



May 2, 2024

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

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

### **Board Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
Time: **10:00 AM**  
Place: Training Rooms 126 & 127  
Steve Robbins Administration Building  
Coachella Valley Water District  
75515 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

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](mailto:crb@crb.ca.gov) and will be accepted up until 5:00 p.m. on May 13, 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.

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](mailto: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](http://www.crb.ca.gov).

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



## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 — 10:00 AM**

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

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Limited to 5 minutes.)

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

1. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of the March 13, 2024 board meeting (**Action**)
2. Colorado River Board of California Organizational Overview (**Information**)
  - a. CRB Overview Presentation
  - b. Board/Agency Staff Workshop: Priorities and Work Plan
3. Presentation of Draft Colorado River Board of California FY 2024-2025 Budget (**Information**)
4. FY 2023-2024 Accomplishments Report and FY 2024-2025 Planned Activities Report (**Information**)

#### **REPORTS**

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



## 10. Chairman's Report

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Address personnel issues. (Gov. Code, § 11126, subdivision (a)(1).)

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Next Scheduled Board Meeting**

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Place: San Diego County Water Authority  
4677 Overland Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123

Minutes of Meeting  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at the Rancho Mirage City Council Chambers, 69-825 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA, 92270.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

Gloria Cordero (MWD)  
Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)  
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)  
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)  
Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)

Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)  
Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)  
Frank Ruiz (Public Member)  
David Vigil (DFW Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)  
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)  
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)  
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)

Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)  
Peter Nelson (CVWD)  
David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)  
Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)

Others Present:

Steven Abbott  
Nick Bahr  
Robert Cheng  
JR Echard  
Jeff Faxon  
Christopher Harris  
Ned Hyduke  
Laura Lamdin  
Aaron Mead  
Yuanyuan Myint

Jessica Neuwerth  
Alan Pace  
Angela Rashid  
Alexi Schnell  
Carrie Scott  
Gary Tavetian  
Joseph Vanderhorst  
Petya Vasileva  
Jerry Zimmerman

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **LOCAL AND STATE WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORTS**

Member Jones, representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that there has been a big improvement in precipitation compared to February, noting that the month turned out to be very wet and increased the snowpack. She added that in February, statewide precipitation was close to normal and lagging.

Member Jones reported that statewide reservoir storage is above average due in part to carryover storage from last year. Member Jones reported on natural flow conditions of several California rivers such as Shasta, Feather, and Kern. She stated that current streamflow conditions have greatly improved compared to the drought periods of 2014, 2015 and 2021.

Member Jones reported that the statewide snowpack is 104% of normal and 94% of April 1<sup>st</sup> average. She noted that average snowpack may not translate into average runoff.

Member Jones reported on the Basin Characterization Model, which was funded by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to model the Colorado River Basin. She reported that the model is a diagnostic model that allows you to look at how changes in observed conditions are shifting in response to climate change. She presented a graph displaying precipitation and potential evapotranspiration and runoff efficiency in the Upper Colorado River Basin from 1951 to 2023. She reported that precipitation fluctuates on an up-and-down basis, but evaporative demand is steadily increasing. She added that evapotranspiration is driven by temperature and relative humidity. She stated that over the period of record (1951 to 2023) there is a gradual decline in runoff efficiency over the long-term average. She added that it illustrates the effect of a warming atmosphere. She explained that groundwater contributes a fair amount of base flow to river systems and is not affected by atmospheric temperatures.

Member Cordero, representing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that MWD's combined reservoir storage as of March 1<sup>st</sup> is 91% of capacity. She reported that the Colorado River Aqueduct has been shut down for maintenance until about March 28<sup>th</sup>, then will ramp up to a seven-pump flow through May. The 2024 diversion target is 984,000 AF as of March 8<sup>th</sup>, and MWD has diverted about 103,492 acre feet (AF). She noted that information on January deliveries for its member agencies is not yet available, but the 2024 delivery target for the Desert Water Agency in Coachella Valley water district is 133,000 AF.

Executive Director Harris reported on precipitation conditions in the Eastern Sierra. He reported that as of March 12<sup>th</sup>, precipitation was 84% of April 1<sup>st</sup> normal and 91% normal to date.

### **COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORT**

Executive Director Harris reported that as of March 11<sup>th</sup>, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,560.99 feet with 7.86 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 34% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,076.32 feet with 9.71 MAF of storage, or 37% of capacity. The total system storage was 24.78 MAF, or 33% of capacity, which is 5.96 MAF more than system storage at this time last year.

Executive Director Harris reported that as of March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Water Year 2024 (WY-2024) forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 7.66 MAF, or 80% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 5.0 MAF, or 78% of normal. He stated that observed inflow into Lake Powell for February was 95% of normal and the March inflow forecast was 77% of normal. He reported that WY-2024 precipitation to date is 101% of normal and the current Basin snowpack was 104% of normal.

Executive Director Harris reported on monthly precipitation conditions in January and February 2024. He noted that in February the Basin received an increased amount of precipitation, particularly in the southern Arizona region. He added that a significant snowstorm is expected for Denver, Colorado. He stated that the winter started off drier but has gotten progressively wetter. He stated that SNOTEL data for snowpack conditions above Lake Powell are slightly above median.

Executive Director Harris reported on January and February CRMMS projections for Lakes Powell and Mead. He stated that Lake Powell's projected most probable elevation for the end of calendar 2024 is 3,565.61 (35% of capacity) and the projected most probable elevation at the end of calendar year 2025 is 3,575.66 (38% of capacity). He explained that Lake Powell's elevation will increase during runoff season and over the course of fall and winter, decrease. He stated that for WY-2024 Glen Canyon Dam release will be 7.48 MAF and the same release is projected for

WY-2025. He stated that the lower releases will impact Lake Mead's elevation and its most probable elevation is 1,050 feet at the end of calendar year 2025.

Executive Director Harris reported that through the end of February, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 11,861 AF and 12,660 AF respectively. He also reported that excess deliveries to Mexico were 10,199 AF, compared to 9,966 AF at this time last year. He remarked that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has tightened up the lower end of the system, but the excess flows could have occurred from water ordered but not diverted. He explained that this is due to some of the winter storms that occurred in the San Diego region and moved down into the Imperial Valley, causing a reduction of water orders. He stated that saline drainage bypass to the Cienega de Santa Clara is currently about 24,776 AF.

## **COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS STAFF REPORTS**

### **Salinity Control Program**

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the Work Group of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Work Group) met in March.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the well in Paradox Valley is operating. Testing continues following the seismic events observed a number of years ago and a seismic risk analysis is scheduled for the end of the year. In 2023, the well disposed of approximately 53,000 tons of salt. Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth added that the well is not operating at full capacity.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that cosponsors are being sought for a bill that changes the required cost share for the Salinity Control Program. Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth explained that many of the Salinity Control projects have a federal and a non-federal cost share. The non-federal cost share has been pulling down the Lower Basin Development Fund. The proposed change would adjust the state cost share down to reduce the impact on the Lower Basin Development Fund.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth added that the proposed changes are not anticipated to have a significant impact on the program. However, it would help ensure solvent funding going forward.

Finally, Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council will be meeting in June in Durango, CO.

## Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program's Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) held a meeting in February.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that humpback chub, an endangered species in the canyons, are doing well, with the population spreading closer to Lake Mead and an estimated population of 60,000 adults. Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth added that the potentially temporary success of the species is likely due to warmer water temperatures.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth relayed that Reclamation provided a report on concerns related to the River Outlet Works at Glen Canyon Dam. In April 2023, Reclamation conducted a High Flow Experiment to push sediment downstream and rebuild beaches. This experiment utilized the bypass tubes at full capacity. Following the experiment, Reclamation found minor cavitation in the bypass tubes. Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation is studying the issue and planning to release a report this month.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth added that Reclamation reported an additional concern in utilizing the bypass tubes – a potential for build-up of sediment in front of the power plant that could be problematic. Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth added that operating the bypass tubes at less than full capacity can significantly reduce the cavitation risk.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation is preparing to conduct a study to potentially add power generation to the bypass tubes. The power intakes in Lake Powell are relatively high, approximately 100 feet higher in elevation than the bypass tubes. The study is anticipated in late 2025 or early 2026.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that there is a double-edged sword with the warmer water temperature. While native fish, including the humpback chub, are enjoying the warm water releases from Glen Canyon Dam, unfortunately so are the warm water non-native species.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth showed a cartoon illustrating that as the level of the reservoir declines, warm water at the top of the reservoir is pulled into the turbines, passing through some of the fish, including the non-native fish that live in Lake Powell. The water being released is also much warmer water than that typically seen downstream of Glen Canyon Dam.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that smallmouth bass, one of the worst predators in the Upper Basin, have been identified below Glen Canyon Dam. The smallmouth bass population below Glen Canyon Dam is currently estimated at 4,000 to 5,000 fish. Although the humpback chub is doing well now, there is concern if the smallmouth bass population continues to expand.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that one of the actions being considered by Reclamation is currently being evaluated through the LTEMP SEIS. The options being considered would use the bypass tubes to cool the water. Such an action would result in moving water through the bypass and not through the power station, resulting in reduced power generation. As a result, the experimental flows would be expensive.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that federal agencies are considering additional actions including modifying a warm water slough downstream from Glen Canyon Dam that is a known refuge for warmwater non-native invasive fish as well as potentially installing a net or curtain above the dam or below Glen Canyon Dam that could change the temperature and/or prevent fish from passing through the dam.

#### Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the Steering Committee of the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conversation Program (LCR MSCP) met in February. The Steering Committee approved up to approximately \$25.5 million to acquire close to 2,000 acres of land in the Palo Verde Valley.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth added that this was the property visited during the site visit by the Board last month. The total acquisition cost of that property is approximately \$35 million. The purchase is subject to identifying \$10 million dollars in matching funds to complete that purchase.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth stated that ideally the property will be the last habitat purchase needed for the program. Once the LCR MSCP has acquired sufficient property, the program will focus solely on building and maintaining those habitats through the duration of the program.

Member Fisher asked for clarification that this would be the last habitat acquisition we'd need, including for the post-2026 guidelines. Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth responded that yes, that is the anticipation.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the LCR MSCP's Financial Work Group met in February. The Financial Work Group received a report from Reclamation that the LCR MSCP is on track regarding implementation and budgeting.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the program costs approximately \$23-\$24 million dollars per year for the next couple years of the program.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that planting at one of our newest conservation areas, the Dennis Underwood Conversation Area, has been completed. Reclamation is continuing to work on repairs to fish hatcheries.

Deputy Executive Director Neuwerth reported that the Steering Committee will be meeting in April.

### **MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)**

PVID General Manager JR Echard reported that last year PVID installed three catwalks above check gates to make removing debris from the gates easier, noting that they are in the process of finishing them. He noted that two are completed now, and that they are hoping to do two more before the end of this year.

Executive Director Harris noted his appreciation that Mr. Echard shared PVID's staff's names with the Board.

#### **San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)**

Vice Chairman Madaffer first thanked the Chairman and Board staff for the Board meeting location.

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported that at SDCWA's board meeting in February, SDCWA approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Moulton Niguel Water District, which serves the southern part of Orange County. He explained that it is a three-year MOU for the two agencies to discuss potential transfer of water supplies to support their efforts in water supply reliability while combating the long-term effects of drought in their service areas. He explained that the transfer would come mainly from SDCWA's desalination plant, noting the plant's capacity and that it came online with 56,000 acre-feet per year. He stated that the plant has the

potential to expand by another 6,000 acre-feet and noted that SDCWA thinks desalination should be a part of the mix for long-term solutions for the Colorado River.

Vice Chairman Madaffer expressed that he thinks these kinds of water exchanges are a good step in the right direction to help Southern California, noting that these benefits were seen in the agreements signed at the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) conference between SDCWA, IID, MWD and Reclamation, resulting in 50,000 acre-feet of 2023 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) supplies left in the river to help increase the elevation of Lake Mead.

Vice Chairman Madaffer closed by noting that SDCWA will also be talking to MWD about the desalination plant, as there are opportunities there as well to help keep water in the river.

#### California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Member Jones started by wishing meeting participants a happy Groundwater Awareness Week. She then noted that this week DWR is doing several activities to highlight their accomplishments in groundwater management.

Member Jones noted that this is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) legislation, noting further that it was the first state legislation that required reporting groundwater levels to the state to enable the state to see how the state as a whole is doing with respect to groundwater.

Member Jones then showed a slide of DWR's Cal Groundwater Live data set representing 3,700 wells statewide.

Member Jones closed by noting that this season DWR has seen some recovery of groundwater levels towards normal conditions in many of the wells statewide, and that there were some persistent areas of dryness in places like the San Joaquin Valley.

#### Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Member Cordero reported that the MWD board has spent the last several months looking at their biannual budget. She indicated that the budget talks relate to balancing fiscal stability, operations and investments for the next two years, and that conservation has come up often during the budget discussions. She reported that MWD Chair Ortega and General Manager Hagekhalil have begun a series of discussions with their member agencies about where they are going in the future, updates on water supply conditions, and major projects moving forward.

Member Cordero reported that shortly MWD will have a one-year progress report on their Climate Action Management Plan (CAMP). She noted that the CAMP will be utilized to make decisions in the future.

Member Cordero reported that MWD has been conducting a series of focus groups, which, she noted, has given them some public attitude survey results on affordability and what people think about the value of water, tap water, conservation, and trust in decision making. Ms. Cordero reported that another focus has been on MWD's Pure Water Southern California project, noting that they get a lot of support and accolades for it because people see it as important going forward. Ms. Cordero noted that some of these public focus groups will help MWD make decisions on their communications with communities.

Member Cordero reported that MWD has started a tree replacement program, which is new. She noted that this is in addition to their turf replacement program. She further noted that homeowners are eligible to receive one hundred dollars per tree for up to five trees for their yard and indicated that MWD thinks this will be a beneficial program to the communities that they serve.

Finally, Member Cordero expressed optimism that the latest snowpack, which is above average, will increase allocations from the State Water Project.

#### California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Member Vigil, noting the York fire last year in the Mojave National Preserve, reported that CDFW has been using their MOU with the preserve and the National Park Service. He reported that CDFW's Colorado River Program staff has been going into the preserve and doing some cleanup. He showed a photo of cleanup activities, highlighting that after the fire there was nothing left but metal and debris. He also noted that the area burned was 93,000 acres.

Chairman Hamby asked Member Vigil if there were lessons the state learned from the complications of not being able to create fire breaks due to their ecological harm, but with the fire itself causing harm.

Member Vigil responded with a clarification that Wilderness has restrictions on the type of machinery that can be used in the preserve, and that the presence of Joshua trees complicates things further. He stated that he does not know exactly what exemptions firefighter crews had, but that Wilderness still has some restrictions in place that limits their ability to use conventional firefighting tactics.

## Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Chairman Hamby began by thanking Rancho Mirage City Council for allowing the Board to use their facility for the Board meeting.

Chairman Hamby reported that a delegation of the Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association visited Washington, D.C. this week. He reported that they visited Senator Padilla's office and conveyed to him their connection to "the farmer who saved sriracha". He showed a short video about pepper growing in the Imperial Valley for Huy Fong's sriracha sauce (Sriracha). After the video, he explained how popular Sriracha is, noting there was an article in one of the agricultural publications about the Sriracha story, and that you can now find Sriracha in Starbucks. He explained that the company that makes it had a dispute with their pepper farmers in Ventura County and were not able to buy peppers, causing the price of Sriracha bottles to rise significantly, to as much as one hundred dollars a bottle. He explained that they tried to find growers in New Mexico, but that that didn't work. He finally explained they ended up getting peppers from Imperial Valley Growing.

Chairman Hamby expressed that a little video series is being put together highlighting some of the fun things that are grown in the Imperial Valley with Colorado River water using water conservation.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Supplement Environmental Impact Statement for Interim Operations

Executive Director Harris reported that on March 5<sup>th</sup>, Reclamation released the final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for interim period operations of Lakes Powell and Mead. The SEIS will guide operations through 2026. Executive Director Harris noted that when Reclamation decided to prepare an SEIS in 2022, the reservoir system was in rough shape. In 2022, to protect Lake Powell, Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) operations were initiated to move water from upstream reservoirs to Lake Powell. The Lower Basin also agreed to a historic reduction of Lake Powell releases to boost Powell's elevation, significantly affecting the elevation of Lake Mead. The effort to craft a Basin States' proposal for the SEIS resulted in the January 2023 submittal of dueling California and six-state proposals. Executive Director Harris noted that this dispute galvanized recommitment among the Lower Basin States to work collaboratively, resulting in the May 2023 Lower Basin Interim Period Plan.

Executive Director Harris reported that the Lower Basin Plan was selected as the preferred alternative in the recently released Final SEIS, with a few additional operational features to

maximize Reclamation's operational flexibility. Through the Lower Basin Plan, the Lower Basin states will provide up to an additional 3.0 MAF of conservation through 2026, in addition to the Lower Basin's existing obligations under the Interim Shortage Guidelines and Drought Contingency Plan. The preferred alternative would also allow Reclamation to reduce the annual release from Glen Canyon Dam to a minimum of 6.0 MAF if necessary to prevent Lake Powell from declining below 3,500'. The preferred alternative is modeled to significantly reduce the likelihood of Lakes Mead and Powell declining to critical elevations. Finally, Executive Director Harris reported that a Record of Decision for the SEIS was expected in April or May.

Executive Director Harris reported that on March 5<sup>th</sup>, Reclamation also announced finalization of several new System Conservation Implementation Agreements in California, including a cooperative Bard Water District and MWD program for up to 18,090 AF through 2026; CVWD program for up to 30,000 AF through 2026; and a cooperative PVID and MWD program for up to 351,063 AF through 2026. Executive Director Harris noted that this brought the total number of system conservation contracts to 24, with an expected yield of 1.58 MAF through 2026. Executive Director Harris reported that additional system conservation contracts are still under development.

#### Proposed Northeast Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement

Executive Director Harris reported that a proposed Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights settlement has been developed between the State of Arizona, Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and non-Indian parties. The majority of Arizona's 50,000 AF Upper Basin apportionment would be allocated to the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe, along with some mainstream Priority 4-6 water and local surface and groundwater resources. Executive Director Harris noted that the settlement would require Congressional authorization, in part because it would require the movement of Colorado River water between the Upper and Lower basins.

#### Basin States' Alternatives for Post-2026 Operations

Executive Director Harris reported that on March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Upper and Lower Basins released respective proposed alternatives for the operation of the post-2026 Colorado River system. Executive Director Harris noted that stakeholders in the Lower Basin had been meeting regularly since mid-2023 to develop the proposal. The Lower Basin shared their framework concept with the Upper Basin states in the fall of 2023 with a series of meetings. Executive Director Harris reported that the two Basins were unable to reach a consensus by Reclamation's early March deadline for alternative submittals.

Executive Director Harris reported that the Lower Basin alternative would resolve the structural deficit in the Lower Basin through reductions from AZ, CA, and NV; respond to climate change with additional shared reductions by the entire Basin; manage the system as a whole, accounting for water in reservoirs across the Basin, rather than just elevations at Lakes Powell and Mead; establish increased storage opportunities, incentivizing conservation and augmentation; and operate Powell flexibly with annual releases that are adaptable to a broad range of hydrologies and respond to Upper Basin “hydrologic shortages”.

Executive Director Harris reported that the Lower Basin alternative takes a more holistic approach to triggering reductions, assessing total system storage rather than just the elevation of Lake Mead. This broader approach provides a better snapshot of system health and allows for more flexibility in where water is stored within the system. The total system storage calculation includes Lakes Powell, Mead, Mohave, Havasu, and the Colorado River Storage Project Initial Units (Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, and Navajo).

Executive Director Harris reported that the Lower Basin reductions follow a “z graph,” with reductions increasing as system storage decreases. The reduction volumes and inflection points were tailored over months of meetings and modeling to prevent or eliminate instances of the system declining below 23% of live storage. From 69% to 58% total system storage, reductions in the Lower Basin and Mexico would increase from 0 to 1.5 MAF/yr. Reductions to the Lower Basin and Mexico would then remain steady at 1.5 MAF/yr until the total system storage reached 38%, at which point the Lower Basin, Upper Basin, and Mexico would increase reductions to a maximum of 3.9 MAF/yr at 23% of total system storage.

Executive Director Harris reported that Arizona, California, and Nevada have agreed how to divide the reductions in the initial reduction zone and static reduction zone. In the initial reduction zone, Arizona would begin taking reductions before California, in recognition of their junior priority status. In the static reduction zone, Arizona would reduce by 760,000 AF/yr, California by 440,000 AF/yr, and Nevada by 50,000 AF/yr. Mexican reductions were estimated at 250,000 AF/yr based on their proportional share of the total reduction volume. No reductions would be required of the Upper Basin states in the static reduction zone. Executive Director Harris noted that the 1.5 MAF/yr static reduction exceeds the estimated annual system losses in the Lower Basin and would likely serve to build storage in Lake Mead.

