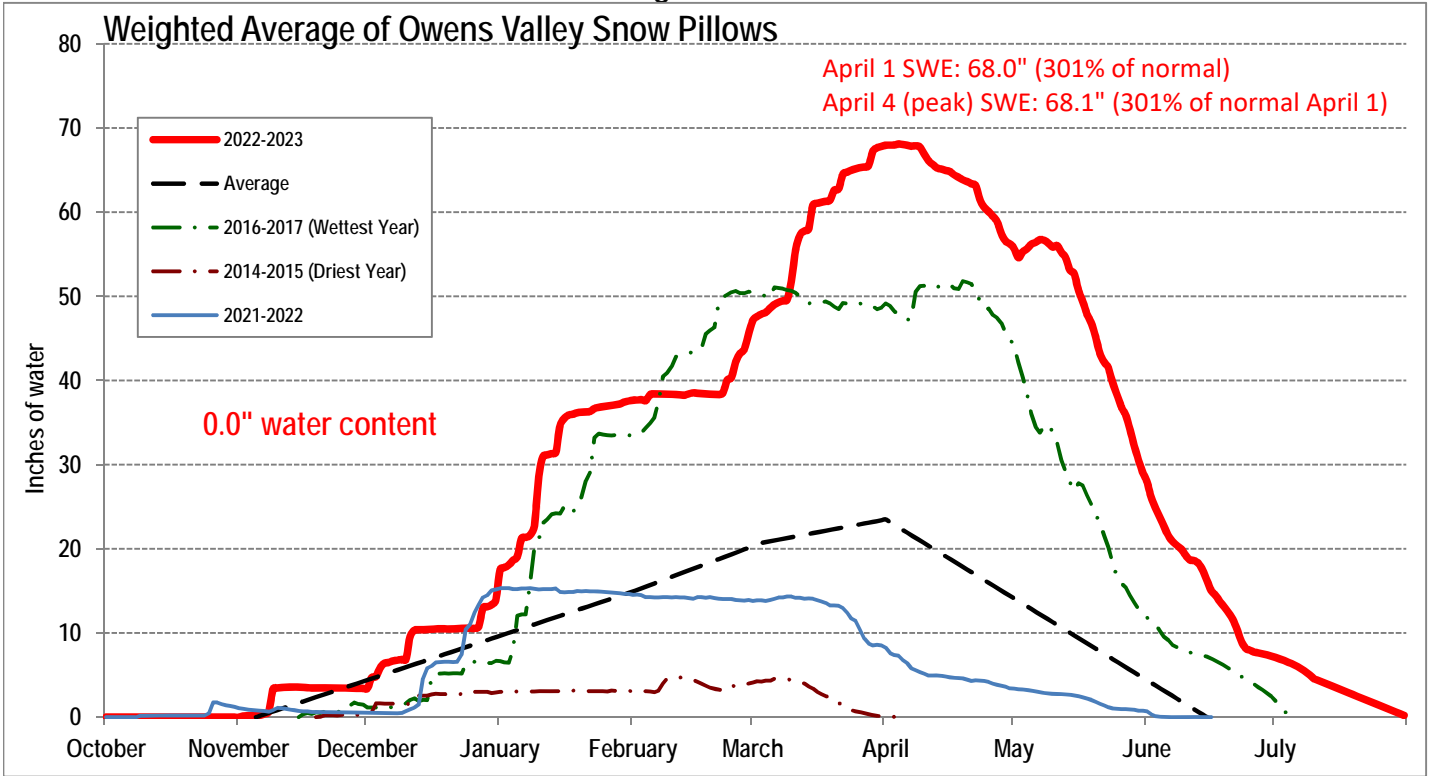


■ Delivery (AF)

▭ 10-Year Avg.

▲ % of Monthly Avg.

EASTERN SIERRA CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS August 1, 2023



Measurement as Inches Water Content; Precipitation totals are cumulative for water year beginning Oct 1

and not competing requests. California State University, Sacramento is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9, 10.10, and 10.14.

