

December 29, 2020

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COLORADO RIVER BOARD**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the call of the Chairperson, Peter Nelson, by the undersigned Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California that a regular meeting of the Board Members is to be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, this meeting will be held virtually via Zoom Webinar. Board members will receive instructions separately. The public are welcome to attend. Attendees may access this meeting using the following: Webinar Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89513377700 Telephone: US: +1 669 900 9128, enter Meeting ID: 895 1337 7700, followed by #; then press # again to connect.

The Colorado River Board of California welcomes any comments from members of the public pertaining to items included on this agenda and related topics. If members of the public wish to make a comment regarding items on the agenda, there are three options for consideration: (1) Public comments may be submitted by electronic mail, and **should be addressed to the Board's Chairman, Mr. Peter Nelson, at crb@crb.ca.gov and will be accepted up until 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting;** (2) During the meeting, members of the public may submit comments by participating in the Zoom Webinar and utilizing the "Q&A" feature in the control panel; **or** (3) By calling into the Zoom Webinar using the telephone number above and pressing *9 to "Raise Hand." 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 from individuals with disabilities are required, such persons should provide a request at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by electronic mail to the Board's staff member, Mr. Brian Alvarez at balvarez@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, or 818-500-1625. 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.


Christopher S. Harris
Executive Director

Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
10:00 a.m.

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.

COVID-19 Notice

The Board is following guidance provided by Governor Newsom, pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, for adhering to the Bagley-Keene Act's open meeting requirements.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board** (Limited to 5 minutes)
In accordance with California Government Code, Section 54954.3(a)
- 3. Administration**
 - a. Consideration and approval of the Minutes of the meeting held December 9, 2020
(Action)
- 4. Water Supply and Operations Reports**
 - a. Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Operations Report
 - b. State and Local Water Supply and Operations Reports
- 5. Staff Reports Regarding Colorado River Basin Programs**
 - a. Minute No. 323 Implementation
 - b. Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
 - c. Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program
 - d. Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
 - e. Webinar on Hydrologic Periods for California agencies technical staff
 - f. CRWUA federal agencies meeting
 - g. 2016 Upper Colorado River Commission Demand Schedule
 - h. General Announcements
- 6. Executive Session**

An Executive Session may be held by the Board pursuant to provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and Sections 12516 and 12519 of the Water Code to discuss matters concerning interstate claims to the use of Colorado River system waters in judicial proceedings, administrative proceedings, and/or negotiations with representatives from other states or the federal government.
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Future Agenda Items/Announcements**

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: February 10, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Webinar

1/4/2021

LOWER COLORADO WATER SUPPLY REPORT

River Operations
Bureau of Reclamation

Questions: BCOOWaterops@usbr.gov

(702) 293-8373

<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/q4000/weekly.pdf>

	PERCENT	Content 1000 ac-ft (kaf)	Elev. (Feet above mean sea level)	7-Day Release (CFS)
CURRENT STORAGE	FULL			
LAKE POWELL	42%	10,095	3,581.80	11,600
* LAKE MEAD	40%	10,336	1,083.89	9,600
LAKE MOHAVE	88%	1,586	638.82	8,600
LAKE HAVASU	88%	547	446.24	4,500
TOTAL SYSTEM CONTENTS **	46%	27,504		
As of 1/3/2021				
SYSTEM CONTENT LAST YEAR	52%	31,299		
* 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	77%	1,760		
Painted Rock Dam	0%	0	530.00	0
Alamo Dam	12%	121	1,119.89	25
Forecasted Water Use for Calendar Year 2020 (as of 12/29/2020) (values in kaf)				
NEVADA			256	
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER SYSTEM				228
OTHERS				27
CALIFORNIA			4,059	
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				816
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS				3,228
OTHERS				15
ARIZONA			2,455	
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT				1,399
OTHERS				1,055
TOTAL LOWER BASIN USE				6,770
DELIVERY TO MEXICO - 2020 (Mexico Scheduled Delivery + Preliminary Yearly Excess)				1,551
OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION				
UNREGULATED INFLOW INTO LAKE POWELL - DECEMBER MID-MONTH FORECAST DATED 12/16/2020				
		MILLION ACRE-FEET	% of Normal	
FORECASTED WATER YEAR 2021		6.231	58%	
FORECASTED APRIL-JULY 2021		4.050	57%	
NOVEMBER OBSERVED INFLOW		0.260	55%	
DECEMBER INFLOW FORECAST		0.210	58%	
		Upper Colorado Basin	Salt/Verde Basin	
WATER YEAR 2020 PRECIP TO DATE		65% (5.7")	30% (2.3")	
CURRENT BASIN SNOWPACK		75% (5.2")	17% (0.5")	

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



INTERIOR REGION 8: LOWER COLORADO BASIN CY 2020

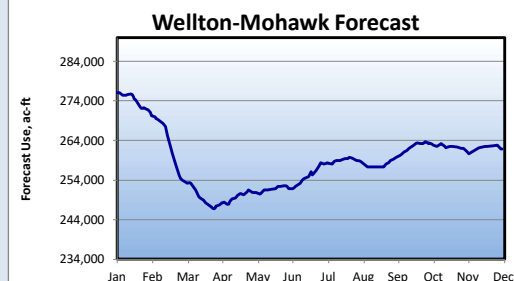
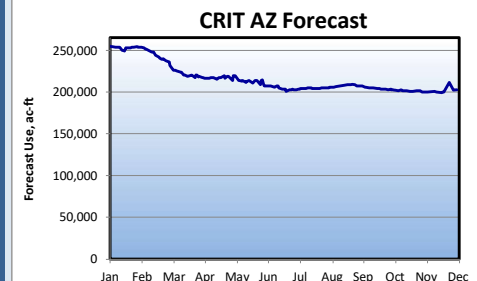
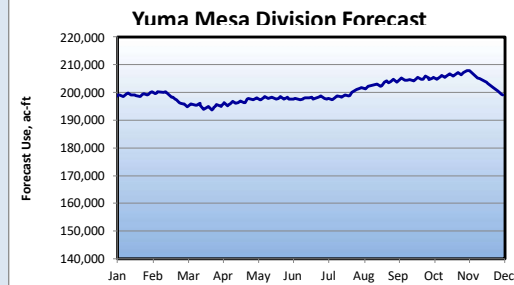
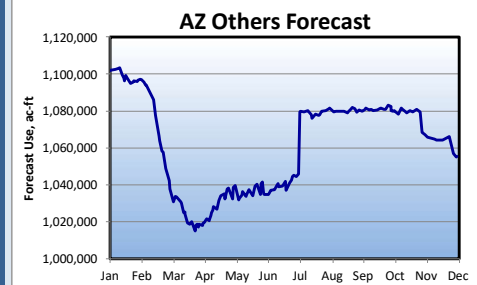
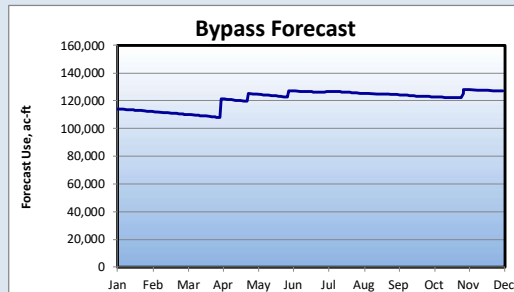
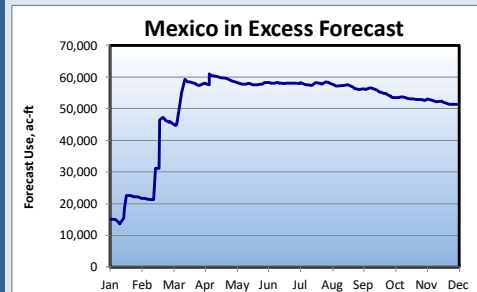
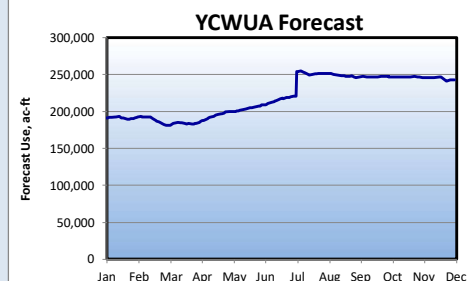
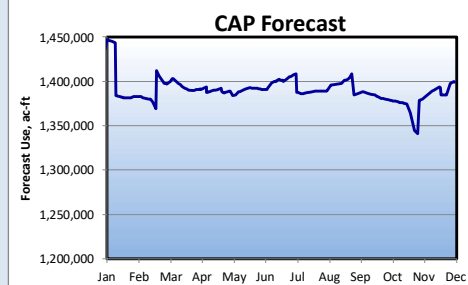
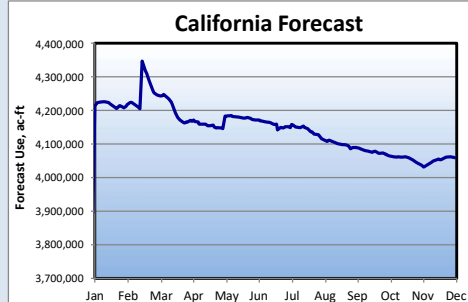
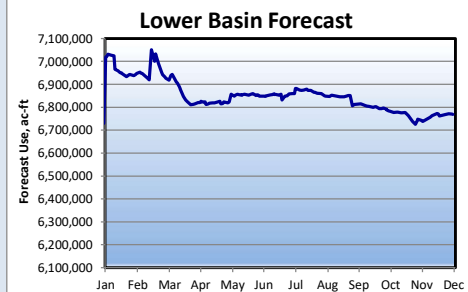
ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, MEXICO

FORECAST OF END OF YEAR CONSUMPTIVE USE

FORECAST BASED ON USE TO DATE AND APPROVED ANNUAL WATER ORDERS¹
(ACRE-FEET)

WATER USE SUMMARY

	Use To Date CY 2020	Forecast Use CY 2020	Approved Use ² CY 2020	Excess to Approval CY 2020
ARIZONA	2,435,652	2,454,722	2,454,727	-5
CALIFORNIA	4,037,248	4,058,968	4,058,968	0
NEVADA	258,532	255,831	255,831	0
STATES TOTAL ³	6,731,432	6,769,521	6,769,526	-5
ACCOUNTABLE DELIVERIES TO MEXICO	1,543,701	1,551,435	1,500,000	51,435
TO MEXICO IN SATISFACTION OF TREATY (including downward delivery) ⁴	1,492,421	1,500,000		
TO MEXICO IN EXCESS OF TREATY ⁵	51,280	51,435		
WATER BYPASSED PURSUANT TO IBWC MINUTE NO. 242 ⁶	126,041	126,960		
TOTAL LOWER BASIN & MEXICO	8,401,174	8,447,916		

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 October for users reporting monthly, and is estimated based on schedule 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 downward adjustment(s) to Mexico's annual delivery schedule for the creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings and/or Mexico's Water Reserve.⁵ Mexico excess forecast is based on actual-to-date and the 5-year average for the period 2014-2018 for remainder of the year.⁶ Bypass forecast is based on actual-to-date and the average for the period 1990-2018 for the remainder of the year.

Graph notes: January 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 Robert 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 diversion schedule change or monthly updating of provisional realtime diversions.

INTERIOR REGION 5: LOWER COLORADO BASIN
CY 2020

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 over.
- this column indicates water user has a consumptive use entitlement.