Executive Director Harris reported that once total system storage declines to 38%, additional reductions would be triggered in the Lower Basin, Upper Basin, and Mexico. These reductions would be split evenly between the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin and Mexico, reaching 3.9 MAF/yr at around 23% of total system storage.

Executive Director Harris reported that, based on historic system storage, the Lower Basin alternative would require static reductions in most of the last twenty years, with additional reductions triggered in 2022 as reservoir storage declined.

Executive Director Harris reported that the Lower Basin Alternative includes a rule curve for releases from Lake Powell. The releases are determined by 1.) Average Upper Basin depletions over the previous three years, and 2.) Total live storage in the Upper Basin reservoirs of Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, and Navajo. If the Upper Basin states use less water because of the effects of drought or “hydrologic shortage,” releases from Glen Canyon Dam would be reduced. When Upper Basin reservoir live storage is above 80% capacity, Lakes Powell and Mead would be equalized. When Upper Basin reservoir live storage is below 30% capacity, Glen Canyon Dam releases would be reduced to a minimum of 6.0 MAF, with the opportunity to balance the contents of Lakes Powell and Mead if Mead is projected to decline below elevation 1,000’ while Powell is projected to be above 3,510’.

Executive Director Harris reported that some additional detail was needed in the Lower Basin Alternative on storage mechanisms and rules. Entitlement holders meeting certain criteria would be allowed to develop storage accounts similar to current Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) accounts. The water in these accounts would not count toward total system storage calculations, ensuring that reduction decisions aren’t distorted by stored water earmarked for a particular user. Executive Director Harris noted that the goal would be to continue incentivizing activities like conservation, augmentation, and water storage.

Executive Director Harris reviewed the Upper Basin and Lower Basin alternatives side-by-side. While the Lower Basin Alternative triggers reductions based on total system storage, the Upper Basin uses the combined storage in Lakes Powell and Mead. Both alternatives would set reductions based on actual storage in the preceding fall. Although the general timing and volume of reductions are similar between the two proposals, the Upper Basin alternative allocates all reductions to the Lower Basin. The Lower Basin alternative proposes sharing additional reductions needed when total system storage declines below 38%.

Executive Director Harris compared Glen Canyon Dam releases in the respective alternatives. He noted that the Upper Basin significantly limited releases from Glen Canyon Dam, with releases greater than 8.1 MAF occurring only when Lake Powell’s elevation exceeded 80%. From 80%-20%, Glen Canyon Dam releases would decrease linearly from 8.1 to 6.0 MAF/yr. Both alternatives include static releases of 6.0 MAF/yr when Upper Basin storage declines below 20%.

Executive Director Harris reported that Reclamation is still receiving proposed alternatives and will begin modeling them for release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in late

2024. Executive Director Harris noted that proposals may be submitted by Basin tribes or NGOs. Over the next several months, Reclamation will be working with Lower Basin stakeholders to ensure accurate modeling of the Lower Basin alternative.

Chairman Hamby reported that there had been significant media attention on the proposed alternatives. The Lower Basin had coordinated public outreach and prepared a joint press briefing for the morning of March 6<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Hamby noted that the Upper Basin states submitted their alternative just before the Lower Basin's press conference, so the Lower Basin was reacting to the Upper Basin's proposal in real time. The simultaneous submittals allowed for direct comparison for the two proposals, highlighting the stark difference between the Basins on the allocation of shortages. Chairman Hamby noted that a barrier to restarting negotiations between the Basins was the unwillingness of Upper Basin negotiators to compromise and provide a reasonable offer.

Chairman Hamby recognized Member Ruiz, who participated in the preparation of a joint NGO letter to Becky Mitchell of Colorado. Member Ruiz reported that the goal of the letter was to urge collaboration rather than litigation.

Executive Director Harris reported that a coalition of sixteen Native American tribes, including ten in the Lower Basin, submitted a letter to Reclamation on post-2026 operations. The three principals identified in the letter included: 1) The United States must meet its trust responsibility to the Basin tribes, protecting both quantified and unquantified tribal rights; 2) The United States should empower tribes to determine how and when to use their water rights by adopting and supporting a portfolio of flexible tools, and 3) The United States should provide for a permanent formalized structure for tribal participation in implementing post-2026 guidelines and any future Colorado River policies processes. Executive Director Harris encouraged Board members to review the letter, which was provided as a meeting handout. He also noted that Reclamation's recently initiated Fed-States-Tribes Working Group had met several times, providing for good discussions.

Member Fisher commented that the Lower Basin plan is reasonable, logical, and sensible, and this seems to be understood by the public and other stakeholders. He noted that the four Upper Basin states, and particularly Colorado, appear to be adopting a scorched earth policy by being unwilling to move off their initial position. Member Fisher stated that the Lower Basin has offered a reasonable plan proposal that reflects an endpoint for negotiations, not an initial negotiating position, but given the stance of the Upper Basin, collaboration isn't happening.

Chairman Hamby agreed, noting that the Colorado Sun published an article that morning, which included a quote from Steve Wolff of Colorado stating that the Upper Basin would only

consider taking reductions when the Lower Basin uses equal those in the Upper Basin, which would mean a reduction of nearly 50% to Lower Basin users.

Member Joaquin noted that the Quechan tribe was proud to have signed the tribal coalition letter, and he expected other tribes may also sign onto the letter in the future. Member Joaquin agreed with the comments by Member Fisher and Chairman Hamby, noting that it's unreasonable for a party in negotiations to refuse to budge off their position. He noted that all tribes wouldn't be happy with the eventual outcome of negotiations, but that it was important to present a reasonable proposal for everyone to consider. He noted that although the Quechan Tribe has senior water rights through the *Arizona v. California* decree, the tribe would continue advocating for all tribes to have their rights settled. Member Joaquin stated that with the tribes' seat at the table comes the responsibility of decision-making and a commitment to strong leadership. Member Joaquin congratulated California for demonstrating leadership on the river and encouraged California's negotiators to continue collaborating and compromising to reach a solution. He stated that a living river benefits all states, not just one.

#### Washington, D.C. Report

Executive Director Harris reported that the President just released his FY-2025 budget, which included \$1.6 billion for Reclamation. The House and Senate reached agreement on a six-bill funding package for FY-2024 that includes \$1.9 billion for Reclamation.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Hamby reported that Reclamation is working to evaluate and begin funding long-term water conservation projects through Bucket 2. He reported that IID is still working on its Bucket 1B contract for 2024-2026, as they address environmental issues at the Salton Sea with endangered fish and birds. Chairman Hamby stated that this requires a complicated joint effort between IID, the State of California, and Reclamation.

Chairman Hamby reported that although the Lower Basin proposal includes the broad outline of post-2026 operations, there are still several gaps that need to be filled in. The Lower Basin states will be continuing to work throughout 2024 to refine their proposal. He reported that at some point there would also be continued discussions with the Upper Basin.

Chairman Hamby reported that there are rising concerns about the likelihood of litigation in the Basin. In response, Chairman Hamby suggested an effort to identify legal risks and prepare for potential future litigation.

Chairman Hamby reported that the Upper Basin had recently visited D.C. in conjunction with the release of their alternative. Chairman Hamby noted that Lower Basin stakeholders should continue engaging with Congressional staff to ensure they're up to speed as negotiations progress.

Member Cordero echoed Member Joaquin's statement and encouraged continuing to work closely with Arizona and Nevada. She also encouraged negotiators to continue working closely with tribes, NGOs, and Mexico.

Executive Director Harris reported that a small group of Lower Basin representatives had a virtual briefing with Mexican water officials prior to the release of the Lower Basin alternative. He stated that Mexico has been a solid partner for decades and the Lower Basin didn't want them to be surprised by the Lower Basin alternative. Executive Director Harris reported that there have been subsequent meetings calendared to allow for more detailed briefings and discussions with Mexico.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

## **WATER CODE**

### **DIVISION 6. CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND UTILIZATION OF STATE WATER RESOURCES [10000 - 12999]**

*( Heading of Division 6 amended by Stats. 1957, Ch. 1932. )*

#### **PART 5. THE COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA [12500 - 12565]**

*( Part 5 added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370. )*

##### **CHAPTER 1. Definitions [12500 - 12503]**

*( Chapter 1 added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370. )*

###### **12500.**

The definitions in this chapter govern the construction of this part only.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

###### **12501.**

“Board” means the Colorado River Board of California.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

###### **12502.**

“Commissioner” means the Colorado River Commissioner.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

###### **12503.**

“Fund” means the Colorado River Fund.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

##### **CHAPTER 2. The Board [12510 - 12519]**

*( Chapter 2 added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370. )*

###### **12510.**

There is in the state government, in the Resources Agency, the Colorado River Board of California.

*(Amended by Stats. 1969, Ch. 138.)*

###### **12511.**

The board consists of eight members appointed by the Governor as provided in this chapter, two of whom shall be public members appointed by the Governor, and the Director of Water Resources and the Director of Fish and Game or their designees.

*(Amended by Stats. 1984, Ch. 1027, Sec. 2.)*

**12512.**

The governing bodies of the San Diego County Water Authority, Palo Verde Irrigation District, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles shall each submit to the Governor two lists of not less than three persons on each with a recommendation as to whom should be appointed from one list as its member on the board and from the other list as its alternate on the board. The Governor shall appoint each agency's member and alternate from the designated lists. If, after 60 days following submission of the initial or any new list, the Governor has not made an appointment, the person recommended by the governing body shall be deemed appointed. Each governing body if it desires to have a new member or alternate, or both, may submit new lists at any time. A member of the governing body of an agency may be appointed as a member of the board or as an alternate. Each alternate shall, in the absence of the appointed member for any cause, including vacancy in the office of the appointed member, have all the authority and rights of the member to which he or she is an alternate.

*(Amended by Stats. 1983, Ch. 1019, Sec. 2.)*

**12513.**

Each member of the board, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for traveling and other expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of his duties. In addition, each member of the board that is neither eligible for nor receives any salary or other compensation for time spent attending meetings of the board shall receive fifty dollars (\$50) for each day attending the meetings of the board.

*(Amended by Stats. 1977, Ch. 393.)*

**12514.**

(a) The board shall determine, by majority vote, where to maintain its office and shall hold meetings at that office or elsewhere upon call of the chairman or three members of the board. The board shall not relocate its office more than once within each gubernatorial term.

(b) The local agencies that are represented on the board may reimburse employees of the board for relocation or net commuting expenses, or both, incurred by those employees as the result of a change in the location of the office pursuant to subdivision (a). The costs shall be divided equally among the local agencies. Any commuting expenses shall not exceed the state's reimbursement rate for state employees. Any relocation benefits shall be approved by each local agency prior to those benefits being offered to board staff.

(c) Any payments made pursuant to subdivision (b) do not constitute income for the purposes of subdivision (a) of Section 82030 of the Government Code, in accordance with paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of that section.

*(Amended by Stats. 1997, Ch. 225, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 1998.)*

#### **12515.**

All of the records of the board or copies of them shall be maintained at its office.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

#### **12516.**

The board shall be subject to the provisions of Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

*(Amended by Stats. 1969, Ch. 371.)*

#### **12517.**

The board shall adopt such rules or procedure as may be required for the orderly disposition of its business and such regulations as may be necessary in order to carry out the provisions of this part.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

#### **12518.**

The board shall make such reports and recommendations to the Governor as he requires or as the board deems proper.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

#### **12519.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, the board may hold executive sessions in conjunction with any regular or special meeting and maintain confidential information and records limited to matters concerning interstate claims to the use of Colorado River system waters in judicial proceedings, administrative proceedings, and negotiations with representatives from other states or the federal government. Whenever the board holds an executive session in conjunction with any regular or special meeting or maintains as confidential any information or records hereunder, the board shall make an affirmative finding in its public minutes that the holding of an open meeting or the disclosure of the information or records to the public would substantially impair the performance by the board of its statutory duties. At the end of the minutes of each meeting of the board shall appear the certificate of its executive secretary that the meeting was held in accordance with the 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.

*(Added* **CHAPTER 3. The Commissioner [12525 - 12533]**

*[ Chapter 3 added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370. ]*

**12525.**

The board shall elect from among its members, other than the Director of Water Resources or the Director of Fish and Game or their designees, a chairman who is ex officio the "Colorado River Commissioner." The chairman shall serve at the pleasure of the board.

*(Repealed and added by Stats. 1983, Ch. 564, Sec. 5.)*

**12526.**

The commissioner shall serve without compensation, but he shall be reimbursed for traveling and other expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of his duties.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

**12527.**

The commissioner shall perform the duties imposed upon him by this chapter under the direction of the board.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

**12528.**

The commissioner shall consult and advise with the board in exercising the powers and performing the duties enumerated in this chapter and make such reports and recommendations as he deems proper or as the board requests, to the end that the rights and interests of the State, its agencies and citizens, in, to, and in respect of, the water of the Colorado River System and the use thereof may be properly safeguarded and protected.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

**12529.**

The commissioner shall exercise on behalf of the State every right and power granted to the State or to any representative of it by Section 16 of the act of Congress designated the "Boulder Canyon Project Act."

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

**12530.**

The commissioner shall investigate past, present, and potential uses of the water of the Colorado River System within and without the State.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

**12531.**

The commissioner shall investigate, coordinate, collate, and preserve information, facts, and data bearing upon the claims of all States and of all public or private agencies within and without the State to and in respect of the water and the use of water of the Colorado River System.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

**12532.**

The commissioner shall confer with representatives of other States in the Colorado River basin, representatives of the United States, and others concerning problems and measures relating to the development of the Colorado River basin, the use of the water of the Colorado River System, and the protection of the interests therein of the State and of the United States, and shall negotiate respecting such problems and measures and discuss the same and formulate and recommend to the Governor and the Legislature measures, agreements, and legislation deemed for the benefit of the State and the United States.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

**12533.**

The commissioner shall do and perform all other things deemed necessary or expedient to carry out the purposes of this part.

*(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)*

*by Stats. 1968, Ch. 886.)*

**CHAPTER 4. Employees [12540 - 12541]**

*( Chapter 4 added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370. )*

**12540.**

From a list of not less than two persons submitted to it by the commissioner, the board shall appoint an executive director, whose duties shall be as required by the commissioner and by the board.

*(Amended by Stats. 1985, Ch. 232, Sec. 1.)*

**12541.**

The board may fix the compensation of the executive director.  
(Amended by Stats. 1985, Ch. 232, Sec. 2.)

**CHAPTER 5. The Colorado River Fund [12550 - 12552]**

( Chapter 5 added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370. )

**12550.**

All irrigation districts, county water districts, municipal water districts, metropolitan water districts, county water authorities, water conservation districts, and flood control districts, may make such contributions to the Colorado River Fund as, in the exercise of the discretion of their respective governing bodies, is deemed advisable.  
(Amended by Stats. 1951, Ch. 704.)

**12551.**

The board may accept any and all contributions to the fund.  
(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)

**12552.**

All contributions accepted by the board shall be deposited by it in the State Treasury to the credit of the fund.  
(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)

**CHAPTER 6. Warrants [12553- 12553.]**

( Chapter 6 added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370. )

**12553.**

The State Controller shall draw warrants upon the fund from time to time upon demand of the commissioner, and the State Treasurer shall pay the warrants.  
(Added by Stats. 1943, Ch. 370.)

## **CHAPTER 7. Colorado River Management Program [12560 - 12565]**

*( Chapter 7 added by Stats. 1998, Ch. 813, Sec. 1. )*

### **12560.**

Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions set forth in this section govern the construction of this chapter:

(a) "Account" means the Colorado River Management Account created pursuant to Section 12561.

(b) "California Plan" means the plan being developed by the Colorado River Board of California, the public agencies represented on that board, and the director to ensure that California can live within the state's apportionment of Colorado River water.

*(Added by Stats. 1998, Ch. 813, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 1999.)*

### **12561.**

There is hereby created the Colorado River Management Account in the General Fund. Moneys in the account are available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for use in accordance with this chapter.

*(Amended by Stats. 2008, Ch. 760, Sec. 22. Effective September 30, 2008.)*

### **12562.**

(a) (1) In furtherance of implementing and achieving the goals of the "California Plan," the sum of two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) in the account shall be used by the director to finance and arrange for lining portions of the All American Canal and the Coachella Branch of the All American Canal.

(2) The canal lining projects shall be completed not later than December 31, 2008, or such later date as may be required by extraordinary circumstances.

(3) The allocation of the water conserved from the canal lining projects and to be made available to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California shall be consistent with federal law and shall be determined by an agreement among the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Imperial Irrigation District, the Palo Verde Irrigation District, the Coachella Valley Water District, and the San Luis Rey settlement parties, reached after consultation with the director and the United States Secretary of the Interior.

(b) (1) The sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) from the account shall be used by the director to finance the installation of recharge, extraction, and distribution facilities for groundwater conjunctive use programs necessary to implement the "California Plan."

(2) Water stored in connection with the groundwater conjunctive use programs described in paragraph (1) shall be for the benefit of the member public agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

(3) Nothing in this subdivision limits the ability of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to enter into agreements regarding the sharing of any water made available under this subdivision.

(c) The Legislature finds that the extension of the date from December 31, 2006, to December 31, 2008, for completing the canal project linings under paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) during the 2003 portion of the 2003–04 Regular Session is required due to extraordinary circumstances. The Legislature finds that there have been unforeseen construction delays, contract award delays, and changed conditions requiring design modifications for lining the All American Canal and the Coachella Branch of the All American Canal, and that these circumstances are extraordinary. *(Amended by Stats. 2003, Ch. 613, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2004.)*

#### **12563.**

If the contingencies for a transfer to the San Diego County Water Authority of the conserved water under the water transfer agreement entered into by the Imperial Irrigation District and the San Diego County Water Authority on April 29, 1998, have not been satisfied in full prior to December 31, 2006, any recipient of the water made available under the agreement described in subdivision (a) of Section 12562, other than the San Luis Rey settlement parties, shall pay to the state, if required by statute, a portion of the funding made available under subdivision (a) of Section 12562, in an amount to be determined by the statute.

*(Added by Stats. 1998, Ch. 813, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 1999.)*

#### **12564.**

Nothing in the contract anticipated by the memorandum of understanding entered into on August 12, 1998, by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority shall affect the authority of the Legislature to allocate, by statute, or reallocate water if the contingencies for a transfer of the conserved water to the San Diego County Water Authority under the water transfer agreement entered into by the Imperial Irrigation District and the San Diego County Water Authority on April 29, 1998, have not been satisfied in full prior to December 31, 2006.

*(Added by Stats. 1998, Ch. 813, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 1999.)*

#### **12565.**

The two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) made available to the director pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 12562 may be expended solely for the lining of the All American Canal and the Coachella Branch of the All American Canal and only if all of the following requirements have been met:

(a) The Salton Sea Authority commissions a study of seepage and subsurface inflows to the Salton Sea from the All American Canal and the Coachella Branch of the All American Canal, and that study is completed. The study shall determine the nature of subsurface and drainage canal water movements from the unlined canals

to the Salton Sea and to existing adjacent wetlands, and shall quantify the amount of water that may be lost to the Salton Sea and to those wetlands due to the canal lining projects. The Salton Sea Science Subcommittee shall review the requests for proposals for the study and shall be consulted in selecting the contractor responsible for conducting the study.

(b) Environmental documentation and permits required by the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.A. Sec. 4321 et seq.), and any other applicable state and federal environmental laws are approved and certified for the All American Canal Lining Project or the Coachella Branch Lining Project.

(c) Pursuant to its responsibilities as a trustee agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code), the Director of Fish and Game makes a finding that a canal lining project that is the subject of a request for funding pursuant to this chapter will avoid or mitigate all significant effects of the project on fisheries and other wildlife. The finding shall be accompanied by a statement from the United States Secretary of the Interior certifying that measures for the replacement of incidental fish and wildlife values adjacent to the All American Canal and the Coachella Branch of the All American Canal foregone as a result of the lining of the canal, or the mitigation of resulting impacts on fish and wildlife resources from the construction of a new canal, or a portion thereof, meet the statutory requirements of Section 203(a)(2) of Public Law 100-675. These mitigation measures shall be on an acre-for-acre basis, based on ecological equivalency, and shall be implemented concurrent with the construction of the canal lining project.