Dated: June 6, 2023.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2023-12857 Filed 6-15-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

[RR03040000, 23XR0680A1, RX187860005004001]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice To Solicit Comments and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) has directed the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to develop post-2026 Colorado River reservoir operational guidelines and strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (referred to as “post-2026 operations”). Several important reservoir and water management decisional documents and agreements that govern operation of Colorado River facilities and management of Colorado River water are currently scheduled to expire at the end of 2026. Through this **Federal Register** notice, Reclamation is formally initiating the process to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the development of post-2026 operations.

DATES: This **Federal Register** notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS. Reclamation requests that the public submit comments concerning the scope of specific operational guidelines, strategies, and any other issues that should be considered on or before August 15, 2023.

Reclamation will host three virtual public meetings/webinars to provide summary information and receive oral comments:

- Monday, July 17, 2023, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MDT)
- Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (MDT)
- Monday, July 24, 2023, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (MDT)

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments pursuant to this notice to crbpost2026@usbr.gov or Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: Post-2026 (Mail Stop 84-55000), P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225.

The registration link for the webinar held on Monday, July 17, 2023, is https://swca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-hvFoMcRJ-I98k4n7-GvQ, or the dial in option (audio only) is (602) 753-0140 or (720) 928-9299; Webinar ID: 918 5524 0606.

The registration link for the webinar held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, is https://swca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sbSwzBjhQ66Z-E65TGXX1g, or the dial in option (audio only) is (602) 753-0140 or (720) 928-9299; Webinar ID: 963 7946 3234.

The registration link for the webinar held on Monday, July 24, 2023, is https://swca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r0ozNRpmRu-hmEpYxe0-Qg, or the dial in option (audio only) is (602) 753-0140 or (720) 928-9299; Webinar ID: 949 1587 3150.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amanda Erath, Colorado River Post-2026 Program Coordinator, Bureau of Reclamation, at (303) 445-2766, or by email at crbpost2026@usbr.gov. Please also visit the project website at <https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/Post2026Ops.html>. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that Reclamation intends to prepare an EIS for post-2026 operations and conduct public scoping. Reclamation is issuing this **Federal Register** notice pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations for implementing NEPA, 43 CFR parts 1500 through 1508; and the Department of the Interior (Department or Interior) NEPA regulations, 43 CFR part 46.

Background

The Colorado River Basin has been in a prolonged period of drought and low-

runoff conditions, and despite current projections of 2023 runoff being well above average, the period from 2000 through 2023 is currently estimated as the second driest period in more than a century and one of the driest periods in the last 1,200 years. From 2000 to 2004, Lake Powell and Lake Mead lost nearly half of their combined storage. The onset of this period of acute drought spurred the development of the 2007 Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Interim Guidelines). Over the past 15 years since the adoption of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, as drought and low-runoff conditions continued, additional responsive actions were needed to complement the 2007 Interim Guidelines (e.g., 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)). At the end of 2026, a number of reservoir and water management decisional documents and agreements that govern the operation of Colorado River facilities and management of the Colorado River are scheduled to expire. These include the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the DCP, and other important management documents within the United States, as well as Minute 323 between the United States and Mexico pursuant to the United States-Mexico Treaty on Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande (1944 Water Treaty).

Since 2021, the Department has undertaken several actions to protect critical infrastructure in response to declining reservoir elevations and the deepening of drought conditions from 2020 to 2022. As the summer of 2022 ended with near record low elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the Department recognized that, absent a change in hydrologic conditions, water use patterns, or both, Colorado River reservoirs would continue to decline to critically low elevations before the 2007 Interim Guidelines expired. In order to modify guidelines for the operation of Glen Canyon and Hoover Dam for the remainder of the interim period (through 2026) to address these historic drought and low runoff conditions in the Basin, the Department initiated a NEPA process on November 17, 2022, to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Near-term Colorado River Operations. The draft SEIS was released for public review on April 14, 2023. In light of the Lower Basin states’ consensus-based system conservation proposal submitted on May 22, 2023, the Department temporarily withdrew the draft SEIS so

that it can fully analyze the effects of the proposal under NEPA. Reclamation intends to publish an updated draft SEIS for public comment with the consensus-based proposal as an action alternative and finalize the SEIS process later this year.

