Colorado River Board of California

August 31, 2023

NOTICE OF TOUR AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) will host a tour of its facilities. To attend the tour, you shall submit your request to crb@crb.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

PVID Tour	
Date:	Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Time:	**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**
Place:	PVID Headquarters 180 W 14th Ave, Blythe, CA 92225

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:

Board Meeting	
Date:	Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Time:	**12:00 PM**
Place:	PVID Board Room 180 W 14th Ave, Blythe, CA 92225

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 12:00 p.m. on September 11, 2023. Please note, written submissions will be read aloud at the public comment period to the extent they fit within the five-minute time limit.

Colorado River Board of California

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.

Colorado River Board of California

TOUR AGENDA
Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – 9:00 AM

PVID will host a tour of the Palo Verde Valley, which will depart from PVID's headquarters at 9:00 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, September 13, 2023 — 12:00 PM

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.)

WELCOME FROM PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION

1. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of the August 9th, 2023 board meeting **(Action)**

REPORTS

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

Colorado River Board of California

EXECUTIVE SESSION[1]

OTHER BUSINESS

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next Scheduled Board Meeting

Date:	Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Time:	**TBD**
Place:	El Centro, CA

[1] 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 the other Basin states or federal government.

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, August 9, 2023

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at the Westdrift Manhattan Beach, Beachgrass Room, 1400 Parkview Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

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

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)
David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)
Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)

Others Present:

Steven Abbott
Brian Alvarez
Nick Bahr
Dennis Davis
JR Echard
Daivd Edwards
Bill Hasencamp
Ned Hyduke
Eric Katz
Laura Lamdin
Tom Levy
Aaron Mead
Rebecca Mitchell
Yuanyuan Myint
Jessica Neuwerth
Shana Rapoport
Angela Rashid
David Rheinheimer
Alex Rodriguez
Shanti Rosset
Tom Ryan
Alexi Schnell
Joseph Vanderhorst
Meena Westford
Jerry Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 May 10, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Jones. By roll-call vote, the minutes were approved with abstention from Mr. Vigil.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the June 14, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Nelson moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Pettijohn. By roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Deputy Director Neuwerth introduced two new members of Board staff: Ms. Yuanyuan Myint and Mr. Brian Alvarez.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM STATE OF COLORADO'S COMMISSIONER TO THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

Chairman Hamby introduced Ms. Becky Mitchell, Commissioner for the State Colorado on the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC). Ms. Mitchell thanked the CRB for inviting her and stated that she felt this type of communication would be important over the next couple of years as the Basin States negotiate the next set of operating guidelines.

Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado doesn't experience consistency from the Colorado River as the snowpack, and thus water availability, changes significantly from year to year. As a result, Colorado's water availability, economy, and communities change. Ms. Mitchell explained that sub-basins in Colorado can all experience different conditions. One basin could have an average snowpack while another experiences drought. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado's water users are limited by hydrology and can't overuse because the water is not there.

Ms. Mitchell explained that she answers to the governor and, as of July 5th, became the first full-time Colorado River Commissioner for Colorado. Previously, she was director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado River Commissioner. Ms. Mitchell explained that the change in her position resulted from legislation and that now she and additional staff focus solely on the Colorado River. Ms. Mitchell explained that the reorganization allows her and her staff to work directly with all the state agencies and will be important moving forward.

Ms. Mitchell explained that the Division of Water Resources is responsible for curtailing water. Ms. Mitchell provided background information regarding the priority system of water rights in Colorado. Ms. Mitchell explained that the Water Conservation Board provides funding for its water projects and programs including policies, facilitation, environmental programs, and an in-stream flow program. Ms. Mitchell stated that the Water Conservation Board is about moving Colorado forward together.

Ms. Mitchell explained that eighty percent of the precipitation in the Colorado basin in Colorado is on the West Slope and eighty percent of the population is on the East Slope. One can't survive without the other. People in Colorado have been moving water across that continental divide for over 130 years. Transmountain diversions to support the population and agriculture on the East Slope have a significant impact on the Western Slope of Colorado.

Ms. Mitchell explained that transmountain diversions support about 5 million people on Colorado's Front Range or eighty-five percent of the population. Almost ninety percent of the water is used by agriculture. A lot of agricultural counties are located in the eastern half of the state. A booming dairy industry in the eastern half is supported by forage crops produced on the West Slope. Agriculture contributes $47 billion to Colorado's economy.

Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado has warmed about two and a half degrees Fahrenheit in the last 120 years. The warming has accelerated and there are some areas of the state that are significantly more than that. Ms. Mitchell stated that something that binds Colorado and California is some of the worst wildfires that have happened in the last decade. Ms. Mitchell explained that climate change is affecting the Colorado River system and the water supplies. The river has always been highly variable, but those impacts are changing available water supplies on a consistent basis.

Ms. Mitchell stated that the compact split the river into equal apportionments between the upper basin and the lower basin, also granting the lower basin an additional 1 million-acre feet (MAF) to account for tributary use. Ms. Mitchell stated that those rights are held forever. Ms. Mitchell explained that a couple of decades after the 1922 Compact, in 1948, the Upper

Colorado River Compact recognized the flows in the Colorado River are unpredictable and we split apportionments by percentages across the states. Colorado's portion is 51.75 percent.

Ms. Mitchell stated that in 2020, the Upper Basin used about 4.5 MAF and in 2021 about 3.5 MAF, due to poor hydrology. Ms. Mitchell stated that the Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch Enterprise received only ten percent of their allocation in 2021. Ms. Mitchell stated that the following year they received twenty-five percent of their allocation. Ms. Mitchell asked what we can do to make sure that water is there to provide certainty for those that rely on it.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she thinks it is important, as we talk about the leadership that is going to be required as we move forward, that we reckon with a drier, more variable future. Ms. Mitchell stated that water managers will have to do some big things to craft a solution. Ms. Mitchell stated that she has asked people in Colorado to recognize that they may not be happy with everything. Ms. Mitchell stated that we also have to acknowledge climate change is real and that means a shift. Ms. Mitchell stated that we must operate in a way that is looking at what is available and planning not just for this year, but for the next year.

Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado is going to defend against any attempts at compact curtailment. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado curtails every year. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado curtails based on what's available within its own state and she is going to defend that. Ms. Mitchell stated that part of her negotiation strategy is to make sure to state where her lines are. Ms. Mitchell stated that she doesn’t wish shortages on anyone, that they are painful, and Colorado water users know that personally.

Ms. Mitchell stated that preserving Federal Reserve Water Rights for tribal nations is important for Colorado. Ms. Mitchell explained that the two tribes that reside within the Colorado River Basin in Colorado, the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute, have settlements. Ms. Mitchell stated that those rights need to be preserved and they're the ones taking a lot of hits right now in Colorado. Ms. Mitchell also stated that we need solutions that comply with federal environmental law and advance coordination between the United States and Mexico.

Ms. Mitchell concluded her talk, acknowledged her appreciation for being at the CRB meeting, and offered to answer questions.

Board Member Ruiz introduced himself as Salton Sea Program Director for the Audubon Society. He asked how Ms. Mitchell makes sure that diverse voices and diverse communities are invited to be part of the process, obviously recognizing that there is a huge landscape of voices and interest groups.

Ms. Mitchell stated that it is continual work and that her thoughts and philosophies on it changes almost monthly. Ms. Mitchell stated that she touched on tribal water rights when she first started and that there were obviously voices that needed to be heard and elevated and louder. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado began that dialog with its tribal sovereigns within Colorado. Ms. Mitchell explained that Colorado created an MOU on how to dialog with tribes: consistency, timing of dialog, what is being discussed, and more. She added that dialog has to go both ways, not just her speaking to the tribes.

Board Member Nelson stated that Colorado and California have so much in common in terms of urban and agricultural issues. California has a north-south issue while Colorado has an east-west issue, and we're all trying to maximize the benefit of the declining river. Mr. Nelson asked how much water is diverted from the Western Slope over to the Front Range and then how much of that then goes to agriculture on the Front Range.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she would get back to Mr. Nelson with the exact numbers because it's variable and dependent on what's available and decisions that are made by the transmountain diverters on an annual basis. Ms. Mitchell added that it is very specific to what's available in the river. Ms. Mitchell stated that about ninety percent of that water goes to agriculture and that urban conservation alone can't save the river. However, Ms. Mitchell noted that efforts to remove nonessential turf are being advanced in Colorado.

Board Member Jones stated that she thinks that California may have more in common at the state level with Colorado than Ms. Mitchell might realize, especially in terms of shortages. Ms. Jones added that California had three years of severe drought prior to this good water year. In two of those years, the largest water project in California, which provides more water to agriculture than anyone else, including the Colorado River, had two years of zero supplies to agriculture.

Ms. Jones added that California's state water project last year only had a five percent supply to all of its contractors, and that was based off of health and safety only: fifty-five gallons per person per day. Ms. Jones added that the Department of Water Resources alone provided $500,000,000 in emergency grants for drinking water for communities that have run out of water and that most of those problem communities are in the agricultural areas that are small, rural and that the lack of agricultural supplies that contribute to some shallow groundwater recharge for drinking water systems was a big problem. This year DWR has provided at least $300,000,000 in emergency flood grants. Ms. Jones stated that California has the highest annual variability of precipitation anywhere in the US. In response to a question from Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Jones stated that California has a system in place to facilitate voluntary transfers to support communities who lose their water supply. Those who can afford it can purchase water on the market. Most of

California's state financial assistance is for the health and safety emergency water supplies.

Ms. Laura Lamdin asked for clarification on a slide showing water use in the Upper and Lower Basins, noting that the Lower Basin bar included Mexico's water allocation. In response, Ms. Mitchell stated that due to issues with tributaries and surplus classification, Colorado views the Lower Basin's 7.5 MAF allocation as including the annual delivery of 1.5 MAF to Mexico.

Mr. Hasencamp thanked Ms. Mitchell for coming. Mr. Hasencamp asked whether the numbers shown included Lower Basin tributary use in both Utah and New Mexico, if Colorado believes that tributaries count toward Lower Basin allocations. Ms. Mitchell declined to answer, and Ms. Neuwerth stated that it would be part of future negotiations.

Chairman Hamby asked if there were any other audience questions. Seeing none, he noted that Commissioner Mitchell joining the Board today was appreciated.

LOCAL AND STATE WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORTS

Board member Jones, representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported that to date, the statewide precipitation was 137% of average, noting that hydrology conditions this year are better than the previous year.

Ms. Jones presented a figure showing 125 years of statewide average temperatures across the U.S. She stated that the State experienced colder temperatures between January and June 2023, stating the temperatures during this period were ranked one of the coldest on record. Ms. Jones stated that this is the reason the snow melt has been manageable. She stated there were fears that the snow melt would cause massive damage, especially in the San Joaquin system. Ms. Jones added that the colder temperatures are out of the ordinary if you compare these temperatures to the last twenty years of climate records and not to expect this to occur again in the future.

Ms. Jones reported on Water Year-2023 precipitation to date, stating that above average precipitation was focused on the middle and southern coastal areas of the State. She stated that statewide reservoir storage was above historical averages, apart from Trinity reservoir which is not in a favored location for recent storm activity.

Board member Cordero, representing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) stated that as of August 1st, MWD's reservoir storage was at about 79% capacity, and the Colorado River Aqueduct will be on a five-pump flow throughout the end of the year. She added that MWD's diversion target for 2023 is 749,000 acre feet (AF) and it has diverted 406,235 AF of water as of August 1st. She displayed a figure that showed MWD's deliveries to member

agencies for the first half of 2023, including immediate storage or replenishment to its member agencies. Ms. Cordero stated that the deliveries for the first three months were 76% of average.

Board member Pettijohn representing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) reported that most of the snow has melted out, noting however, that snow conditions were favorable in early July for skiing on Mammoth Mountain. He concurred with Ms. Jones, noting that the temperatures were mild during the onset of summer allowing LADWP to manage flow through the LA Aqueduct system. Mr. Pettijohn stated that it allowed LADWP to spread a lot of water to replenish groundwater. He added that the dust mitigation infrastructure built on Owens Dry Lake, representing billions of dollars of investment, sustained minimal damage from the large amount of snow melt.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Board Staff Dr. Rheinheimer reported that as of August 7th, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,579.11 feet with 9.22 MAF of storage, or 40% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,061.74 feet with 8.56 MAF of storage, or 33% of capacity. The total system storage was 25.81 MAF, or 44% of capacity, which is 5.73 MAF more than system storage at this time last year.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that as of August 1st, for Water Year-2023 (WY-2023) the forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 13.75 MAF, or 143% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 10.62 MAF, or 166% of normal. He stated that observed inflow into Lake Powell for July was 109% of normal and the August inflow forecast was 114% of normal. He added that precipitation to date is 116% of normal.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported on precipitation conditions during June and July. He stated that the northern part of the Basin, especially higher up in the mountains in Colorado, was generally above average precipitation in June, and below average in the lower part of the basin in Arizona. He stated that coming into July, precipitation conditions were below average throughout the entire basin, with some exceptions.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported on the July 24-Month Study. He presented a figure showing the end of month elevations for Lakes Powell and Mead. He stated that during the months of April through June, the elevations of Lakes Powell and Mead increased significantly due to improved hydrology conditions. He noted that Lake Mead's projected most probable elevation will hover between 1,050 feet and 1,075 feet in 2024.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that through the end of July, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 59,474 AF and 44,799 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico were 22, 541 AF, compared to 1,852 AF at this time last year.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Ms. Rapoport reported that Technical Work Group (TWG) of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) met in June. Ms. Rapoport noted that the TWG received a report on the April High Flow Experiment (HFE). Ms. Rapoport explained that the experiment was designed to push sediment down the river. Ms. Rapoport added that the circumstances were unique, necessitating a regulatory process to facilitate the experiment. Ms. Rapoport reported that preliminary results from the April HFE show good sediment rebuilding of the beaches, which recreators were excited about for the summer rafting season. Ms. Rapoport added that part of the urgency of the experiment was due to planned high water releases in the summer, which are likely to erode beaches. Researchers will evaluate the size of the beaches again at the end of the summer.

Ms. Rapoport reported that the TWG moved forward a budget for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center for fiscal year 23-24. The Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) will consider the budget at its upcoming meeting.

Ms. Rapoport reported that Reclamation provided information to the TWG on possible work on the 12-mile slough. The slough currently provides a breeding ground for non-native fish. Consideration is being given to modifying the slough to increase water circulation, thereby decreasing the temperature in the slough. The National Park Service, who would be responsible for implementing any such effort, is reviewing the plans.

Ms. Rapoport reported that there will be a virtual TWG meeting that afternoon. The purpose of the special meeting is to hopefully move forward a plan to possibly modify the sediment accounting window that triggers HFEs. Currently, the sediment accounting window is split into a fall accounting period and a spring accounting period, and the proposal would result in one annual window, allowing for greater flexibility in HFE timing. The TWG will consider the plan this afternoon and hopefully advance that plan to the AMWG.

Ms. Rapoport reported that an AMWG meeting will be held the following week in Flagstaff, Arizona and that the TWG will meet in October 2023.

Status of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Ms. Rapoport reported that the Steering Committee of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) held a virtual meeting. Ms. Rapoport reported that the Steering Committee considered a final implementation report on the work done in the previous year. The Steering Committee voted to move the report forward to Reclamation for their reporting to Congress.

Ms. Rapoport reported that the Steering Committee approved procedures for adding or removing members. The item stemmed from the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) wanting to withdraw from the program.

Ms. Rapoport reported that the next Steering Committee will be a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at the Las Vegas airport on October 18, 2023.

MEMBER AGENCY AND PUBLIC MEMBER REPORTS

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Board member Vigil reported on its dove hunting season opener from September 1 -15, 2023, which brings hunters out to the Colorado River in southern areas, noting that opportunities on private lands have decreased. He stated that CDFW has increased acreage to provide opportunities for hunters. He added that CDFW enhances the habitats by planting food crops and forest food for dove hunting. He stated that the Imperial Wildlife Area has 2,000 acres and 140 acres has been enhanced. He reported that CDFW works with Desert Wildlife Unlimited and private farmers in the Imperial Valley to use their farm fields. He noted that the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve has 500 acres of enhanced areas available for use by hunters.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Board member Nelson reported that CVWD is working with MWD to manage 138,350 AF of Table A and 9,500 AF of Rosedale Rio Bravo surplus supplies for the State Water Project. He stated that 141,000 AF of water has been replenished through the Whitewater Replenishment project, noting that in 2017, a record 386,000 AF of water was replenished.