ARIZONA WATER USERS

FORECAST OF END OF YEAR CONSUMPTIVE USE

FORECAST BASED ON USE TO DATE AND APPROVED ANNUAL WATER ORDERS

[Arizona Schedules and Approvals](#)
[Historic Use Records \(Water Accounting Reports\)](#)

WATER USER	Use To Date CY 2020	Forecast Use CY 2020	Estimated Use CY 2020	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2020	Diversion To Date CY 2020	Forecast Diversion CY 2020	Approved Diversion CY 2020	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2020
ARIZONA PUMPERS	14,036	14,074	14,074	---	21,595	21,654	21,654	0
LAKE MEAD NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mead	53	56	86	---	53	56	86	-30
LAKE MEAD NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mohave	200	215	215	---	200	215	215	0
DAVIS DAM PROJECT	2	2	2	---	15	15	15	0
BULLHEAD CITY	6,192	6,836	8,122	---	9,732	10,742	12,720	-1,978
MOHAVE WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT	654	656	656	---	976	979	979	0
BROOKE WATER LLC	318	344	344	---	476	515	515	0
MOHAVE VALLEY IDD	13,268	13,344	16,516	---	24,569	24,711	30,585	-5,874
FORT MOJAVE INDIAN RESERVATION, AZ	30,651	30,755	44,550	---	56,761	56,954	82,500	-25,546
GOLDEN SHORES WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT	277	278	278	---	416	417	417	0
HAVASU NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	3,238	3,245	3,563	---	26,975	27,061	41,820	-14,759
LAKE HAVASU CITY	7,108	7,728	8,928	---	11,466	12,466	14,400	-1,934
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT (CAP)	1,385,833	1,399,258	---	---	1,385,833	1,399,258	---	---
TOWN OF PARKER	318	341	433	---	788	848	916	-68
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, AZ	202,311	202,698	246,946	---	456,088	458,690	512,102	-53,412
EHRENBURG IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	227	228	228	---	318	319	319	0
CIBOLA VALLEY ¹	12,899	13,231	15,219	---	18,040	18,503	21,270	-2,767
CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	7,959	8,130	14,264	-6,134	12,838	13,113	23,005	-9,892
IMPERIAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	2,481	2,793	3,799	-1,006	4,000	4,503	6,128	-1,625
BLM PERMITEES (PARKER DAM to IMPERIAL DAM)	754	756	756	0	1,160	1,163	1,163	0
CHA CHA, LLC	758	765	1,365	---	1,166	1,177	2,100	-923
BEATTIE FARMS	603	643	722	---	928	992	1,110	-118
YUMA PROVING GROUND	525	526	526	---	525	526	526	0
GILA MONSTER FARMS	4,090	4,116	5,257	---	7,383	7,430	9,156	-1,726
WELLTON-MOHAWK IDD	260,974	261,845	278,000	-16,155	380,875	382,878	412,965	-30,087
BLM PERMITEES (BELOW IMPERIAL DAM)	66	66	66	0	102	102	102	0
CITY OF YUMA	12,928	13,055	16,401	-3,346	23,646	23,870	27,500	-3,630
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA	1,291	1,298	1,360	---	1,291	1,298	1,360	-62
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD	24	24	29	---	48	48	48	0
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA	737	741	896	---	737	741	896	-155
YUMA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	109	110	150	---	147	148	200	-52
DESERT LAWN MEMORIAL	20	20	20	---	28	28	28	0
NORTH GILA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	9,883	9,920	12,165	---	42,614	42,856	44,200	-1,344
YUMA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	37,075	37,265	38,701	---	69,625	70,002	71,700	-1,698
YUMA MESA IDD	151,279	151,871	143,893	---	215,565	216,822	239,280	-22,458
UNIT "B" IRRIGATION DISTRICT	22,054	22,097	20,888	---	26,506	26,603	29,400	-2,797
FORT YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION	1,493	1,497	1,497	---	2,292	2,298	2,298	0
YUMA COUNTY WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION	242,129	243,044	244,397	---	344,899	347,028	375,492	-28,464
COCOPA INDIAN RESERVATION	732	748	1,651	---	933	957	2,530	-1,573
RECLAMATION-YUMA AREA OFFICE	103	103	103	---	103	103	103	0
RETURN FROM SOUTH GILA WELLS	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL ARIZONA	2,435,652	2,454,722	2,546,324	---	3,151,712	3,178,089	3,391,061	---
CAP	1,385,833	1,399,258	---	---	---	1,399,258	---	---
ALL OTHERS	1,049,819	1,055,464	1,147,066	---	---	1,778,831	1,991,803	---
YUMA MESA DIVISION, GILA PROJECT	198,237	199,056	171,610	27,446	---	329,680	---	---

ARIZONA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

Arizona Basic Apportionment	2,800,000
System Conservation Water - Pilot System Conservation Program ²	(400)
System Conservation Water - Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) ³	(50,000)
System Conservation Water - Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (FMYN) ⁴	(10,000)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - CRIT (Estimated) ^{5,8}	(3,736)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - GRIC (Estimated) ^{6,8}	(83,000)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - MVIDD (Estimated) ^{7,8}	(6,137)
Arizona DCP Contribution ⁹	(192,000)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	2,454,727
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	-5

Estimated Allowable Use for CAP

1,399,258

¹ Includes the following water users within the Cibola Valley: Cibola Valley IDD, Arizona Game and Fish Commission, GSC Farm, LLC, Red River Land Company, LLC, Western Water, LLC, and the Hopi Tribe.

² 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.

³ System Conservation Water to be created by CRIT pursuant to the

Voluntary Water Conservation and Reductions in use During Calendar Years 2020-2022. This System Conservation Water will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

⁴ CAP water being conserved by FMYN pursuant to SCIA No. 19-XX-30-W0658, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage. In accordance with this SCIA and Section 3.b of the *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement*, the Bureau of Reclamation intends to apply 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.

⁵ CRIT has been approved to create up to 3,736 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2020. The actual amount of EC ICS created by CRIT will be based on final accounting and verification.

⁶ CAP water being conserved by GRIC to create EC ICS consistent with its approved plan to create up to 83,000 AF of EC ICS in 2020. The actual amount of EC ICS created by GRIC will be based on final accounting and verification.

⁷ MVIDD has been approved to create up to 6,137 AF of EC ICS in 2020. The actual amount of EC ICS created by MVIDD will be based on final accounting and verification.

⁸ When combined with the approved EC ICS creation amounts of other ICS creators in the state of Arizona, the total amount of EC ICS approved for creation in the state of Arizona is approximately 153,000 AF, which exceeds the state's annual creation limit set forth in Section XI.G.3.B.4 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. In accordance with Section XI.G.3.B.4 and Section IV.B of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations (LBDOs), the total amount of EC ICS that may be created by the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada in 2020 will be limited to 625,000 AF.

⁹

ICS by and reductions in consumptive use. CAWCD has been approved to create up to 60,468 AF of EC ICS in 2020. The actual amount of EC ICS created by CAWCD and credited toward the DCP Contribution will be based on final accounting and verification.

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

INTERIOR REGION 8: LOWER COLORADO BASIN
CY 2020CALIFORNIA WATER USERS
FORECAST OF END OF YEAR CONSUMPTIVE USE
FORECAST BASED ON USE TO DATE AND APPROVED ANNUAL WATER ORDERS
[California Schedules and Approvals](#)
[Historic Use Records \(Water Accounting Reports\)](#)

	Use To Date CY 2020	Forecast Use CY 2020	Estimated Use CY 2020	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2020	Diversion To Date CY 2020	Forecast Diversion CY 2020	Approved Diversion CY 2020	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2020
WATER USER								
CALIFORNIA PUMPERS	1,692	1,697	1,697	---	3,073	3,081	3,081	0
FORT MOJAVE INDIAN RESERVATION, CA	7,127	7,154	8,996	---	13,246	13,297	16,720	-3,423
CITY OF NEEDLES (includes LCWSP use)	834	924	1,605	-681	1,813	1,939	2,261	-322
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT	805,558	815,644	---	---	808,462	818,572	---	---
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, CA	3,224	3,233	3,233	---	5,340	5,355	5,355	0
PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	344,300	344,348	419,768	---	787,973	791,070	856,000	-64,930
YUMA PROJECT RESERVATION DIVISION	37,987	38,154	47,721	---	79,197	79,684	91,553	-11,869
YUMA PROJECT RESERVATION DIVISION - INDIAN UNIT	---	---	---	---	41,954	42,199	46,058	-3,859
YUMA PROJECT RESERVATION DIVISION - BARD UNIT	---	---	---	---	37,243	37,485	45,495	-8,010
YUMA ISLAND PUMPERS	2,182	2,188	2,188	---	3,943	3,954	3,954	0
FORT YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION - RANCH 5	1,035	1,039	832	---	1,865	1,872	1,501	---
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT ¹	2,483,333	2,492,479	2,640,300	-147,821	2,495,124	2,504,991	2,715,352	---
SALTON SEA SALINITY MANAGEMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT	349,077	351,206	394,000	-42,794	368,809	371,117	406,654	---
OTHER LCWSP CONTRACTORS	640	642	642	---	1,051	1,054	1,054	0
CITY OF WINTERHAVEN	63	63	63	---	97	97	97	0
CHEMEHUEVI INDIAN RESERVATION	196	197	197	---	11,309	11,340	11,340	0
TOTAL CALIFORNIA	4,037,248	4,058,968			4,581,302	4,607,423	4,942,922	

CALIFORNIA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

California Basic Apportionment	4,400,000
System Conservation Water - Pilot System Conservation Program ²	(145)
IID Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - Stored in Lake Mead (Estimated) ³	(1,579)
IID Creation of Additional Conserved Water (Estimated) ⁴	(23,421)
MWD Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS (Estimated) ⁵	(315,887)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	4,058,968
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	0

Estimated Allowable Use for MWD

1,131,531

¹ As shown here, IID's Approved Diversion and Estimated Use values reflect the maximum amount of Colorado River water available to IID in 2020.

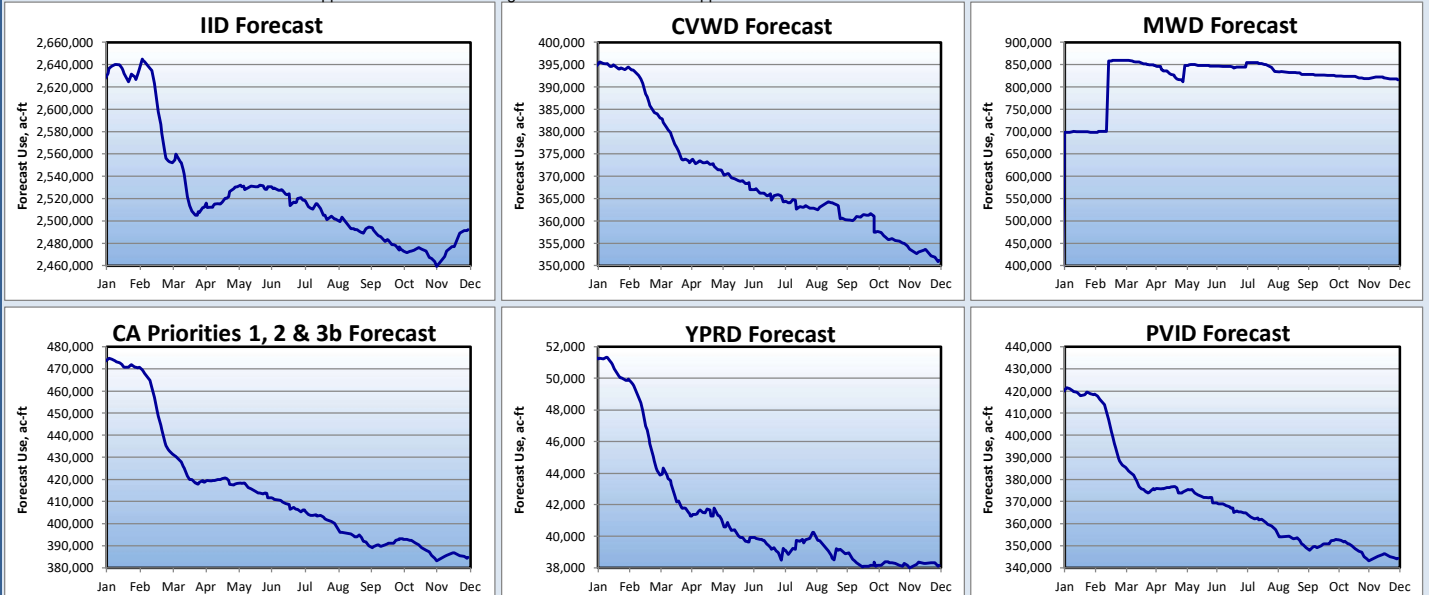
² System Conservation Water to be conserved by the City of Needles pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreement No. 15-XX-30-W0596, executed under the Pilot System Conservation Program. This water will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

³ IID has been approved to create up to 62,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2020; however, due to limitations set forth in the California ICS Agreement, may only store up to 1,579 AF in its Lake Mead ICS Account. Creation and storage of EC ICS by IID in excess of 1,579 AF will require an executed amendment to the California ICS Agreement, which has not occurred as of the date of this forecast. The actual amount of EC ICS created by IID and stored in its Lake Mead ICS Account will be based on final accounting and verification.

⁴ In its CY 2020 water order, IID has indicated that it intends to create up to a total of 25,000 AF of "Additional Conserved Water" for purposes including, but not limited to, the creation of ICS for storage in Lake Mead. As noted above, IID may only use up to 1,579 AF of "Additional Conserved Water" for the creation and storage of EC ICS in its Lake Mead ICS Account. Storage of "Additional Conserved Water" as EC ICS in excess of this amount will require an executed amendment to the California ICS Agreement, which has not occurred as of the date of this forecast. The actual amount of "Additional Conserved Water" created by IID in 2020 will be based on final accounting and verification.

⁵ MWD has been approved to create up to 450,000 AF of EC ICS in 2020, less the amount of EC ICS created by IID, and further limited to the amount that, when added to the EC ICS created by the states of Arizona and Nevada, does not exceed 625,000 AF. The actual amount of EC ICS created by MWD will be based on final accounting and verification.