*(Added by Stats. 1998, Ch. 813, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 1999.)*

**RULES AND REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

**A. Establishment of Rules and Regulations**

1. Adoption of Rules. These rules and regulations are adopted pursuant to Water Code Section 12517 and supersede the present “Rules of Procedure and Regulations of the Colorado River Board of California” adopted February 2, 1940, and amended August 6, 1947, October 3, 1951, January 4, 1961, September 20, November 8, 1978, June 12, 1985, and September 15, 1992, which are hereby repealed.

2. Conflict in Rules and Statutes. If there is any conflict between these Rules and Regulations and the Government Code or the Water Code, the Government Code or the Water Code shall prevail.

**B. Operational Procedures**

1. Chairperson. Pursuant to Water Code section 12525, the Chairperson is, *ex officio*, the “Colorado River Commissioner”. The Chairperson shall preside at the Board meetings.

2. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Any election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall occur from among candidates whom are current members of the Board and shall exclude the Directors of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Water Resources or their designees, shall be held via nomination and a roll-call vote of the Board at the regular meeting of the Board in January 2019 and every four years thereafter. During their tenure, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

3. Absence of Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside at the Board meetings.

**C. Meetings**

1. Regular Meetings. The Board may hold one regular meeting per month. It will hold regular meetings on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. or at any other time set by the Board or at least three members of the Board (Water Code section 12514(a)). If the date of a regular meeting shall fall on a holiday, the Board shall either select a special meeting date or decide to forego its regular meeting for that month.

2. Special Meetings. The Board may hold special meetings, either in lieu of its regular meeting or in addition thereto. To the extent allowed by the Government Code, any and all business may be transacted at the special meeting. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chairperson or a majority of the members of the Board.

3. Meeting Location. Meetings shall be held at any place the Chairperson or a majority of the members of the Board designate.

4. Meeting Notices. Notices of all Board meetings, regular and special, shall be sent to all members of the Board and to members of the public that have requested such notice in writing, and also made available on the Internet at least ten days prior to such meeting. Such notice shall contain an agenda listing each item to be considered at the meeting, and shall include the name, address,

and telephone number of any person who can provide further information prior to the meeting, pursuant to Government Code Section 11125(a). In addition, notices of special meetings called in lieu of regular meeting shall be given to each member prior to the time fixed for the regular meeting if that time is earlier than fixed for the special meeting.

5. Meeting Recesses. Any regular or special meeting of the Board may recess from the day to day or from time to time without further notice other than as provided in this section until the business thereof shall be completed; provided that no recess may be taken beyond the time of the next regular meeting of the Board. A copy of a notice of recess shall be conspicuously posted immediately on or near the door of the place where the meeting was held.

6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Each member of the Board shall have one vote. A majority of the members present is necessary to take action on behalf of the Board. Any number less than a quorum may adjourn any meeting or recess any meeting from day to day or from time to time.

7. Board Actions. Action taken by the Board shall be conducted via a motion, a second, and concluded by a roll-call vote.

8. Meeting Minutes. When minutes of a meeting have been delivered to the members, the same shall be present for approval and/or amendment at the next subsequent regular meeting, and it shall not be necessary to read such minutes into the record.

#### D. Staff

1. Executive Director. The Board's Executive Officer shall be its Executive Director, to be selected by the Board in accordance with the rules of the State Personnel Board and the Department of Personnel Administration.

2. Delegation of Duties. Except as specifically provided by resolution, the Executive Director may delegate the performance of any or all of his or her functions, but each delegations(s) shall not affect his or her responsibilities.

3. Appointment of Employees. In accordance with applicable state and civil service procedures, the Executive Director shall appoint other employees, as may be necessary.

4. Exempt Position. The Executive Director is the Board's exempt position and shall be selected as provided by Section 12540 of the Water Code.

5. Rules pertaining to Employees. All employees, except the Executive Director, shall be subject to all rules and regulations established by the State for and on behalf of State employees including, but not limited to, standards of deportment, hours of work, compensation, holidays, and vacations. The Executive Director shall be subject to all rules and regulations established by the State for those employees whose positions are exempt from the State Civil Service.

Unanimously adopted September 20, 1978.

Amended November 8, 1978.

Updated in 1985 to reflect changes in agency head position.

Amended September 15, 1992.

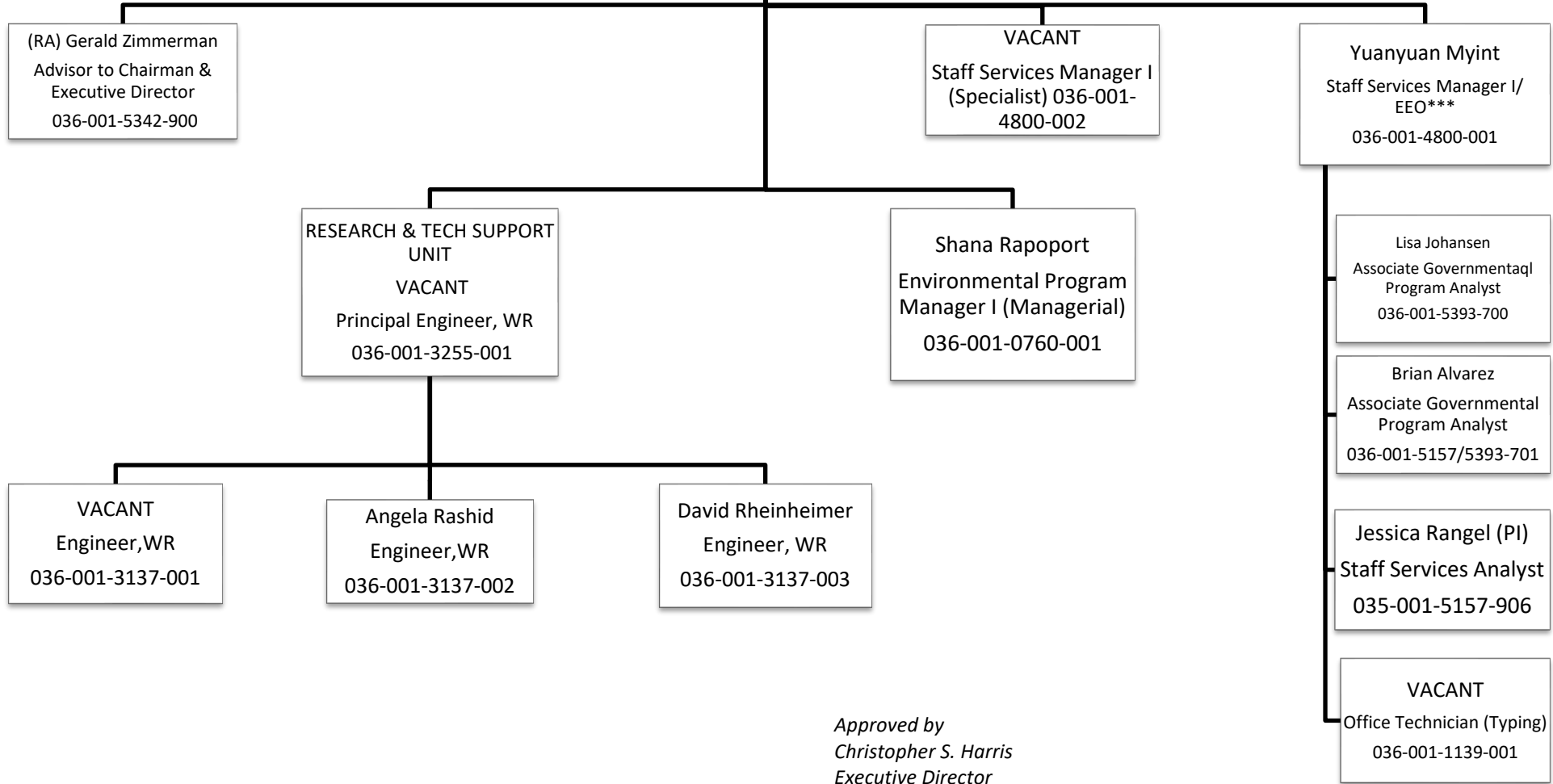
Amended June 13, 2018.

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Approved by  
Christopher S. Harris  
Executive Director

Date: 8/22/2023

\*Procurement and Contracting Officer  
\*\*Purchasing Authority Contact  
\*\*\* The EEO Coordinator will report to the  
Executive Director regarding EEO matters.

## CRB Survey Results - April 2024

<b>General Suggestions/Critiques:</b>	<b>Number of commentors mentioning topic</b>	<b>Meeting Content Suggestions:</b>	<b>Number of commentors mentioning topic</b>
Goals and priorities (and process to set them) are unclear	12	More information on CRB's staff activities and accomplishments	3
Improve messaging and outreach	11	Board workshop to define roles, discuss goals, and review staff/budget	3
More communication and coordination with member agencies	6	More use of and information on DC lobbyist	2
Staff should provide open and consistent information to all member agencies	6	More information on Salton Sea, Mexico, tribes, and environmental justice	1
Board/staff roles are ambiguous	5	Speakers from other Basin States	1
Lack of alignment between staff and board/agency goals	4	Member agency profiles	1
Lack of accounting and budgeting info	4	Regular communications/PR reports to Board	1
No accountability	4	Emergency preparedness	1
Review staffing plan	4	Mexico water management coordination	1
Not transparent	3	Broader federal policies	1
Improve/define governance structure	3	More information on negotiations	1
More modeling support from CRB staff	3	Power generation impacts	1
Undertake strategic planning	3	More special topical presentations	1
Annual Board evaluation of direct reports	2	More information on other States' issues and strategies	1
Staff not responsive to Board requests	2		
Not achieving desired outcomes in negotiations/could negotiate more aggressively	2		
CRB's intrastate role is unclear	2		

Represent State of California, not just some member agencies 2

Improve CRB website 2

Listen to agency feedback and perspectives 2

Board members should conduct themselves professionally; no covert interactions 1

Reduce budget or optimize its use to produce more value for agencies 1

Increase budget and/or staff 1

Board should set policy then leave staff to implement without micromanaging 1

Engage more with tribes, disadvantaged communities, and NGOs 1

Create outreach plan 1

Create newsletter to inform member agencies and the public 1

Less influential than leadership in Arizona and Nevada 1

Remind Board members of CRB's role and mission 1

### **Meeting Logistics Suggestions:**

Number of  
commentors  
mentioning  
topic

More consistent locations 5

More engagement from Board members 3

Virtual meeting option 2

More substantive meetings 2

Fewer tours 2

Include alternates in executive session 2

Executive session details on agenda are lacking 1

Avoid postponing informational and action items listed on agenda 1

More visibility within state (coordinate with ACWA, etc.) 1

Meet every other month unless necessary 1

Fewer meetings in San Diego 1

## Proposed FY 2024-2025 Colorado River Board Budget

The Governor's Proposed Budget for the Colorado River Board of California for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 is \$2,840,000. Below is the proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget, compared to the budget authorized in FY 2023-2024 and anticipated FY 2023-2024 expenditures.

	Authorized Budget FY 2023-24	Anticipated Expenditures FY 2023-24	Proposed Budget FY 2024-25
<i>Personal Services</i>	\$ 2,248,000		\$ 2,337,000
<i>Operating Expenses and Equipment</i>	\$ 367,000		\$ 503,000
<b>Colorado River Board Total Budget</b>	\$ 2,615,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,840,000

3460 Colorado River Board of California

The Colorado River Board protects California's rights and interests in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. The Board works with: other Colorado River Basin states (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming), federal agencies, other state agencies, six local agencies (Palo Verde Irrigation District, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power), Congress, the courts, and Mexico. Its activities include analyses of engineering, legal and economic matters concerning the Colorado River resources of the seven basin states and the 1944 United States-Mexico Water Treaty obligation to deliver Colorado River water to Mexico.

3-YEAR EXPENDITURES AND POSITIONS

		Positions			Expenditures		
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2022-23*	2023-24*	2024-25*
2410	Protection of California's Colorado River Rights and Interests	8.9	13.2	13.2	\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840
TOTALS, POSITIONS AND EXPENDITURES (All Programs)		8.9	13.2	13.2	\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840
FUNDING		2022-23*		2023-24*		2024-25*	
0995	Reimbursements	\$2,150		\$2,833		\$2,840	
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS		\$2,150		\$2,833		\$2,840	

LEGAL CITATIONS AND AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY

California Water Code, Division 6, Part 5, Sections 12500-12553.

DETAILED BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

2023-24*				2024-25*		
General Fund	Other Funds	Positions		General Fund	Other Funds	Positions
Workload Budget Adjustments						
Other Workload Budget Adjustments						
• Other Post-Employment Benefit Adjustments	\$-	\$-2	-	\$-	\$-2	-
• Salary Adjustments	-	57	-	-	60	-
• Benefit Adjustments	-	27	-	-	31	-
Totals, Other Workload Budget Adjustments	\$-	\$82	-	\$-	\$89	-
Totals, Workload Budget Adjustments	\$-	\$82	-	\$-	\$89	-
Totals, Budget Adjustments	\$-	\$82	-	\$-	\$89	-

DETAILED EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

		2022-23*	2023-24*	2024-25*
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS				
2410	PROTECTION OF CALIFORNIA'S COLORADO RIVER RIGHTS AND INTERESTS			
State Operations:				
0995	Reimbursements	2,150	2,833	2,840
Totals, State Operations		\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES				
State Operations		2,150	2,833	2,840
Totals, Expenditures		\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

\* Dollars in thousands, except in Salary Range. Numbers may not add or match to other statements due to rounding of budget details.

3460 Colorado River Board of California - Continued

1 State Operations	Positions			Expenditures		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2022-23*	2023-24*	2024-25*
PERSONAL SERVICES						
Baseline Positions	13.2	13.2	13.2	\$1,537	\$1,538	\$1,538
Other Adjustments	-4.3	-	-	-369	57	60
Net Totals, Salaries and Wages	8.9	13.2	13.2	\$1,168	\$1,595	\$1,598
Staff Benefits	-	-	-	560	735	739
Totals, Personal Services	8.9	13.2	13.2	\$1,728	\$2,330	\$2,337
OPERATING EXPENSES AND EQUIPMENT				\$422	\$503	\$503
TOTALS, POSITIONS AND EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS (State Operations)				\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840

DETAIL OF APPROPRIATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

1 STATE OPERATIONS	2022-23*	2023-24*	2024-25*
0995 Reimbursements			
APPROPRIATIONS			
Reimbursements	\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES	\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840
Total Expenditures, All Funds, (State Operations)	\$2,150	\$2,833	\$2,840

CHANGES IN AUTHORIZED POSITIONS

	Positions			Expenditures		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2022-23*	2023-24*	2024-25*
Baseline Positions	13.2	13.2	13.2	\$1,537	\$1,538	\$1,538
Salary and Other Adjustments	-4.3	-	-	-369	57	60
Totals, Adjustments	-4.3	-	-	\$-369	\$57	\$60
TOTALS, SALARIES AND WAGES	8.9	13.2	13.2	\$1,168	\$1,595	\$1,598

\* Dollars in thousands, except in Salary Range. Numbers may not add or match to other statements due to rounding of budget details.



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## ***Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Accomplishments Report***

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## ***Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Planned Activities Report***



## **Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

The budget for the Colorado River Board of California (CRB) for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY 23-24) was \$2,615,000, and was adopted by the Board at its June 15, 2023, regularly scheduled meeting.

## **Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Accomplishments**

### Headquarters Office Operations

The CRB has continued to maintain a hybrid work environment with staff regularly working both in the office and remotely in a telework environment. CRB monthly meetings were all conducted in-person and regular in-state and out-of-state travel has resumed. CRB staff continue to comply with all state, county, and local public health agency guidance and public safety guidance and protocols.

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Accomplishments

In FY 23-24 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024), Colorado River Board of California staff participated in the following major programs and activities:

- Continued to organize and facilitate the California agencies' responses associated with the development and completion of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to modify the 2007 Interim Guidelines for the Operations of Lakes Powell and Mead. These activities included intensive negotiations and discussion among the Lower Basin States to develop the Lower Basin Interim Period Plan in May 2023. This effort resulted in a proposal that was analyzed in a subsequent Draft SEIS for the 2007 Interim Guidelines and adopted as the preferred alternative. A Record of Decision for the Final SEIS was published by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on May 6, 2024.
- Collaborated with California agencies and the Lower Basin States in the development of a Lower Basin alternative for post-2026 guidelines for Lower Basin shortages and the coordinated operations for Lakes Powell and Mead and other System reservoirs. This major effort has included holding numerous technical and policy meetings and workshops, development of technical papers on Colorado River operational and management issues, and regular focused meetings with California agency senior staff. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Lower Basin States submitted their proposal to the Reclamation for analysis in their forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement.

- Participated in numerous technical- and policy-level Basin states meetings addressing activities and measures to protect critical elevations in the reservoir system and development and implementation of additional drought mitigation projects (e.g., the May 2023 Lower Basin Interim Period Plan). Provided technical and policy-level support to California's Colorado River Commissioner.
- Continued to provide California representation and coordination associated with the ongoing binational implementation of Minute No. 323 with Mexico, including participation in the Minute No. 323 Oversight Group, Projects Work Group, Salinity Work Group, Hydrology Work Group, Environmental Work Group, and Desalination Work Group. CRB and Agency staff continued to participate virtually and in-person in binational work group meetings during the year.
- Represented California's interests in the ongoing implementation of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP), including ongoing discussions with Reclamation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the implementation of habitat restoration activities pursuant to the terms and conditions of the California Endangered Species Act Section 2081 permit for California LCR MSCP participants. In FY 23-24, Board staff worked closely with Reclamation to implement necessary changes to the federal LCR MSCP permit in order to allow for greater reductions in flow below Hoover Dam as water conservation activities by the Lower Basin States increase. The CRB contributed approximately \$17,000 in FY 23-24 for LCR MSCP implementation. CRB has supported and provided assistance in vetting the potential purchase of new habitat to be incorporated into the LCR MSCP in California.
- Represented California's interests in the ongoing implementation of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP), including annual decision-making regarding Glen Canyon Dam operational activities pursuant to implementation of the Long-Term Experimental Management Plan (LTEMP). CRB staff regularly attended meetings of the GCDAMP Technical Work Group (TWG) and Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG). CRB represented California in the ongoing development of a new triennial work plan and budget for the GCDAMP and Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center. In 2023, Reclamation initiated development of an SEIS for the LTEMP to enable smallmouth bass flows and modify existing high flow experiments, for which CRB served as a cooperating agency and provided comments in coordination with the other Basin States.
- Represented California's interests in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program through the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum (Forum). California has three appointed Forum members, including Ms. Jessica Neuwerth representing the Colorado River Board of California, Mr. Joaquin Esquivel representing the California State Water Resources Control Board, and Mr. William Hasencamp representing The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In 2023, Mr. Aaron Mead, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, was named as the new Forum Work Group Chair. Board staff worked

closely with the Basin states and Reclamation to identify a pathway for continued long-term salinity control in the Paradox Valley. Board staff continued participation in and contributed annual cost-share funding of approximately \$45,000 for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. CRB staff contributed to the development and acceptance of the “2023 Review: Water Quality Standards for Salinity Colorado River System.” The completion of this review in FY 23-24 met the requirement in the Clean Water Act to review water quality standards every three years. CRB staff also monitor other important water quality programs and initiatives including the Topock Hexavalent Chromium, Las Vegas Wash Perchlorate, and Moab Uranium Mill-Tailings removal and remediation efforts.

- Continued California’s long-standing commitment to basinwide augmentation activities through participation in the planning and implementation of ongoing weather modification activities in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming during the 2023/2024 winter season under the Basin States programmatic funding agreement. California’s cost share in FY 23-24 was approximately \$385,000, provided through the Six Agency Committee.
- Continued ongoing annual cost-sharing support for maintenance and operation of Lower Colorado River Basin stream gaging station network with the U.S. Geological Survey.
- Provided California representation on the Colorado River Climate and Hydrology Workgroup to identify and consider climate and hydrology research and modeling projects to better inform and support decision making in the basin.
- Provided regular updates, briefings, and presentations to California’s Congressional delegation and staff, as well as the leadership of the California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources, and Governor’s Office regarding Colorado River Basin issues and activities.
- Continued to review and track activities associated with the Upper Basin development of the 2023 and 2024 drought response operations plan, including the State of Utah’s proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project, as well as ongoing Native American Indian water rights settlement processes in both the Upper and Lower Basins.
- Reviewed applications for use of Lower Colorado River Supply Project water supplies and provided recommendations to Reclamation as to whether subcontracts should be approved.
- Organized tours for CRB Board members, agency representatives, and the public in conjunction with CRB Board meetings. Tours included agricultural operations in the Palo Verde Irrigation District, LCR MSCP habitat in the Palo Verde Valley, the Lloyd Allen Water Conservation Operational Reservoir Dedication Ceremony in the Imperial Valley, and Metropolitan Water District water storage and conveyance infrastructure at Diamond Valley Lake reservoir.