Mr. Nelson reported that on CVWD's system conservation agreements on Bucket 1a, which are short term agreements proffered by Reclamation this year. He stated that CVWD has a signed contract with Reclamation to curtail its replenishment facilities by up to 35,000 AF (105,000 AF over three years). He explained that the agreements have been executed by all the parties and CVWD sent a revised water order to Reclamation. He stated that in progress is

CVWD's Agricultural Conservation Program, in which CVWD would work with growers to save up to 10,000 AF per year (30,000 AF over the next three years).

Mr. Nelson explained that for Bucket 2, which are long-term projects with Reclamation, CVWD submitted proposals to recycle up to 1,120 AF per year (33,000 AF over 30 years) and to undertake a golf course conservation program.

Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)

Mr. Eckard reported on issues with laterals within PVID's service area. He stated that the laterals range from a quarter of a mile to one mile in length, and most of them run adjacent to residential properties. Mr. Eckard stated that in the past, there were issues with the pin and lock mechanism that are used on the gates that prevent vandalism or other damage. He added that for some reason over the last few years those pins have been left off or removed, causing flooding in residential areas. Mr. Eckard explained that the telemetry department came up with a device to control or eliminate flooding, stating that the device is connected to the existing SCADA system. He reported that the devices have been operating for about a year and a device will be installed at each of the eleven lateral delivery systems.

Loa Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Board member Pettijohn showed several grant funding awards received by LADWP, noting that he has previously talked about different projects LADWP had related to conservation, recycling, water user efficiency, stormwater, groundwater and recovery. He then highlighted three updates related to ongoing projects and new awards.

Mr. Pettijohn described LADWP's groundwater replenishment program, including the Donald C Tillman Water Reclamation Plant for advanced treated recycled water and the Hansen spreading grounds to recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin. He stated that the total project cost is about $700 million and that so far, they have received about $240 million in grants and loans and recently received another $15 million. He noted that the project will treat 23 million gallons per day of wastewater, that it will produce 21,000 AF of drinking water, and that it will come online by 2027, which will serve about 250,000 homes.

Mr. Pettijohn then described an award of $14.6 million from DWR's Urban Community Drought Relief Program for LADWP's Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program. He noted that the LADWP program is a unique program for disadvantaged communities to retrofit homeowners' landscapes in those communities. Mr. Pettijohn stated that the City of Los Angeles has removed over 50 million square feet of turf within the City generally, noting that a few years ago the

governor wanted a goal of 50 million for the entire state. He also noted that MWD helped fund the program and expressed appreciation for that.

Mr. Pettijohn finally noted that money from DWR to mitigate saltwater intrusion was being used to fund LADWP's Dominguez Gap Seawater Barrier Intrusion Project. He briefly reviewed the history of seawater intrusion along the coast in the Dominguez Gap area. He noted that they designed and built a hydraulic seawater intrusion barrier using potable water, and they are now trying to convert the barrier to use advanced treated recycled water instead. He stated that the total project cost will be about $20M.

Ms. Neuwerth asked Mr. Pettijohn how much water they need to pump down the barrier wells to prevent intrusion. Mr. Pettijohn replied that it is about 9.5 million gallons per day and that some of that water will eventually get pumped out, noting that it is very high-quality water. He also noted that some of the injected water will eventually make it to drinking water wells.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Chairman Hamby provided the IID agency updated, noting that no IID staff was present. He first stated that IID just completed the Lloyd Allen Water Conservation Operational Reservoir, noting that Lloyd Allen was a five-term IID board member, integral to the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and was chair of the Colorado River Board for several years before passing away. He described the reservoir's function, noting that, with a 40 AF capacity, it serves to help regulate the 13-mile-long East High Line lateral. He noted that the reservoir will save about 400 AF per year. He also described the opening ceremony and dedication.

Chairman Hamby also noted that IID is planning a QSA 20th anniversary commemoration in coordination with CRB's October meeting to be held in Imperial Valley, including a formal dedication of the new Lloyd Allen Reservoir.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Board member Jones first noted some grants DWR awarded, including the Land Flex Program to support groundwater sustainability by taking agricultural land out of production in severely over drafted groundwater basins.

Ms. Jones noted that in the previous week DWR conducted the annual Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Workshop along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and other partners. She noted that several years ago there was legislation that directed the Corps to expand their FIRO program. She provided further details about this program, noting that there are five pilot FIRO projects ongoing in California.

Ms. Jones then described the current and projected future state of Tulare Lake, indicating that is expected to exist for another couple of years. She noted that the water itself is of little overall value to groundwater storage due to the relatively impermeable Corcoran Clay aquifer below it. She also noted that DWR's assistance to the Tulare area is limited to emergency response, since the Tulare area did not previously sign up to be part of DWR's State Plan of Flood Control, so DWR does not have any formal role in managing Tulare Lake.

Ms. Neuwerth inquired about how much water was spread this year for groundwater replenishment. Ms. Jones responded that she didn't have the final numbers yet, but that they were at least several hundred thousand acres.

Vice Chairman Madaffer asked how thick the Corcoran Clay layer is. Ms. Jones responded that some of the pumping wells in the Tulare Basin are almost 2,000 feet deep.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Board member Cordero described a new advertising campaign with the Angel City Women's Professional Team, noting that MWD will be participating with the team in their title game later this month when the team will recognize MWD's general manager and board and promote MWD and its conservation efforts.

Ms. Cordero described repairs to the Etiwanda Pipeline that provides State Water Project to the Inland Empire, noting that the repairs used specialized equipment that included new technology such as robots and a new kind of pipe lining. She noted that this repair will help bring more water from Northern California for local storage.

Ms. Cordero then described an education program that MWD participates in, including hosting a two-day meeting for 50 educators from across the state to teach young people about water issues using STEAM curriculum and virtual learning programs. She noted that the group also visited MWD's Pure Water facility and the Southern California Water facility.

Ms. Cordero stated that MWD is considering the addition of rebates for trees to their turf replacement program, which, as she noted, environmental groups have been supporting to provide a more sustainable landscape and an urban canopy.

Ms. Cordero also noted MWD's diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan, indicating that their board has been reviewing the plan.

Ms. Cordero finally noted that Board Member Joaquin visited MWD and spoke to the board, and thanked him for his visit.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Vice Chairman Madaffer provided a verbal update without slides. He described a water storage project that SDCWA just finished, called the Hauck Mesa Storage, and that received some awards. He noted that the facility is on SDCWA's first aqueduct pipeline and provided a basic description of the facility, including noting that it holds about 2.1 million gallons of water. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that the project received the honor award from the American Public Works Association and an Outstanding Water Project Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Basin States Activities

Ms. Neuwerth reported that on June 16th, Reclamation published a federal register notice of intent (NOI) for the post-2026 operating guidelines for Powell and Mead, inviting public comments to be submitted by August 15th. Ms. Neuwerth noted that the Basin States have been working for a month to prepare a joint seven-state letter, and that the Lower Basin States were also considering a joint letter.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that in mid-July, technical staff from the California agencies held a three-day workshop to discuss post-2026 operations. Ms. Neuwerth noted that the meeting had been very productive. Based on the discussion, modeling teams were preparing analysis to share at the next workshop, scheduled for the end of the month. Ms. Neuwerth reported that during a future meeting, the Board would be briefed on the initial ideas and positions developed during these workshops.

2024 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan

Ms. Neuwerth reported that on June 22nd, Reclamation hosted its first consultation to review and accept comments for the first draft of the Annual Operating Plan (AOP). She stated that the August 24-Month Study projections of January 1st elevations of Lakes Powell and Mead are used to set the operations for the reservoir system. She stated that the first draft of the AOP was based on the June 24-Month Study which projected Lake Powell will operate in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with the most probable release of 7.48 MAF. For Lake Mead, a Level 1 Shortage is projected, and Lake Mead's elevation will be between 1,075 feet and 1,050 feet. The projected delivery to Mexico of 1.45 MAF.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the next consultation is scheduled for September 6th, which

will be based on the August 24-Month Study.

Reclamation's Post-2026 Integrated Technical Education Workshops

Ms. Neuwerth provided an overview and update of Reclamation's Integrated Technical Education Workshop (ITEW). She stated that the workshop is a multi-stakeholder modeling group where Reclamation's modelers meet with Basin state representatives and stakeholders to inform them about how they are going to do modeling for the post-2026 analysis. Ms. Neuwerth then stated that four workshops had been held so far, including one in June, focusing on hydrology and a more recent one in early August focusing on demand. She noted that Reclamation is creating a web tool to allow stakeholders to run their own models for different scenarios and that they are currently deciding which variables to include in the tool. Finally, Ms. Neuwerth noted that Reclamation is planning a couple more meetings and that their goal is to release the web tool for use in November.

Washington D.C. Updates

Ms. Neuwerth provided an update on the Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act. She reported that the salinity control programs have struggled with funding from the Lower Basin Fund. Ms. Neuwerth also noted that, in addition to other problems, there are no State of Arizona funds going into this fund. The Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act would decrease the states' cost-share and increase the federal cost-share for salinity control programs across the Colorado River Basin. She stated that the Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act would keep salinity control funds stable while broader fixes may be seen in the next couple of years.

Vice Chairman Madaffer asked a question about being more included and/or involved with the Farm Bill. Chairman Hamby stated that different venues have been explored. Chairman Hamby reported that three quarters of the Farm Bill is focused on food assistance, aid, and only about a quarter of it on actual agricultural programs, the majority of which gets targeted for the Midwest and Southeast primarily. Chairman Hamby reported that the Republican House may want to maintain the Farm Bill at the same level of funding and other regions of the country may not be interested in giving up their own funding. Chairman Hamby stated that the options to obtain new funding seemed a little bleak. However, Chairman Hamby noted that there is an existing 4 billion dollars of IRA funding with some new western agriculture provisions that would aid in setting money aside while the next set of guidelines are underway.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hamby reported that he attended the Upper Colorado River Commission meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He stated that he shared California's historical perspective on the Colorado River and the Post-2026 general priorities that the Board discussed in 2021.

Chairman Hamby stated that the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under development by Reclamation had incorporated versions of the Californian and Six State proposals into alternatives one and two. Chairman Hamby noted that the Lower Basin Plan submitted in June 2023 was considered internally by Reclamation as alternative three. He stated that the preliminary modeling results for alternative three shows favorable performance of the Lower Basin Plan compared to the alternatives one and two. Chairman Hamby stated that the Reclamation is likely releasing a revised draft SEIS in September 2023, having a final SEIS in December 2023, with a Record of Decision in January 2024. He stated that additional work needs to be done to ensure that the assumptions that Reclamation is incorporating into the SEIS reflect California's shared assumptions. Chairman Hamby reported that California was still exploring options to develop implementing agreements for the Lower Basin Plan.

Chairman Hamby reported that that Basin States were working to develop a joint scoping letter in response to Reclamation's Post-2026 NOI. He stated that there are still many items under discussion and that California was expecting to sign at least one joint letter.

Finally, Chairman Hamby reported that he will attend the Federal States Tribe Sovereigns meeting this week in Phoenix. He stated that the representatives of the thirty tribes, seven Basin States, and federal government will be meeting. Chairman Hamby stated that he invited Board Member Cordero to the meeting and will update the Board at the next Board meeting.

Chairman Hamby asked if there were any items the Board would like to add to future agenda. Board member Seiler asked to add an executive session at the next Board meeting. Chairman Hamby and Ms. Neuwerth confirmed. Ms. Neuwerth provided an update on the locations of the future CRB board meetings: Blythe, CA (September), El Centro, CA (October), and Winterhaven, CA (November).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

9/5/2023

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 FULL	Content 1000 ac-ft (kaf)	Elev. (Feet above mean sea level)	7-Day Release (CFS)
CURRENT STORAGE				
LAKE POWELL	38%	8,847	3,574.31	12,000
* LAKE MEAD	34%	8,898	1,066.17	6,900
LAKE MOHAVE	94%	1,692	642.77	9,300
LAKE HAVASU	95%	588	448.42	7,700
TOTAL SYSTEM CONTENTS **	44%	25,619		
As of 9/4/2023				
SYSTEM CONTENT LAST YEAR	34%	19,855		

*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	87%	2,003		
Painted Rock Dam	0%	0	530.00	0
Alamo Dam	15%	145	1,126.69	25

Forecasted Water Use for Calendar Year 2023 (as of 9/5/2023) (values in kaf)

NEVADA	196	
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER SYSTEM		188
OTHERS		8
CALIFORNIA	3,831	
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		738
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS		3,079
OTHERS		15
ARIZONA	1,929	
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT		834
OTHERS		1,095
TOTAL LOWER BASIN USE		5,957
DELIVERY TO MEXICO - 2023 (Mexico Scheduled Delivery + Preliminary Yearly Excess[1])		1,433

OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION
UNREGULATED INFLOW INTO LAKE POWELL - SEPTEMBER FINAL FORECAST DATED 9/1/2023

	MILLION ACRE-FEET	% of Normal
FORECASTED WATER YEAR 2023	13.594	142%
OBSERVED APRIL-JULY 2023	10.619	166%
AUGUST OBSERVED INFLOW	0.304	81%
SEPTEMBER INFLOW FORECAST	0.400	116%

	Upper Colorado Basin	Salt/Verde Basin
WATER YEAR 2023 PRECIP TO DATE	116% (32.4")	135% (33.7")
CURRENT BASIN SNOWPACK	NA% (NA)	NA% (NA)

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

Sep 05, 2023 09:50:35 AM

— 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 Use CY 2023	Excess to Approval CY 2023
Arizona	1,429,031	1,929,274	2,122,451	(193,177)
California	2,692,258	3,831,329	3,856,455	(25,126)
Nevada	145,462	196,036	196,036	0
States Total [3]	**4,266,751**	**5,956,639**	**6,174,942**	**(218,303)**
Total Deliveries to Mexico [4]	1,066,301	1,382,698	1,382,698	
Creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings [5]	279	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]	1,077,788	1,430,000	1,430,000	
To Mexico in Excess of Treaty [8]	39,094	50,583	28,963	
Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242 [9]	85,927	122,932	117,192	
Total Lower Basin & Mexico [10]	**5,458,073**	**7,512,852**	**7,703,795**	

[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 July 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.

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).

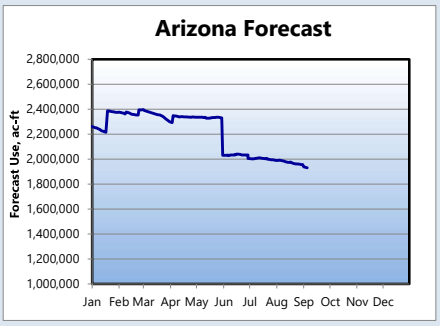
Water deferred by Mexico pursuant to Section V of IBWC Minute 323.

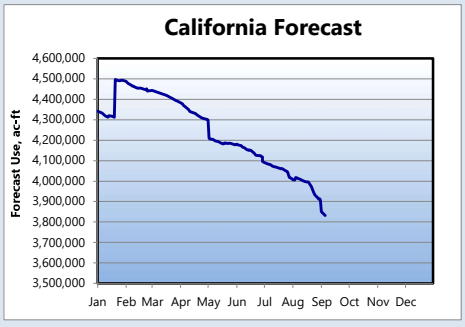
In accordance with Section XI.G.2.D.1.b of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, a Tier 2 Shortage Condition will govern the operation of Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River in 2023. In accordance with Section Mexico's scheduled deliveries incoporate the required reduction of 70,000 AF from its 1.5 million 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.