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



INTERIOR REGION 8: LOWER COLORADO BASIN
CY 2020

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 OF END OF YEAR CONSUMPTIVE USE

FORECAST BASED ON USE TO DATE AND APPROVED ANNUAL WATER ORDERS

[Nevada Schedules and Approvals](#)
[Historic Use Records \(Water Accounting Reports\)](#)

WATER USER	Use To Date CY 2020	Forecast Use CY 2020	Estimated Use CY 2020	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2020	Diversion To Date CY 2020	Forecast Diversion CY 2020	Approved Diversion CY 2020	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2020
ROBERT B. GRIFFITH WATER PROJECT (SNWS)	445,782	448,064		---	445,782	448,064		---
LAKE MEAD NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mead	417	341	1,500	---	417	341	1,500	-1,159
LAKE MEAD NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mohave	189	156	500	---	189	156	500	-344
BASIC MANAGEMENT INC.	4,908	4,358	8,208	---	4,908	4,358	8,208	-3,850
CITY OF HENDERSON (BMI DELIVERY)	19,297	17,176	15,878	---	19,297	17,176	15,878	1,298
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE	12	11	12	-1	1,189	1,097	1,000	---
PACIFIC COAST BUILDING PRODUCTS INC.	963	890	928	---	963	890	928	-38
BOULDER CANYON PROJECT	172	172	172	---	299	300	300	0
BIG BEND WATER DISTRICT	1,942	1,669	4,822	---	3,864	3,279	10,000	-6,721
FORT MOJAVE INDIAN TRIBE	2,635	2,648	4,020	---	3,933	3,952	6,000	-2,048
LAS VEGAS WASH RETURN FLOWS	-217,785	-219,654	-220,780	---				
TOTAL NEVADA	258,532	255,831	262,227	-1	480,841	479,613	491,281	-12,862
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER SYSTEM (SNWS)	227,997	228,410				448,064		
ALL OTHERS	30,535	27,421				31,549		
NEVADA USES ABOVE HOOVER	253,955	251,514				472,382		
NEVADA USES BELOW HOOVER	4,577	4,317				7,231		

Tributary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Creation of Tributary Conservation ICS (Approved) ¹

43,000

NEVADA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

Nevada Basic Apportionment

300,000

SNWA Creation of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS (Estimated) ²

(44,169)

Total State Adjusted Apportionment

255,831

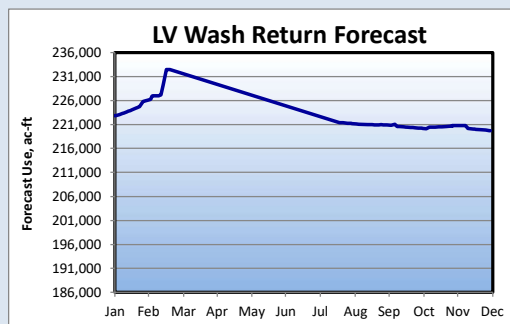
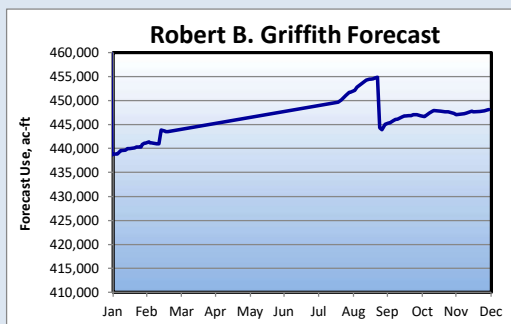
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment

0

¹ SNWA has been approved to create up to 43,000 AF of TC ICS in 2020. The actual amount of TC ICS created by SNWA will be based on final accounting and verification.

SNWA has been approved to create up to 100,000 AF of EC ICS in 2020. The actual amount of EC ICS created by SNWA will be based on final accounting and verification.

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

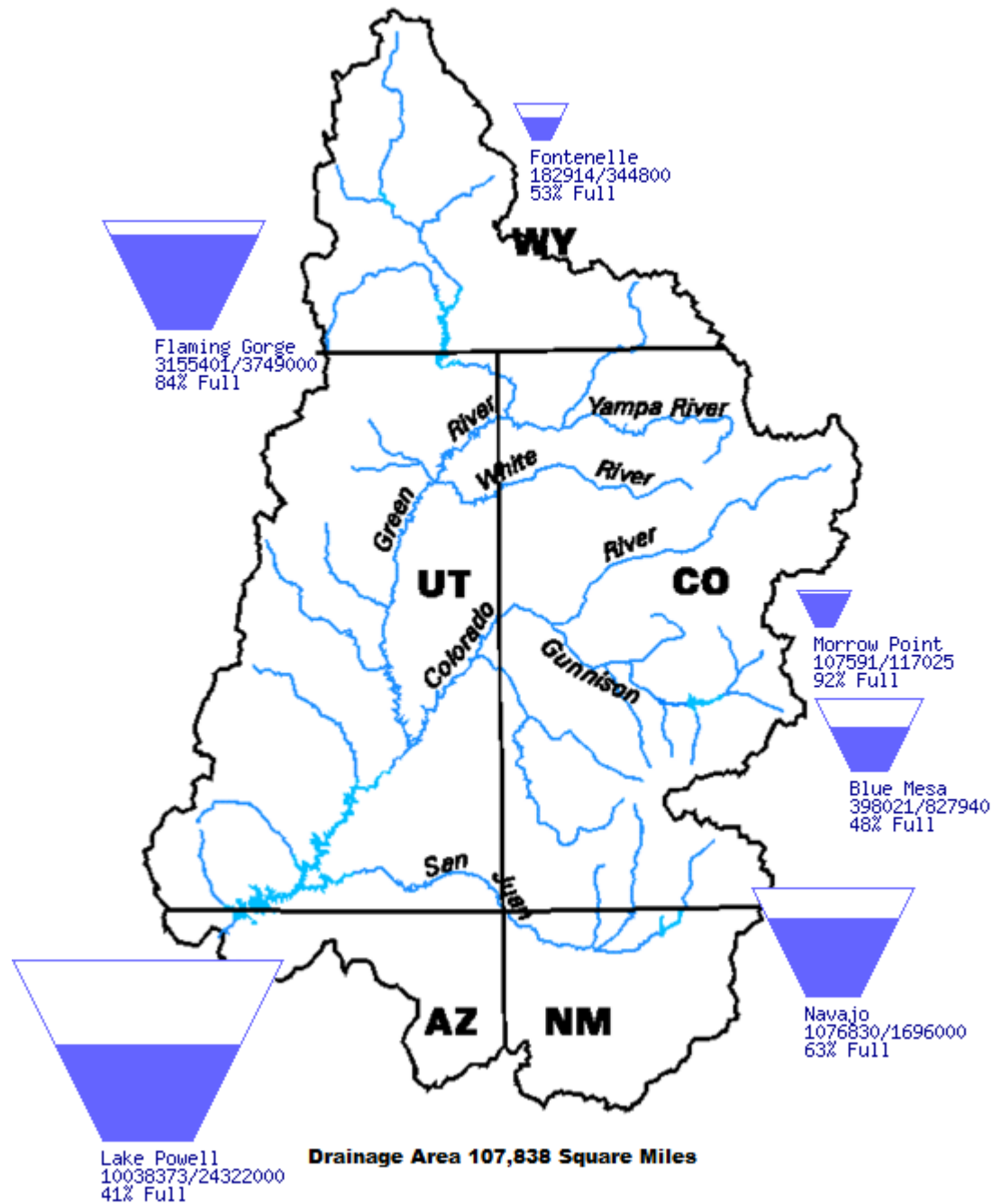


Upper Colorado Region Water Resources Group

River Basin Tea-Cup Diagrams

Data Current as of:
01/06/2021

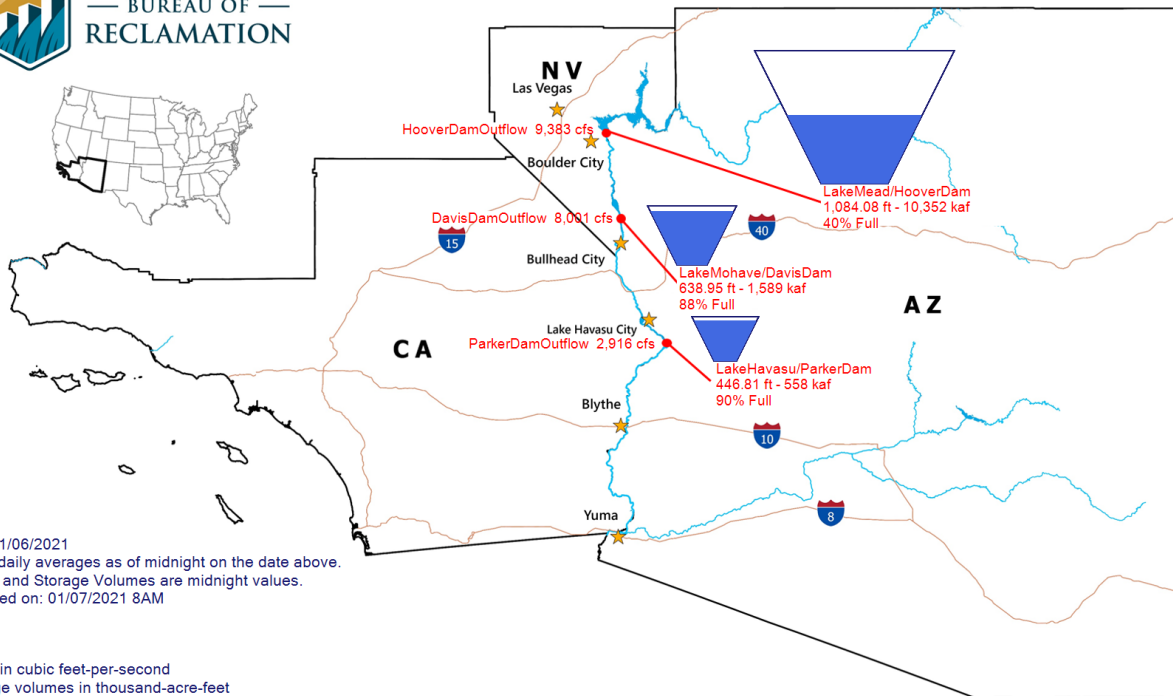
Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



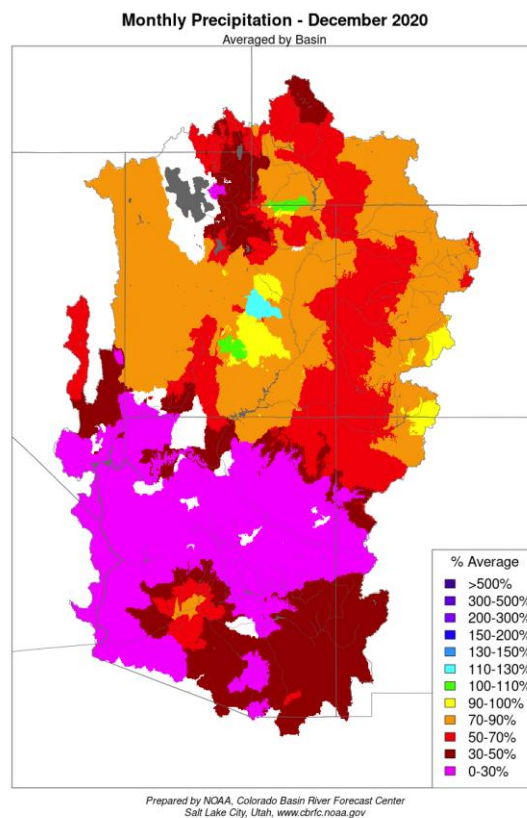
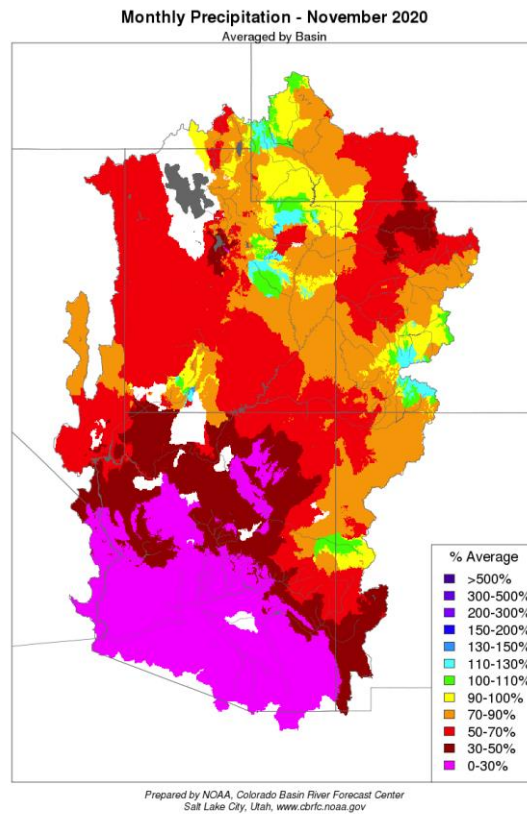
Lower Colorado River Teacup Diagram