Recognizing the need to begin to develop long-term strategies for Colorado River operations while simultaneously addressing the current drought conditions and preparing for the potential of continuing low runoff and low reservoir conditions, the Department published a **Federal Register** notice on June 24, 2022 (87 FR 37884), related to post-2026 operations. In that **Federal Register** notice, the Department specifically requested public input on procedural approaches to developing the post-2026 operational strategies (process) and potential substantive elements of post-2026 operations. In response, the Department received substantial input from States, Tribes, water districts, non-governmental organizations, and the public. The input received has been summarized in a “Pre-Scoping Summary Report” (Available at https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/Post-2026_Pre-Scoping%20Comment%20Summary%20Final_Updated1.30.2023_508.pdf) and is being considered and integrated into this NEPA process. This NOI follows that important early opportunity for public input, and formally initiates the post-2026 NEPA process.

With respect to the relationship between the ongoing SEIS process and the post-2026 process, the November 2022 **Federal Register** notice was clear that the SEIS: “does not interfere with, supplant, or supersede that separate post-2026 guidelines development process. Rather, this SEIS will inform and complement the development of post-2026 guidelines.” The SEIS is focused on limited sections of the 2007 Interim Guidelines to develop the operational tools necessary to address potential extreme drought conditions during the 2024 to 2026 timeframe. In contrast, the post-2026 process will address the subsequent timeframe and revisit all sections of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and other operating agreements that expire in 2026 (*e.g.*, the DCP). The appropriate scope of post-2026 operations will be determined after conclusion of the public scoping process.

The June 2022 **Federal Register** notice for pre-scoping for post-2026 operations anticipated “that near-term response actions and development of post-2026 operations will need to proceed on parallel timelines.” The SEIS and post-

2026 processes are now underway and proceeding simultaneously as predicted. Every effort will be made to provide clear and timely information regarding the milestones for public engagement in the post-2026 process to minimize the stakeholder and public burden of tracking and engaging in both efforts.

Purpose of This Notice of Intent

To assure the continued stability of the Colorado River system into the future, Reclamation announces its intent to prepare an EIS for post-2026 operations and is now soliciting public comments on the scope of specific operational guidelines, strategies, and any other related issues that should be considered in the upcoming EIS.

Reclamation invites all interested members of the public, including the seven Colorado River Basin States, Tribes, water and power contractors, representatives of the agricultural industry, municipal water providers, environmental organizations, representatives of the recreation industry, representatives of academic and scientific communities and other organizations and agencies to provide oral and written comments. Reclamation anticipates publishing a “scoping report” after completion of the public scoping meetings and the close of the comment period identified in this **Federal Register** notice.

All comments received will be considered as Reclamation develops the proposed federal action, Purpose and Need, and scope of the analysis (*e.g.*, affected area, geographic scope, time horizon/term). Similar to operational guidelines currently in place, it is likely that the post-2026 operational guidelines will be interim. Despite their interim nature, it is the Department’s intent that these operational guidelines and strategies are sufficiently robust and adaptive and can withstand a broad range of future conditions thereby providing greater operational and planning stability to water users and the public throughout the Colorado River Basin.

June 2022 Request for Input on Development of Post-2026 Colorado River Operational Strategies

In response to the June 2022 pre-scoping **Federal Register** notice, Reclamation heard from over 80 stakeholders and partners as well as over 2,000 members of the public. As noted above, in January 2023, Reclamation published a “Pre-Scoping Comment Summary Report” on its website describing and summarizing the input received and hosted a public

outreach event on January 30, 2023, to communicate the findings.

The input received in response to the June 2022 **Federal Register** notice included a broad range of comments and suggestions, not all of which can be addressed in this proposed process or described in this NOI. In addition, some suggestions may be part of ongoing or future efforts. However, some widely expressed themes related to the nature of future operational guidelines and strategies are actively being considered in our approach during the early stages of planning for this NEPA process:

- Future operational guidelines and strategies must support proactive management to improve system stability and avoid continuously managing in response to crises. To achieve this, future operational guidelines and strategies must be capable of both withstanding a broad range of future hydrologic and operating conditions and minimizing system vulnerability, *i.e.*, they must be more robust and adaptive than current strategies.
- Future operational guidelines and strategies should incorporate a more holistic approach to Colorado River water management in a way that focuses on the long-term sustainability of both the Basin’s population and natural environment, minimizes system vulnerability, and increases system resiliency.
- Coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead is one of multiple ways that the system can be managed. Alternative paradigms, *e.g.*, basing reservoir operations on combined reservoir or system storage, should be explored.