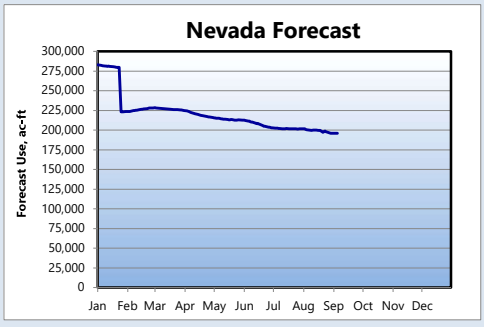
"To Mexico in Excess of Treaty" forecast is based on the 5-year average for the period 2017-2021.

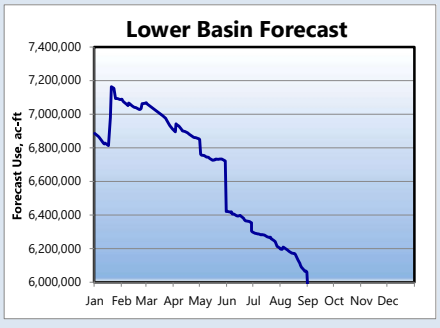
"Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242" forecast is based on the average for the period 1990-2021.

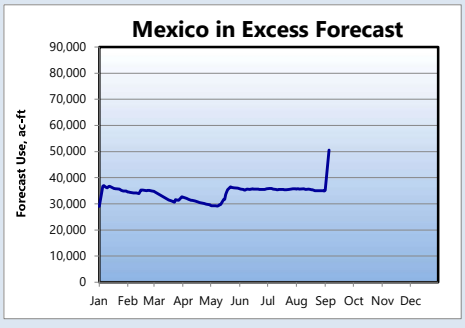
Includes States Total, Total Deliveries to Mexico, To Mexico in Excess of Treaty, and Water Bypassed Pursuant IBWC Minute 242.

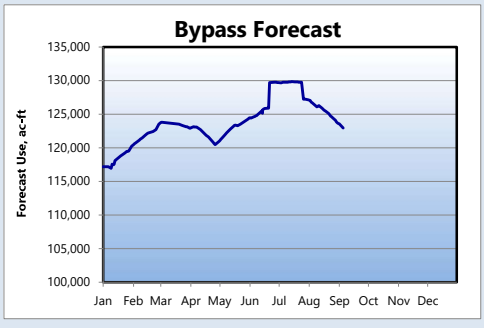












Sep 05, 2023 09:50:35 AM

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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.

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

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	8	10	10	---	11	15	15	0
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mead	40	61	68	---	40	61	68	-7
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mohave	173	247	248	---	173	247	248	-1
McAlister Family Trust	5	7	7	---	8	10	10	0
Bureau of Reclamation - Davis Dam Project	2	2	2	---	8	10	10	0
Bullhead City	4,849	7,873	8,699	---	7,365	12,124	13,730	-1,606
Mohave Water Conservation District	536	809	809	---	799	1,206	1,206	0
Mohave Valley I.D.D.[1]	6,645	9,819	11,662	---	12,305	18,182	21,597	-3,415
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, AZ	26,223	36,789	44,280	---	48,562	68,128	82,000	-13,872
Golden Shores Water Conservation District	219	287	287	---	329	432	432	0
Havasu National Wildlife Refuge	1,734	2,362	3,564	---	14,440	21,793	41,835	-20,042
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. - CSA No. 1	389	588	589	---	600	907	907	0
Crystal Beach Water Conservation District	56	73	73	---	85	112	112	0
Lake Havasu City	5,749	8,711	9,052	---	9,273	14,050	14,600	-550
Arizona State Parks (Windsor Beach)	8	11	11	---	13	17	17	0
Central Arizona Water Conservation District [2]	621,342	834,073		---	621,342	834,073		--
Hillcrest Water Company	16	21	21	---	24	32	32	0
Springs Del Sol Domestic Water Improvement District	2	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)	198	303	327	---	295	452	489	-37
Town of Parker	175	291	418	---	451	726	912	-186
Colorado River Indian Reservation, AZ	271,801	336,403	360,641	---	396,830	550,405	662,402	-111,997
GM Gabrych Family	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Ehrenberg Improvement District	202	286	303	---	309	426	426	0
B&F Investment	6	9	8	---	7	10	11	-1
North Baja Pipeline	152	200	200	---	235	308	308	0
Arizona State Land Department - Domestic	25	38	40	---	39	58	61	-3
Cibola Valley I.D.D.	2,438	3,391	5,322	---	3,410	4,742	7,443	-2,701
Red River Land Co.	221	250	214	---	309	350	300	**50**
Hopi Tribe	584	1,210	3,061	---	816	1,691	4,278	-2,587
GSC Farms, LLC	5	20	28	---	6	25	35	-10
Arizona Game & Fish	1,800	2,029	2,028	---	2,517	2,838	2,838	0
Cibola Island	537	705	705	---	751	986	986	0
Cibola National Wildlife Refuge	11,174	14,156	14,264	-108	18,025	22,833	23,005	-172
Western Water, LLC	103	207	379	---	143	289	530	-241
Cibola Sportsmans Club	127	164	154	---	175	229	216	**13**
Bishop Family Trust	184	260	300	---	257	364	420	-56
Cathcarts	4	10	10	---	5	13	13	0
Imperial National Wildlife Refuge	2,195	3,376	3,799	-423	3,541	5,446	6,128	-682
BLM - Leased by L. Pratt	44	58	58	---	68	89	89	0
BLM Permittees (Parker Dam to Imperial Dam)	969	1,271	1,271	0	1,491	1,956	1,956	--
Martinez Lake Cabin Sites	5	7	7	---	8	11	11	0
Fisher's Landing Water and Sewer, LLC	5	7	7	---	8	11	11	0
Shepard Water Company	14	18	18	---	21	28	28	0
U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds	294	433	486	---	294	433	486	-53
JRJ Partners, LLC	374	590	666	---	576	911	1,025	-114
Cha Cha, LLC	885	1,264	1,365	---	1,362	1,944	2,100	-156
Beattie Farms Southwest	477	718	722	---	735	1,104	1,110	-6
Gila Monster Farms	2,939	4,088	4,833	---	5,306	7,359	8,500	-1,141
Wellton-Mohawk I.D.D.	176,321	243,230	278,000	-34,770	257,422	371,203	424,350	-53,147
BLM Permittees (Below Imperial Dam)	84	110	110	0	129	169	169	--
City of Yuma	10,974	15,596	15,151	**445**	17,151	26,178	27,500	-1,322
U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma	751	1,112	1,265	---	751	1,112	1,265	-153

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
Desert Lawn Memorial	21	27	27	---	29	38	38	0
North Gila Valley Irrigation District	6,410	8,357	9,486	---	27,298	39,998	43,500	-3,502
Yuma Irrigation District	22,091	33,022	38,958	---	42,034	63,221	73,100	-9,879
Yuma Mesa I.D.D.	62,636	83,779	104,430	---	119,887	176,974	230,252	-53,278
Unit "B" I.D.D.	11,609	13,907	13,421	---	18,094	24,561	28,300	-3,739
Arizona State Land Department - Agriculture	2,715	4,019	4,295	---	4,256	6,260	6,607	-347
Ott Family	205	269	269	---	315	414	414	0
Ogram Boys' Enterprises	453	595	595	---	698	916	916	0
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation	2,380	3,123	3,123	---	3,661	4,804	4,804	0
BLM - Leased by M. Lee	110	145	145	---	170	223	223	0
Armon Curtis	97	127	127	---	149	195	195	0
Yuma County Water Users' Association	164,361	245,286	277,259	---	226,931	338,971	367,400	-28,429
R. Griffin	23	30	30	---	35	46	46	0
Power	56	74	74	---	87	114	114	0
Cocopah Indian Tribe (PPR No. 7)	140	184	184	---	216	283	283	0
Griffin Ranches (PPR No. 7)	56	74	74	---	87	114	114	0
Milton Phillips (PPR No. 7)	34	44	44	---	51	67	67	0
Griffin Family Ltd. Partnership (PPR No. 7)	13	17	17	---	20	26	26	0
Cocopah Indian Reservation	669	1,340	1,820	---	817	1,855	2,812	-957
Bureau of Reclamation - Yuma Area Office	157	206	206	---	157	206	206	0
Arizona Public Service Company	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Gary Pasquinelli	139	203	209	---	213	311	321	-10
Total Arizona	**1,429,031**	**1,929,274**	**2,069,043**		**1,874,652**	**2,636,644**	**2,954,736**	
Central Arizona Project (CAP)	621,342	834,073				834,073		
All Others	807,689	1,095,201	1,231,414			1,802,571	2,117,107	
Yuma Mesa Division, Gila Project	91,137	125,158	152,874			280,193	346,852	
Total 242 Well Field Pumping [3]	22,937	30,944	47,183					

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 - Cathcarts [7,11]		(57)
System Conservation Water - Mohave Valley I.D.D. (MVIDD) [7,12]		(12,819)
System Conservation Water - Reclamation (Estimated) [13]		0
Delivery of ICS (CAWCD)	up to	70,000
Total State Adjusted Apportionment		2,122,451
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment		(193,177)
Estimated Allowable Use for CAP		**1,031,295**

[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.
Forecast Use incorporates CAWCD's operational schedule dated August 23, 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 Colorodo River basic apportionment.

[5] In accordance with Section III.B.1.a of *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations* (LBOps), 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 LBOps, 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 LBOps, 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 LBOps.

[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 Contingeny 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.

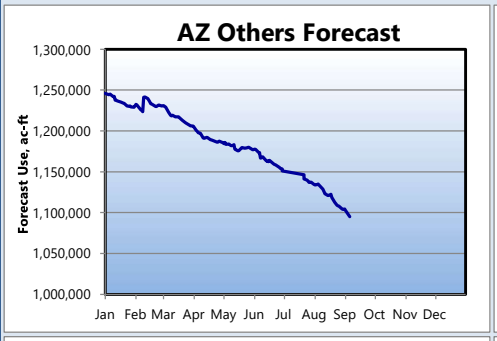
Footnotes continued from previous page.

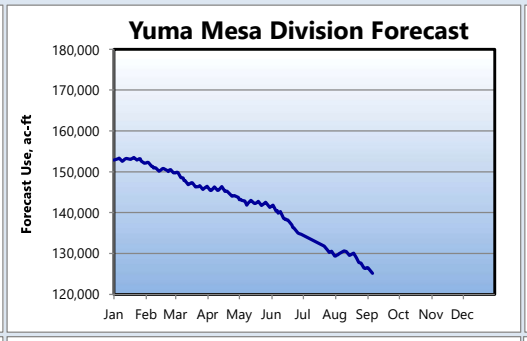
[10] CAP water being created by GRIC pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0760, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

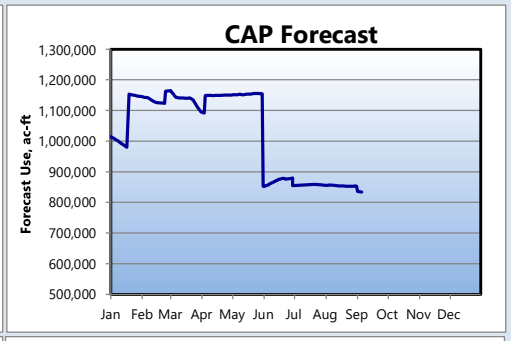
[11] System Conservation Water being created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0776, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

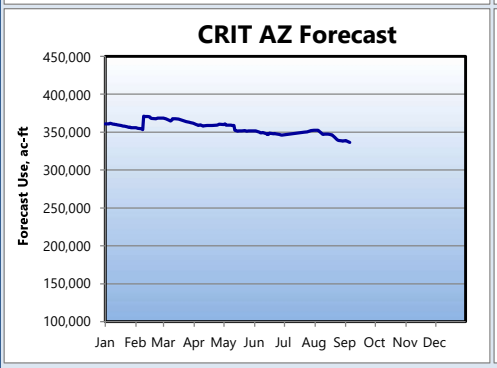
[12] System Conservation Water being created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0770, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

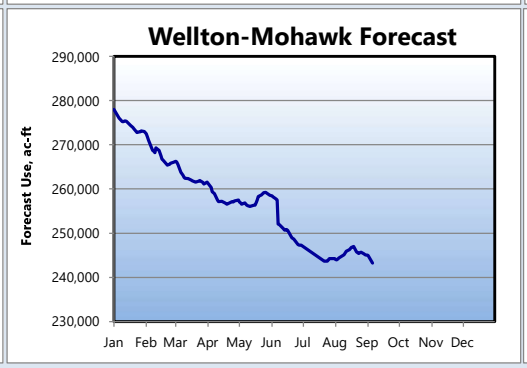
[13] The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created by additional pumping from the 242 Well Field Expansion pursuant to Letter Agreement No. 16-XX-30-W0603, Revision No. 1, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

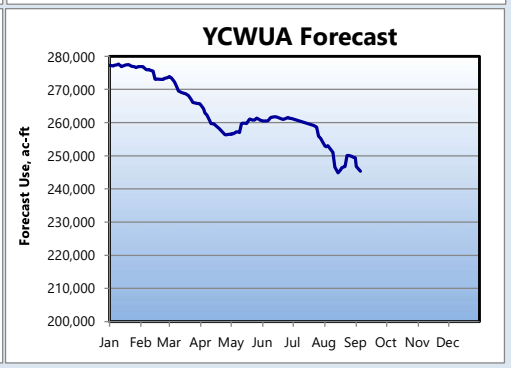












NOTES: Click on Arizona Schedules and Approvals above for incoming diversion schedules and approvals.

Sep 05, 2023 09:50:35 AM

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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

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

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
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, CA	4,459	6,513	8,994	---	8,290	12,110	16,720	-4,610
City of Needles (includes LCWSP use)	763	1,244	1,605	-361	1,357	2,034	2,261	-227
PPR No. 30 (Stephenson)	14	19	19	---	26	34	34	0
PPR No. 38 (Andrade)	19	25	25	---	34	45	45	---
PPR No. 40 (Cooper)	5	6	6	---	8	10	10	---
Chemehuevi Indian Reservation	139	183	183	---	8,642	11,340	11,340	0
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California [1]	468,727	737,620		---	470,473	740,211		---
Colorado River Indian Reservation, CA	3338	4,380	4,380	---	5,531	7,258	7,258	0
Palo Verde Irrigation District	241,135	314,100	423,836	---	518,224	727,224	862,000	-134,776
PPR No. 31 (Mendivil)	2	3	3	---	5	6	6	0
Yuma Project Resesrvation Division	23,594	36,535	46,057	---	50,146	78,465	93,850	-15,385
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Bard Unit	---	---	---	---	21,103	36,403	46,452	-10,049
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Indian Unit	---	---	---	---	29,043	42,062	47,398	-5,336
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Ranch 5 (Surface Delivery)	647	1,063	1,194	---	1,171	1,924	2,160	-236
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Other Ranches (Pumpers)	866	1,137	1,137	---	1,568	2,058	2,058	0
Yuma Island Pumpers	1,115	1,463	1,463	---	2,017	2,647	2,647	0
Imperial Irrigation District	1,744,147	2,415,411	2,617,800	-202,389	1,745,950	2,473,414	2,767,270	---
Coachella Valley Water District	202,843	311,043	354,000	-42,957	211,034	328,586	375,987	---
Other LCWSP Contractors	401	526	526	---	624	819	819	0
City of Winterhaven	44	58	58	---	62	81	81	0
Total California	**2,692,258**	**3,831,329**	**4,208,937**		**3,025,162**	**4,388,266**	**4,894,703**	

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 Fallowing Program [3,5]	(58,400)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - MWD [6]	(450,000)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	3,856,455
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	(25,126)
Estimated Allowable Use for MWD	**1,212,746**

Forecast Use is based on MWD's operational projected diversion of 0.750 maf for August's 24MS.

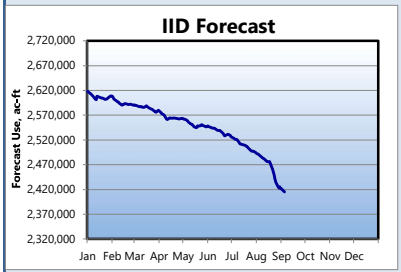
System Consevation Water to be conserved by the City of Needles pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreement No. 15-XX-30-W0596, executed under the Pilot System Conserv Program. This water will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

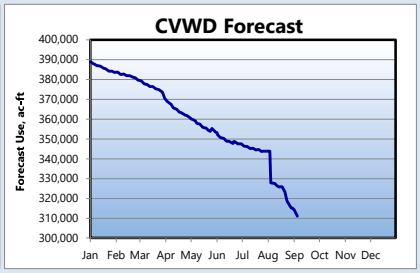
In accordance with the applicable system conservation agreements and Section 3.b of the *Lower Basin Drought Contingeny Plan Agreement* , the Bureau of Reclamation intends to apply all or a p of this water towards the Secretary of the Interior's commitment to create or conserve 100,000 AF per annum or 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.