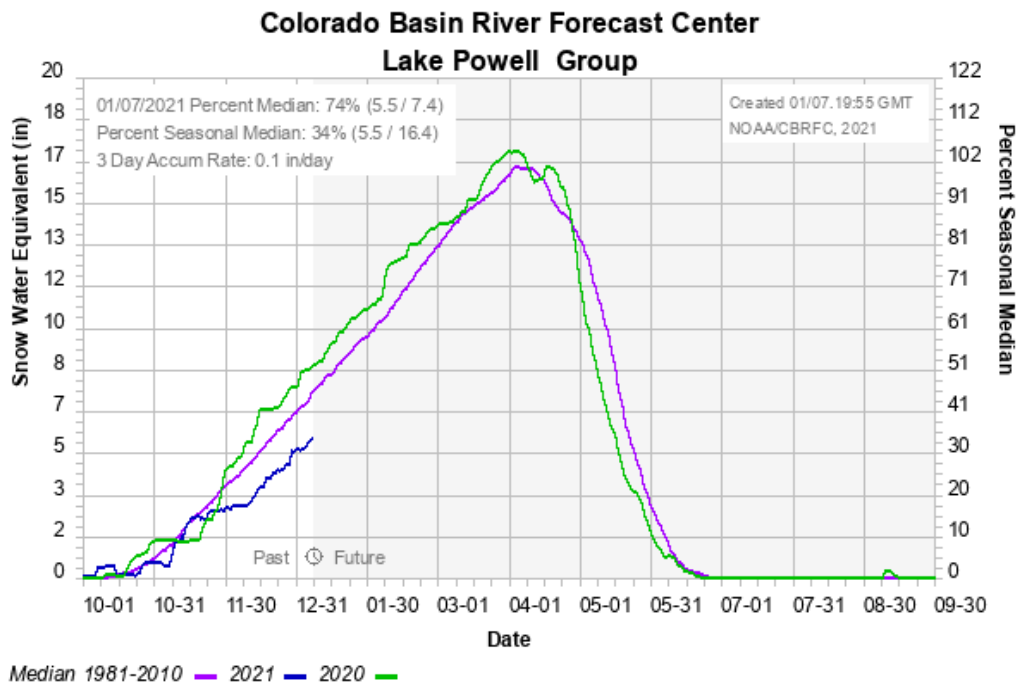


BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

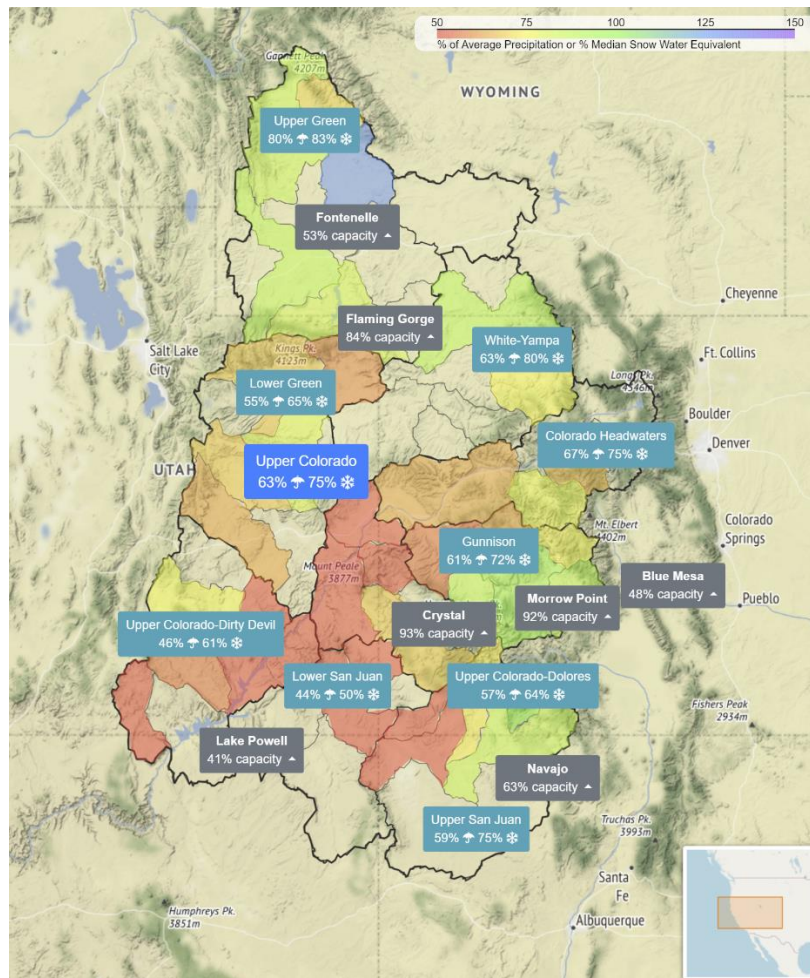


NOAA National Weather Service Monthly Precipitation Map November and December 2020





Snow Pack Conditions Map
Upper Colorado Region



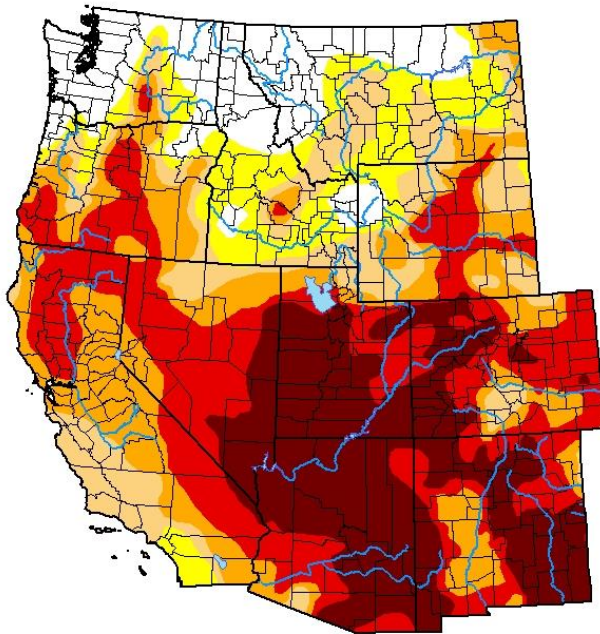
USDA United States Drought Monitor Map

U.S. Drought Monitor West

January 5, 2021

(Released Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.89	88.11	78.01	64.59	46.50	22.16
Last Week 12-29-2020	11.57	88.43	78.63	65.18	46.49	22.16
3 Months Ago 10-06-2020	7.96	92.04	77.48	56.22	35.20	4.50
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	11.57	88.43	78.63	65.18	46.49	22.16
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	8.51	91.49	76.07	54.55	33.11	2.31
One Year Ago 01-07-2020	58.89	41.11	18.00	4.99	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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>

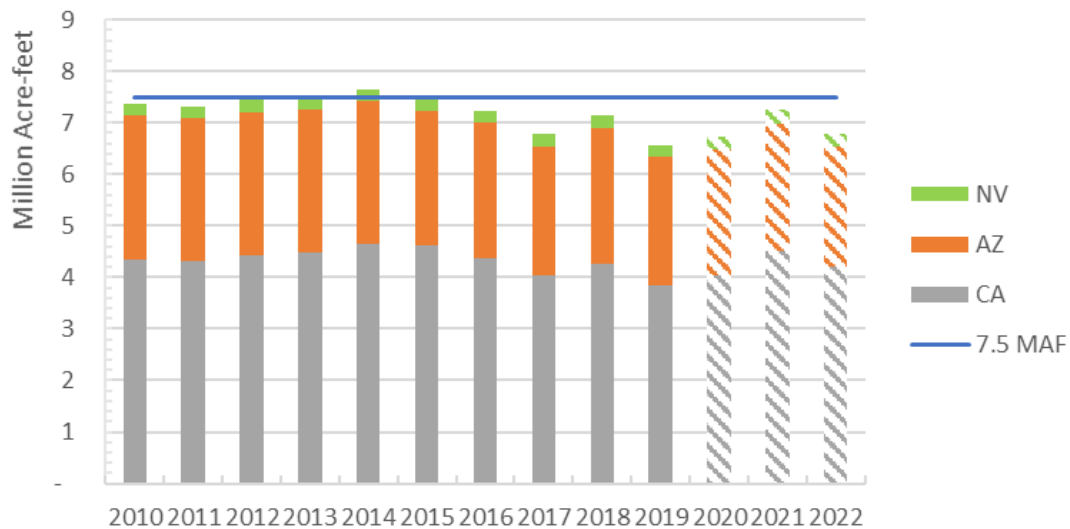
Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

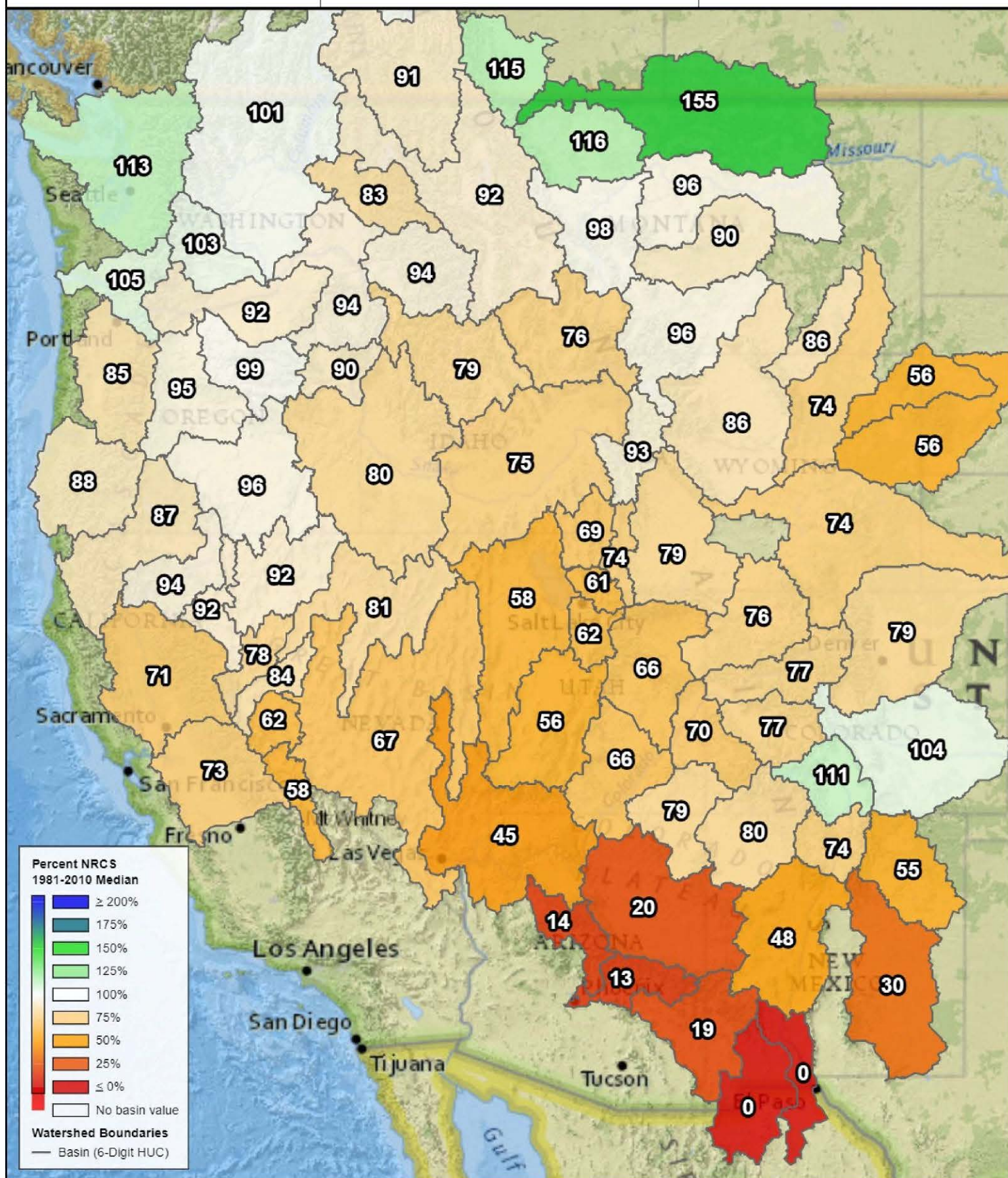
Total Lower Division States Consumptive Use