## **Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Planned Activities**

### Headquarters Office Operations

As described above, CRB staff operations have largely moved beyond restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Monthly Board meetings have resumed in-person without restrictions, and the Legislature and Executive Branch continue to evaluate the feasibility of conducting hybrid Bagley-Keene compliant meetings. Staff continue to adhere to and implement all applicable public health and safety guidance provided by state, county, and local public health agencies. In conjunction with State policies and guidance, the CRB continues to develop long-term post-pandemic teleworking policies and guidance for agency implementation and will maintain some level of teleworking going forward.

### CRB Planned Activities for FY 2024-2025

With the Governor's proposed FY 24-25 budget of \$2,840,000 for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, CRB staff anticipates participating in the following major programs and activities:

- With the recent release of the Record of Decision for the Final SEIS modifying the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the CRB will continue implementation of the May 2023 Lower Basin Interim Period Plan and responding to and participating in other drought mitigation and operational activities; as well as monitoring and evaluating annual water use accounting of System and mainstream Colorado River water supplies in both basins and Mexico.
- Continue providing effective direction, participation and technical support related to the development of the post-2026 interim operating guidelines for the Colorado River System, including outreach to California agencies and stakeholders, leading and organizing technical and policy webinars and workshops for the California agencies.
- Continue participation in Basin states principal and technical meetings and continue to provide technical and policy-level support to California's Colorado River Commissioner.
- Continue to participate in ongoing binational U.S./Mexico activities associated the implementation of the U.S./Mexico Water Treaty, Minute No. 323, and the new interim period Minute No. 330.
- Continue participation in the ongoing implementation of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program.

- 
- Continue participation in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, including a projected annual contribution of approximately \$17,000 for FY 24-25.
  - Continue participation in and cost-share funding of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. CRB will continue to work with Reclamation and other stakeholders to support continued operations at the Paradox Valley Unit, including the development of a long-term replacement for the existing injection well. Staff will also continue monitoring other ongoing water quality programs and activities.
  - Continue participation in the collective Basin States weather modification efforts in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.
  - Continue providing annual financial support to the U.S. Geological Survey to provide effective stream gaging stations in the Lower Colorado Basin.
  - Continue participation in the Colorado River Climate and Hydrology Workgroup, which includes planning of the next Climate and Hydrology Symposium, and ongoing development of proposed climate and hydrology research projects.
  - Continue to develop and provide effective technical support and modeling expertise to the Board member agencies.
  - Continue participation by Board staff in advocating and representation of California's positions at conferences and symposia.
  - Review of applications for use of Lower Colorado River Supply Project water supplies.

Role of CRB	
What is your understanding of CRB's role?	
Other	
Meeting Format	
Location, time, and frequency of meetings	
Special guests and presentations	
Style of board meetings	
Tour frequency and topics	
Other	
Areas of Interest	
Tribes, Salton Sea, Mexico, Environmental Justice	
Modelling capacity	

Public affairs programs <i>(public information, outreach and education, government affairs)</i>	
<b>Budget and Strategic Planning</b>	
Strategic planning <i>(process, goal setting, monitoring)</i>	
Budget planning <i>(adequacy, priorities, staffing)</i>	
Other	
<b>Board/Agency-CRB Staff Linkage</b>	
Communications and updates to Board/Agencies	
Goal setting and evaluation process with direct report	
Other	
<b>Other Topics of Interest</b>	
Other	

5/6/2024

# LOWER COLORADO WATER SUPPLY REPORT

River Operations  
Bureau of Reclamation

Questions: BCOWaterops@usbr.gov

(702) 293-8373

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

	PERCENT	Content 1000 ac-ft (kaf)	Elev. (Feet above mean sea level)	7-Day Release (CFS)
CURRENT STORAGE	FULL			
LAKE POWELL	34%	7,854	3,560.94	9,800
* LAKE MEAD	36%	9,321	1,071.52	16,600
LAKE MOHAVE	93%	1,689	642.63	15,800
LAKE HAVASU	91%	565	447.19	11,400
TOTAL SYSTEM CONTENTS **	42%	24,522		
As of 5/5/2024				
SYSTEM CONTENT LAST YEAR	35%	20,193		

\*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	93%	2,121		
Painted Rock Dam	0%	0	530.00	0
Alamo Dam	14%	137	1,124.35	21

Forecasted Water Use for Calendar Year 2024 (as of 5/6/2024) (values in kaf)

NEVADA	202	
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER SYSTEM		192
OTHERS		10
CALIFORNIA	4,197	
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		958
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS		3,222
OTHERS		17
ARIZONA	1,993	
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT		896
OTHERS		1,097
TOTAL LOWER BASIN USE		6,392
DELIVERY TO MEXICO - 2024 (Mexico Scheduled Delivery + Preliminary Yearly Excess <sup>1</sup> )		1,468

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

UNREGULATED INFLOW INTO LAKE POWELL - MAY FINAL FORECAST DATED 5/3/2024

	MILLION ACRE-FEET	% of Normal
FORECASTED WATER YEAR 2024	7.792	81%
FORECASTED APRIL-JULY 2024	5.100	80%
APRIL OBSERVED INFLOW	0.733	81%
MAY INFLOW FORECAST	1.900	92%

	Upper Colorado Basin	Salt/Verde Basin
WATER YEAR 2024 PRECIP TO DATE	100% (20.5")	98% (16.4")
CURRENT BASIN SNOWPACK	89% (9.4")	NA% (0.6")

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



BUREAU OF

RECLAMATION

LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION

CY 2024

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

WATER USE SUMMARY	Use	Forecast	Approved	Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use <sup>2</sup>	Approval
	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024
Arizona	728,588	1,991,852	1,981,323	10,529
California	1,158,385	4,194,081	4,194,081	0
Nevada	47,197	202,007	202,007	0
States Total <sup>3</sup>	1,934,170	6,387,940		
Total Deliveries to Mexico <sup>4</sup>	514,513	1,438,491		
Creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings <sup>5</sup>	0	29,999		
Creation of Mexico's Water Reserve <sup>6</sup>	0	0		
Delivery of Mexico's Water Reserve <sup>7</sup>	(3,432)	(18,490)		
Total to Mexico in Satisfaction of Treaty Requirements <sup>8</sup>	511,081	1,450,000		
To Mexico in Excess of Treaty <sup>9</sup>	15,271	29,321		
Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242 <sup>10</sup>	49,041	123,954		
Total Lower Basin & Mexico <sup>11</sup>	2,512,995	7,979,706	7,961,227	

<sup>1</sup> 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 March for users reporting monthly and is estimated for users reporting annually.

<sup>2</sup> These values reflect adjusted apportionments. See Adjusted Apportionment calculation on each state page.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Includes 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 to meet Mexico's schedule. Does not include Creation of Mexico's Water Reserve or Creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings.

<sup>5</sup> 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).

<sup>6</sup> Water deferred by Mexico pursuant to Section V of IBWC Minute 323.

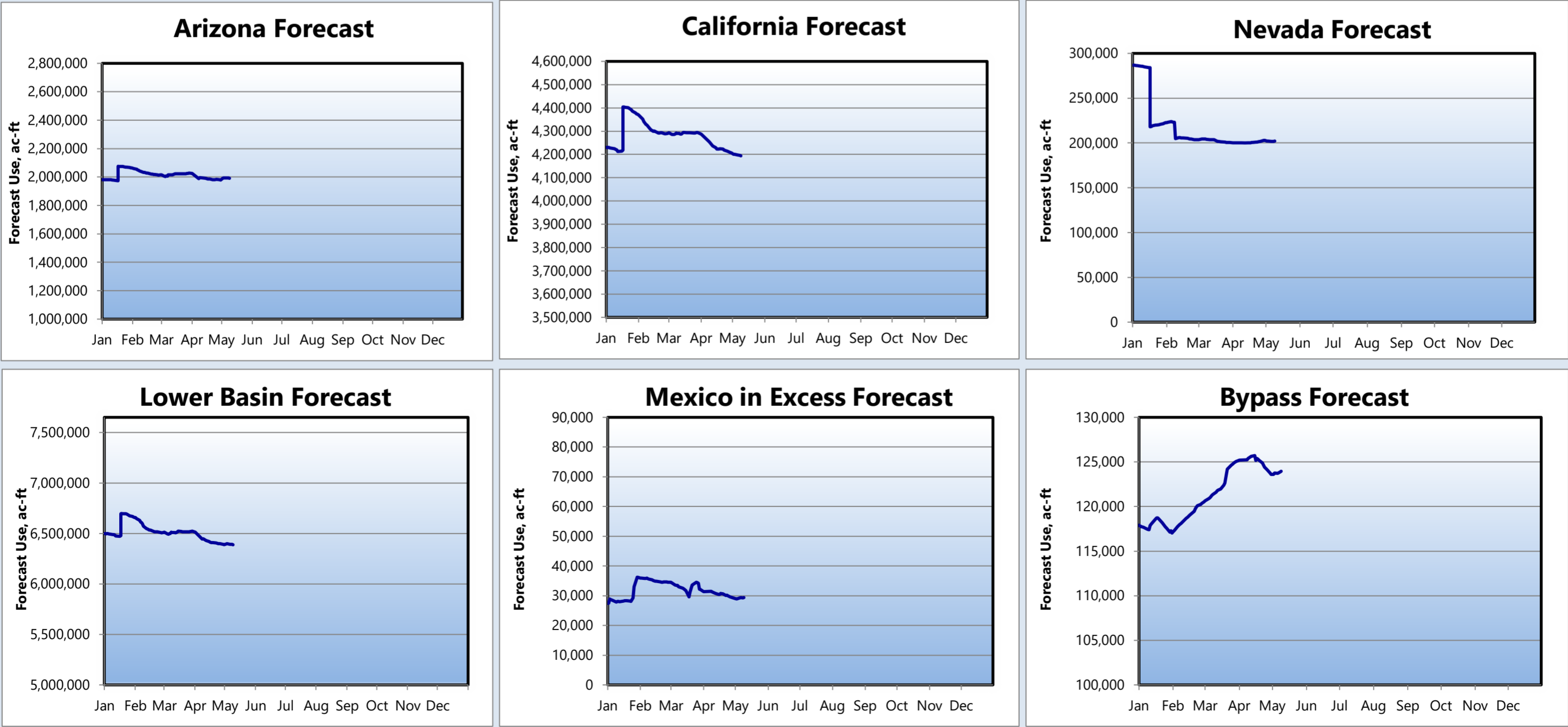
<sup>7</sup> Delivery from Mexico's Water Reserve pursuant to Section V.E.13 of IBWC Minute 323.

<sup>8</sup> In accordance with Section XI.G.2.D.1.a of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, a Tier 1 Shortage Condition will govern the operation of Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River in 2024. In accordance with Section III.A of Minute 323, Mexico's scheduled deliveries incorporate the required reduction of 50,000 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 and subtracts out Delivery of Mexico's Water Reserve.

<sup>9</sup> "To Mexico in Excess of Treaty" forecast is based on the 5-year average for the period 2018-2022.

<sup>10</sup> "Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242" forecast is based on the average for the period 1990-2022.

<sup>11</sup> Includes States Total, Total Deliveries to Mexico, To Mexico in Excess of Treaty, and Water Bypassed Pursuant IBWC Minute 242.



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



# LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION CY 2024

## 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](#)

[Historical Use Records \(Water Accounting Reports\)](#)

### 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.

	Use	Forecast	Estimated	Excess to	Diversion	Forecast	Approved	Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use	Use	To Date	Diversion	Diversion	Diversion
<b>WATER USER</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>	<b>CY 2024</b>
TV Marble Canyon, AZ LLC	4	10	10	---	5	15	15	0
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mead	11	63	65	---	11	63	65	-2
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mohave	81	233	224	---	81	233	224	<b>9</b>
McAlister Family Trust	3	7	7	---	4	10	10	0
Bureau of Reclamation - Davis Dam Project	1	2	2	---	3	9	9	0
Bullhead City	2,204	8,584	8,799	---	3,353	13,260	13,730	-470
Mohave Water Conservation District	308	854	854	---	460	1,275	1,275	0
Mohave Valley I.D.D. <sup>1</sup>	2,405	10,643	12,267	---	4,452	19,705	22,716	-3,011
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, AZ	8,129	38,349	46,167	---	15,051	71,019	85,500	-14,481
Golden Shores Water Conservation District	104	289	289	---	156	433	433	0
Havasu National Wildlife Refuge	912	3,221	3,564	---	7,606	34,699	41,835	-7,136
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. - CSA No. 1	181	584	595	---	277	898	916	-18
Crystal Beach Water Conservation District	26	73	73	---	40	112	112	0
Lake Havasu City	2,786	9,119	9,052	---	4,493	14,708	14,600	<b>108</b>
Arizona State Parks (Windsor Beach)	3	9	9	---	5	14	14	0
Central Arizona Water Conservation District <sup>2</sup>	438,811	894,928		---	438,811	894,928		--
Springs Del Sol Domestic Water Improvement District	1	2	2	---	1	3	3	0
Hillcrest Water Company	6	18	18	---	10	27	27	0
Frontier Communications West Coast	0	1	1	---	0	1	1	0
Town of Parker	78	370	388	---	226	865	897	-32
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. - CSA No. 2 (formerly Brooke Water, LLC)	92	311	318	---	137	463	474	-11
Colorado River Indian Reservation, AZ	80,541	339,266	360,641	---	148,040	605,620	662,402	-56,782
GM Gabrych Family	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Ehrenberg Improvement District	93	257	257	---	141	391	391	0
B&F Investment	3	7	7	---	4	10	10	0
North Baja Pipeline	75	208	208	---	116	320	320	0
Arizona State Land Department - Domestic	14	51	57	---	21	79	87	-8
Cibola Island	263	728	728	---	368	1,018	1,018	0
Cibola Valley I.D.D.	645	2,838	2,958	---	902	3,968	<i>4,137</i>	-169
Red River Land Co.	52	229	214	---	74	321	300	<b>21</b>
Hopi Tribe	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
GSC Farms, LLC	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Arizona Game & Fish	341	2,013	2,032	---	477	2,813	2,838	-25
Western Water, LLC	68	365	379	---	94	510	530	-20
Bishop Family Trust	108	300	300	---	152	420	420	0
Cathcarts	2	6	6	---	3	8	8	0
Cibola Sportsman's Club	56	154	154	---	78	216	216	0
Cibola National Wildlife Refuge	2,792	15,504	15,575	-71	4,502	25,006	25,122	-116
Imperial National Wildlife Refuge	1,547	4,717	4,717	0	2,496	7,610	7,610	0
BLM - Leased by L. Pratt	9	25	25	---	14	39	39	0
BLM Permittees (Parker Dam to Imperial Dam)	470	1,302	1,302	0	723	2,003	2,003	--
Martinez Lake Cabin Sites	3	7	7		4	11	11	
Fisher's Landing Water and Sewer, LLC	3	8	8	---	4	12	12	0
Shepard Water Company	6	16	16	---	9	25	25	0
U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds	91	406	421	---	91	406	421	-15
JRJ Partners, LLC	223	618	618	---	343	950	950	0
Cha Cha, LLC	446	1,439	1,365	---	687	2,215	2,100	<b>115</b>
Beattie Farms Southwest	238	679	722	---	366	1,043	1,110	-67
Gila Monster Farm	1,454	4,383	4,812	---	2,531	7,718	8,500	-782
Wellton-Mohawk I.D.D.	78,038	258,767	278,000	-19,233	117,077	390,451	424,350	-33,899
BLM Permittees (Below Imperial Dam)	41	114	114	0	63	175	175	--
City of Yuma	3,679	13,648	15,548	-1,900	7,445	25,126	27,500	-2,374
U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma	339	1,188	1,219	---	339	1,188	1,219	-31
Union Pacific Railroad	9	29	29	---	17	48	48	0
University of Arizona	140	729	839	---	140	729	839	-110
Yuma Union High School District	30	139	150	---	40	185	200	-15
Desert Lawn Memorial	10	28	28	---	14	40	40	0
North Gila Valley Irrigation District	2,223	8,390	9,231	---	9,835	38,541	43,500	-4,959
Yuma Irrigation District	11,518	36,274	38,977	---	20,231	67,260	73,400	-6,140
Yuma Mesa I.D.D.	3,060	57,832	62,410	---	39,354	184,589	188,219	-3,630
South Gila	122	337	337	---	435	1,204	1,204	0
Unit "B" I.D.D.	1,287	9,770	10,474	---	6,542	26,553	28,300	-1,747

	Use	Forecast	Estimated	Excess to				Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use	Estimated	Diversion	Forecast	Approved	Approved
<u>WATER USER</u>	<u>CY 2024</u>	<u>CY 2024</u>	<u>CY 2024</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>Diversion</u>	<u>Diversion</u>	<u>Diversion</u>
				<u>CY 2024</u>	<u>CY 2024</u>	<u>CY 2024</u>	<u>CY 2024</u>	<u>CY 2024</u>
Arizona State Land Department - Agriculture	1,198	4,076	4,295		1,867	6,295	6,607	-312
Ott Family	90	248	248		138	382	382	0
Ogram Boys' Enterprises	207	574	574		319	883	883	0
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation	1,127	3,121	3,121	---	1,734	4,801	4,801	0
BLM - Leased by M. Lee	53	148	148		82	227	227	0
Armon Curtis	47	129	129		71	198	198	0
Yuma County Water Users' Association	79,140	250,520	279,319	---	114,613	340,087	367,300	-27,213
R. Griffin	12	32	32		18	49	49	0
Power	37	103	103		57	158	158	0
Cocopah Indian Tribe (PPR No. 7)	92	256	256		142	394	394	0
Griffin Ranches (PPR No. 7)	35	98	98		54	150	150	0
Milton Phillips (PPR No. 7)	20	55	55		31	85	85	0
Griffin Family Ltd. Partnership (PPR No. 7)	8	23	23		13	35	35	0
Cocopah Indian Reservation	230	1,730	1,821	---	283	2,600	2,812	-212
Reclamation - Yuma Area Office	36	100	100	---	36	100	100	0
Arizona Public Service Company	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Gary Pasquinelli	71	198	198		110	305	305	0
<b>Total Arizona</b>	<b>728,588</b>	<b>1,991,852</b>	<b>2,086,037</b>		<b>958,522</b>	<b>2,808,310</b>	<b>2,974,844</b>	
Central Arizona Project (CAP) <sup>2</sup>	438,811	894,928				894,928		
All Others	289,777	1,096,924	1,188,109			1,913,382	2,076,916	
Yuma Mesa Division, Gila Project	16,801	102,496	110,618	-8,122		290,390		
Total 242 Well Field Pumping <sup>3</sup>	24,240	57,215	56,130					

**ARIZONA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION**

Arizona Basic Apportionment	2,800,000
Reduction for Tier 1 Shortage <sup>4</sup>	(320,000)
Reduction for Arizona DCP Contributions <sup>5</sup>	(192,000)
System Conservation Water - Pilot System Conservation Program <sup>6</sup>	(400)
System Conservation Water – CAP Subcontractors <sup>7,8</sup>	(129,400)
System Conservation Water – Cathcarts <sup>7,9</sup>	(61)
System Conservation Water – CVIDD <sup>7,10</sup>	(2,328)
System Conservation Water – FMYN <sup>7,11</sup>	(13,933)
System Conservation Water – GM Gabrych <sup>7,12</sup>	(3,240)
System Conservation Water – GRIC <sup>7,13</sup>	(125,000)
System Conservation Water – Hopi <sup>7,14</sup>	(3,059)
System Conservation Water - MVIDD <sup>7,15</sup>	(13,441)
System Conservation Water - YMIDD <sup>7,16</sup>	(21,795)
System Conservation Water - Reclamation (Estimated) <sup>7,17</sup>	(25,000)
Delivery of ICS (CAWCD) <sup>18</sup>	up to 30,980
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	1,981,323
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	10,529
<b>Estimated Allowable Use for CAP</b>	<b>884,571</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Forecast Use incorporates CAWCD's operational schedule. Amount shown includes the diversion of up to 2,033 AF to be delivered via the CAP to the Town of Queen Creek pursuant to Reclamation Wheeling Contract No. 20-XX-30-W0691 and the diversion of 72,000 AF of Arizona third priority Colorado River water to be delivered via the CAP to fulfill water rights settlements pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment and the Stipulation for Judgment entered on November 21, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with Section XI.G.2.D.1.a of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, a Tier 1 Shortage Condition will govern the operation of Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River in 2024, resulting in a 320,000 AF reduction to the state of Arizona's Colorado River basic apportionment.