Structure of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Operating Experience

The purpose of the 2007 Interim Guidelines was determined in the early stages of the NEPA process to develop the 2007 Interim Guidelines and consists of three components. As stated in Section IV of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the purpose is to:

- “improve Reclamation’s management of the Colorado River by considering trade-offs between the frequency and magnitude of reductions of water deliveries, and considering the effects on water storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and on water supply, power production, recreation, and other environmental resources;
- provide mainstream United States users of Colorado River water, particularly those in the Lower Division states, a greater degree of predictability with respect to the amount of annual water deliveries in future years,

particularly under drought and low reservoir conditions; and

- provide additional mechanisms for the storage and delivery of water supplies in Lake Mead to increase the flexibility of meeting water use needs from Lake Mead, particularly under drought and low reservoir conditions.”

Despite the additional agreements and actions undertaken since the adoption of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and ongoing processes, the four elements of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, collectively intended to meet the purpose, have remained intact. These elements are:

- *Shortage Guidelines*: Determines those conditions under which the Secretary would reduce the annual amount of water available for consumptive use from Lake Mead to the Lower Division states below 7.5 million acre-feet pursuant to the Consolidated Decree.

- *Coordinated Reservoir Operations*: Defines the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead to provide improved operation of these two reservoirs, particularly under low reservoir conditions. As described in Section XI.G.6. of the Record of Decision, the objective of the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead is “to avoid curtailment of uses in the Upper Basin, minimize shortages in the Lower Basin and not adversely affect the yield for development available in the Upper Basin.”

- *Storage and Delivery of Conserved Water*: Allows for the storage and delivery, pursuant to applicable federal law, of conserved Colorado River System and non-System water in Lake Mead to increase the flexibility of meeting water use needs from Lake Mead, particularly under drought and low reservoir conditions.

- *Surplus Guidelines*: Determines those conditions under which the Secretary may declare the availability of surplus water for use within the Lower Division states. Modifies the substance of the Interim Surplus Guidelines existing at the time the Guidelines were adopted by extending the term from 2016 to 2026 and terminating the most permissive provision.

The interim nature of the 2007 Interim Guidelines provided the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the management of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, improving the basis of understanding for future operational decisions. First implemented in 2008, Reclamation now has over 15 years of operational experience under the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Section XI.G.7.D. of the 2007 Interim Guidelines required the documentation of this experience and an evaluation of the effectiveness of

the 2007 Interim Guidelines. In fulfillment of this provision, in December 2020, Reclamation published on its website “Review of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead” (Available at <https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/#7.D.Review>) (the 2020 7.D. Review).

The 2020 7.D. Review found that while the 2007 Interim Guidelines were effective at meeting their overall purpose, the increasing severity of the drought and prolonged period of low runoff demonstrated that the 2007 Interim Guidelines were insufficiently robust to protect reservoir storage, requiring the adoption of the DCPs and other responsive adaptive actions, both within the United States and in cooperation with Mexico.

The 2020 7.D. Review also documented important considerations for enhancing future effectiveness: (1) enhanced flexibilities and transparency for water users; (2) expanded participation in conservation and Basin-wide programs; (3) increased consideration of the linkage that occurs through coordinated reservoir operations, particularly with respect to the uncertainties inherent in model projections used to set operating conditions; and (4) more robust measures to protect reservoir levels.

Following the publication of the 2020 7.D. Review, as low snowpack and runoff conditions worsened, Reclamation undertook emergency and other drought response actions in 2021 and 2022 to protect infrastructure and operations at Glen Canyon Dam. In the November 2022 **Federal Register** notice, the Department found that due to the existence of “extraordinary circumstances” per Section 7.D of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, modified operating provisions may be required in order to ensure Glen Canyon Dam continues to operate under its intended design and to protect Hoover Dam operations, system integrity, and public health and safety and initiated the ongoing SEIS process.

Considering the past 15 years of operating experience, the findings described in the 2020 7.D. Review, the themes expressed in response to the June 2022 **Federal Register** notice, and the information included in this NOI; Interior is interested in receiving specific input on how the purpose and the elements of the 2007 Interim Guidelines should be retained, modified or eliminated to provide greater stability to water users and the public throughout the Colorado River Basin through robust and adaptive operational

guidelines. This input will be used to inform our decision on the proposed federal action, Purpose and Need, and scope of the analysis (e.g., affected area, geographic scope, time horizon/term).