Snow Water Equivalent

Percent NRCS 1981-2010 Median

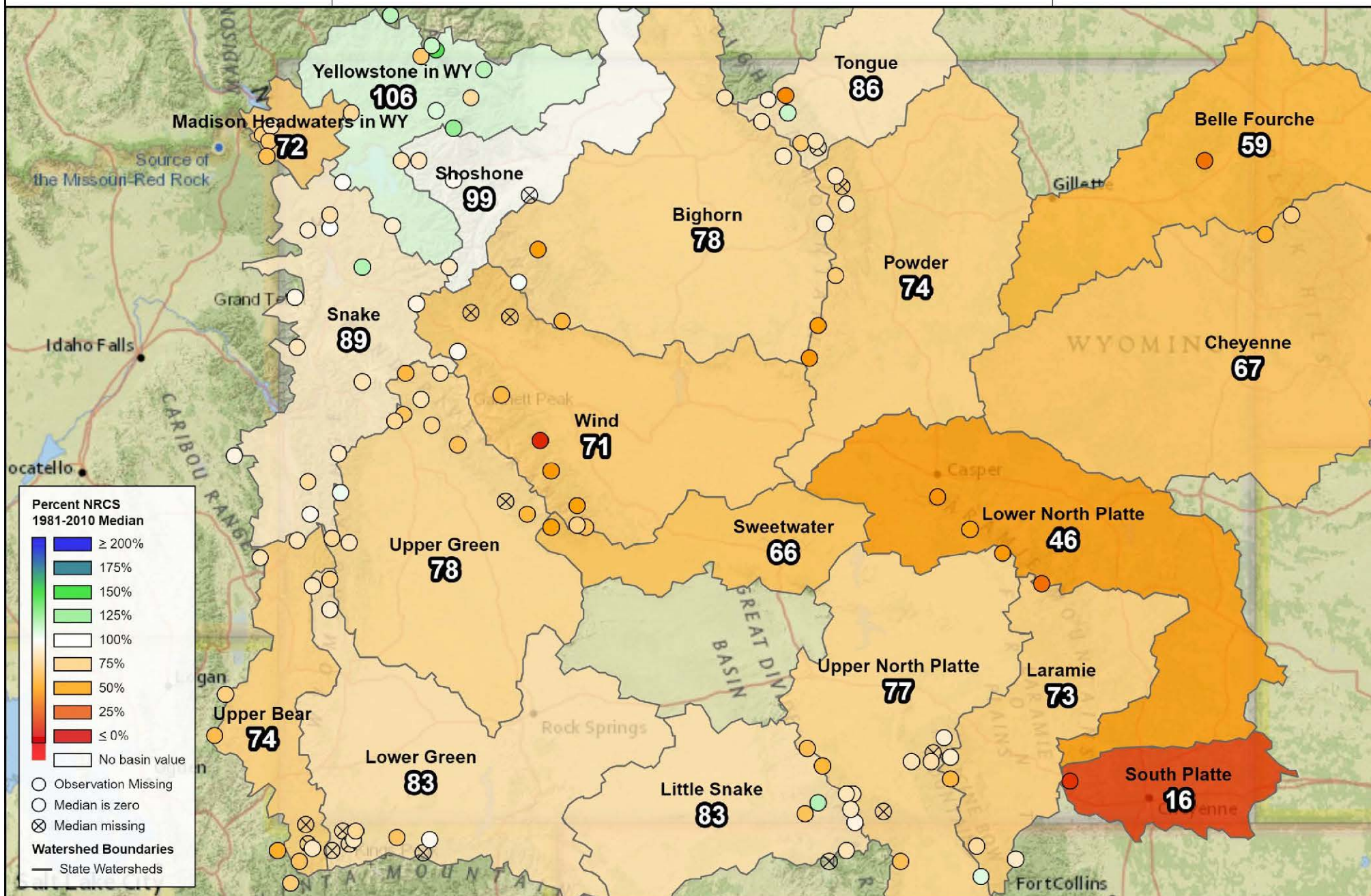
January 1st, 2021



Snow Water Equivalent

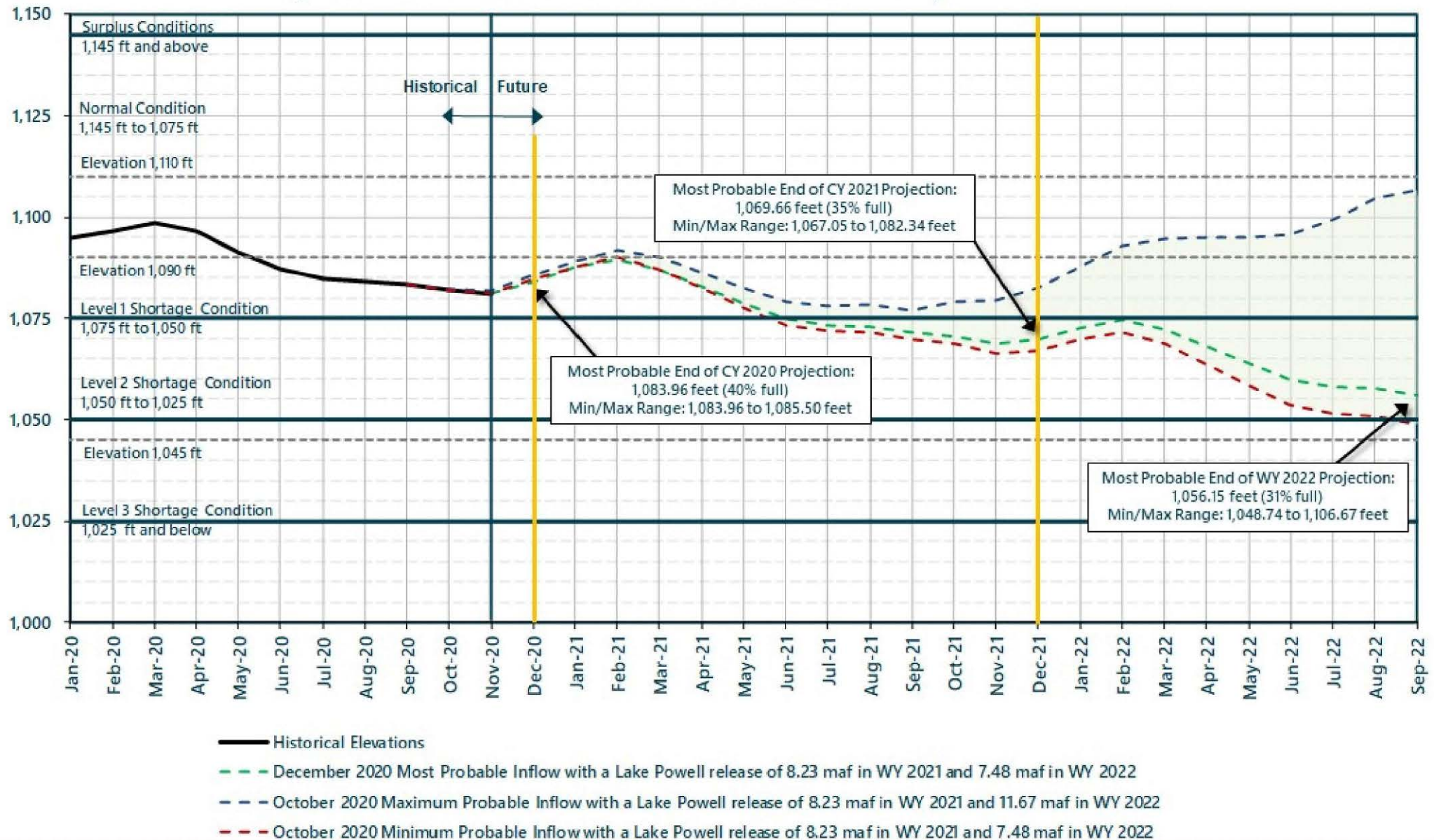
Percent NRCS 1981-2010 Median

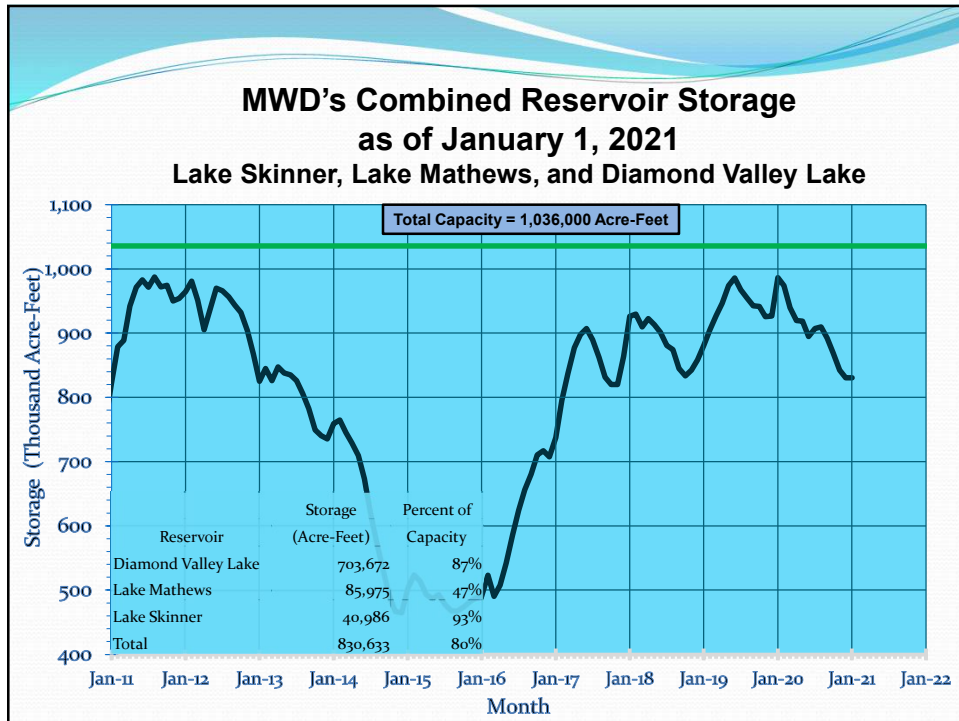
January 1st, 2021



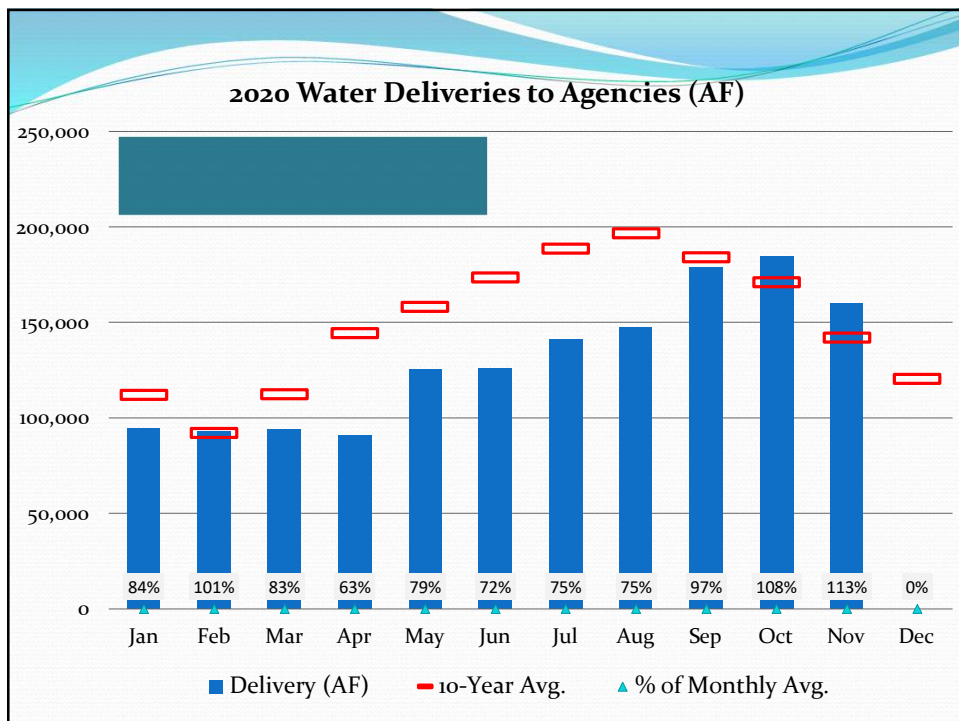
Lake Mead End of Month Elevations

Projections from the October and December 2020 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