<sup>5</sup> 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 2024.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> In accordance with the applicable conservation agreements, Section 3.b of the *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* dated May 20, 2019 (LB DCP Agreement), and Section II.3.e of the *Agreement Regarding Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Obligations*, this System Conservation Water will remain in Colorado River reservoirs in the Lower Basin to benefit system storage. The Bureau of Reclamation intends to apply this water towards the Secretary of the Interior's commitment to create or conserve 100,000 AF per annum or more of Colorado River System water to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs in the Lower Basin.

<sup>8</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created by certain CAP Subcontractors pursuant to executed SCIA's.

<sup>9</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0776.

<sup>10</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0771.

<sup>11</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0750.

<sup>12</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0774.

<sup>13</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0760.

<sup>14</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0779

<sup>15</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0770.

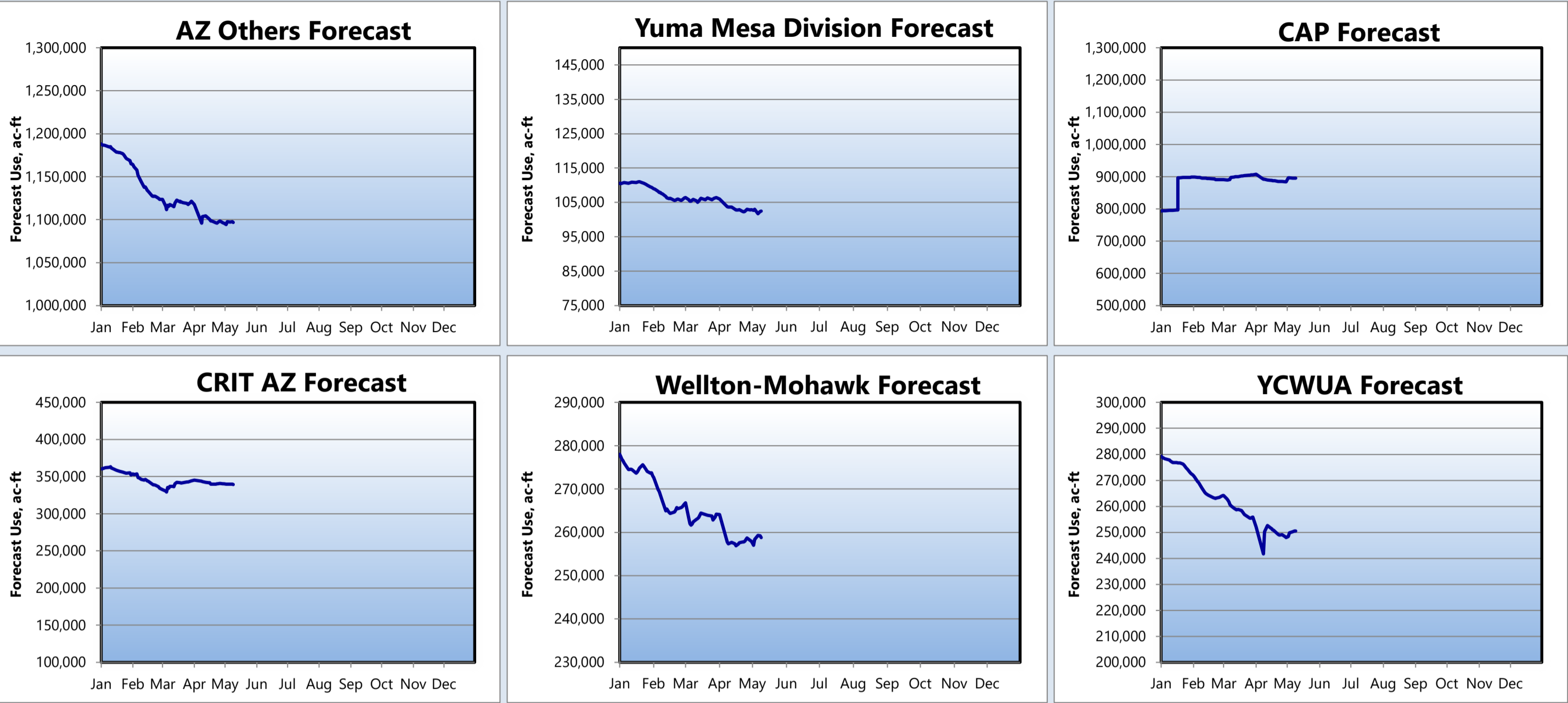
Footnotes continued on next page.

Footnotes continued from previous page.

<sup>16</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No.23-XX-30-W0769.

<sup>17</sup> 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

<sup>18</sup> The maximum amount of EC ICS delivery per CAWCD’s approved water order. Actual amount of EC ICS delivered will be based on final accounting records.



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



LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION  
CY 2024

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](#)  
[Historical Use Records \(Water Accounting Reports\)](#)

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

WATER USER	Use	Forecast	Estimated	Excess to	Diversion	Forecast	Approved	Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use	Estimated	To Date	Diversion	Diversion	Approved
	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, CA	1,239	7,427	8,994	---	2,302	13,806	16,720	-2,914
City of Needles (includes LCWSP use)	310	1,435	1,605	-170	519	2,103	2,261	-158
PPR No. 30 (Stephenson)	6	16	16	---	10	29	29	0
PPR No. 38 (Andrade)	8	23	23	---	15	41	41	---
PPR No. 40 (Cooper)	2	6	6	---	4	10	10	---
Chemehuevi Indian Reservation	66	184	184	---	4,095	11,340	11,340	0
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California <sup>1</sup>	201,853	957,746		---	202,896	960,348		---
Colorado River Indian Reservation, CA	1582	4,380	4,380	---	2,621	7,258	7,258	0
Palo Verde Irrigation District	66,761	346,427	400,228	---	187,967	760,709	826,000	-65,291
PPR No. 31 (Mendivil)	1	3	3	---	2	5	5	0
Yuma Project Reservation Division	9,121	36,733	46,515	---	23,772	83,412	95,734	-12,322
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Bard Unit	---	---	---	---	10,660	42,618	49,800	-7,182
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Indian Unit	---	---	---	---	13,112	40,794	45,934	-5,140
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Ranch 5 (Surface Delivery)	307	1,131	1,194	---	554	2,045	2,160	-115
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Other Ranches (Pumpers)	703	1,948	1,948	---	1,272	3,522	3,522	0
Yuma Island Pumpers	721	1,997	1,997	---	1,305	3,613	3,613	0
Imperial Irrigation District <sup>2</sup>	793,430	2,488,515	2,612,800	-124,285	801,947	2,614,407	2,782,987	---
Coachella Valley Water District	82,077	345,561	359,000	-13,439	86,975	369,459	383,674	---
Other LCWSP Contractors	179	497	497	---	275	761	761	0
City of Winterhaven	19	52	52	---	27	75	75	0
Total California	1,158,385	4,194,081	4,413,737		1,316,558	4,832,943	5,112,976	

CALIFORNIA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

California Basic Apportionment	4,400,000
System Conservation Water - Pilot System Conservation Program <sup>3</sup>	(145)
System Conservation Water - CVWD <sup>4,5</sup>	(35,000)
System Conservation Water - MWD/PVID Following Program <sup>4,6</sup>	(117,021)
System Conservation Water -Quechan Indian Tribe <sup>4,7</sup>	(13,000)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS <sup>8</sup>	(40,753)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	4,194,081
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	0

Estimated Allowable Use for MWD 998,499

<sup>1</sup> Forecast Use is based on MWD's operational projected diversion of 0.982 MAF as modeled in the January 24-Month Study.

<sup>2</sup> IID's total approved consumptive use is 2,622,800 AF, of which up to 10,000 AF is anticipated to be supplied from the LCWSP.

<sup>3</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created by the City of Needles pursuant to System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA) No. 15-XX-30-W0596, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

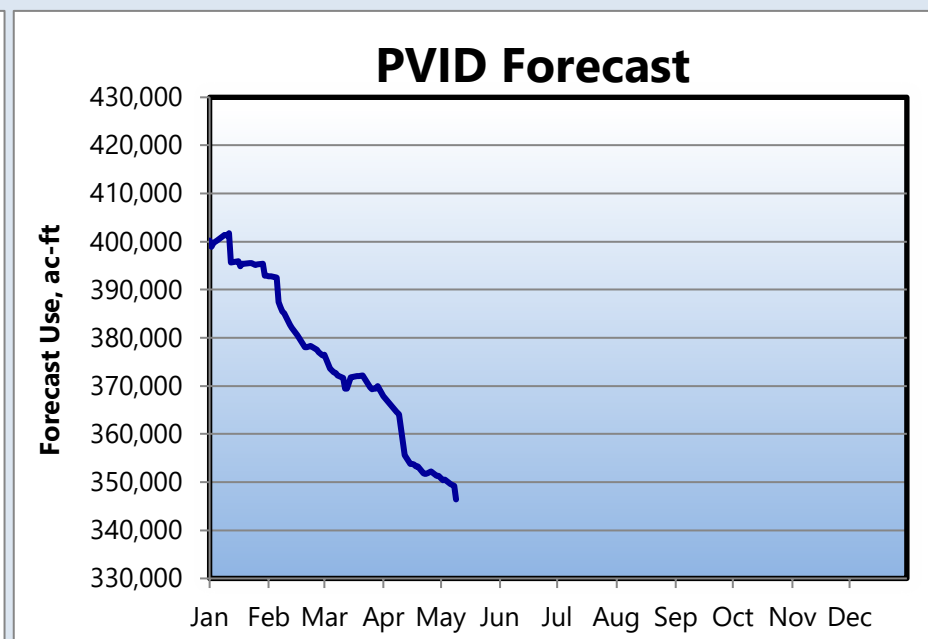
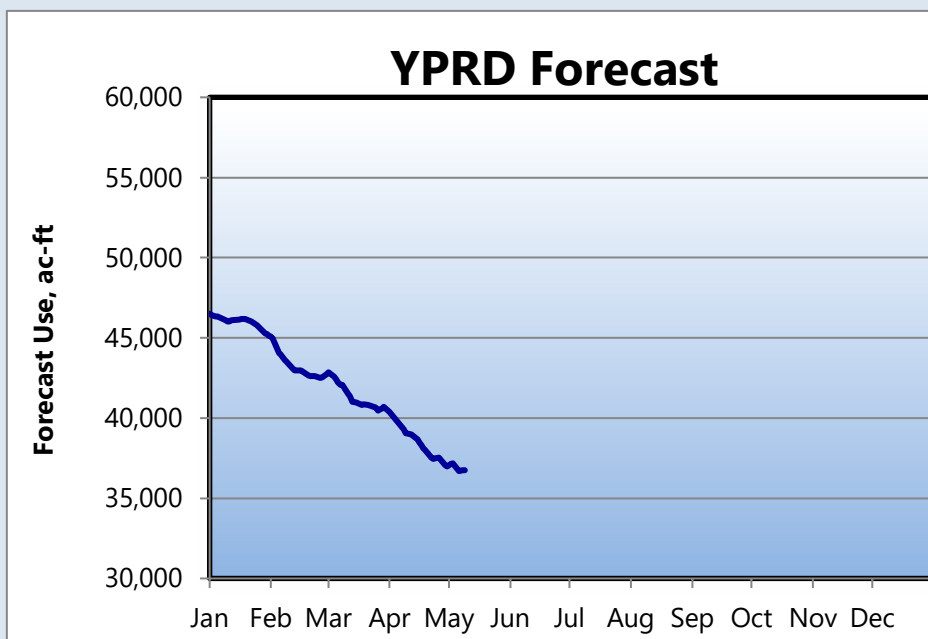
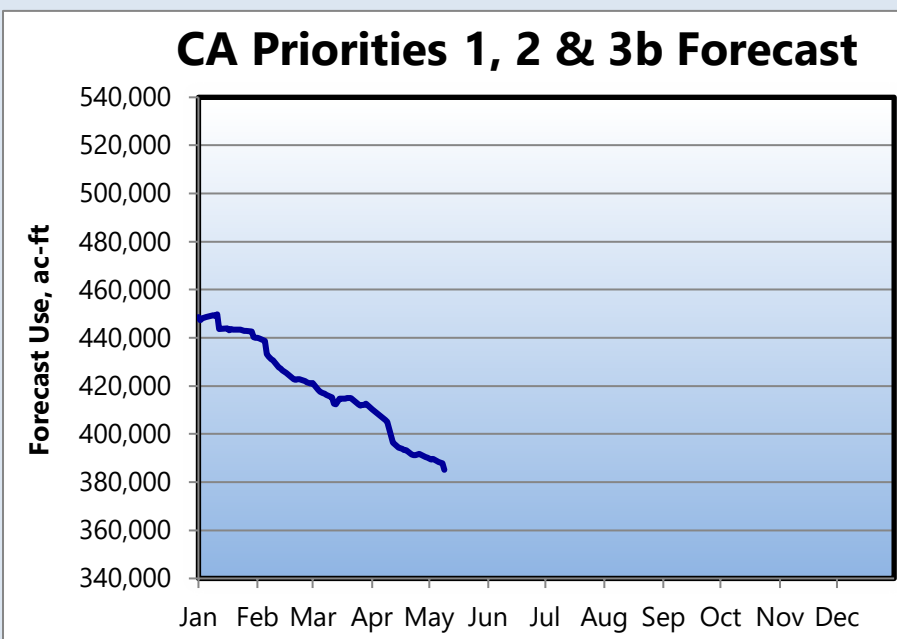
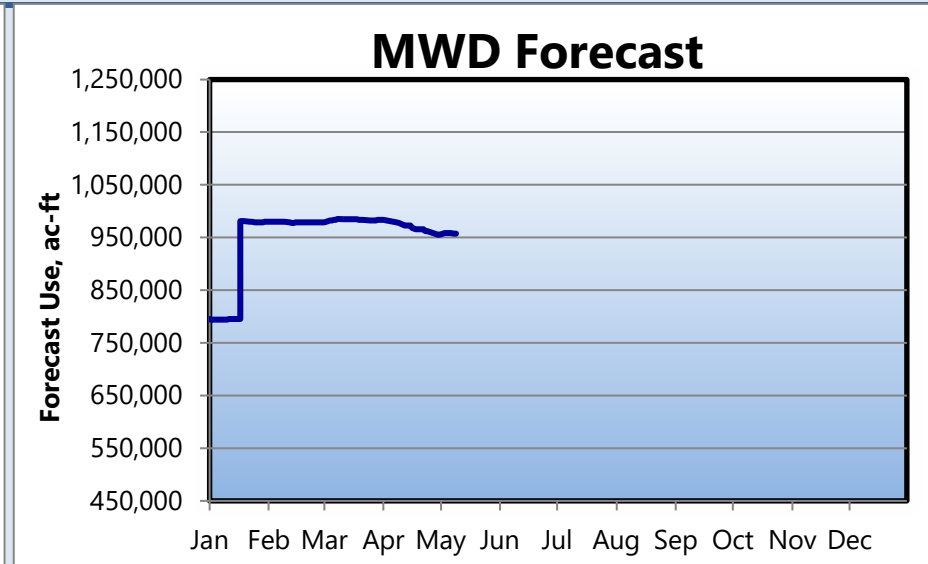
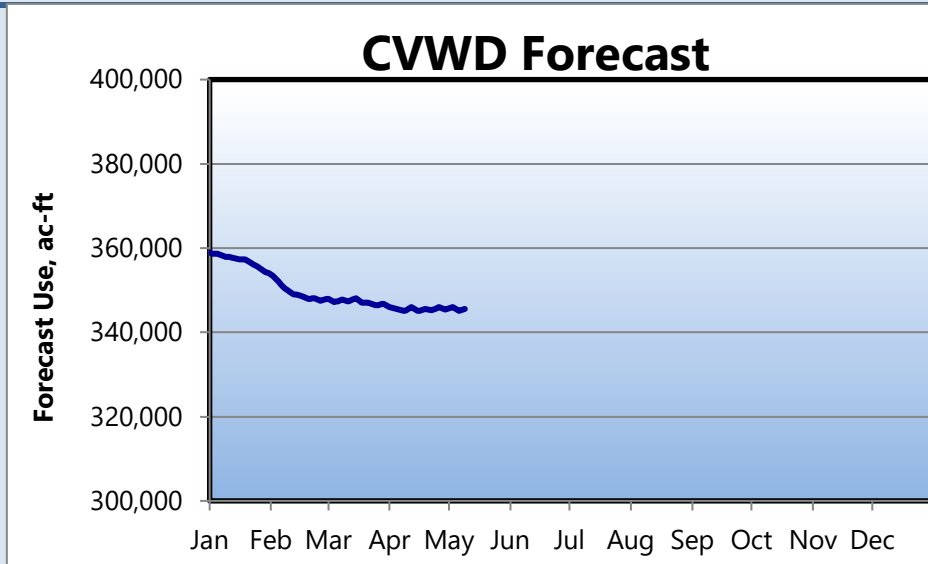
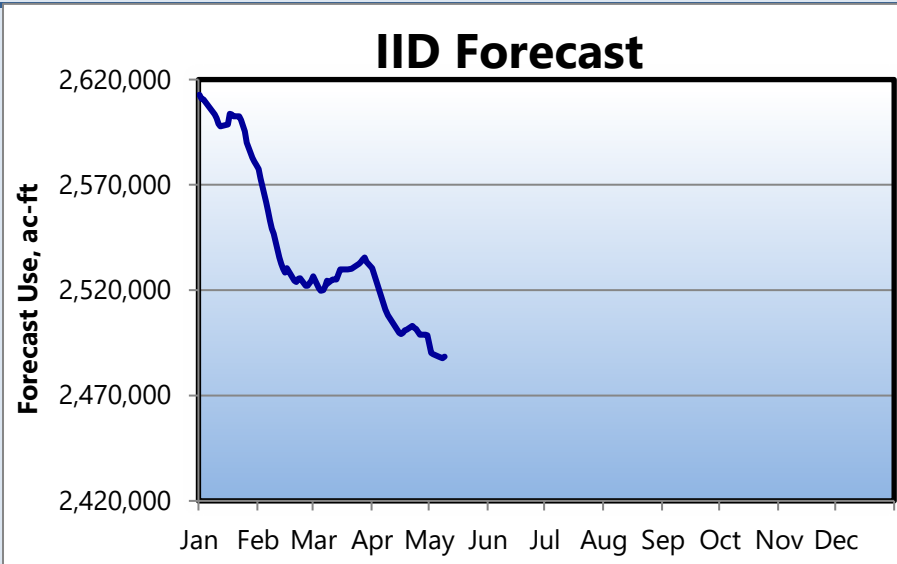
<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the applicable system conservation agreements and Section 3.b of the *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* dated May 20, 2019, the Bureau of Reclamation intends to apply all or a portion of this water towards the Secretary of the Interior's commitment to create 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. This System Conservation Water will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage.

<sup>5</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0764.

<sup>6</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0772.

<sup>7</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0783.

<sup>8</sup> MWD has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 450,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2024. The actual amount of EC ICS created by MWD in 2024 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 2024 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.



LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION  
CY 2024

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](#)  
[Historical Use Records \(Water Accounting Reports\)](#)

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.