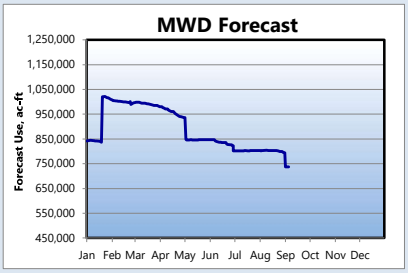
The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0764.

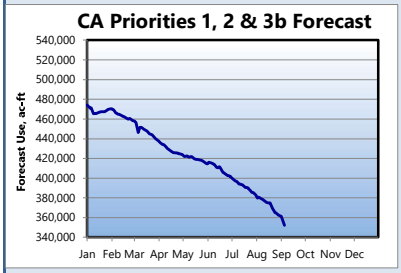
The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to Funding Agreement No. 21-XX-30-W0714.

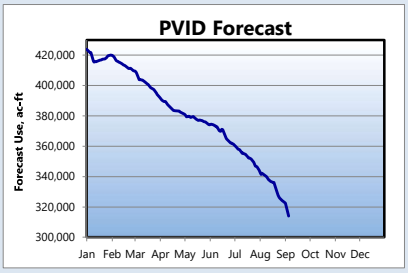
MWD has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 450,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2023. The actual amount of EC ICS created by MWD in 2023 will be based on final accounting and verification. In accordance with Section XI.G.3.B.4 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Section IV.B of Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations (LBOps), 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 LBOps.











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

Sep 05, 2023 09:50:35 AM

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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 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
Robert B. Griffith Water Project (SNWS)	301,294	424,133		---	301,294	424,133		---
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mead	330	843	1,500	---	330	843	1,500	-657
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mohave	118	266	500	---	118	266	500	-234
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.	627	883	928	---	627	883	928	-45
Boulder Canyon Project	135	177	177	---	229	300	300	0
Big Bend Water District	1,312	2,768	4,688	---	2,787	5,865	10,000	-4,135
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	2,010	2,946	4,624	---	3,001	4,397	6,900	-2,503
Las Vegas Wash Return Flows	-160,364	-235,980	-231,289	---				
Total Nevada[1]	**145,462**	**196,036**	**223,000**	**0**	**308,386**	**436,687**	**462,000**	**-7,574**
Southern Nevada Water System (SNWS)	140,930	188,153				424,133		
All Others	4,532	7,883				12,554		
Nevada Uses Above Hoover	142,140	190,322				426,425		
Nevada Uses Below Hoover	3,322	5,714				10,262		

Tributary Conservation (TC) Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

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

NEVADA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

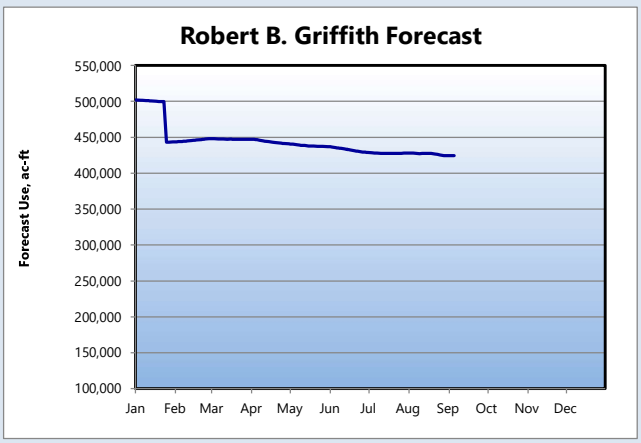
Nevada Basic Apportionment	300,000
Reduction for Tier 2 Shortage[3]	(17,000)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - SNWA (Estimated)[4]	(86,964)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	196,036
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	0

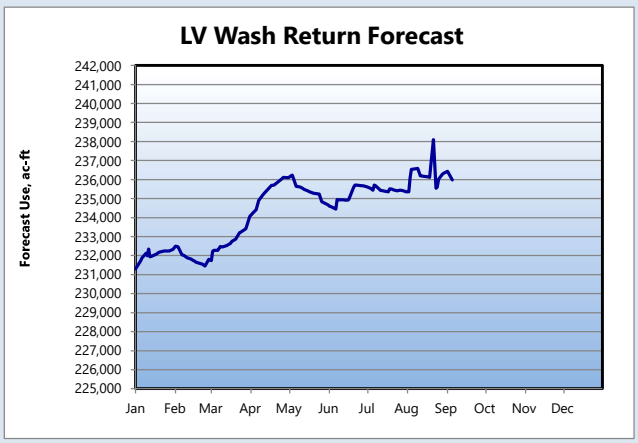
The State of Nevada has been approved to consumptively use up to 283,000 AF in CY 2023. Forecast Use shown here is based on Nevada's operational projected consumptive use of 223,000 AF.

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 Colorodo River basic apportionment.

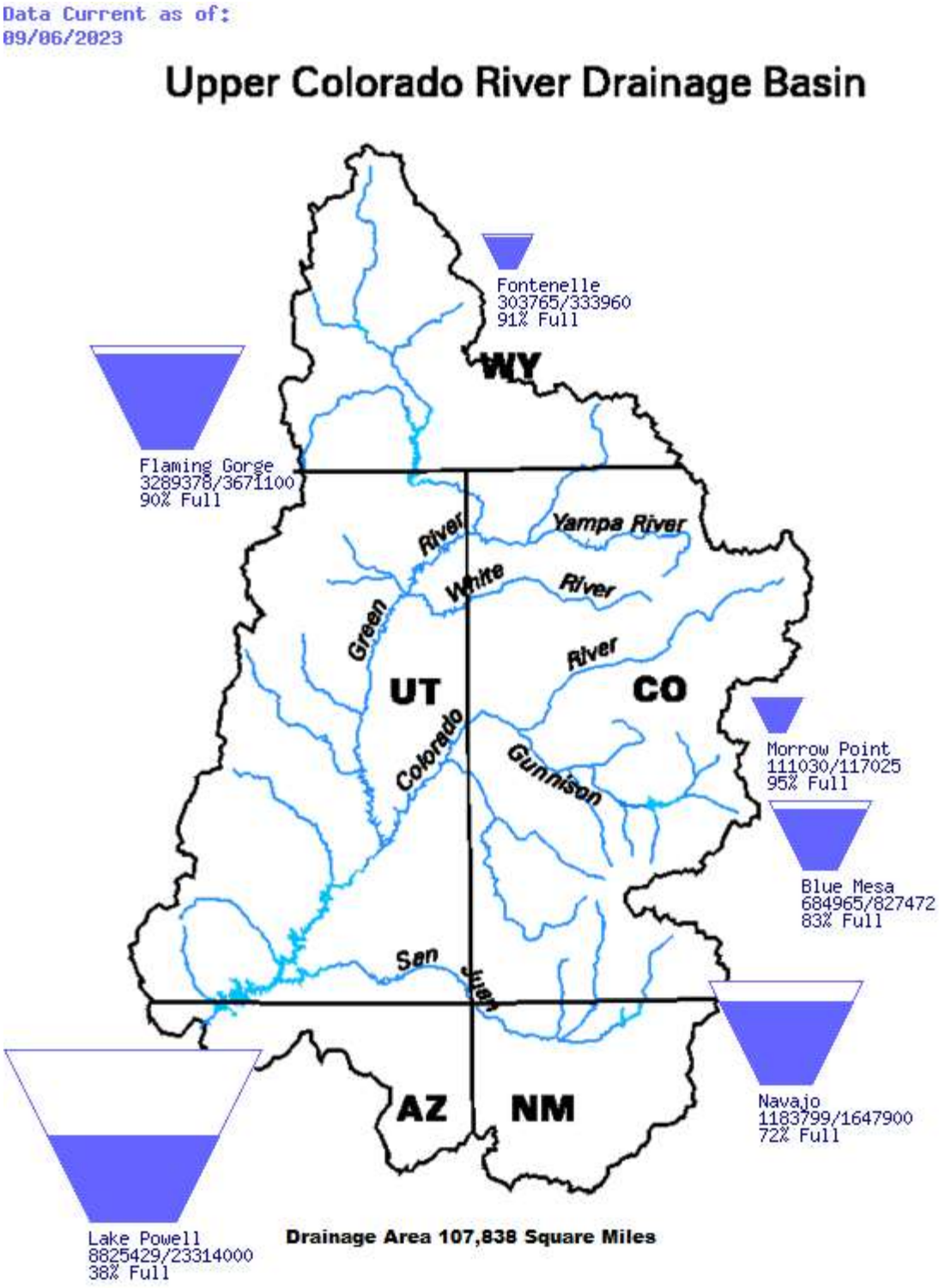
[4] SNWA has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 100,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2023. The actual amount of EC ICS created by SNWA in 2023 will be based on final accounting and verification. In accordance with Section XI.G.3.B.4 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Section IV.B of *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations* (LBOps), 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 LBOps.