Elements of Process Designed to Date

In the June 2022 **Federal Register** notice, Reclamation identified that it intends to design and implement a stakeholder process for this EIS that is inclusive, transparent, and encourages meaningful engagement. Using the input received during that comment period and correspondence from Basin partners, Reclamation is in the early stages of developing certain components of its engagement and outreach approaches.

With respect to developing alternatives, input received in response to the June 2022 **Federal Register** notice suggested that Reclamation expand beyond its traditional methods of engagement and requested an inclusive process that encourages collaboration and supports the exploration of a broad range of creative operational strategies. To this end, and among other potential approaches, Reclamation is working with experts to develop a web-based tool that enables users with different levels of technical skill to explore, create, and compare potential operating strategies to enhance development of alternatives. The use of this common, accessible platform is just one part of Reclamation’s stated goals of improving stakeholder and partner knowledge and engagement that supports external parties in developing strategies and provides the public greater and more timely access to relevant technical information.

In anticipation of the target Fall 2023 launch of the tool, Reclamation has convened an Integrated Technical Education Workgroup that is actively working to ensure that stakeholders are better prepared and able to engage in a robust alternatives development process. While it is valuable during this comment period to communicate ideas about the concepts and structures that could be included in alternatives, it is not necessary to submit comprehensive alternatives before the more focused period of alternatives development begins this fall.

With respect to the timing and structure of outreach during the NEPA process, Reclamation intends to develop an approach that facilitates inclusion at multiple levels and enhances tribal engagement and inclusivity. This structure for partner, stakeholder and public engagement will include individualized outreach, leverage existing groups and forums, create new

groups and forums, and provide for clear and timely communication with the public.

Through the individualized partner and stakeholder outreach, Reclamation will be available for meetings upon request and will prioritize regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations. Existing forums and groups will be continued and leveraged, such as the monthly Reclamation-hosted Tribal Information Exchanges. Reclamation is also exploring options for increasing tribal involvement through the potential development of new groups and forums. In addition to timely and clear communication with the public at regular NEPA milestones, Reclamation intends to set up a broad partner-stakeholder group to ensure a full understanding of each upcoming step in the NEPA process.

As discussed in the June 2022 **Federal Register** notice, the Department is also committed to identifying processes that can complement the efforts of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) to develop post-2026 agreements that would succeed current agreements contained in Minute 323 to the 1944 Water Treaty. The Department will continue to coordinate with the IBWC to ensure Interior-led domestic planning processes are implemented in a coordinated and complementary fashion to those of the IBWC with a goal of ensuring similar timelines for informed decision making.

Public Disclosure of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Maria Camille Touton,

Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

[FR Doc. 2023-12923 Filed 6-15-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4332-90-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

[Docket ID BSEE-2023-0005; EEEE500000234E1700D2 ET1SF0000.EAQ000; OMB Control Number 1014-0015]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Unitization

AGENCY: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposes to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 15, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by either of the following methods listed below:

- Electronically go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter BSEE-2023-0005 then click search. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view all related materials. We will post all comments.

- Email kye.mason@bsee.gov, fax (703) 787-1546, or mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; Regulations and Standards Branch; ATTN: Nikki Mason; 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166. Please reference OMB Control Number 1014-0015 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Nikki Mason by email at nikki.mason@bsee.gov or by telephone at (703) 787-1607.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the PRA and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We

may not conduct, or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: BSEE must approve any lessee's proposal to enter an agreement to unitize operations under two or more leases and for modifications when warranted. We use the information to ensure that operations under the proposed unit agreement will result in preventing waste, conserving natural resources, and protecting correlative rights including the government's interests.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:
LCB-4000
2.2.4.23

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Extension for Funding Opportunity for Voluntary Participation in the Lower Colorado Basin (LCB) Conservation and Efficiency Program

Dear Interested Parties:

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on the request, via letter dated May 24, 2023, for long-term durable system efficiency improvement project proposals that result in water conservation benefiting the Lower Colorado River System and its water users. In that letter, proposals were requested by July 19, 2023. We are extending that deadline to August 18, 2023, to allow water users additional time to prepare project proposals.