	Use	Forecast	Estimated	Excess to	Diversion	Forecast	Approved	Excess to
	To Date	Use	Use	Estimated	To Date	Diversion	Diversion	Approved
WATER USER	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	Use	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2024	Diversion
Robert B. Griffith Water Project (SNWS)	134,386	432,577		---	134,386	432,577		---
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mead	219	1,223	1,500	---	219	1,223	1,500	-277
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mohave	85	396	500	---	85	396	500	-104
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.	278	915	928	---	278	915	928	-13
Boulder Canyon Project	65	180	180	---	108	300	300	0
Big Bend Water District	810	4,249	4,823	---	1,691	8,565	10,000	-1,435
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	523	3,092	3,683	---	780	4,617	5,500	-883
Las Vegas Wash Return Flows	-89,169	-240,625	-232,886	---				
Total Nevada <sup>1</sup>	47,197	202,007	212,000	0	137,547	448,593	452,000	-2,712
Southern Nevada Water System (SNWS)	45,217	191,952				432,577		
All Others	1,980	10,055				16,016		
Nevada Uses Above Hoover	45,779	194,270				435,015		
Nevada Uses Below Hoover	1,418	7,737				13,578		

Tributary Conservation (TC) Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

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

NEVADA ADJUSTED APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

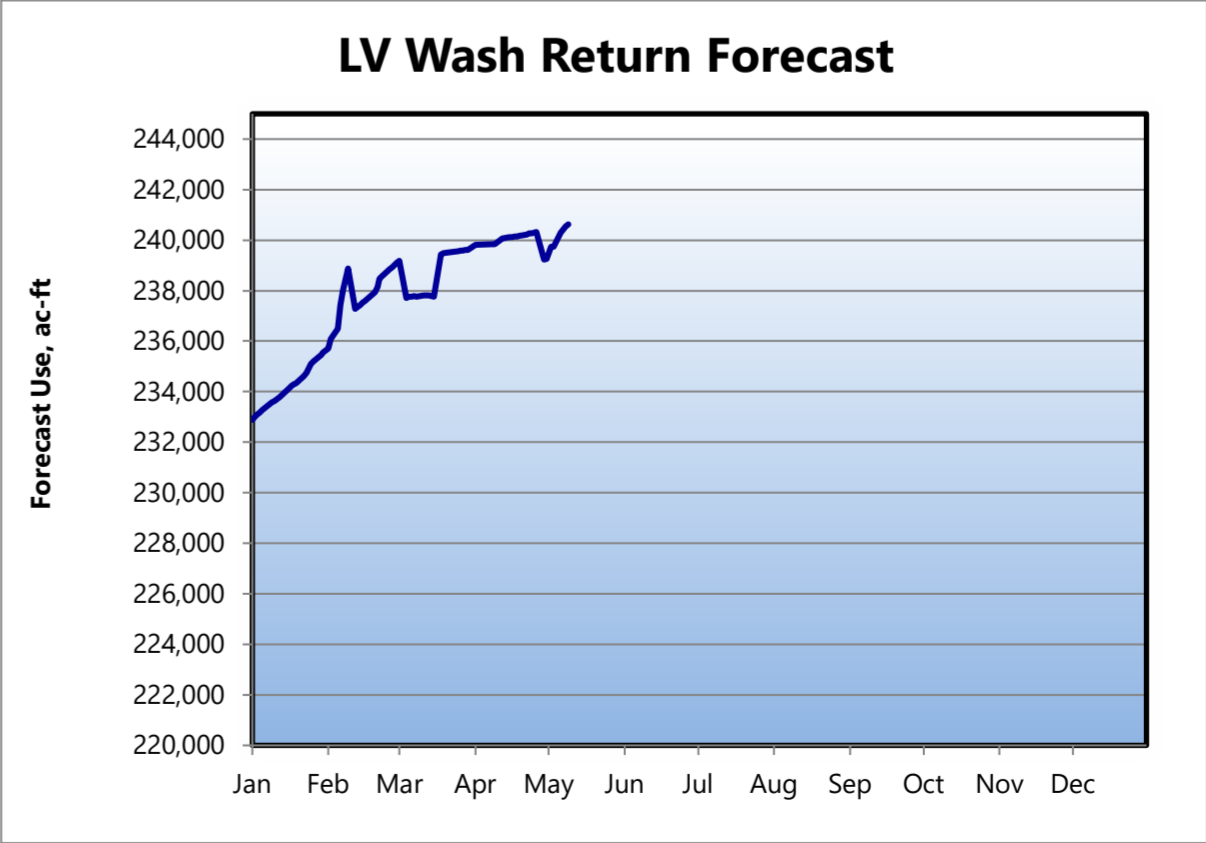
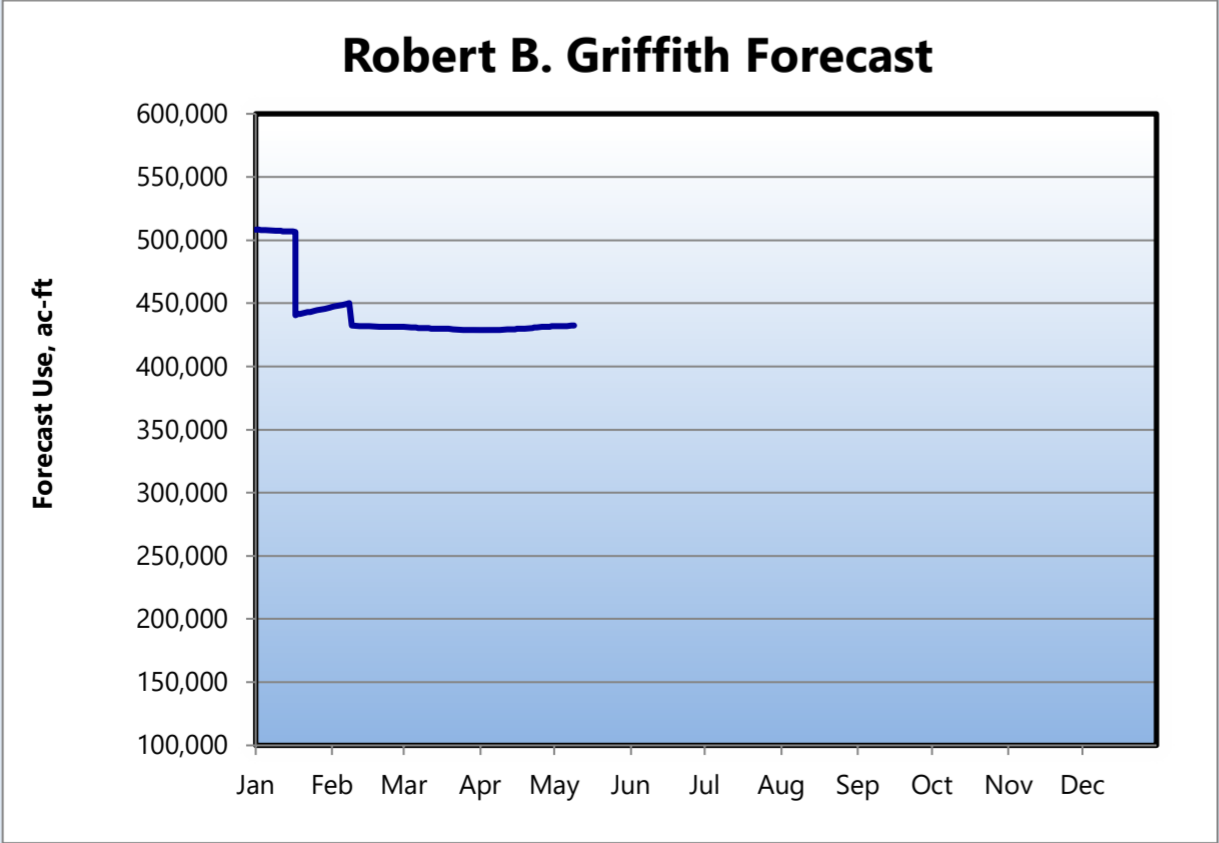
Nevada Basic Apportionment	300,000
Reduction for Tier 1 Shortage <sup>3</sup>	(13,000)
Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS - SNWA (Estimated) <sup>4</sup>	(84,993)
Total State Adjusted Apportionment	202,007
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	0

<sup>1</sup> The State of Nevada has been approved to consumptively use up to 287,000 AF in CY 2024. Forecast Use shown here is based on Nevada's operational projected consumptive use of 212,000 AF.

<sup>2</sup> SNWA has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 44,000 AF of TC ICS in 2024. The actual amount of TC ICS created by SNWA in 2024 will be based on final accounting and verification.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with Section XI.G.2.D.1.a of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, a Tier 1 Shortage Condition will govern the operation of Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River in 2024, resulting in a 13,000 AF reduction to the state of Nevada's Colorado River basic apportionment.

<sup>4</sup> SNWA has an approved ICS Plan for the creation of up to 100,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2024. The actual amount of EC ICS created by SNWA in 2024 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 2024 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.



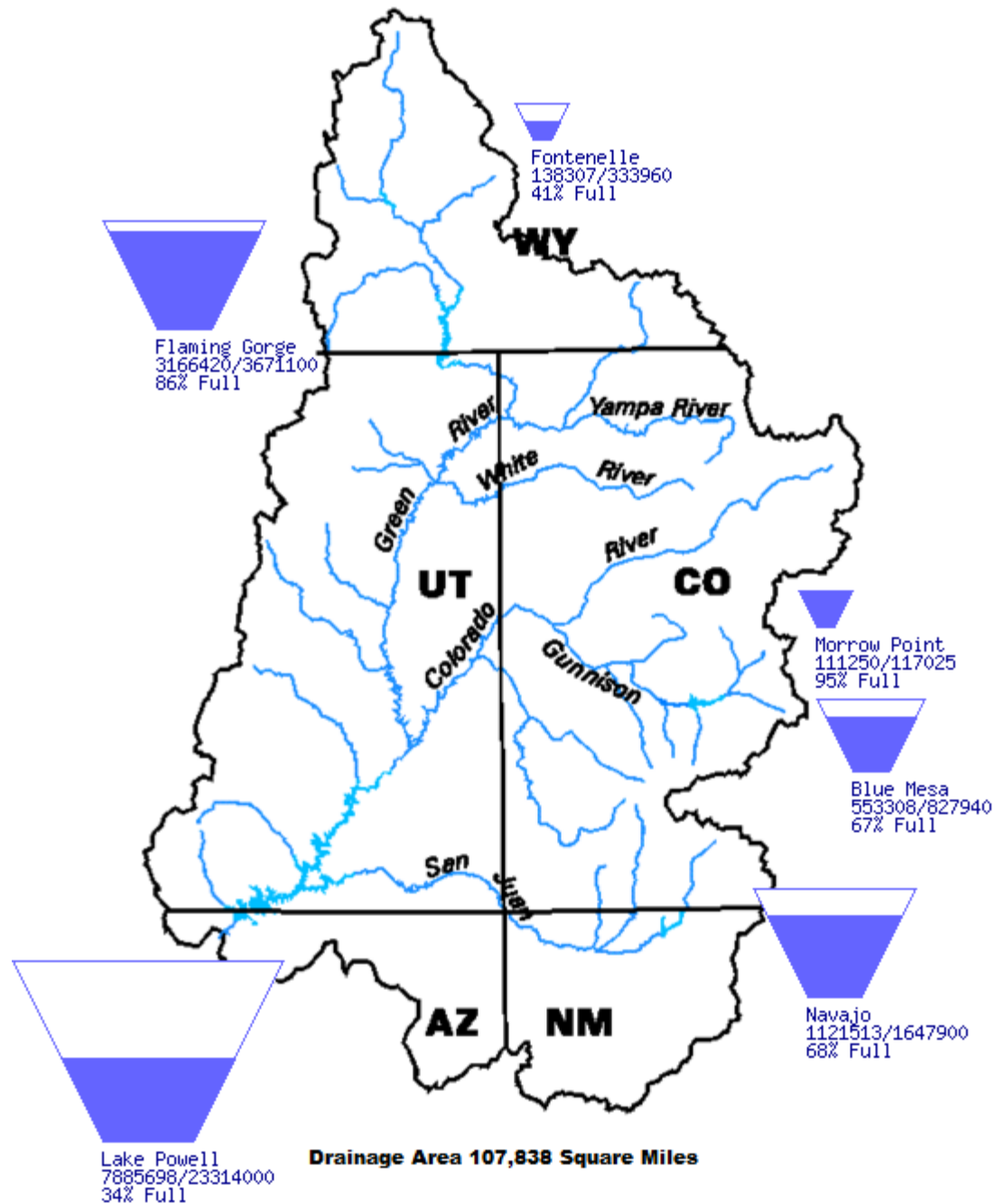
NOTES: Click on Nevada Schedules and Approvals above for incoming diversion schedules and approvals.

# Upper Colorado Region Water Resources Group

## River Basin Tea-Cup Diagrams

Data Current as of:  
05/08/2024

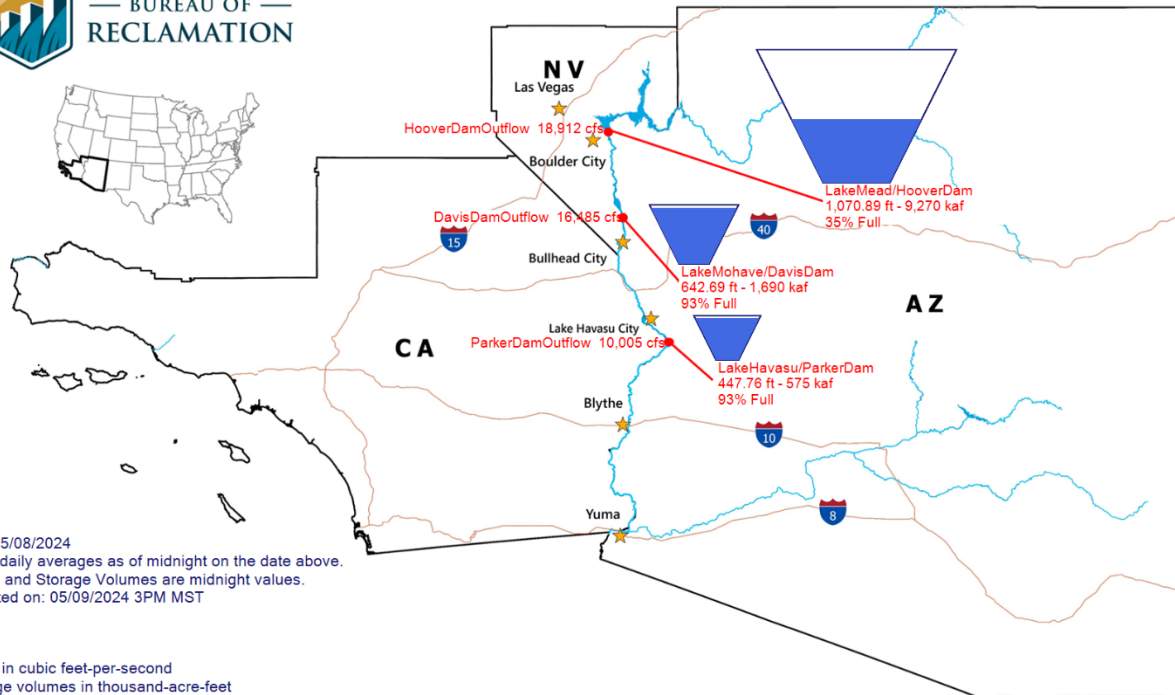
### Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



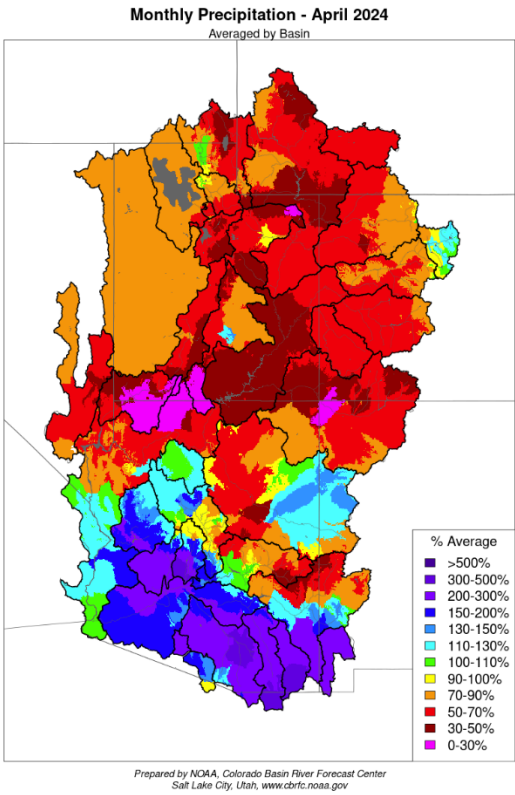
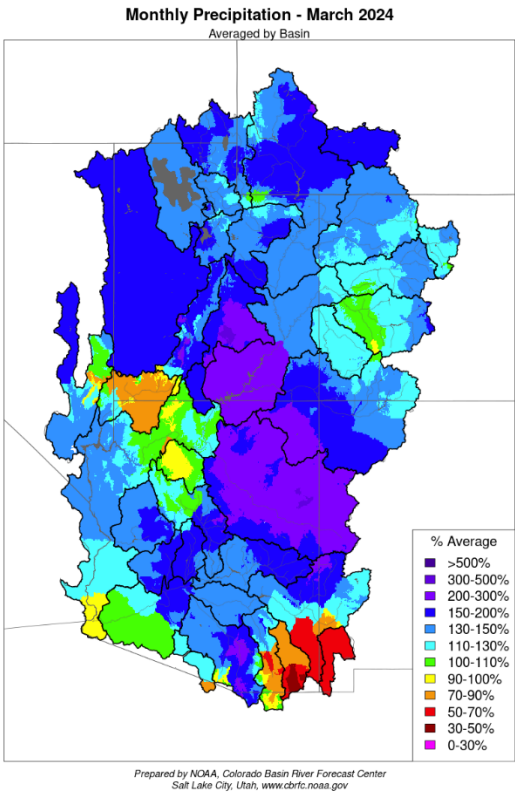
# Lower Colorado River Teacup Diagram



BUREAU OF  
RECLAMATION

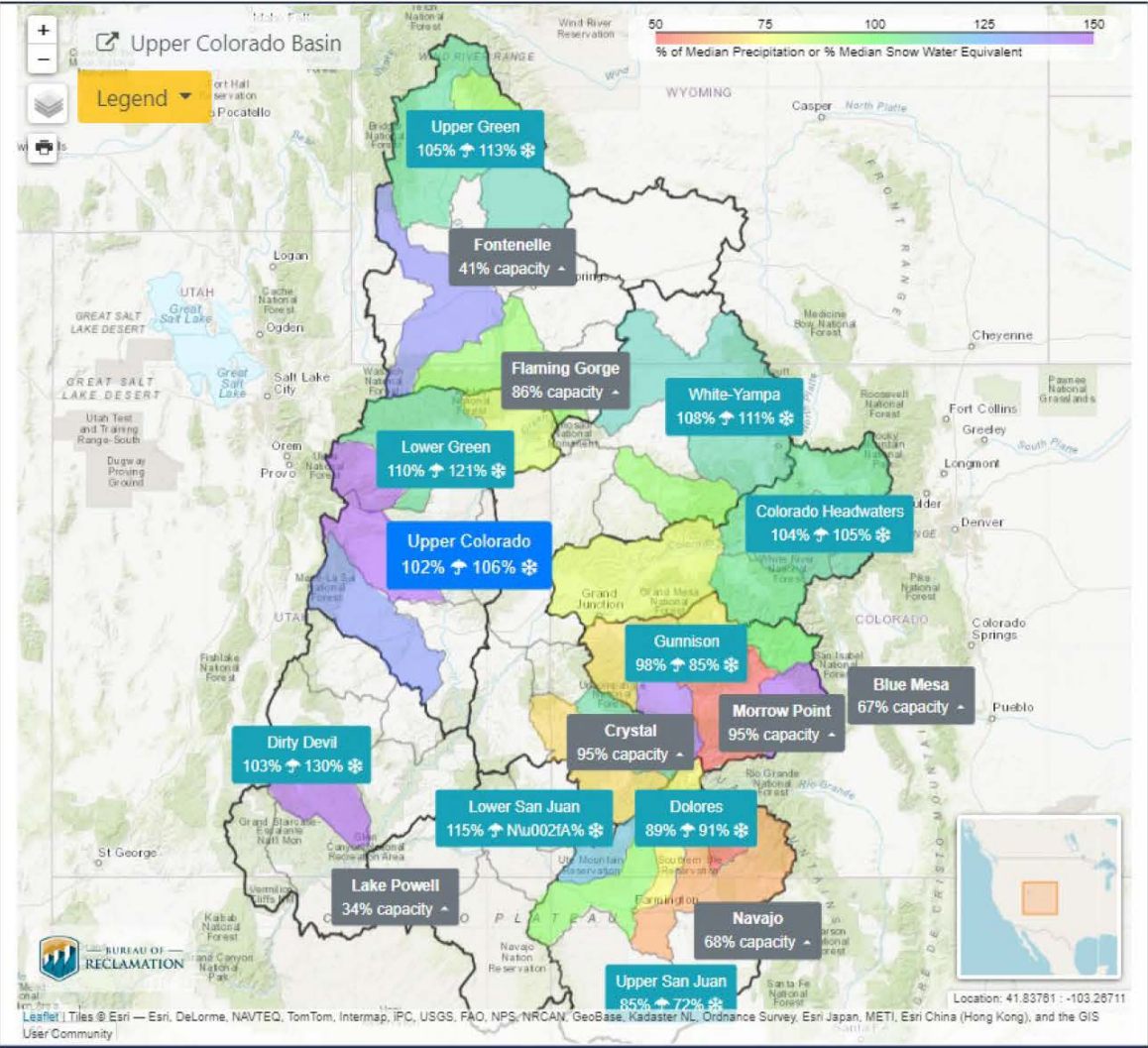
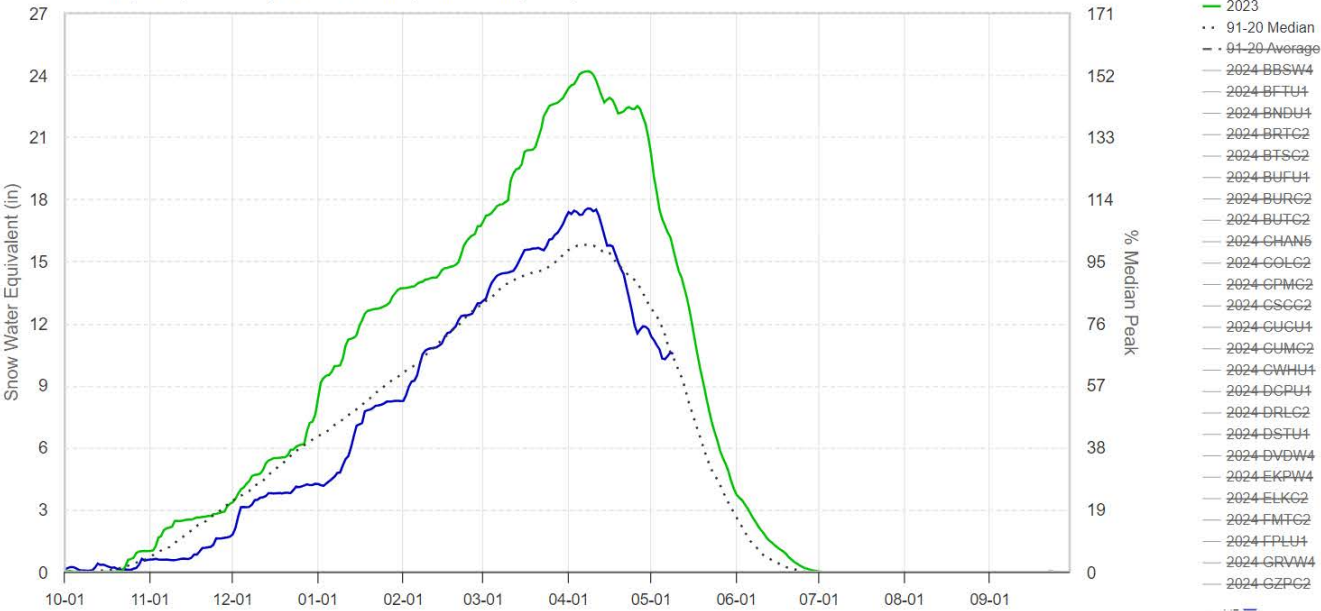