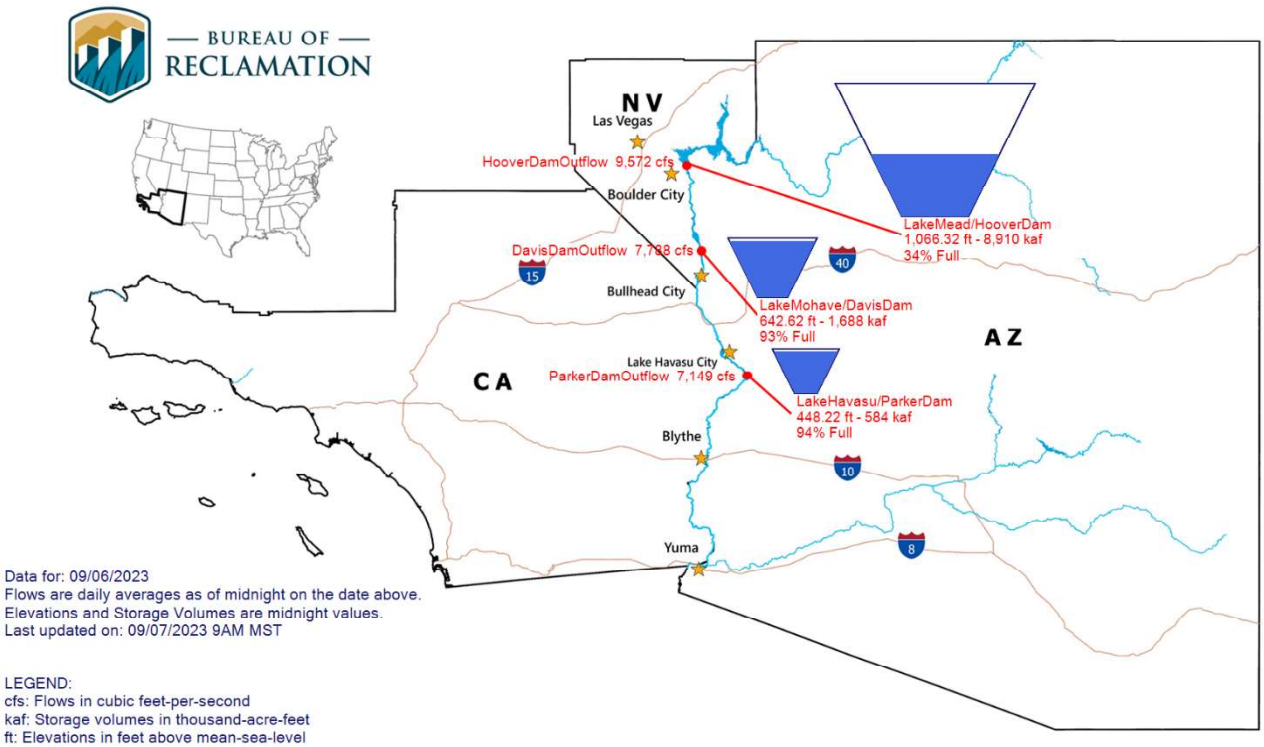


Upper Colorado Region Water Resources Group

River Basin Tea-Cup Diagrams



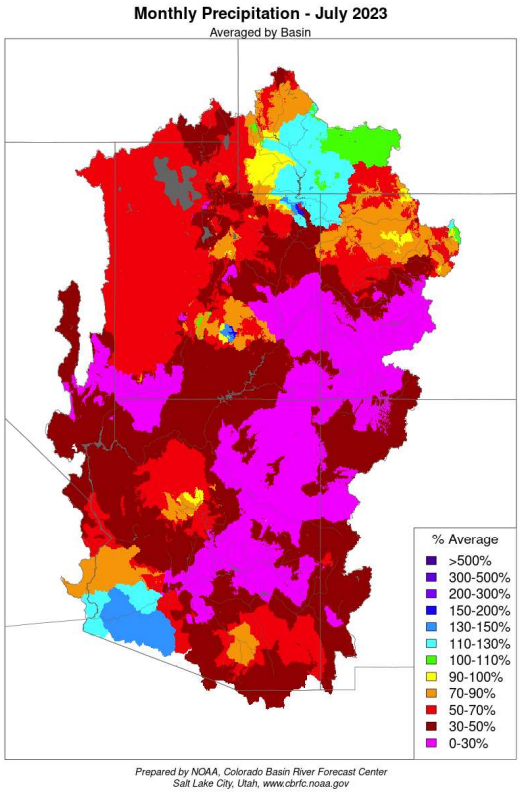
Lower Colorado River Teacup Diagram

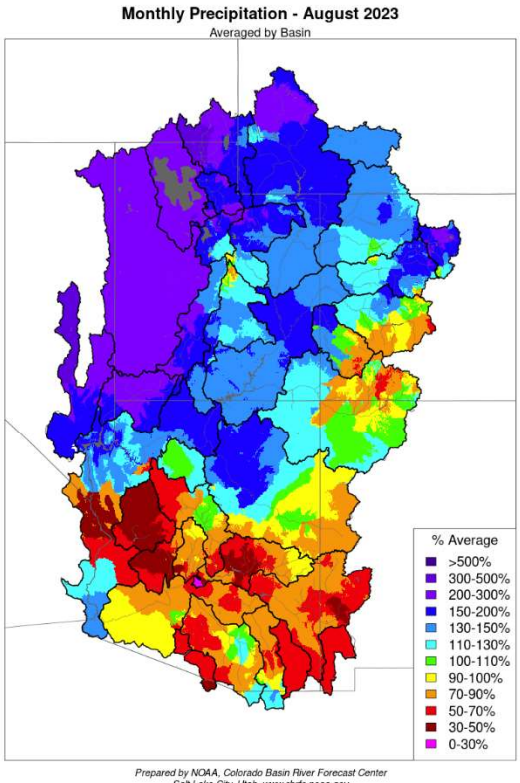


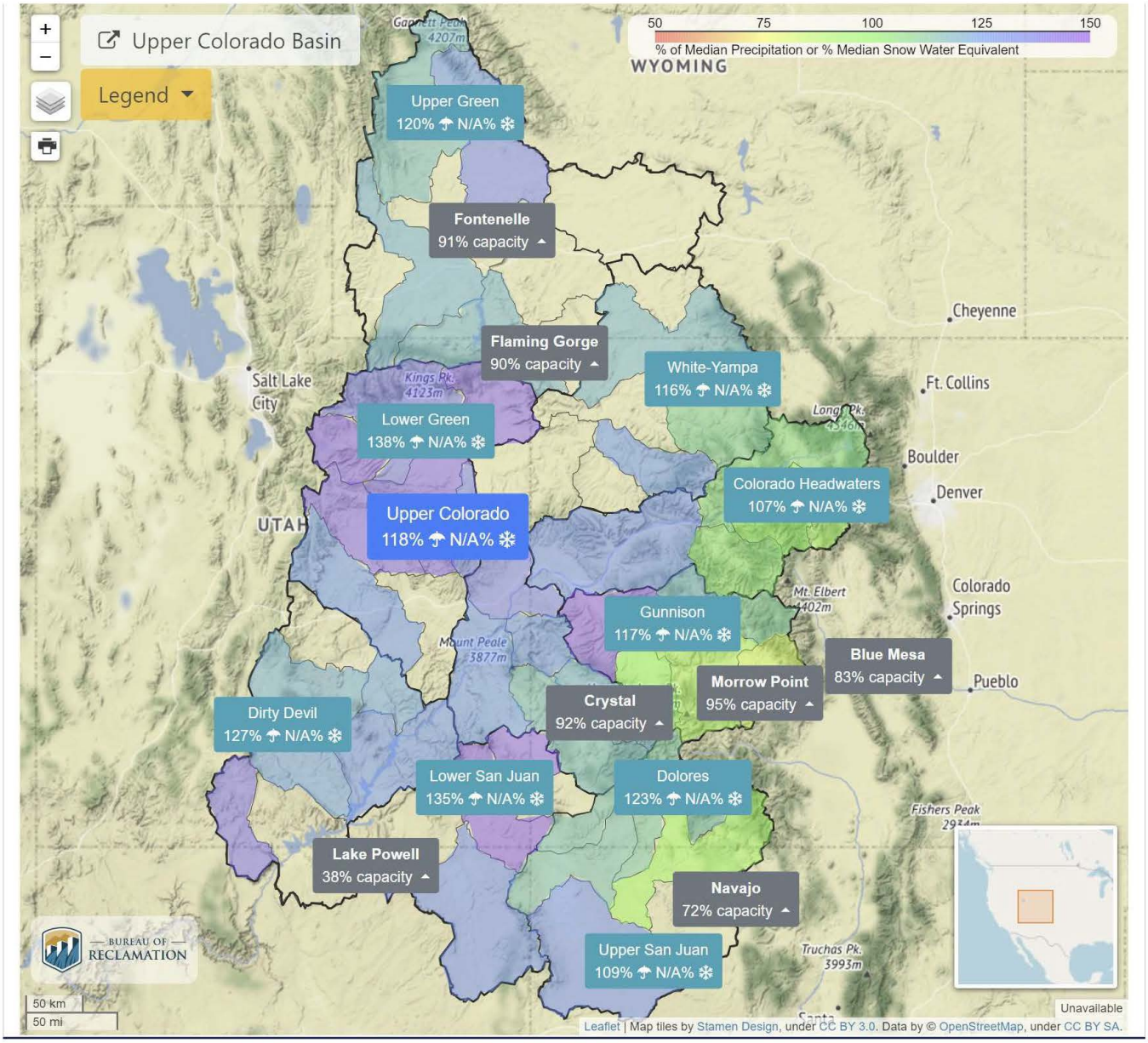
Data for: 09/06/2023
Flows are daily averages as of midnight on the date above.
Elevations and Storage Volumes are midnight values.
Last updated on: 09/07/2023 9AM MST

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 July and August 2023

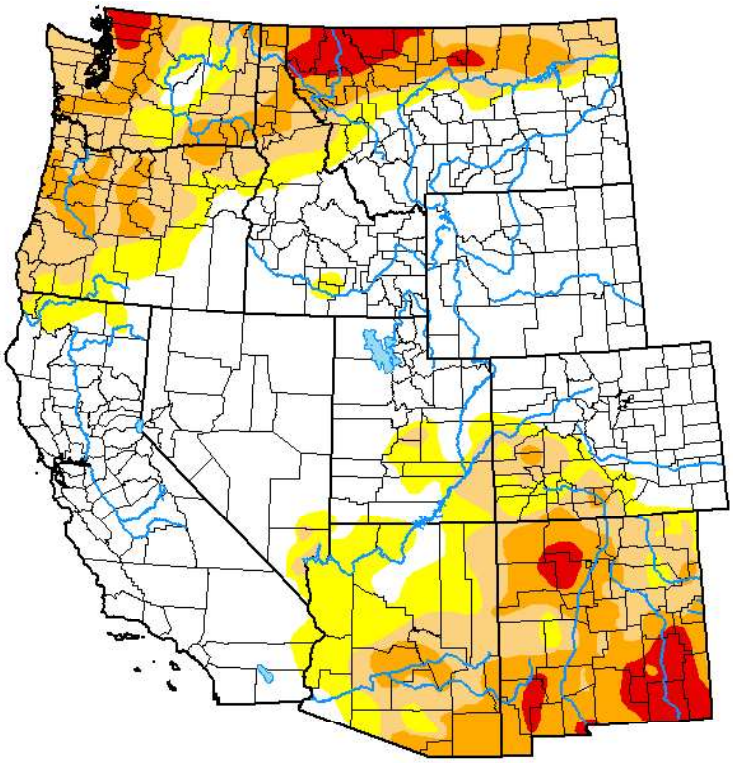





Upper Colorado Basin
Legend
50
75
100
125
150
% of Median Precipitation or % Median Snow Water Equivalent
WYOMING
Upper Green
120% N/A%
Fontenelle
91% capacity
Flaming Gorge
90% capacity
White-Yampa
116% N/A%
Lower Green
138% N/A%
Colorado Headwaters
107% N/A%
Upper Colorado
118% N/A%
Gunnison
117% N/A%
Blue Mesa
83% capacity
Morrow Point
95% capacity
Crystal
92% capacity
Dirty Devil
127% N/A%
Lower San Juan
135% N/A%
Dolores
123% N/A%
Lake Powell
38% capacity
Navajo
72% capacity
Upper San Juan
109% N/A%
Cheyenne
Salt Lake City
Ft. Collins
Boulder
Denver
Colorado Springs
Pueblo
UTAH
Kings Pk. 4123m
Mt. Elbert 4402m
Mount Peale 3877m
Truchas Pk. 3993m
Fishers Peak
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
50 km
50 mi
Unavailable
Leaflet | Map tiles by Stamen Design, under CC BY 3.0. Data by © OpenStreetMap, under CC BY SA.

USDA United States Drought Monitor Map

U.S. Drought Monitor
West



September 5, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 7, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	55.53	44.47	31.67	16.18	3.57	0.00
Last Week *08-29-2023*	54.48	45.52	30.75	13.31	2.92	0.00
3 Months Ago *06-06-2023*	54.88	45.12	15.92	2.72	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *01-03-2023*	12.08	87.92	62.42	38.84	12.41	0.27
Start of Water Year *09-27-2022*	3.89	96.11	73.90	47.71	19.37	2.63
One Year Ago *09-06-2022*	11.81	88.19	68.39	49.06	18.91	2.63

Intensity:

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

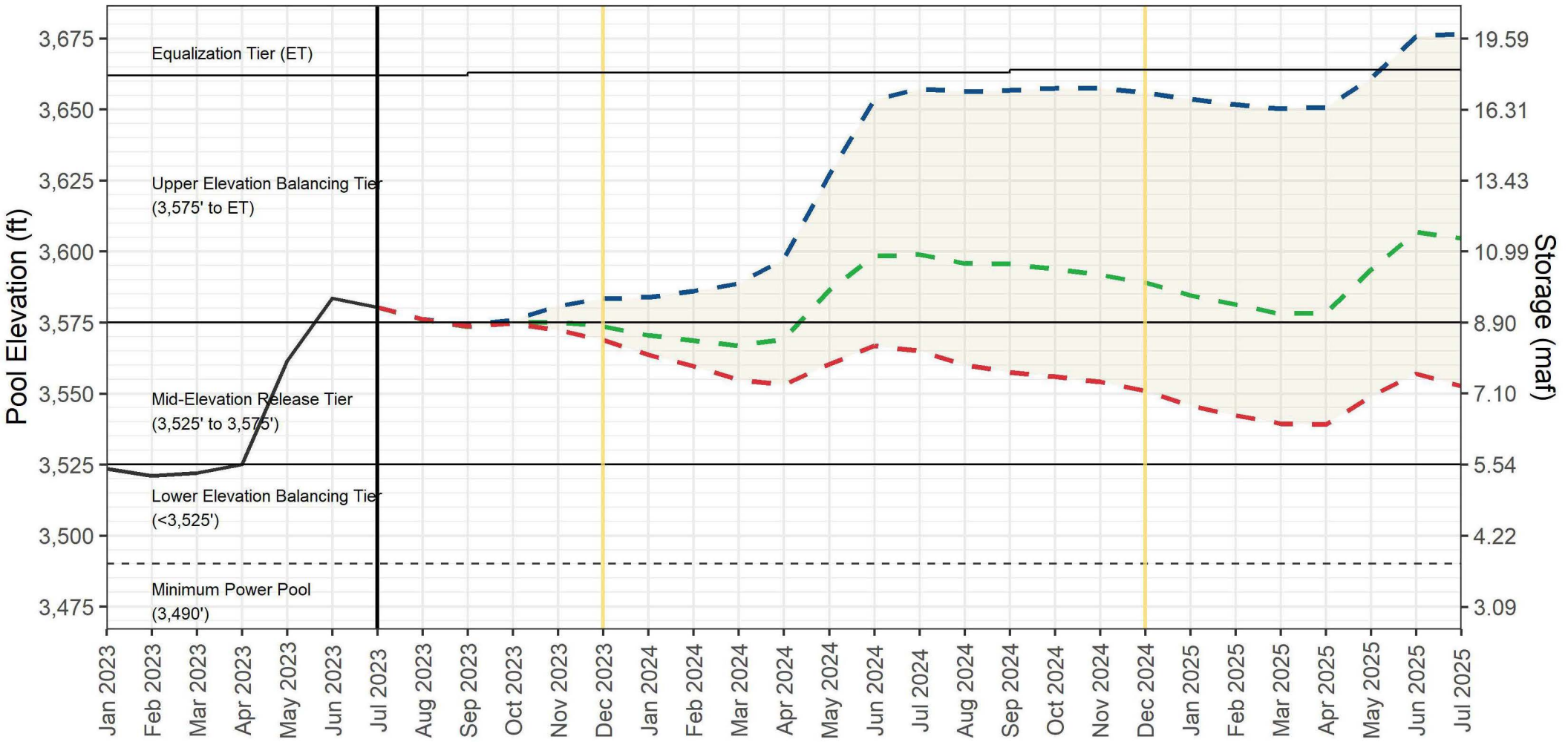
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations

Projections from August 2023 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



Historical Elevations

August 2023 Probable Maximum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 8.87 in WY 2023 and 7.48 in WY 2024

August 2023 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 8.86 in WY 2023 and 7.48 in WY 2024

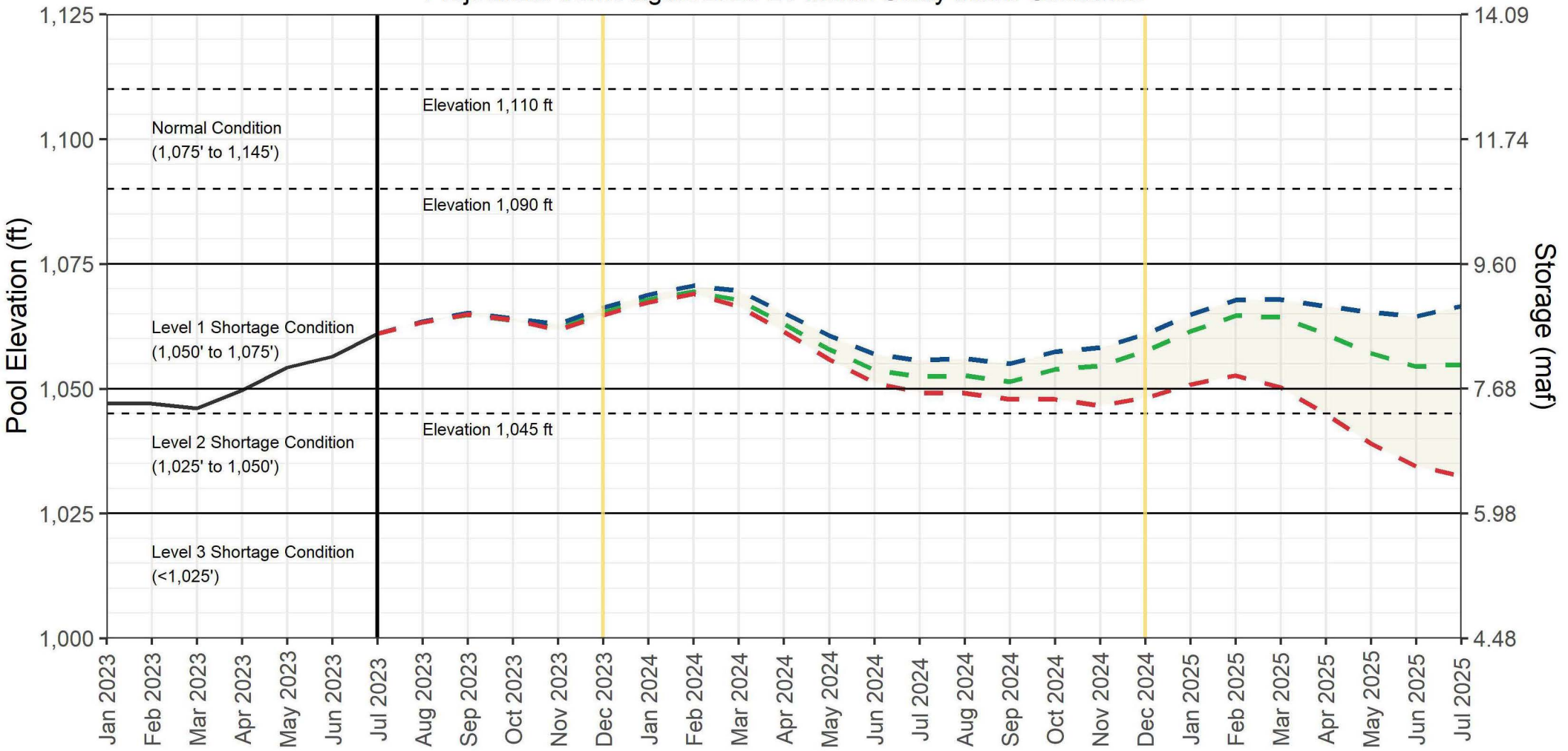
August 2023 Probable Minimum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 8.86 in WY 2023 and 7.48 in WY 2024

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

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations

Projections from August 2023 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



Historical Elevations

August 2023 Probable Maximum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 8.87 in WY 2023 and 7.48 in WY 2024

August 2023 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 8.86 in WY 2023 and 7.48 in WY 2024

August 2023 Probable Minimum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 8.86 in WY 2023 and 7.48 in WY 2024

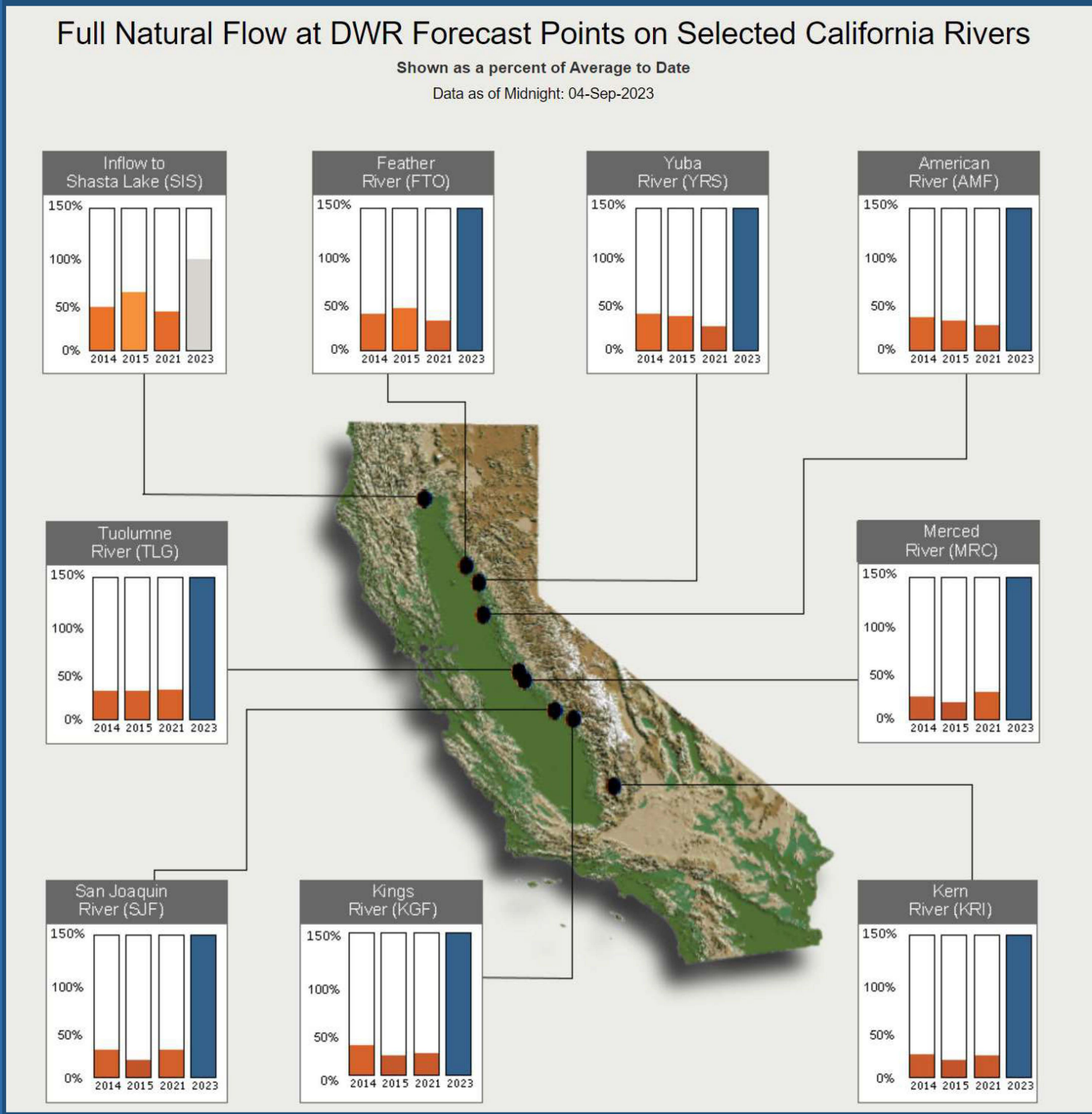
The Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) is available online at https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/finaldocs.html.