The LCB Conservation Program is intended to provide new opportunities to fund system conservation and efficiencies in the Lower Colorado Basin that lead to durable long-term solutions for the Colorado River System. These opportunities shall result in additional volumes of water remaining in Lake Mead. Please see the letter dated May 24, 2023, for eligibility requirements and proposal considerations.

If you are interested in participating in the LCB Conservation Program Efficiency projects, submit your proposal electronically by August 18, 2023, to:

LCB Conservation Program Team
Email: LCBEfficiency@usbr.gov

To the extent permissible by applicable law all proposals will remain confidential until the plan agreements are executed, thus preserving the competitive nature of the selection process.

Should you have questions regarding the LCB Conservation Program, or wish to discuss plan concepts, please contact LCBEfficiency@usbr.gov. Individuals in the United States, who are

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or Tele-Braille) to access telecommunication relay services.

Sincerely,

**JACKLYNN
GOULD** Digitally signed by
JACKLYNN GOULD
Date: 2023.07.13
16:04:19 -04'00'

Jacklynn L. Gould, P.E.
Regional Director
Lower Colorado Basin

cc: On next page

cc: Christopher S. Harris
Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203

Thomas Buschatzke
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 36020
Phoenix, AZ 85067-6020

Eric P. Witkoski
Executive Director
Colorado River Commission
of Nevada
555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 3100
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Brandon Gebhart
State Engineer
State of Wyoming
6920 Yellowtail Road
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Anne Castle
Federal Appointee to the Commission,
Chair
Upper Colorado River Commission
50 South 600 East, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

Edward Velarde
President
Jicarilla Apache Nation
P.O. Box 507
Dulce, NM 87528

Corrina Bow
Chairperson
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
440 N Paiute Drive
Cedar City, UT 84721

Cadence Hasengayer
Director
Utah Division of Water Resources
1594 W. North Temple, Suite 310
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Michael Hamman
State Engineer
Office of the State Engineer
130 South Capitol Street
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Rebecca Mitchell
Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Chuck Cullom
Upper Colorado River Commission
50 South 600 East, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

Manuel Heart
Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
124 Mike Wash Road
Towaoc, CO 81334

Melvin Baker
Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137

Shaun Chapoose
Chairman
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and
Ouray Reservation
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

Continued on next page.

cc: Continued from previous page.

Buu Nygren
President
Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Sherry J. Parker
Chairperson
Hualapai Tribe
P.O. Box 179
Peach Springs, AZ 86434

Deryn Pete
Chairwoman
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
1 Paiute Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Arden Kucate
Governor
Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327

Jennifer Carrington
Regional Director
Columbia-Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100,
CPN-1000
Boise, ID 83706-1234

Brent C. Esplin
Regional Director
Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio
Grande-Texas Gulf Region
P.O. Box 36900
Billings, MT 59107-6900

Thomas Siyuja, Sr
Chairman
Havasupai Tribe
P.O. Box 10
Supai, AZ 86435-0010

Ona M. Segundo
Chairwoman
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
Tribal Administration Building
#1 North Pipe Springs Road
Fredonia, AZ 86022

Gregory Anderson Sr.
Chairperson
Moapa Band of Paiute Indians
P.O. Box 340
Moapa, NV 89025

Johnny M. Lehi Jr.
President
San Juan Southern Paiute
P.O. Box 1989
Tuba City, AZ 86045

Wayne Pullan
Regional Director
Upper Colorado Basin Region
124 South State Street, Room 8100
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1147

Ernest Conant
Regional Director
California-Great Basin Region
2800 Cottage Way, CGB-100
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

(w/ encl to each)

Enclosure

Eligible Lower Colorado Basin Entitlement Holders

Glenn H. Lodge
Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Timothy Williams
Chairman
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

Amelia Flores
Chairwoman
Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

Robyn Sahid
Commissioner
Arizona State Land Department
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Ty E. Gray
Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000

Mary Youmans & Russell Youmans
Managers
Beattie Farms Southwest
3025 Northwest Firwood Place
Corvallis, OR 97330

Toby Cotter
City Manager
City of Bullhead City
2355 Trane Road
Bullhead City, AZ 86442