NOAA National Weather Service Monthly Precipitation Map March and April 2024



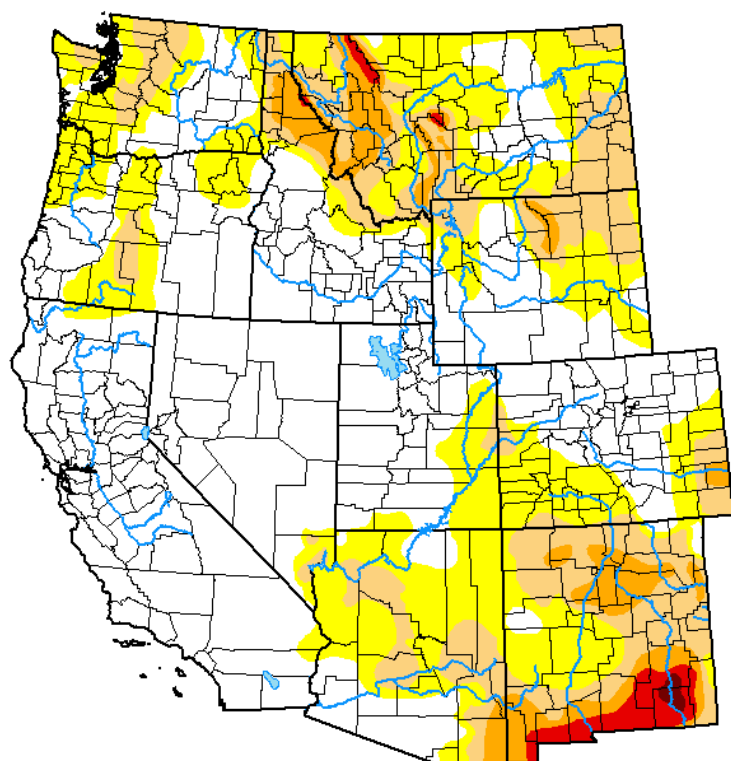
Lake Powell - longrecord - Group SNOTEL Plot

70 sites  
Ob (05-09): 10.53 in, 101% Med - Rate (in/dy): 0.09 (3-day), -0.10 (week)  
Peak (04-08): 17.56 in (111.00 % Med Pk) - Med Peak (04-07): 15.80 in



# U.S. Drought Monitor West

**May 7, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, May. 9, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	52.82	47.18	21.34	6.53	1.57	0.16
<b>Last Week</b> 04-30-2024	53.60	46.40	20.60	6.41	1.57	0.16
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 02-06-2024	49.75	50.25	27.15	12.60	3.15	0.57
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-02-2024	51.19	48.81	25.08	13.17	4.67	0.66
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2023	55.99	44.01	31.24	17.70	6.09	0.70
<b>One Year Ago</b> 05-09-2023	46.96	53.04	22.64	5.44	0.98	0.05

Intensity:

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

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

Author:

Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center

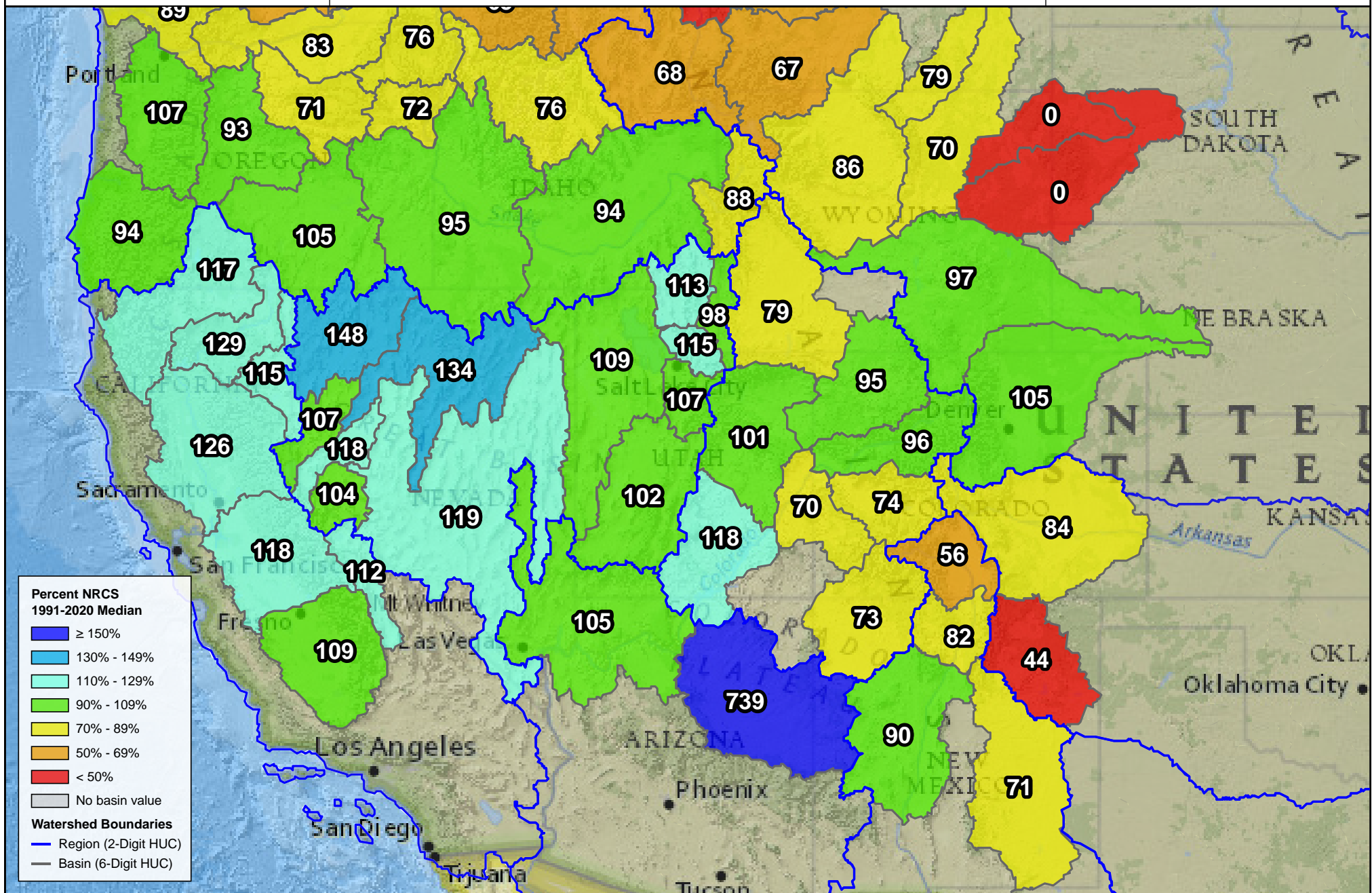


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Snow Water Equivalent

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

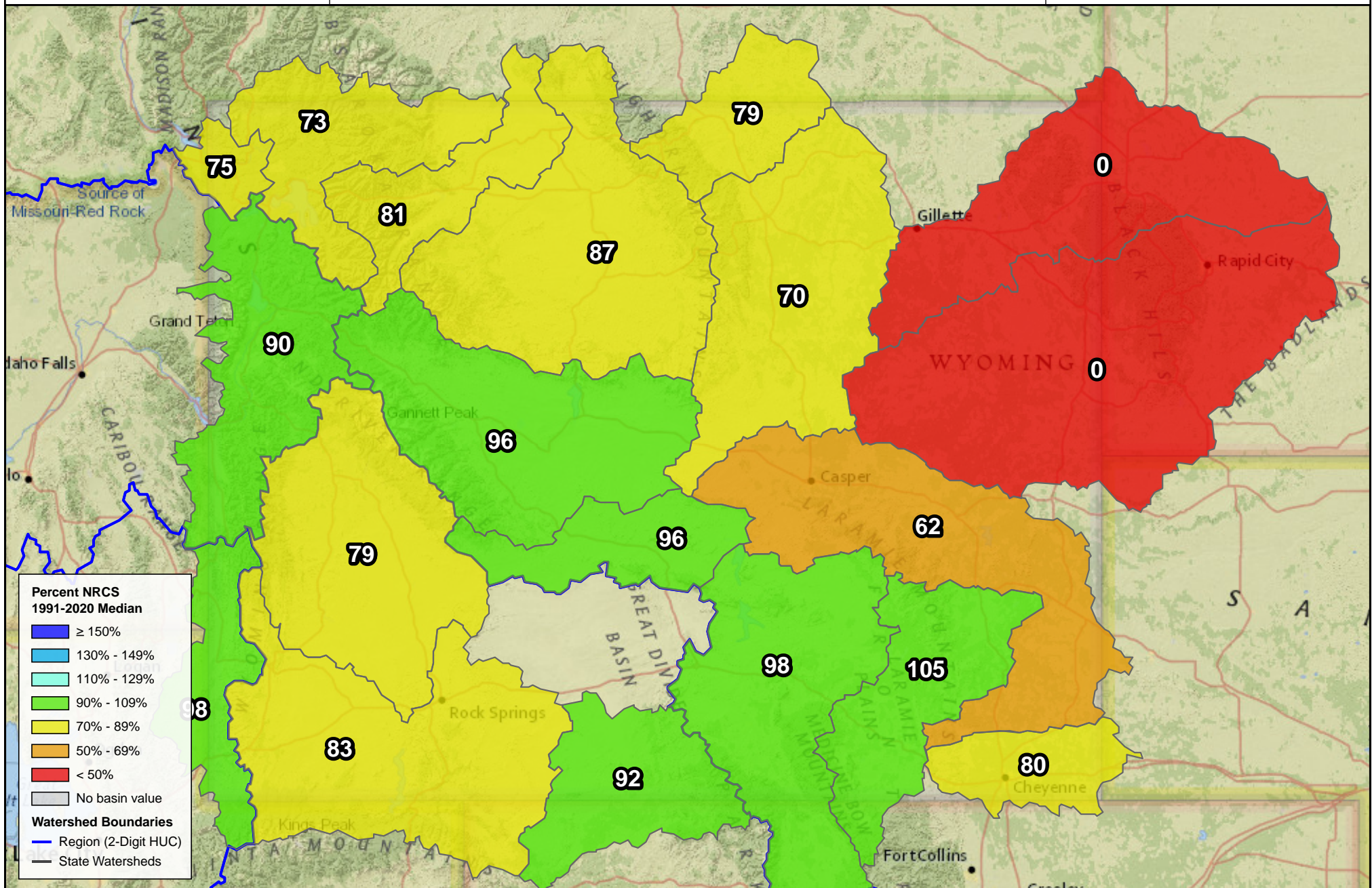
May 1st, 2024



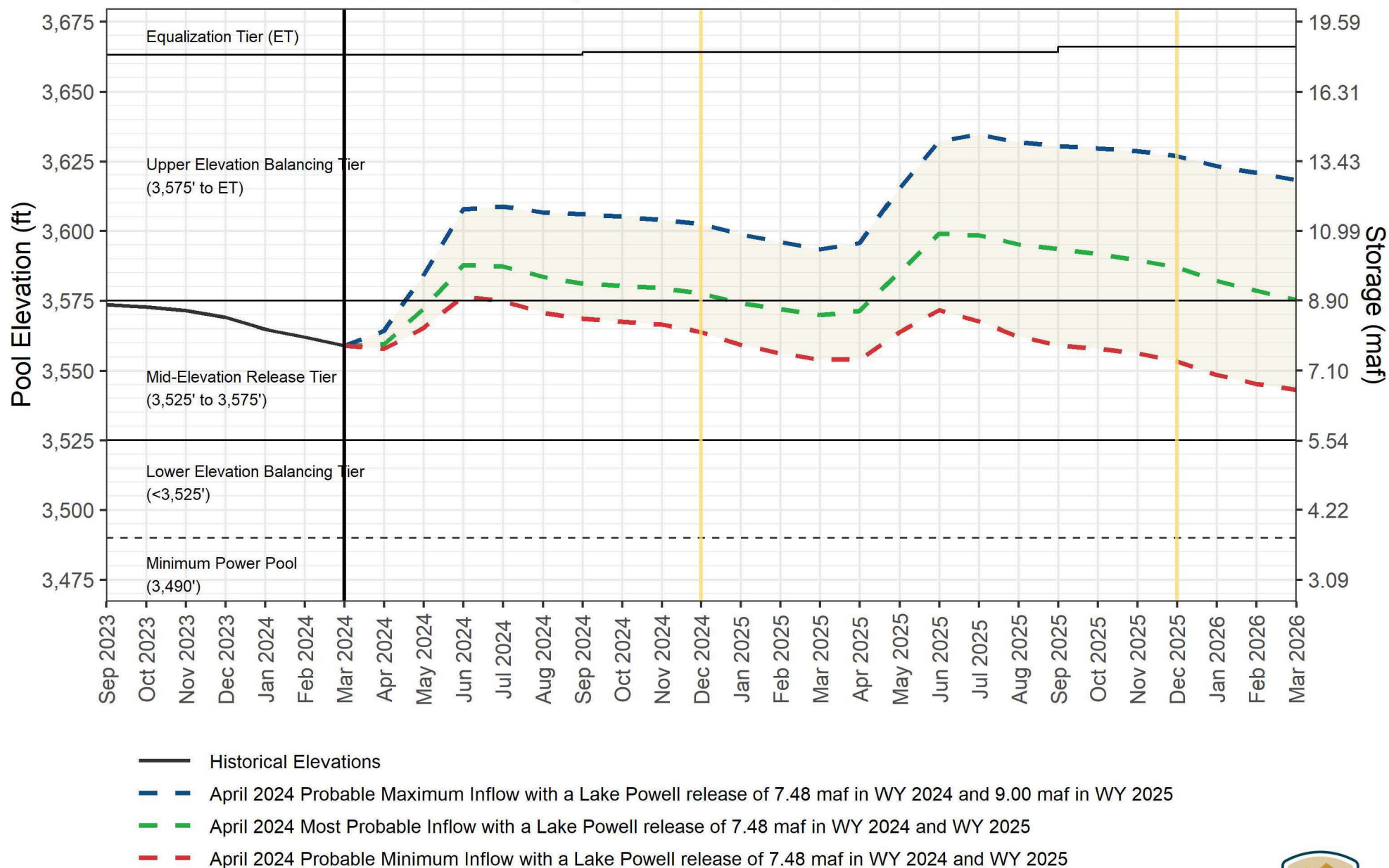
Snow Water Equivalent

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

May 1st, 2024



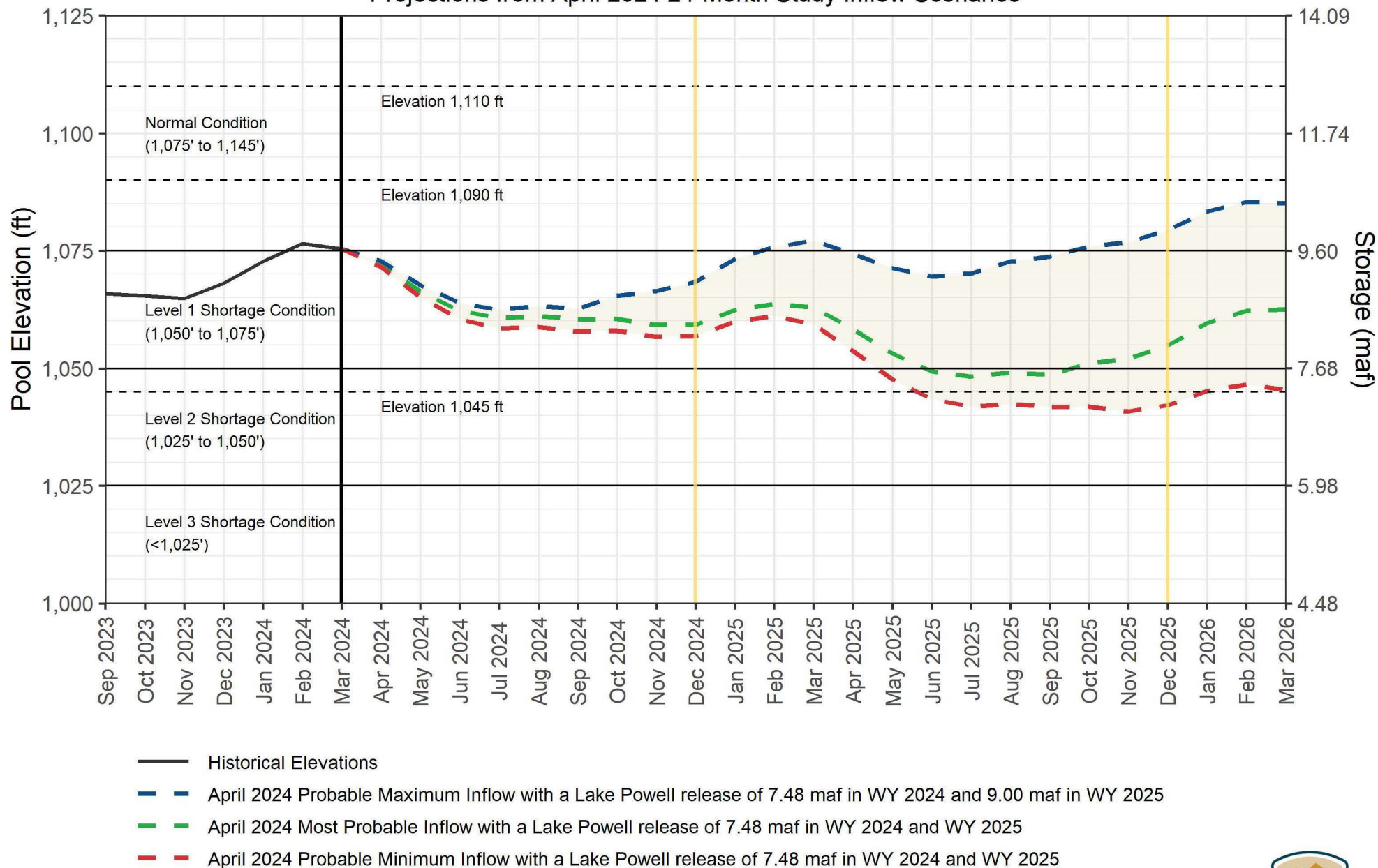
# Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations Projections from April 2024 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