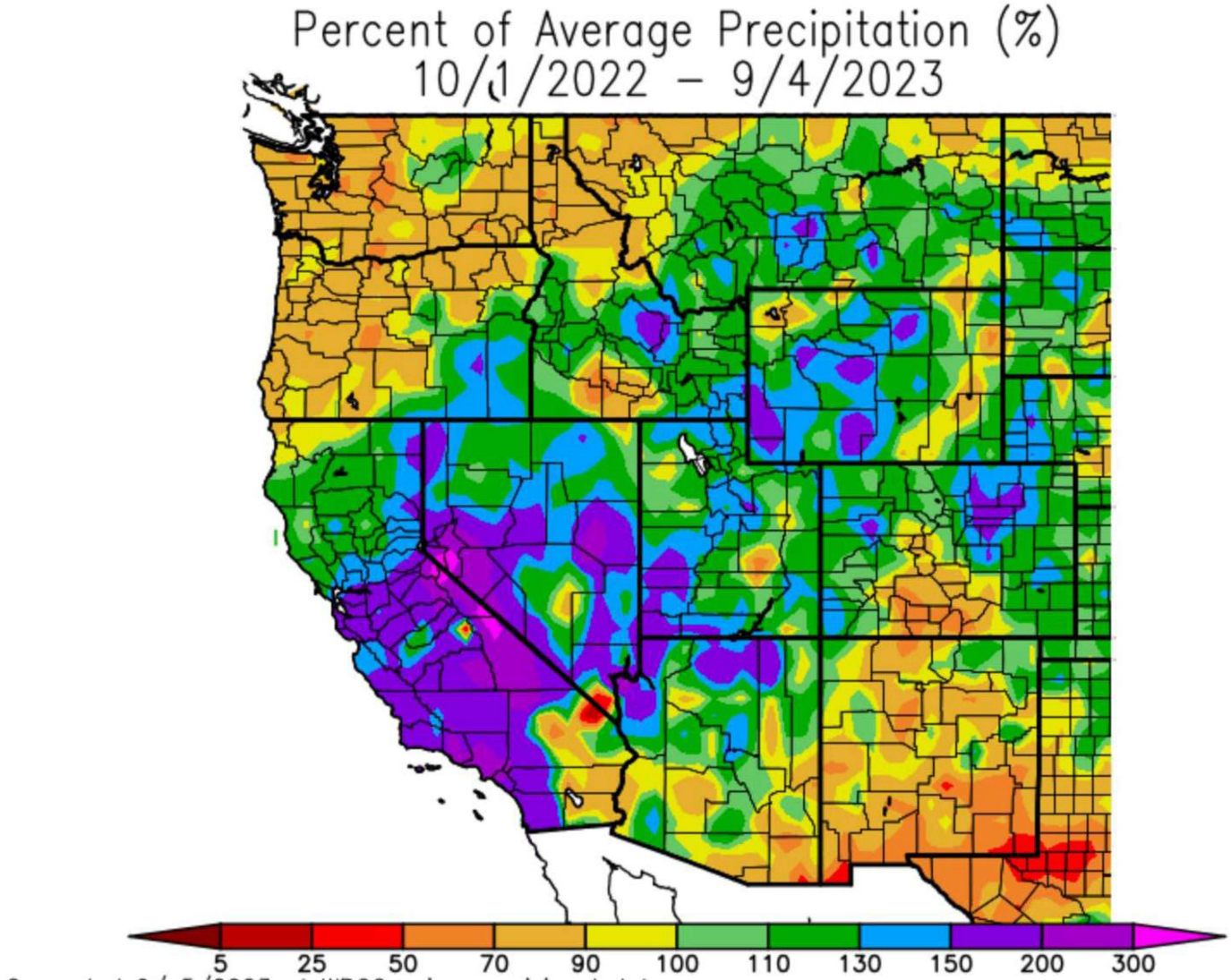
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

CA Current Conditions

- Statewide precipitation: 143% of average for this date
- Water-year to date: 33.3”
- Statewide reservoir storage: 130% of average for this date
- Estimated total statewide reservoir storage: 29.5 MAF

As of 9/5/2023



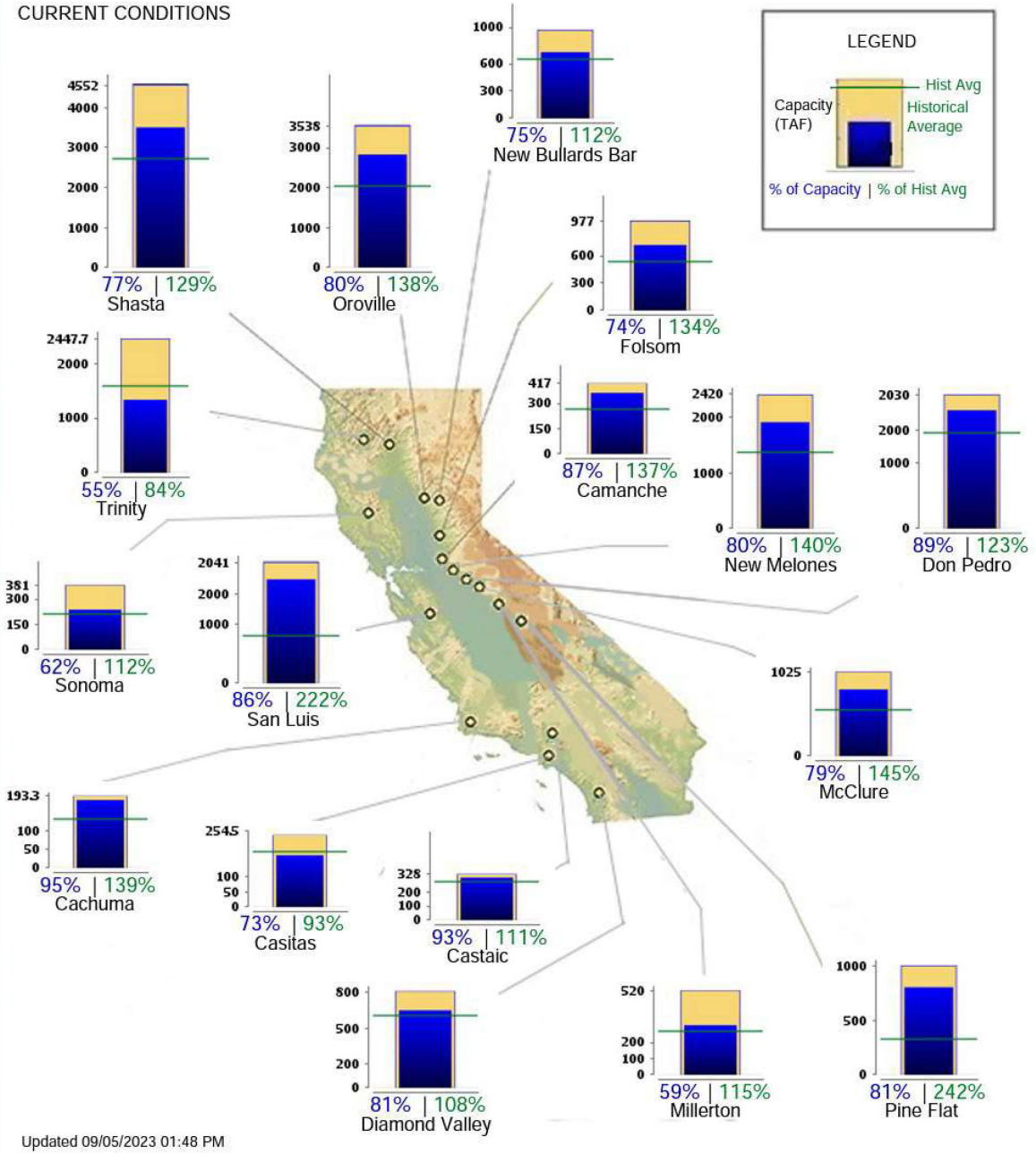

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2022 – 9/4/2023
5
25
50
70
90
100
110
130
150
200
300
Generated 9/ 5/2023 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

Midnight - September 4, 2023

CURRENT CONDITIONS



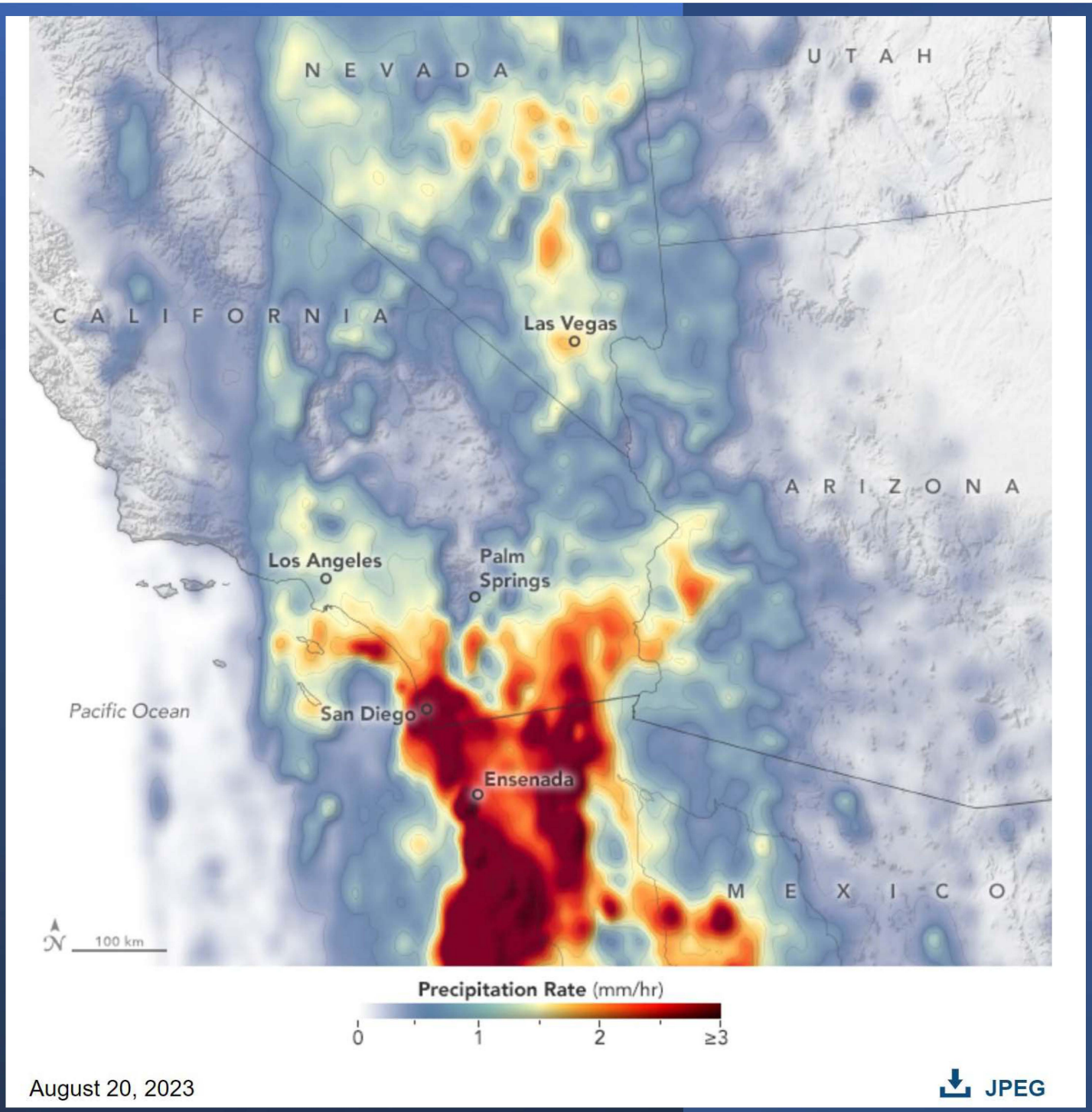
Updated 09/05/2023 01:48 PM

Tropical Storm Hilary 8/20/23

Total precipitation:

Los Angeles: 2.5”
San Diego: 1.8”
Palm Desert: 3.82”
Palm Springs: 3.23”
Mt. San Jacinto: 11.74”