Brenda Burman
General Manager
Central Arizona Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 43020
Phoenix, AZ 85080-3020

Michael Mullion
President
Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage
District
15822 River Road
Cibola, AZ 85328

Douglas J. Nicholls
Mayor
City of Yuma
P.O. Box 13014
Yuma, AZ 85364-3014

Robert Dunn
Manager
Gila Monster Farms
3720 South Avenue 17E
Yuma, AZ 85365

GSC Farm, LLC
c/o Michael Pearce, Esq.
40 Central Avenue, Suite 20
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Sherry Cordova
Chairwoman
Cocopah Indian Tribe
14515 South Veterans Drive
Somerton, AZ 85350

Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
123 Main Street
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Enclosure

Eligible Lower Colorado Basin Entitlement Holders

Chip Sherill
Chairperson
Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage
District
1460 East Commercial Street
MohaveValley, AZ 86446

North Gila Valley Irrigation and Drainage
District
c/o Wade Noble, Attorney
1405 West 16th Street, Suite A
Yuma, AZ 85364

GM Gabrych Family Limited Partnership
2006 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Karen Bonds
Town Manager
Town of Parker
1314 11th Street
Parker, AZ 85344

Bryan Knight
Manager
Unit B Irrigation and Drainage District
15875 South Avenue A
Somerton, AZ 85350

Elston K. Grubaugh
General Manager
Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District
30570 Wellton-Mohawk Drive
Wellton, AZ 85356

Tom W. Davis
Project Manager
Yuma County Water Users' Association
3800 West County 15th Street
Somerton, AZ 85350

Rex Green
Manager
Yuma Irrigation District
9510 South Avenue 7 East
Yuma, AZ 85365

Ronald Turner
Acting Manager
Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District
14329 South 4th Avenue Extension
Yuma, AZ 85365

Rick Daniels
City Manager
City of Needles
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363

Jim Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Sergio Quiroz
Interim General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, CA 92251

Jess Knudson
City Manager
Lake Havasu City
2330 McCulloch Boulevard North
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Ned Hyduke II
General Manager
Palo Verde Irrigation District
180 West 14th Avenue
Blythe, CA 92225

Enclosure

Eligible Lower Colorado Basin Entitlement Holders

John Entsminger
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
1001 South Valley View Blvd, MS 480
Las Vegas, NV 89153

Mark Paris
President/CEO
Basic Water Company
875 West Warm Springs Road
Henderson, NV 89001-4063

Larry and Gina Ott &
Lee C. and Candace M. Ott
c/o Gila Valley Farms
4260 East County 8th Street
Yuma, AZ 85364

Mohave Water Conservation District
c/o Jamie Kelley
1355 Ramar Road, Suite 6
Bullhead City, AZ 86442

Douglas W. Dunham
Water Resources Manager
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc.
2355 West Pinnacle Peak Road, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Jordan D. Joaquin
President
Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366-1899

Christina Balvanz
President
Ehrenberg Improvement District
49100 Ehrenberg-Parker Highway
Ehrenberg, AZ 85334

Thomas Fitschen
Farm Manager
JRJ Partners, LLC
370 Main Street
Yuma, AZ 85364

Patricia Miller
Manager
Cha Cha, LLC
4400 E. Highway 80
Yuma, AZ 85365

Nicholas Bahr
General Manager
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283

Lenny Ordway
Office Manager
PABCO Gypsum (A Division of PABCO
Building Products, LLC)
8000 E. Lake Mead Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89156

Sharon Megdal
Director
Water Resources Research Center University
of Arizona
350 North Campbell
Tucson, AZ 85719

Bernadine Burnette
President
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
P.O. Box 17779
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269

Enclosure

Eligible Lower Colorado Basin Entitlement Holders

Peter S. Yucupicio Chairman
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
7474 South Camino De Oeste
Tucson, AZ 85746

Terry Rambler Chairman
San Carlos Apache Tribe
P.O. Box "O"
San Carlos, AZ 85550

Calvin Johnson Chairman
Tonto Apache Tribe
Tonto Apache Tribe Reservation No. 30
Payson, AZ 85541

Robert Miguel Chairman
Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 West Peters and Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138

Stephen Roe Lewis Governor
Gila River Indian Community
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Martin Harvier
President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
10005 East Osborn Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

Ned Norris Jr.
Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634