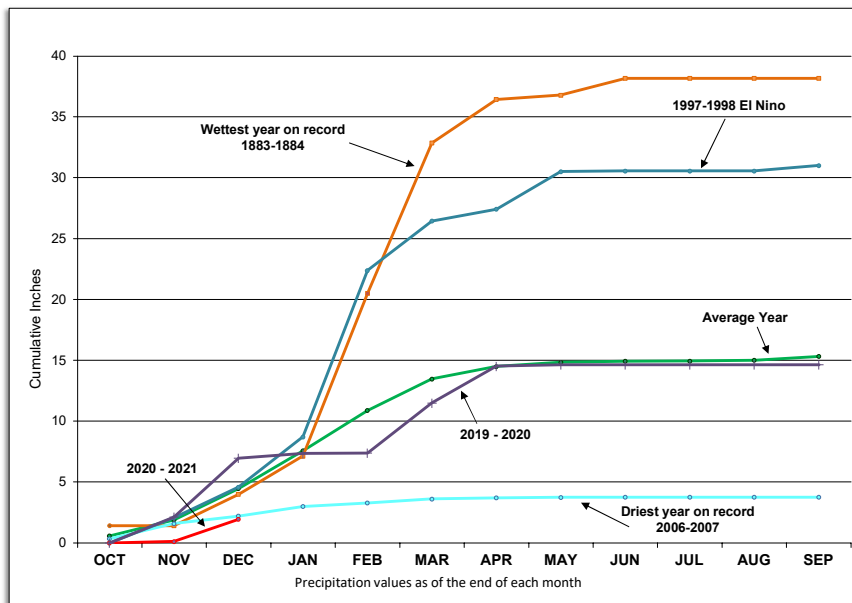


1



2

Los Angeles Civic Center Precipitation



1

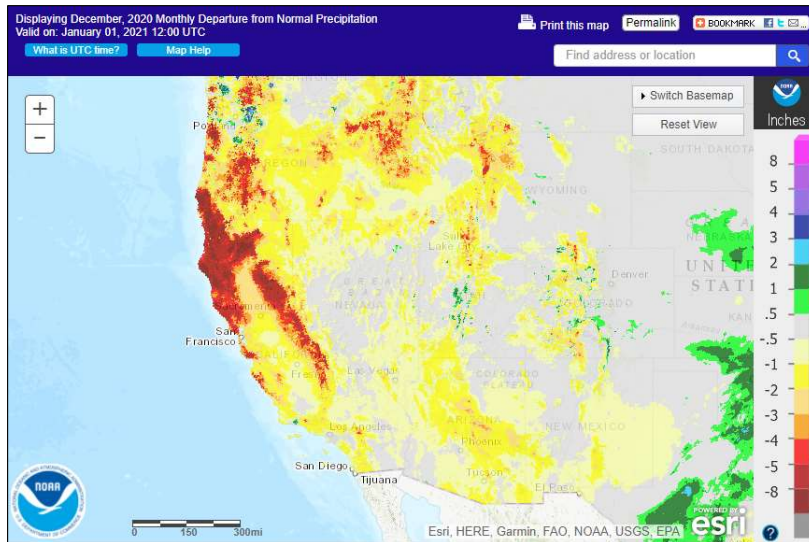
Precipitation at Six Major Stations in Southern California

From October 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021

Station	Precipitation in inches		Average to Date	Percent of Average
	Dec	Oct 1 to Dec 31		
San Luis Obispo	0.95	1.16	7.06	16%
Santa Barbara	0.55	0.60	5.03	12%
Los Angeles	1.84	1.95	4.46	44%
San Diego	0.60	0.86	3.25	26%
Blythe	0.02	0.02	1.11	2%
Imperial	0.00	0.00	0.94	0%

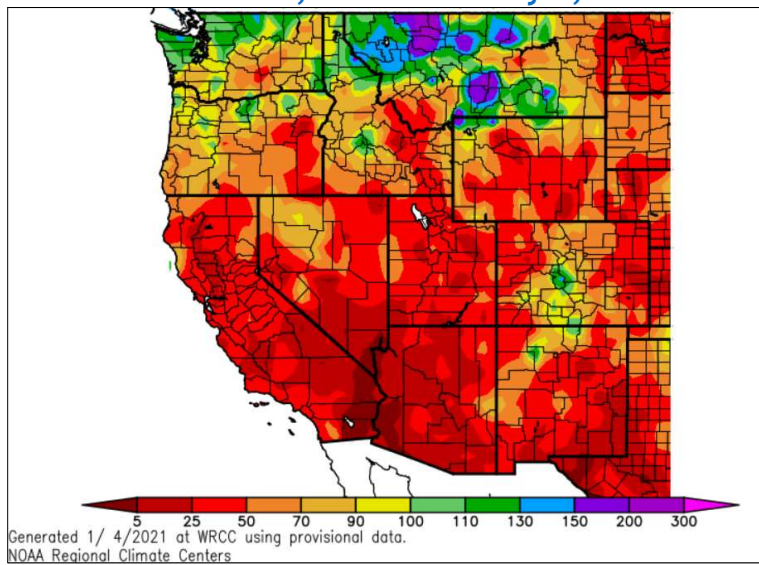
2

Monthly Departure From Normal Precipitation (inches) December 2020



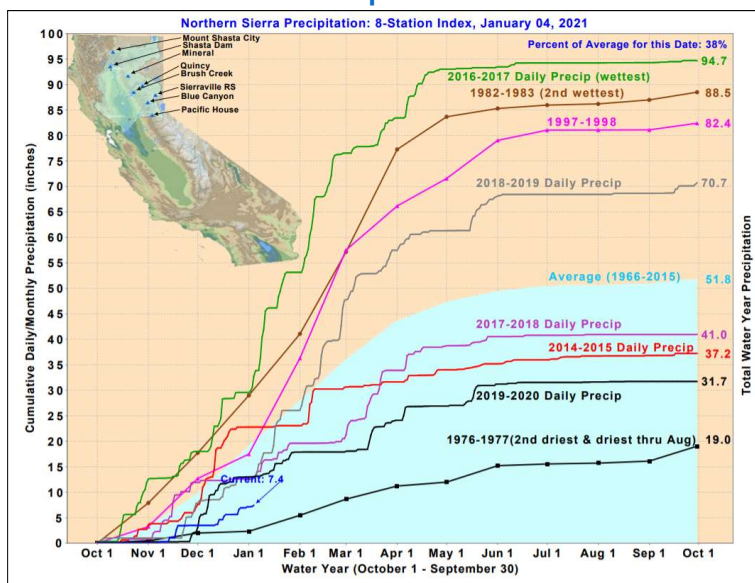
3

Percent of Average Precipitation (%) October 1, 2020 - January 4, 2021



4

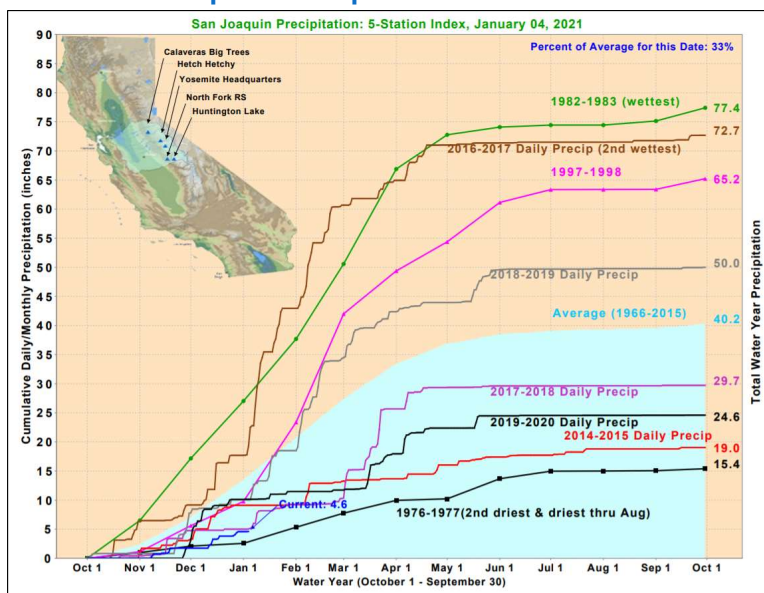
Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8 Station Index



California Data Exchange Center
http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/PLOT_ESI.pdf

5

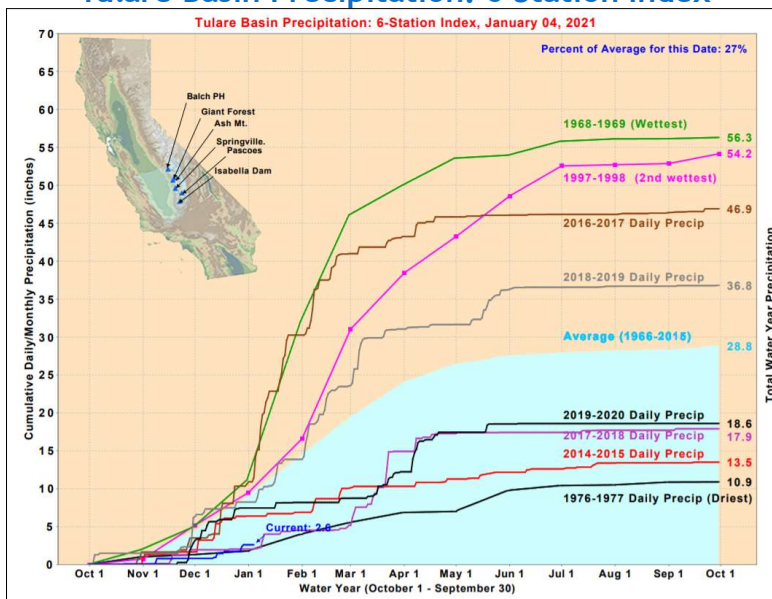
San Joaquin Precipitation: 5 Station Index



California Data Exchange Center
http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/PLOT_FSI.pdf

6

Tulare Basin Precipitation: 6 Station Index



California Data Exchange Center
http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/PLOT_TSI.pdf

7

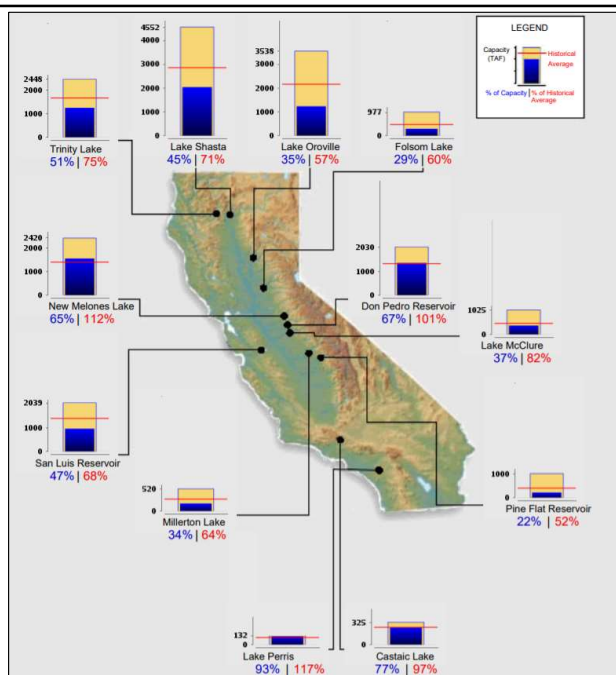
Comparison of SWP Water Storage

Reservoir	Capacity	2020 Storage (acre-feet)		2021 Storage (acre-feet)	
		As of 1-Jan	% of Cap.	As of 1-Jan	% of Cap.
Frenchman	55,475	44,678	81%	35,477	64%
Lake Davis	84,371	64,126	76%	51,550	61%
Antelope	22,564	17,141	76%	13,072	58%
Oroville	3,553,405	2,081,840	59%	1,235,422	35%
TOTAL North	3,715,815	2,207,785	59%	1,335,521	36%
Del Valle	39,914	25,170	63%	29,005	73%
San Luis	2,027,835	1,295,989	64%	956,349	47%
Pyramid	169,901	155,890	92%	153,594	90%
Castaic	319,247	253,647	79%	252,656	79%
Silverwood	74,970	59,400	79%	65,709	88%
Perris	132,614	59,049	45%	122,333	92%
TOTAL South	2,764,481	1,849,145	67%	1,579,646	57%

As of December 1, 2020, the Table A allocations for SWP contractors is 10%.