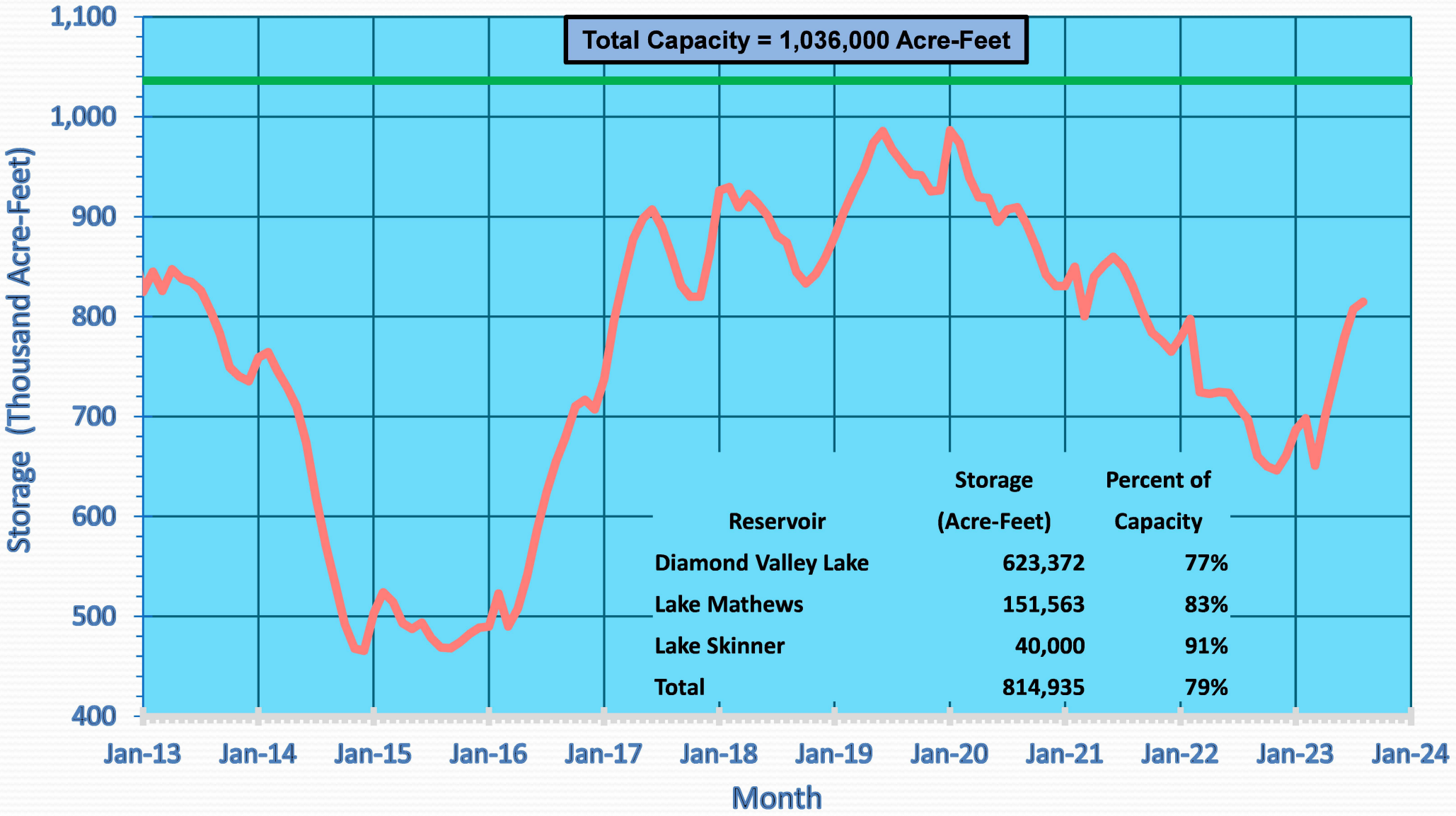
Source: National Weather Service



https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/

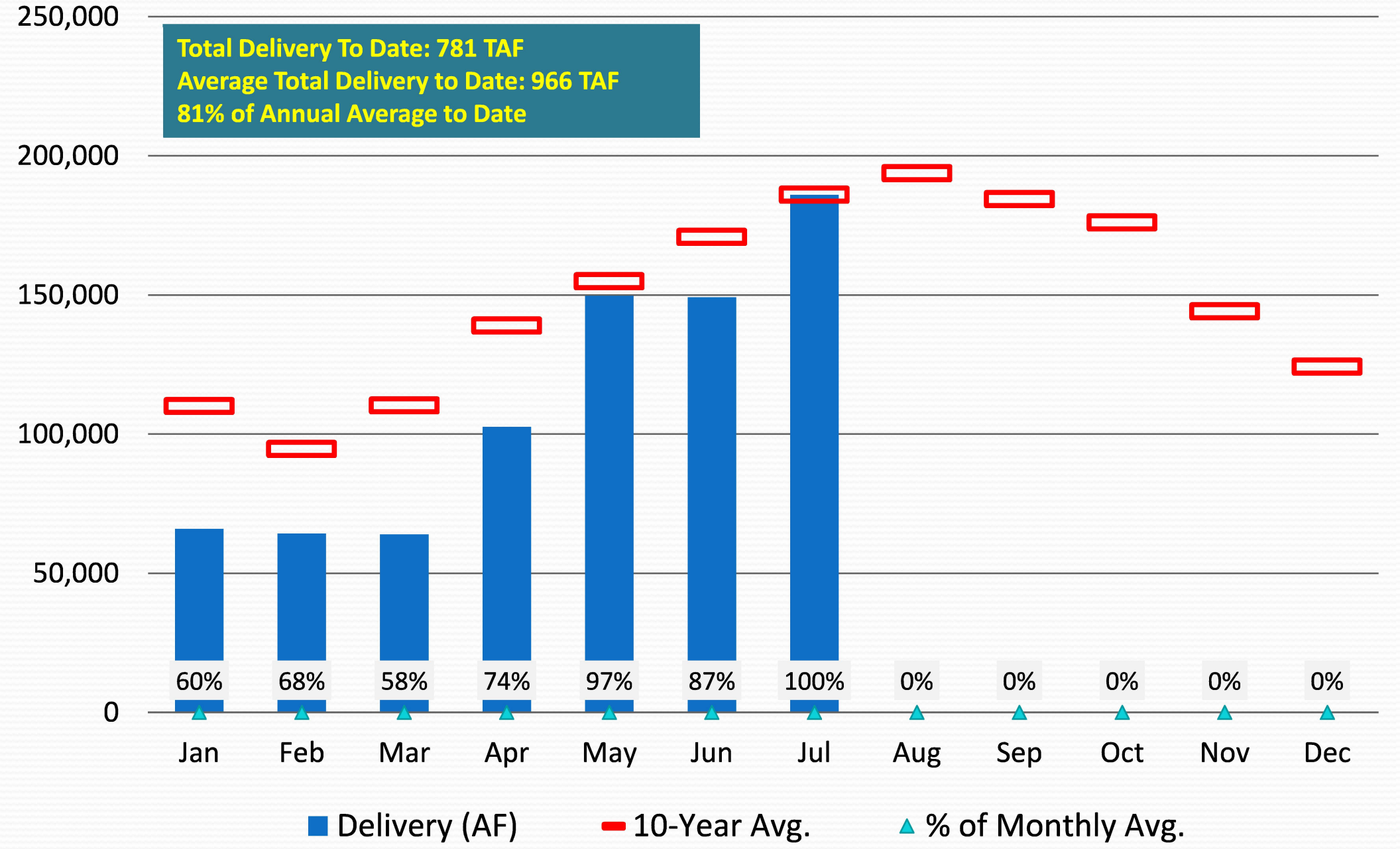
MWD's Combined Reservoir Storage as of September 1, 2023

Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake



Reservoir	Storage (Acre-Feet)	Percent of Capacity
Diamond Valley Lake	623,372	77%
Lake Mathews	151,563	83%
Lake Skinner	40,000	91%
Total	814,935	79%

2023 Water Deliveries to Agencies (AF)



News Releases

Current IID News

Imperial Irrigation District Confirms Jamie Asbury as New General Manager

The Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday for Jamie Asbury, current IID Energy Department Manager, to serve as the next General Manager of the nation's largest irrigation district and third-largest public power provider in California.

Post Date: 08/15/2023

EL CENTRO, CA – The Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday for Jamie Asbury, current IID Energy Department Manager, to serve as the next General Manager of the nation's largest irrigation district and third-largest public power provider in California.

After an extensive recruitment process, which began in January following the announcement of then General Manager Henry Martinez's intent to retire, the board selected Asbury to lead the IID. In doing so, she becomes the first woman in the district's 112-year history to lead the district.

"We are proud to select Ms. Asbury to lead the district into a new day," said Board President Alex Cardenas. "Her proven track record of continued successful leadership throughout her career at IID will carry forward in leading major forward-thinking initiatives at the regional, national, and binational levels and confronting critical upcoming water and power challenges successfully."

As Energy Department Manager, Asbury directed the essential functions of the department, overseeing administration, regulatory policy, customer programs, operations, energy maintenance, generation and

more to meet the district's strategic plan and the department's goals and objectives. She has served IID since 2007, holding a number of positions within the Energy Department, General Counsel's Office, and General Services Department.

During her time at the district she served as contract administration specialist on the All-American Canal Lining Project; was IID's transactional team leader in the $80 million acquisition of the 20-megawatt SunPeak Solar facility; negotiated and finalized contracts supporting the upgrade of IID's S-Line 230kV transmission infrastructure, securing a third-party contribution of $40 million based upon a favorable litigation settlement; conducted an open season process that resulted in the Path 42 Upgrade, a Western Electricity Coordinating Council rated path, from 600 megawatts to 1,455 megawatts; and since 2012, facilitated interconnection of more than 500 megawatts of renewable energy generation through IID's tariff process.

A member of the California State Bar, since March 2020, Asbury also served IID as Associate Counsel on energy issues, advising management, staff and a citizen advisory committee on regulatory, legislative, transmission planning and operations, wholesale markets, retail service and complex transactional matters. She has also been actively engaged in stakeholder advocacy at the state and federal levels, including the California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) and served as a key negotiator for all energy-related contracts and purchase/sale transactions.

"IID is an established and driving force in both the energy and water sectors on regional and national levels and it has a tremendous responsibility to serve the public good," Asbury said. "I am excited and humbled by the opportunity to lead this organization at such an important time in its history and sincerely appreciate the board's confidence that we can achieve IID's goals."

In her new role, Asbury will be responsible for leading IID's daily and long-term operations, implementing the policies and strategic direction of the Board of Directors, and working with federal, state, regional and local officials to carry out IID's mission to provide water and power to communities it serves across the Imperial and Coachella Valleys of Southern California.

Return to full list >>

Colorado River Basin States Representatives of
Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Camille Touton
Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Sent via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The undersigned Governors' Representatives of the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming (collectively, the Basin States) respectfully submit the following comments in response to the Bureau of Reclamation's *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*, Fed. Reg. Vol. 88, No. 116, p. 39455 (June 16, 2023). We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments to be considered in the upcoming environmental impact statement for post-2026 operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (EIS or Post-2026 EIS).

The Basin States have a unique interest in the management of the Colorado River. Reclamation's engagement with the Basin States will therefore be essential to ensure the effectiveness of post-2026 operations. As parties and beneficiaries to the interstate compacts, treaties, laws, and supreme court decrees that govern the Colorado River, the Basin States have significant interests in protecting the water supplies of the forty million people who rely on the Colorado River. Recognizing the unique status of the Basin States, the Secretary of the Interior ("Secretary") must consult with the Governors' Representatives from each Basin State and collaborate on the development of alternatives for the Post-2026 EIS at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The Secretary's options for post-2026 operations will be significantly limited without the Basin States' participation. The Basin States are committed to working with Reclamation through the NEPA process to develop the new guidelines for the Post-2026 EIS. In addition, the Basin States anticipate working together to develop an alternative for consideration and evaluation, as the States did for the NEPA process for the 2007 Guidelines.

Operational experience illustrates that the 2007 Guidelines and the 2019 Drought Contingency Plans are insufficient to properly manage Lakes Powell and Mead. Extended periods of dry hydrology and depleted reservoir conditions have highlighted the inadequacy of these measures to adapt to worsening hydrology.

The unprecedented challenges we face require greater collaboration to achieve sustainable solutions. We understand that the success of future operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead depends on working closely with Colorado River Basin Tribes, water users, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Collaboration with Mexico is also critical. This should occur through a separate process involving the International Boundary and Water Commission. We expect that process to occur simultaneously with the Post-2026 EIS. Additionally, the active and direct participation of the Basin States in formal meetings with Mexico is essential.

By providing these comments, we do not waive any rights, including any claims or defenses, we may have or that may accrue under any existing federal or state law or administrative rule, regulation, or guideline. Any failure by the undersigned to address specific aspects of the NOI, shall not be construed as an endorsement or an admission with respect to any factual or legal issue for the purposes of any future legal, administrative, or other proceeding. Moreover, we reserve the right to provide further comments and engage with Reclamation as it proceeds with subsequent phases of the NEPA process.

We look forward to continuing our work to protect the Colorado River system now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Thomas Buschatzke
Governor's Representative
State of Arizona

Rebecca Mitchell
Governor's Representative
State of Colorado

J.B. Hamby
Governor's Representative
State of California

John J. Entsminger
Governor's Representative
State of Nevada

Estevan Lopez
Governor's Representative
State of New Mexico

Gene Shawcroft
Governor's Representative
State of Utah

Brandon Gebhart
Governor's Representative
State of Wyoming

cc: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation via Electronic Mail - crbpost2026@usbr.gov

The Colorado River Basin States Representatives of
Arizona, California, and Nevada

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Camille Touton
Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Sent via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The undersigned Governors' Representatives of the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada (collectively, the Lower Division States) respectfully submit the following comments in response to the Bureau of Reclamation's *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*, Fed. Reg. Vol. 88, No. 116, p. 39455 (June 16, 2023). We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on the scope of issues that should be considered in the upcoming environmental impact statement for post-2026 operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (EIS or Post-2026 EIS).

The Lower Division States have a unique interest in the management of the Colorado River based on the Compact, laws and agreements that have provided the framework for management of the Colorado River System for over a century. In particular, the past decades show that collaboration among the Secretary, the Basin States, Mexico, the Tribes, water users and NGOs can result in better management of the System and avoid the protracted water supply uncertainty and other risks associated with litigation. Engagement of the Lower Division States in the development of the Post-2026 EIS will be essential to ensure the effectiveness of the new guidelines. The Lower Division States are committed to working with Reclamation throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and anticipate developing a Basin States alternative for consideration and evaluation for Post-2026 Operations, as we did in the NEPA process for the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

As acknowledged in the June 16, 2023 notice in the Federal Register, the Colorado River Basin is suffering from a prolonged period of drought and the period from 2000 through the present is estimated to be the second driest period of record. The 2007 Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Guidelines) were intended to reduce the risks to Colorado River water users associated with the early years of the drought and the substantial reduction in storage on the Colorado River System. However, as the drought conditions continued, it became clear that additional responsive actions were needed to complement the 2007 Guidelines.

Since adoption of the 2007 Guidelines, the Lower Division States and water users have continued to take action to reduce demands and manage Lake Mead reservoir elevations. By developing partnerships and investing billions of dollars, Lower Division States and waters users conserved and contributed an additional 5.1 million acre-feet of water in Lake Mead through various activities including Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS), system conservation, partnerships with Mexico, and domestic programs. Together these actions have raised the elevation of Lake Mead by 72 feet. The Lower Division States also worked cooperatively with other river partners including the Upper Division States of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah, Reclamation, Mexico, Tribes, and NGOs. Those efforts include the Lower Basin Memorandum of Understanding, the Pilot System Conservation Program, the 500+ plan, projects enabled under Minute 319 and 323 to the Mexican Treaty, and system efficiency projects. The releases from Lake Mead in 2023 are anticipated to be only about 7.7 million acre-feet (maf), the lowest on record, demonstrating the success of the Lower Division States and water user efforts to reduce demands.

The Basin States and the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) agreed to the federally authorized 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) to advance these efforts. More recently, in 2022, the Department of the Interior, after consultation with the Basin States and Tribes in the Colorado River Basin, took unprecedented emergency action to protect critical elevation and infrastructure in Lake Powell. As a result of these efforts, Lake Mead has remained above critical reservoir elevations. In this context, the Lower Division States offer the following comments:

I. Purpose and Need

The Post-2026 EIS must seek to provide reliability and water-supply certainty to the 40 million people who rely on the Colorado River for their lives and livelihoods. Operations of the two reservoirs must be consistent with the Law of the River and should respond to a wide range of hydrologies, storage conditions, and related elements in the Colorado River System, incorporating effective, flexible mechanisms to protect storage and critical elevations at Lakes Powell and Mead while providing predictable operations on which water users can rely. Most significantly, the Post-2026 operations should seek to address the imbalance between supply and demand on the Colorado River System in order to assure stability into the future.

II. Scope of Post-2026 EIS

As described above, the scope of the Post-2026 EIS should address operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, particularly water releases, water deliveries, and conservation associated with those two reservoirs. These concerns will be substantial enough that the scope must be limited if we are to succeed. In particular, the Post-2026 EIS should not revisit the Long-Term Experimental Management Plan or records of decisions for Upper Basin reservoirs above Lake Powell. Reconsultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Multi-Species Conservation Program in the Lower Basin must occur simultaneously with the Post-2026 EIS process.

The Lower Division States believe the Law of the River must be the foundation for the Post-2026 Operations. The existing framework also allows for collaboration and consensus which

helps avoid the uncertain outcomes that result from litigation. The Post-2026 EIS must analyze whether alternatives are consistent with the 1922 Colorado River Compact non-depletion obligations and delivery obligations to Mexico. Alternatives should include actions necessary to ensure compliance with such obligations.