8

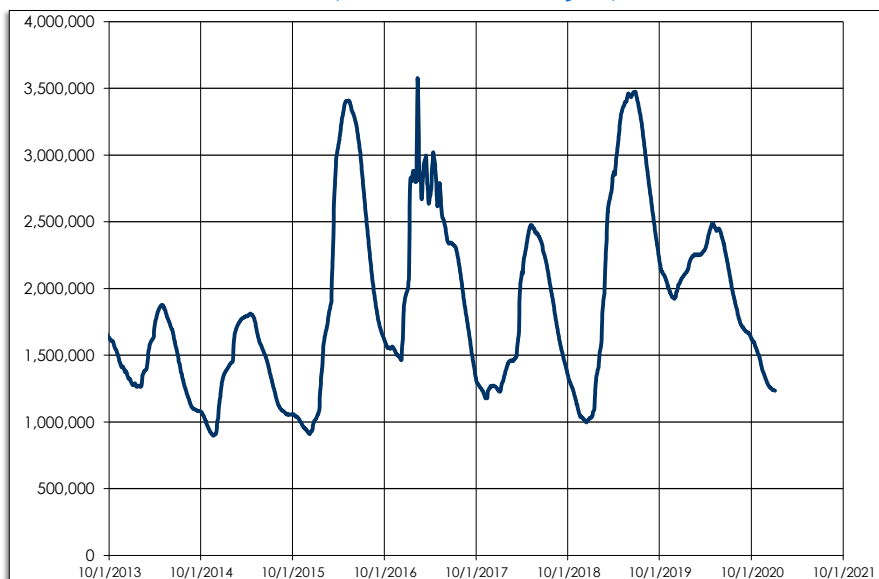
Reservoir Current Conditions as of January 4, 2021



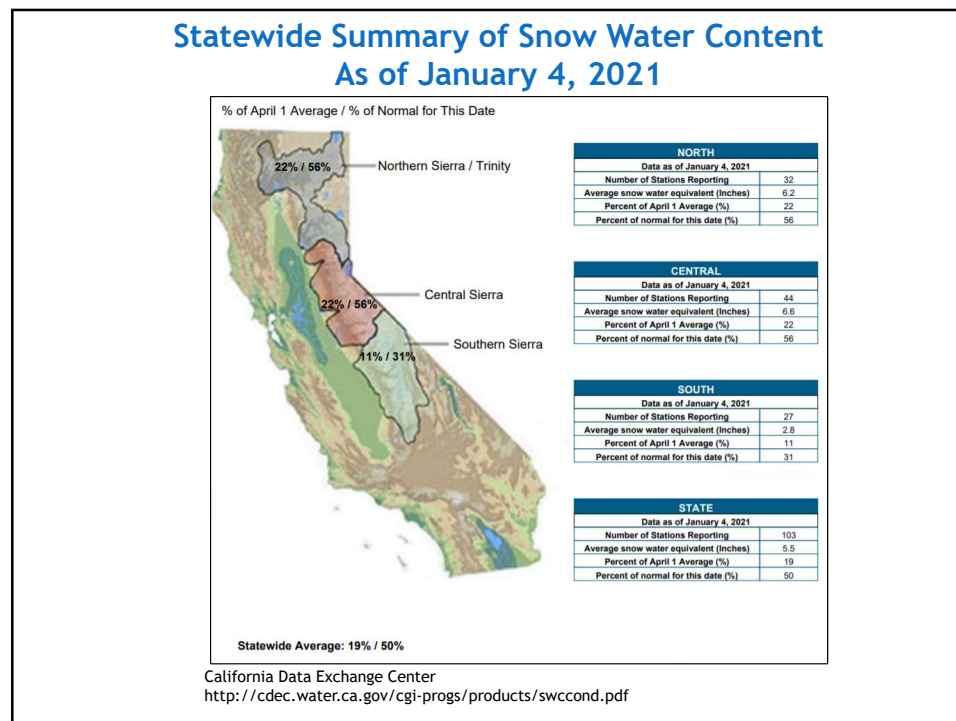
California Data Exchange Center
<https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=rescond.pdf>

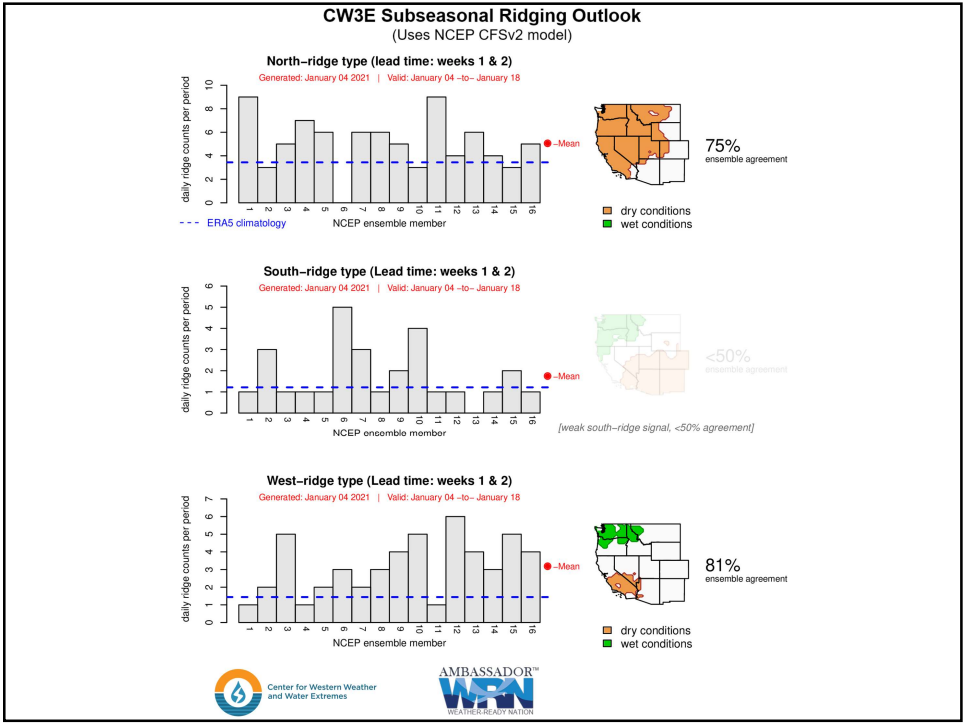
9

Oroville Storage (acre-feet) October 1, 2013 - January 3, 2021

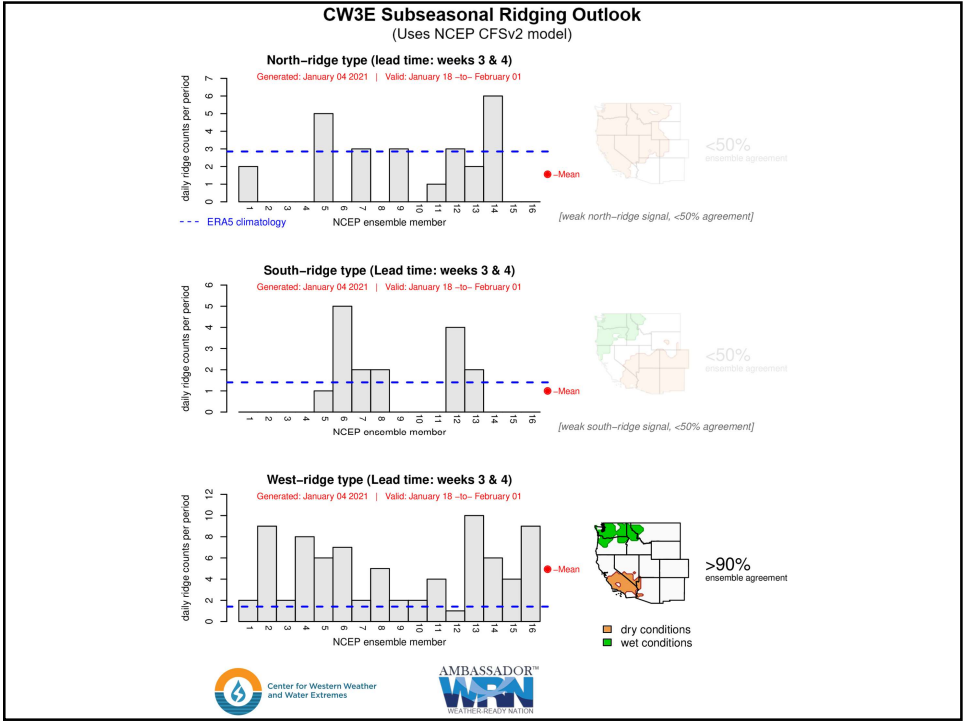


10

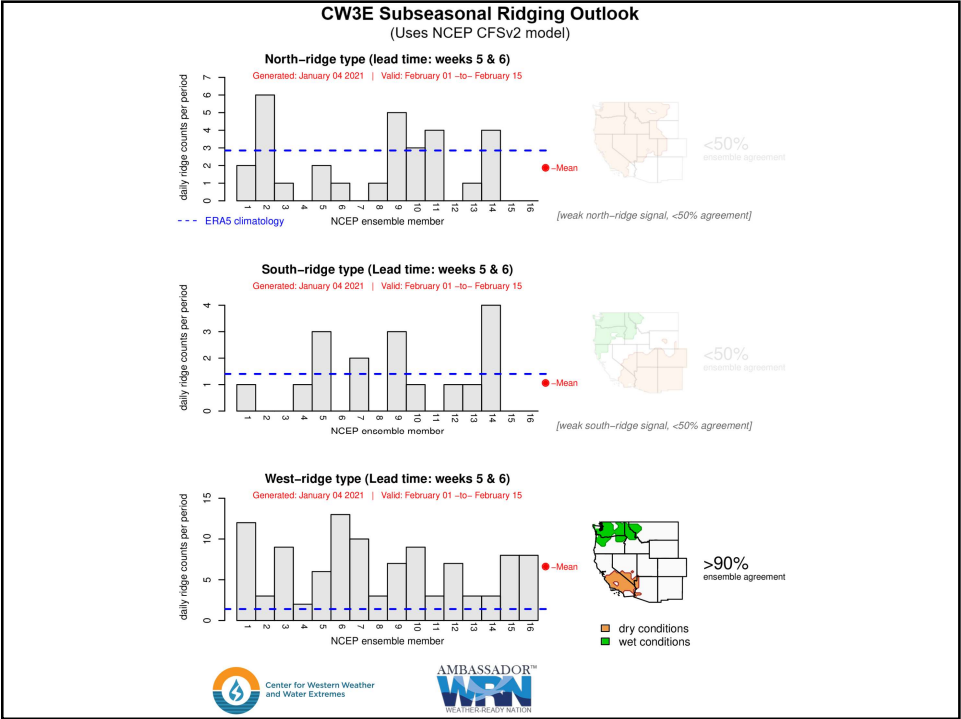




1



2





December 17, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL – COPIES TO FOLLOW VIA U. S. MAIL

The Honorable David L. Bernhardt, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Brenda Burman, Commissioner
United States Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt and Commissioner Burman:

On April 23, 2007, representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States entered the Agreement Concerning Colorado River Management and Operations, commonly referred to as the “Seven States’ Agreement,” to memorialize the States’ consensus recommendation to the Secretary regarding Colorado River management and operations during an interim period. The Seven States’ Agreement also established a process for collaboration and cooperation among the Basin States. The recommendation to the Secretary, as memorialized in the Seven States’ Agreement, was substantially incorporated into the 2007 *Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead* (Guidelines).

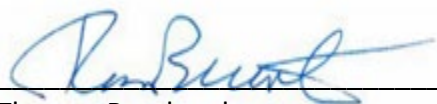
As agreed in Section 7 of the Seven States’ Agreement, the Basin States are initiating preliminary conversations with one another to determine future recommendations to the Secretary regarding operations for Lakes Powell and Mead beyond 2026. We recognize that our prospects of success depend on working with those invested in the outcomes of effective river management, including water users, tribes, NGOs, and Mexico. We intend to expand engagement related to our discussions as they progress.

While the full scope and framework for the Basin States’ discussions are not yet developed, we believe that building a collective understanding of how Colorado River system modeling results are impacted by changes to key elements in the Guidelines and the Upper and Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plans will contribute greatly to our effort, and to that end are establishing a technical work group to evaluate modeling considerations. We hope that the United States

Bureau of Reclamation will be willing and able to provide technical support to the Basin States' efforts as they move forward.

As you know, the Colorado River provides a vital and irreplaceable resource to communities across the seven Basin States and the Republic of Mexico. Collaboration and cooperation have proven to be a very successful approach not only in negotiating the Guidelines, but also for actions subsequent to the Guidelines intended to help stabilize the system until 2026. Improved collaboration and cooperation will be critical to charting the course of river management post-2026. Today, climate change, on-going drought, and warming temperatures put tremendous pressure on our limited hydrologic resources. We look forward to continuing our unique partnership with you, as well as other Colorado River stakeholders, as we move forward in managing this critical resource.

Sincerely,



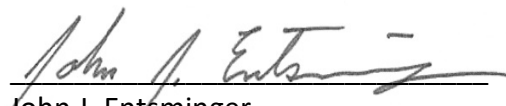
Thomas Buschatzke
Governor's Representative
State of Arizona



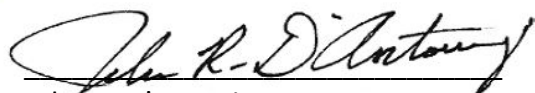
Rebecca Mitchell
Governor's Representative
State of Colorado



Peter Nelson
Governor's Representative
State of California



John J. Entsminger
Governor's Representative
State of Nevada



John R. D'Antonio Jr.
Governor's Representative
State of New Mexico



Todd D. Adams
Governor's Representative
State of Utah



Patrick T. Tyrrell
Governor's Representative
State of Wyoming



United States Department of the Interior

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

LCB-4220

2.2.4.23

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Daniel Avila, P.E.
Principal Engineer
Operations Department
International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section
4191 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902

Subject: Mexico's Transfer of Water to the United States Pursuant to Minute 323

Dear Principal Engineer Avila:

The Bureau of Reclamation received your letter dated December 23, 2020, notifying Reclamation that, on December 22, 2020, the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), on behalf of Mexico's National Water Commission, notified the United States Section of the IBWC, that Mexico has made a total quantity of 36,367 acre-feet (AF) (44,858,294 cubic meters (cm)) of water available for use in the United States in partial satisfaction of the terms of Section IX.A of Minute 323.¹ As noted in your letter, the volume of water provided by Mexico comes from water previously deferred and stored in Mexico's Water Reserve.

Through means of this letter, Reclamation acknowledges that Mexico has provided 36,367 AF (44,858,294 cm) of water for use in the United States and thereby fulfilled its obligation under Section IX.A of Minute 323 to generate water for use in the United States prior to December 31, 2020. Additionally, Reclamation confirms that it will transfer the necessary amounts of water to each of the Local Funding Agencies,² in accordance with Section 7.3.2 of the Interim Operating Agreement³ and Section 6 of the 2017 Contributed Funds Agreement.⁴

¹ Referring to *Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin* (Minute 323) signed September 21, 2017.

² The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Imperial Irrigation District.

³ Referring to the *Interim Operating Agreement for Implementation of Minute No. 323*, dated September 21, 2017.

⁴ Referring to Agreement No. 17-XX-30-W0625, the *Agreement Among the United States of America, Through the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, for a Pilot Program for the Conversion of Mexico's Water Reserve to Binational Intentionally Created Surplus*, dated September 21, 2017.

As in previous years, Reclamation will work with your office to ensure appropriate accounting for the actions completed during calendar year 2020 pursuant to Minute 323, including accounting for the water provided to the United States pursuant to Section IX.A of Minute 323, and for the volume of water in Mexico's Water Reserve. Reclamation appreciates your ongoing cooperation and assistance in successfully implementing the provisions of Minute 323, and other issues associated with management of the Colorado River.

If you have questions, please contact me, or have your designated engineer contact Mr. Jeremy Dodds, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at (702) 293-8164 or jdodds@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

**JACKLYNN
GOULD**

Digitally signed by JACKLYNN GOULD
Date: 2020.12.28 09:32:56 -08'00'

Jacklynn L. Gould
Acting Regional Director
Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Basin
Bureau of Reclamation

cc: Honorable Jayne Harkins, P.E.
Commissioner
International Boundary and
Water Commission
United States Section
4191 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902

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

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

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

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

Ms. Amy I. Haas
Executive Director/Secretary
Upper Colorado River Commission
355 South 400 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Mr. Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Mr. Henry Martinez
General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Continued on next page.

cc: Continued from previous page.

Mr. Theodore C. Cooke
General Manager
Central Arizona Water
Conservation District
P.O. Box 43020
Phoenix, AZ 85080-3020

Ms. Sally Spener
Foreign Affairs Officer
International Boundary and
Water Commission
United States Section
4191 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902

Mr. William Finn
Chief, Water Accounting
Operations Department
International Boundary and
Water Commission
United States Section
4191 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902

December 29, 2020

Ms. Brenda Burman, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-000

Re: Comments of the Colorado River Board of California on the Paradox Valley Unit Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Commissioner Burman,

The Colorado River Board of California (Board) is writing in response to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Paradox Valley Unit of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program released by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on December 11, 2020. The Board represents the State of California and the six California agencies with water and power rights and interests in Colorado River issues. The Board appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on the FEIS, and looks forward to working collaboratively with Reclamation, the seven Colorado River Basin States, and other stakeholders in the Basin to resolve the concerns expressed herein.

The Paradox Valley Salinity Control Unit (PVU) is one of the original salinity control projects authorized under Title II of the 1974 Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (P.L. 93-320, as amended). The PVU is comprised of a series of brine collection wells and a deep injection disposal well that has provided for the control of approximately 100,000 tons of salt each year and prevented it from entering the waters of the Colorado River. This annual level control at PVU was generally maintained until the shutdown of the injection well in March 2019 due to seismic activity.

The Board continues to believe that the PVU is a critical component of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, and the Board is extremely concerned that the FEIS with the No Action preferred alternative combined with the continued stoppage of the existing PVU brine injection well signals a retreat from controlling a significant source of salinity impacts to the Colorado River. The Board believes that the No Action alternative does not meet the intended purpose and need for a replacement project at PVU to control salinity in the Colorado River contributed by sources in the Paradox Valley to decrease the adverse effects of high salt concentrations in the Lower Colorado Basin. In addition to preventing approximately 100,000 tons per year of salt from reaching the Colorado River System, an operational PVU prevents downstream salinity increases of 9-10 mg/L at Imperial Dam and prevents an estimated additional \$23 million dollars in annual economic damages.

The Board is concerned that part of the justification expressed in the FEIS for proposing a No Action alternative is the belief that the Basin will comply with the Salinity Control Act because it would meet state-approved water quality standards under the Clean Water Act (P.L. 92-500) without an operational PVU. This argument contradicts the excellent work Reclamation and the seven Basin States have collaboratively implemented over the past 45 years through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program to reduce salinity loads to the Colorado River and corresponding damages to water users. These efforts have resulted in a reduction of 1.2 million tons per year of salt from reaching the Colorado River and improving downstream salinity concentrations by approximately 100 mg/L. Losing the direct point-source salinity control at PVU annually would be a significant step-back from the Basin States commitments under the Clean Water Act and Reclamation's responsibilities under the Salinity Control Act as it would take many years to achieve the same quantity of salinity control through replacement control activities like on-farm and other off-farm Basin States and Basinwide salinity control program actions.

The Board believes it is very likely that working collaboratively with Reclamation, the seven Colorado River Basin States, and other stakeholders in the Basin, a suitable replacement project in Paradox Valley can be developed that mitigates against the environmental concerns identified in the FEIS. Therefore, the Board respectfully requests that Reclamation not issue a Record of Decision for the FEIS until all options have been explored for continued salinity control in Paradox Valley.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments on the PVU FEIS. Please feel free to contact Mr. Rich Juricich, at (818) 500-1625, or myself, if you have any questions or require additional information regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Mr. Christopher Harris
Executive Director

CC:

Mr. Wayne Pullan, Regional Director
Upper Colorado River Region
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
125 South State Street, Room 8100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

Ms. Jacklynn Gould, Acting Regional Director
Lower Colorado Regional Office
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 61470
Boulder City NV 89006-1470

6 Basin States



Colorado River Basin SALINITY CONTROL FORUM

GOVERNORS

Doug Ducey, AZ
Gavin Newsom, CA
Jared Polis, CO
Steve Sisolak, NV
Michelle Lujan Grisham, NM
Spencer Cox, UT
Mark Gordon, WY

MEMORANDUM 2021-01

TO: Forum Members

FROM: Don A. Barnett, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Forum's Comments on PVU FEIS

FORUM MEMBERS

Arizona

Clint Chandler
Patrick Dent
Krista Osterberg

California

Bill Hasencamp, Chair
Tanya Trujillo

Colorado

Rebecca Mitchell, Vice Chair
Nicole Rowan
David W. Robbins

Nevada

Andrew Burns
Sara Price

New Mexico

John R. D'Antonio, Jr.
Rolf Schmidt-Petersen

Utah

Todd Adams
Erica Gaddis
Gawain Snow

Wyoming

Chad Espenscheid
David Waterstreet
Steve Wolff

DATE: January 7, 2021

I appreciate Forum members' direction and input relative to appropriate comments from the Forum on the final PVU EIS. For your records, attached is a copy of the final letter sent to Reclamation today. As discussed, the letter comments on two matters, namely 1) a recommendation by the Forum that after the 30-day review period, Reclamation conclude the NEPA process without the issuance of a Record of Decision, and 2) concern expressed over statements in the FEIS which conflates Reclamation's responsibilities under the Salinity Control Act with the Basin States responsibilities under the Clean Water Act, thereby implying that as long as the Basin States are complying with Clean Water Act requirements, it is okay for Reclamation to not fulfill its responsibilities under the Salinity Control Act. I will keep you posted as to any response or actions taken by Reclamation relative to the PVU FEIS.

Additionally, some have expressed interest in the sharing of state or agency comment letters on the PVU FEIS. Of course, comment letters are not required; however, if states or agencies are providing comments and want to share such with the Forum members, please provide them to me by the end of the day on Monday, after which I will compile them and share them with Forum members. Remember the deadline for submitting comments is Monday, January 11th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Don A. Barnett

Attachment

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cc: Work Group



Colorado River Basin SALINITY CONTROL FORUM

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January 7, 2021

Brenda Burman, Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
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Washington, DC 20240-0001

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Re: Comments on the PVU FEIS

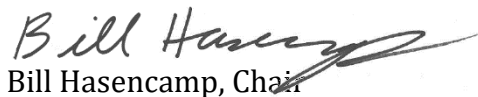
Dear Commissioner Burman:

The seven Colorado River Basin States, collectively through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, express their appreciation to the Bureau of Reclamation for its significant efforts to develop the Paradox Valley Unit FEIS. Through the process, Reclamation did not identify an acceptable salinity control replacement alternative to the current brine injection well. At this time, the Forum urges Reclamation to conclude the NEPA process without issuing a Record of Decision.

Additionally, some Forum members are concerned with statements in sections ES.7 and 2.3 of the FEIS that imply that current compliance with salinity standards under the Clean Water Act equates to meeting salinity control obligations under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act. This misstates the statutory construction of the acts whereby the Salinity Control Act is both older and independent of the Colorado River salinity standards adopted under the Clean Water Act. Furthermore, various entities in the Colorado River Basin benefit from salinity control implementation beyond Clean Water Act requirements.

Again, we express appreciation for the significant efforts made by Reclamation in the Paradox Valley and look forward to continuing to work with Reclamation to implement existing and future salinity control projects.

Sincerely,


Bill Hasencamp, Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Don A. Barnett

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Desert Sun.

ENVIRONMENT

Trump signs spending bill that could send millions of dollars to the Salton Sea

Mark Olalde Palm Springs Desert Sun

Published 12:48 p.m. PT Dec. 29, 2020

President Donald Trump on Sunday signed a roughly \$900 billion stimulus package meant to tackle both COVID-19 relief as well as federal spending. Tucked in the 5,593-page-long law, courtesy of Southern California Democrats, are provisions that hold the potential to unlock millions of dollars of new federal spending to address the Salton Sea.

The bill notably modifies the Water Resources Development Act by authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite a study on the feasibility of constructing a perimeter lake around the Salton Sea. It's one of the large-scale plans floated to address the lake's woes, and this move could speed up the process.

The law also includes more than \$150 million for the Army Corps to carry out such studies on water issues at the Salton Sea and elsewhere.

"I am proud of the results delivered to my constituents," Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-Calif., said in a statement announcing Congress' passage of the appropriations bill. Alongside Rep. Juan Vargas, D-Calif., Ruiz and his office drafted the bill's Salton Sea language.

Trump sat on the bill for several days when he sided with Democrats in wanting to provide larger relief checks to Americans. Senate Republicans ultimately prevailed in blocking the move, and Trump signed the bill without getting more money out to taxpayers.

As the Salton Sea recedes, the region loses thousands of acres of vibrant migratory bird habitat and is left with a sandy mixture called "playa," which is laden with pesticides and other toxic runoff from agriculture in the Imperial and Coachella valleys. Once airborne, that dust can harm human health, but the state and federal governments have been slow to implement solutions.

According to the Pacific Institute, a think tank, the Salton Sea's level has dropped nearly 10 feet since a water transfer was signed in 2003, sending water away from nearby farm fields

that drain into California's largest lake.

"The Salton Sea legislation and directives passed by Congress come at the end of a difficult year that brought much greater visibility to the challenges faced in the Salton Sea region, particularly public health challenges faced by disadvantaged communities," Altrena Santillanes, secretary of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians tribal council and a director on the Salton Sea Authority's board, said in a statement.

"We look forward to working with our Congressional delegation and the next administration to quickly mobilize federal action at the Salton Sea in the coming year," she added.

While the state has so far allocated roughly \$350 million to address the Salton Sea, spending about \$53 million of that, the federal government has spent only about \$20 million to date. The COVID-19 relief bill includes \$559 million "for water resource projects and direction to the Bureau of Reclamation to consider Salton Sea projects for funding," according to Ruiz's office.

As G. Patrick O'Dowd, executive director of the Salton Sea Authority, sees it, there's still "work to do to get the appropriations." But, the big win for the lake comes in pushing the Army Corps to complete its perimeter lake analysis.

"If the Corps has an acceptable perimeter lake study, that puts them in a position to fund the full project," he said.

Mark Olalde covers the environment for The Desert Sun. Get in touch at molalde@gannett.com, and follow him on Twitter at [@MarkOlalde](https://twitter.com/MarkOlalde).