It should also incorporate the best available science, incorporating a broad but plausible range of hydrology to address the potential impacts of climate change and to establish guidelines for healthy management of the Colorado River System. Such a robust analysis will be necessary to withstand legal scrutiny. The management of Lake Powell and Lake Mead may depend on reservoir elevations, hydrologic projections, system contents and other factors throughout the Basin. The alternatives considered must incorporate the flexibility and adaptive management necessary to respond to changing conditions while ensuring sufficient certainty for the Basin States and Colorado River water users to manage water supplies.

In particular, the alternatives considered in the Post-2026 EIS should include the following components:

A. Manage Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations to reduce the risk of reaching critical elevations in either reservoir.

The Post-2026 operations must include predictable and easily understood criteria for releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. At the same time, the criteria should also include provisions for adaptation to unexpected changes in hydrology. Striking a balance will be critical to reducing the risk of reaching critical elevations in the two reservoirs while providing water users with the certainty necessary to manage water supplies throughout the term of the Post-2026 operations. We must continually improve our modeling framework by incorporating updated science regarding future inflows and demand projections in both the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin. Uncertainty about Upper Division water use makes it highly challenging to estimate depletions and flows and to quantify unmet demands. Upper Division States' diversions, return flows and depletions of Colorado River water must be accounted for to provide a foundational basis for the management of the contents in the Colorado River System. To help reduce the conflicts between the Upper Basin and Lower Basin regarding actions that would impact coordinated reservoir operation since the 2007 Guidelines were adopted, Reclamation should evaluate use of new triggers for releases other than Lake Mead and Lake Powell elevations, such as total system contents. Alternatives should also consider the use of storage in the Colorado River System to support critical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Finally, in a parallel process with the Post-2026 EIS, Reclamation should evaluate potential improvements at Glen Canyon Dam that could enhance its operational capacity and ensure that water can safely pass through the dam at low elevations.

B. Address the existing imbalance between available water supplies and demands in the Colorado River Basin.

The overallocation of water supplies has combined with the multi-decadal drought and other effects of climate change to drastically reduce storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. In the Upper Basin, variable hydrology impacts water availability each year on a source-by-source basis. Despite voluntary actions involving significant financial investments to reduce demands over the

last twenty years, the Lower Basin is now implementing significant mandatory supply reductions. The Post-2026 EIS must identify the necessary actions to balance the available water supplies and the uses that rely on the Colorado River. While we have collaborated on past interim measures that appeared bold in their time, we are now called upon to ensure that we use no more than is available to ensure that the Colorado River can continue to serve our needs long into the future.

C. Develop storage and conservation programs that maximize voluntary reductions in water use throughout the Basin, including a framework for potential augmentation of Colorado River water supplies.

The Post-2026 EIS should evaluate mechanisms, such as ICS, for voluntary conservation and storage to provide individual contractors and entitlement holders with water supply flexibility and the ability to manage annual demand variability, as well as to protect the system as a whole. While we have voluntarily conserved water through the development of ICS, we must broadly re-evaluate all parameters of the program to ensure that it properly incentivizes conservation while avoiding negative impacts to other water users. Additionally, we have had success with voluntary conservation efforts for the benefit of the system, including the historical volumes proposed in the Lower Basin Plan. We must identify programs that can incentivize voluntary conservation and maximize water efficiencies and technologies across all sectors throughout the Basin. To the extent that financial incentives are included, we must identify a durable funding source. Similarly, the Post-2026 EIS should evaluate various voluntary conservation activities and conserved water volumes within the Upper Division States, together with storage of such water in Lake Powell and recovery when appropriate.

We have long known that in an overallocated system, the surest way to balance limited water supplies with demands is to increase the available supplies. The Post-2026 operations should include a framework with incentives for augmenting Colorado River supplies and implementing exchanges to distribute those augmented supplies efficiently through the system, particularly within the Lower Basin. Augmentation could be developed through binational programs like desalination or through regional programs within the United States. These ideas will not come to fruition without the necessary framework for implementation on the Colorado River.

D. Enhance predictability of mandatory reductions.

Without question, Colorado River users will face mandatory reductions to their water supplies in light of the long-term drought, other effects of climate change, and reservoir elevations. The Post-2026 EIS should define mandatory reductions and evaluate ways to reduce risk associated with those mandatory reductions under variable hydrology. All water users will benefit from additional certainty regarding when reductions will be determined and how those reductions will be distributed, including developing the criteria for operations necessary to protect critical elevations while allowing water users sufficient time to plan for and manage reductions.

E. Surplus Criteria

Although the likelihood of surplus conditions in the Lower Basin is minimal in the future, the Post-2026 EIS should consider alternatives that include criteria for distributing surplus in the Lower Basin.

III. Additional Issues Regarding Alternatives

As mentioned previously, the Basin States intend to develop a consensus alternative for consideration, as we did during the development of the 2007 Guidelines. However, there are outstanding questions as to what will constitute the "No Action Alternative" for purposes of the Post-2026 EIS. In particular, certain provisions of the 2007 Guidelines and DCP related to ICS extend beyond 2026 and should be included in the No Action Alternative. We request that you consult the Basin States for input on the development of the No Action Alternative.

Additionally, alternatives analyzed during the pending NEPA process regarding Near-Term Colorado River Operations should not inform the Post-2026 EIS alternatives. Rather, alternative operational plans for Post-2026 should be informed by the current scoping process and other input from stakeholders during the public process, as well as operating experience under the 2007 Guidelines and the DCP. The Basin States intend to develop an alternative for consideration in the Post-2026 EIS, and will seek to gain consensus support from Tribes in the Colorado River Basin and other stakeholders, as well.

IV. Term

The Post-2026 EIS must evaluate a term that is sufficient to enable investments in new technologies and augmentation programs. However, the term must also be limited to allow water managers to evaluate and respond to climate change, the operational experience gained from implementation of new operations and programs, and other changing circumstances.

V. Engagement

As we have stated before, the unprecedented challenges we face require greater inclusivity and collaboration to achieve lasting solutions. The Lower Division States understand that the success of future operations of the Colorado River system depends on working with water users and others invested in the outcomes of effective Post-2026 operations.

We look forward to continued collaboration with Colorado River Basin Tribes. Successful management of the Colorado River will depend on the support and participation of the Tribes.

Collaboration with Mexico is critical to charting the course of Colorado River through Post-2026 operations. While we recognize that any actions involving deliveries to Mexico will be determined through a separate process involving the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), we expect that process to occur simultaneously and the Post-2026 EIS should consider and evaluate potential future actions to ensure environmental compliance. Additionally, the active and direct participation of the Basin States' representatives in formal meetings with Mexico has also been essential to the development and implementation of Minute Nos. 317, 318, 319, and 323. The direct engagement between the States, the U.S. (including both Interior and the IBWC) and Mexico has consistently demonstrated the path to success.

The Lower Division States also understand the importance of engagement with other stakeholders, including NGOs, interested in the Colorado River. Collaboration and cooperation

among all water users and stakeholders will be essential to achieve success, particularly if Congressional authorization is required.

VI. Reservation of Rights

By providing these comments, we do not waive any rights, including any claims or defenses, we may have or that may accrue under any existing federal or state law or administrative rule, regulation, or guideline. Any failure by the undersigned to address specific aspects of the NOI, shall not be construed as an endorsement or an admission with respect to any factual or legal issue for the purposes of any future legal, administrative, or other proceeding. Moreover, we reserve the right to provide further comments and engage with Reclamation as it proceeds with subsequent phases of the NEPA process.

VII. Conclusion

Finally, we reiterate the unique role that the Basin States play in management of the Colorado River. We look forward to continuing our work with Reclamation and Interior, the Tribes, Mexico, the Upper Division States and other stakeholders as we seek to protect the Colorado River system now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Thomas Buschatzke
Governor's Representative
State of Arizona

J.B. Hamby
Governor's Representative
State of California

John J. Entsminger
Governor's Representative
State of Nevada

cc: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation via Electronic Mail – crbpost2026@usbr.gov

UPPER COLORADO
RIVER COMMISSION
50 S. 600 E. Ste #100 • Salt Lake City, UT 84102 • 801-531-1150 • www.ucrcommission.com

August 15, 2023

Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton
Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Post-2026 (Mail Stop 84-55000)
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225
crbpost2026@usbr.gov

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The undersigned Governors' Representatives of the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming (the "Upper Division States"), acting through the Upper Colorado River Commission ("UCRC"), respectfully submit the following comments in response to the Bureau of Reclamation's ("Reclamation") *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* ("NOI"), 88 FR 39455 (June 16, 2023). We appreciate your consideration of our comments, which are in addition to the comment letter we are providing jointly with the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada (the "Lower Division States").

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Reclamation has formally initiated an environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") with the goal of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for the development of new operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead beyond 2026. The new operational guidelines and strategies to be selected through this EIS will replace the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead ("2007 Guidelines") which expire in 2026. The Upper Division States support the development of new operational guidelines and strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead ("Post-2026 Operations") to replace the 2007 Guidelines.

Because the Basin States have a unique interest in the management of the Colorado River, Reclamation's engagement with all seven states will be essential to ensure the effectiveness of Post-2026 Operations. This includes the Upper Division States, acting through the UCRC, and the Lower Division States. All seven Basin States have significant interests in protecting the water supplies of the millions of people who rely on the Colorado River. Recognizing the unique status of the States, the Secretary of the Interior ("Secretary") must consult with the Governors'

Representatives from each Basin State and collaborate on the development of alternatives for Post-2026 Operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Options for Post-2026 Operations will be significantly limited without the Basin States' participation. The Upper Division States are committed to working with Reclamation, including through this NEPA process, to develop the new guidelines for Post-2026 Operations. In addition, the Upper Division States anticipate working with the Lower Division States to develop an alternative for consideration and evaluation, as the Basin States did for the NEPA process for the 2007 Guidelines.

II. UPPER BASIN PRIORITIES

The Post-2026 Operations must:

1. Address the imbalance between available supply and demand. This will require permanent Lower Basin reductions under most if not all operating conditions. One way to achieve these reductions would be to address evaporation and system losses in the Lower Basin, which are currently estimated at 1.2 million acre-feet to 1.5 million acre-feet annually.

2. Recognize that the Upper Basin is naturally limited by actual hydrology and that Upper Basin water users experience shortages, which include uncompensated administrative regulation, every year.

3. Not interfere with the rights of any state to administer and regulate water within its boundaries.

4. Include durable, effective, and flexible mechanisms to protect storage and critical elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead and to rebuild depleted storage at both reservoirs.

5. Ensure that operations cannot favor one basin over the other.

6. Be more responsive to actual hydrology at Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

III. PURPOSE AND NEED

The 2007 Guidelines remain in effect through December 31, 2025, (through preparation of the 2026 Annual Operating Plan). In order to have a new management system in place by the time the 2007 Guidelines expire, the Secretary has directed Reclamation to develop new guidelines for Post-2026 Operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Over 15 years of operational experience illustrate that the 2007 Guidelines are insufficient to properly manage Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Extended periods of dry hydrology and depleted reservoir conditions have highlighted the inadequacy of the 2007 Guidelines to adapt to worsening hydrology and increased uses. Storage releases under the 2007 Guidelines do not appropriately respond to actual hydrologic conditions. Under the 2007 Guidelines, shortages in the Lower Basin are

triggered at elevations when storage is already significantly depleted. Lower Basin shortages under the 2007 Guidelines are also insufficient in magnitude to protect critical elevations at Lake Mead, which has induced balancing releases from Lake Powell. These inadequate operations, exposed by numerous years of dry hydrology, have brought the system to the brink of crisis. Operating the system in this manner is not sustainable.

In order to assure stability into the future, the Post-2026 Operations must address the imbalance between available supply and demand, considering increased hydrologic variability exacerbated by climate change. The Colorado River supports multiple uses of water. To protect these varied water uses, Reclamation must develop Post-2026 Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead that provide the greatest possible degree of operational certainty for water users and managers while providing sufficient flexibility to respond to changing conditions.

The Law of the River must be the foundation for the Post-2026 Operations, anchored by the 1922 Colorado River Compact and the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact ("Compacts") together with the 1944 Treaty with Mexico.

IV. SCOPE OF THE NEPA PROCESS

The scope of the NEPA process for the Post-2026 Operations should be narrow. The NOI states that new guidelines for Post-2026 Operations will focus on the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. As such, Post-2026 Operations should focus only on those topics necessary to sustainably manage water supplies at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Post-2026 Operations cannot modify operations at the other Initial Units built under the Colorado River Storage Project Act and cannot modify the respective records of decision that govern each of these reservoirs.

Other issues, such as unresolved Tribal water rights, endangered species, and other environmental issues and concerns, should be addressed through other established programs, processes, and frameworks.

The Post-2026 Operations must incorporate the best available science and account for an appropriately wide range of hydrologic conditions, from the very dry to the very wet. While forecasting may be necessary in some situations, the Post-2026 Operations must primarily focus on responding to actual conditions and rebuilding and protecting storage at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. They must also include accurate, transparent, and timely accounting of depletions.

The Post-2026 Operations must be interim in duration. This will allow Reclamation and the Basin States to gain valuable operating experience under operations that respond to actual hydrology and rebuild and protect storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. An interim period would also improve the basis for making additional future operational decisions, whether during the new interim period or thereafter. Finally, an interim period would allow for opportunities to continue to adapt to climate change and other unforeseen circumstances.

V. THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE CANNOT EXTEND THE 2007 GUIDELINES OR THE 2019 DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS ("DCPs")

The NOI recognizes that the 2007 Guidelines, the DCPs, and other reservoir and water management agreements and decisional documents are scheduled to expire at the end of 2025. Amending these documents and agreements to extend their current expiration dates would require federal action. Therefore, the No Action alternative cannot include the extension of the 2007 Guidelines or the DCPs.

The No Action Alternative must acknowledge that upon expiration of the 2007 Guidelines, the operating criteria for Lake Powell and Lake Mead will revert to the long-range operating criteria used to model baseline conditions in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Interim Surplus Guidelines dated December 2000. However, details regarding implementation of the long-range operating criteria are unclear. We request that the Secretary consult the Basin States for input on the development of the No Action alternative.

VI. ENGAGEMENT

The success of new guidelines for Post-2026 Operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead will depend on the support and participation of the Colorado River Basin Tribes. The Upper Division States, acting through the UCRC, will continue to use interstate and intrastate efforts to collaborate with the Tribes and look forward to their participation in EIS process.

The Upper Division States will also continue to engage with water users, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders that are interested in the Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

The NOI recognizes that Minute 323 between the United States and Mexico is scheduled to expire at the end of 2025. The United States, Mexico, and the Basin States must work through the appropriate binational process. This binational process will be separate from the development of the Post-2026 Operations; however, both processes should take place simultaneously.

VII. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The Upper Division States expressly reserve their rights under applicable law, including, but not limited to, the Law of the River. Nothing in this letter is intended to be, nor shall be construed to interpret, diminish, or modify the rights of the Upper Division States or the UCRC under federal or state law or administrative rule, regulation, or guideline. This submittal is not intended to be, and shall not be construed in any way as, a waiver of any such rights. Moreover, we reserve the right to provide further comments, consult with the Secretary, take any other necessary steps, and engage with Reclamation as it proceeds with subsequent phases of the Post-2026 Operations NEPA process.

VIII. CONCLUSION

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. We are committed to working with Reclamation to develop and analyze alternatives in this NEPA process. We urge Reclamation to include the elements described in these comments in its development of the No Action and action alternatives.

We will continue to work together and in cooperation with the federal government, the Lower Division States, Tribes, water users, non-governmental organizations, and other Colorado River stakeholders to reach consensus on how best to share the burden of protecting Lake Powell and Lake Mead, from which we all derive so many benefits.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Mitchell
Governor's Representative
State of Colorado

Estevan Lopez
Governor's Representative
State of New Mexico

Gene Shawcroft
Governor's Representative
State of Utah

Brandon Gebhart
Governor's Representative
State of Wyoming