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

# Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations

## Projections from April 2024 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



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

## Precipitation Statistics (period of record: 1981-current)

### Statewide as of 05/01/2024

Water Year to Date: **22.5"**

% of Average: **105%**

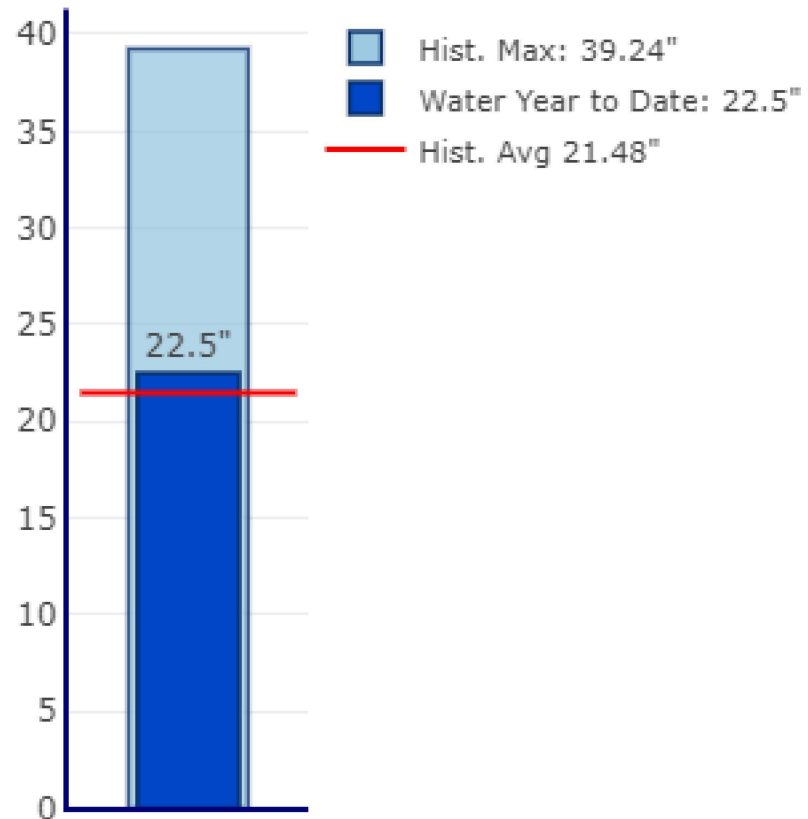
Precipitation % of average for  
full water year through  
September 30th: **95%**

#### Historical Record to Date:

Max: **39.24"**

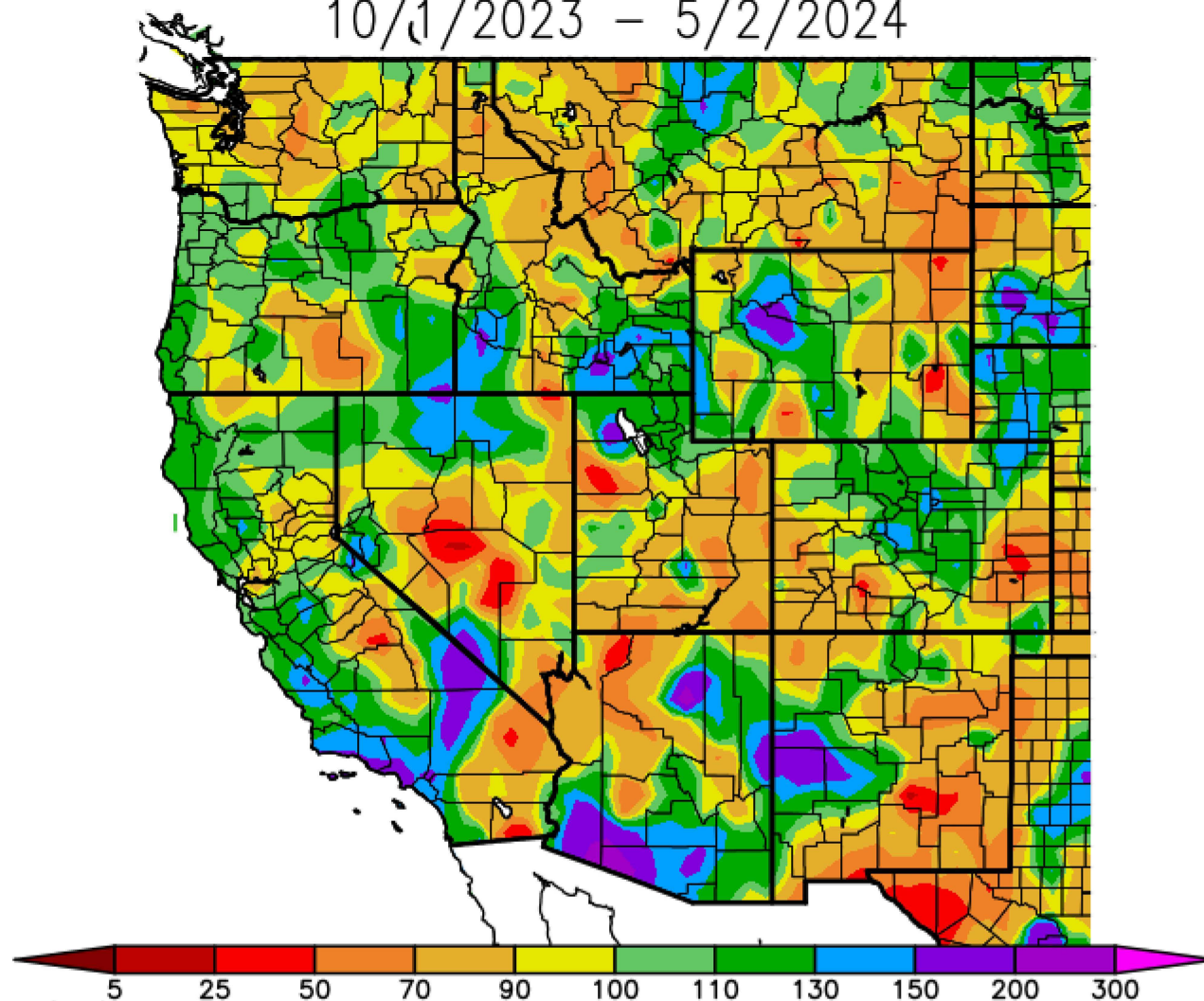
Mean: **21.48"**

Min: **10.93"**



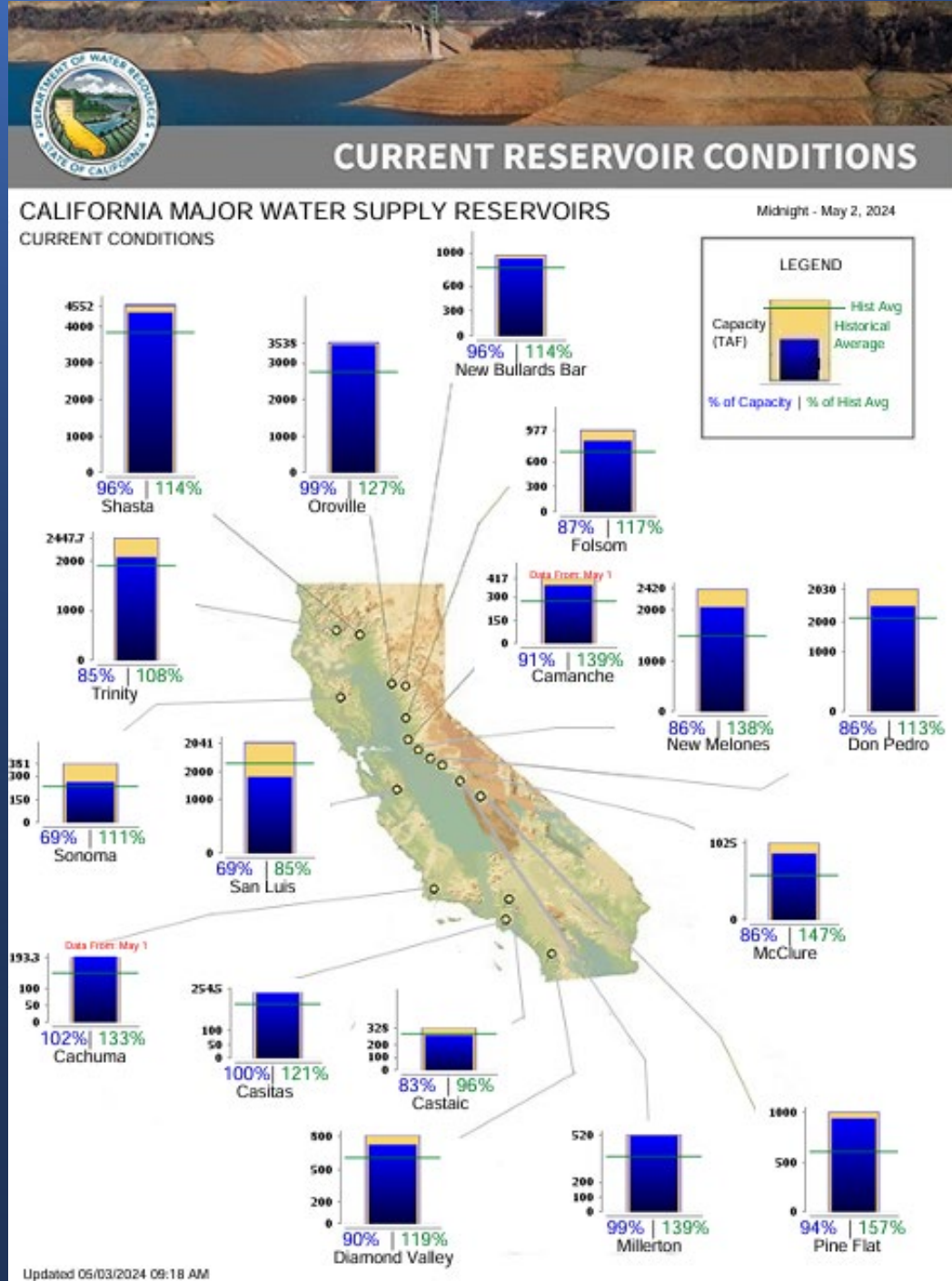
Precipitation for water year to date is  
105% of historical average

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)  
10/1/2023 – 5/2/2024



Generated 5/ 3/2024 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

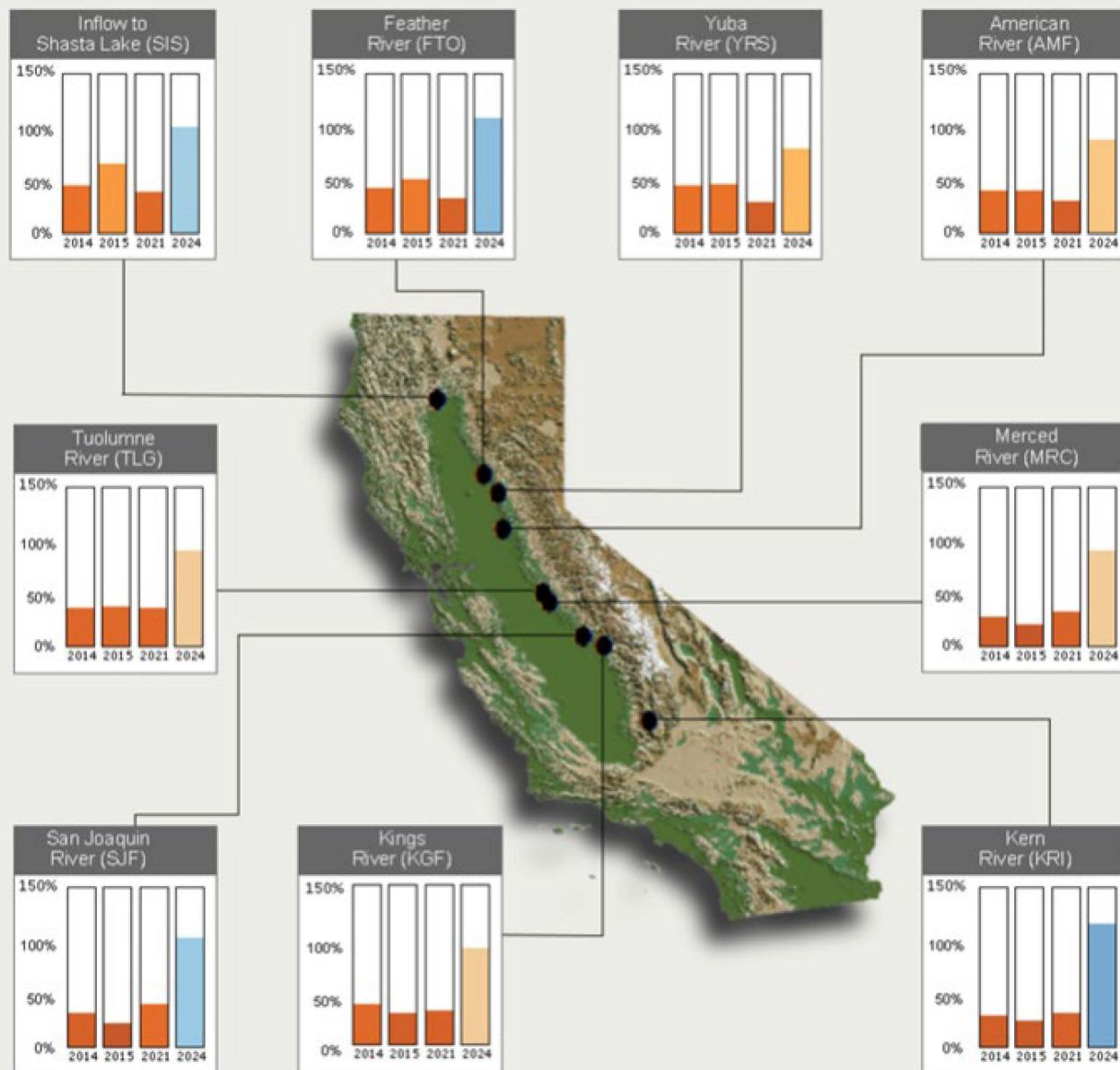
The State Water Project increased its forecasted allocation of water supplies for the year to 40 percent.



# Full Natural Flow at DWR Forecast Points on Selected California Rivers

Shown as a Percent of Average to Date

Data as of Midnight: 02-May-2024



(XYZ) = CDEC Station ID

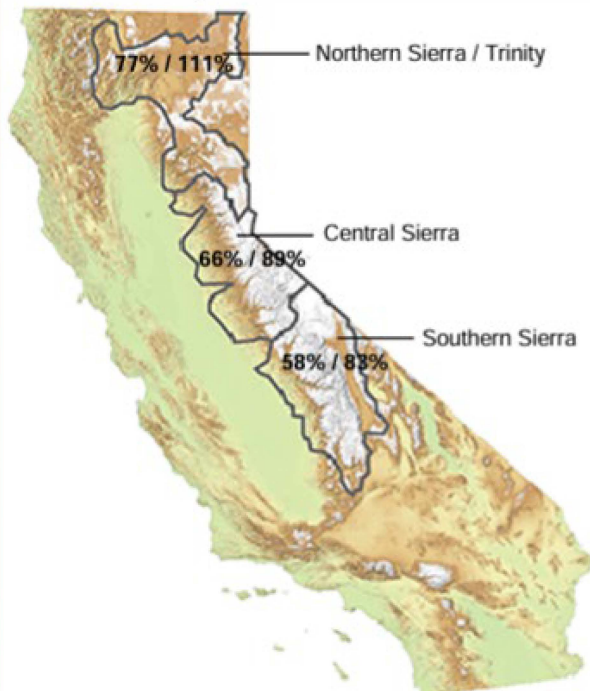
Date Created: 05/03/2024



# STATEWIDE SNOW WATER CONTENT

## CURRENT REGIONAL SNOWPACK FROM AUTOMATED SNOW SENSORS

% of April 1 Average / % of Normal for This Date



Statewide Average: 67% / 93%

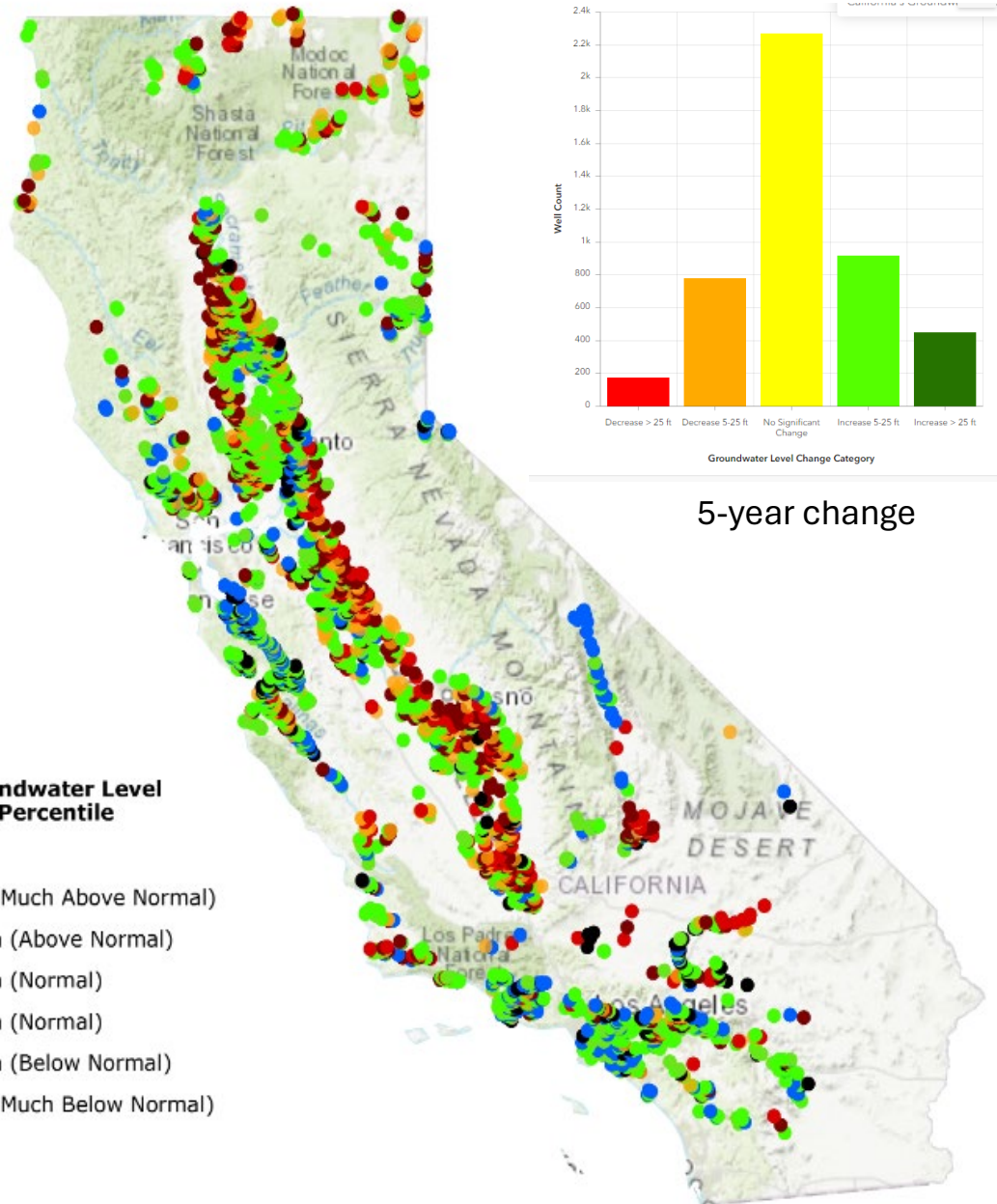
NORTH	
Data as of May 3, 2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	25
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	22.3
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	77
Percent of normal for this date (%)	111

CENTRAL	
Data as of May 3, 2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	45
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	18.5
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	66
Percent of normal for this date (%)	89

SOUTH	
Data as of May 3, 2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	27
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	12.6
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	58
Percent of normal for this date (%)	83

STATE	
Data as of May 3, 2024	
Number of Stations Reporting	97
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	17.9
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	67
Percent of normal for this date (%)	93

# Groundwater Level Percentile - 04/21/2024



Map shows 1-year change, bar chart 5-year change. Results on map show influence of recent wetness.

For 2023-24 data

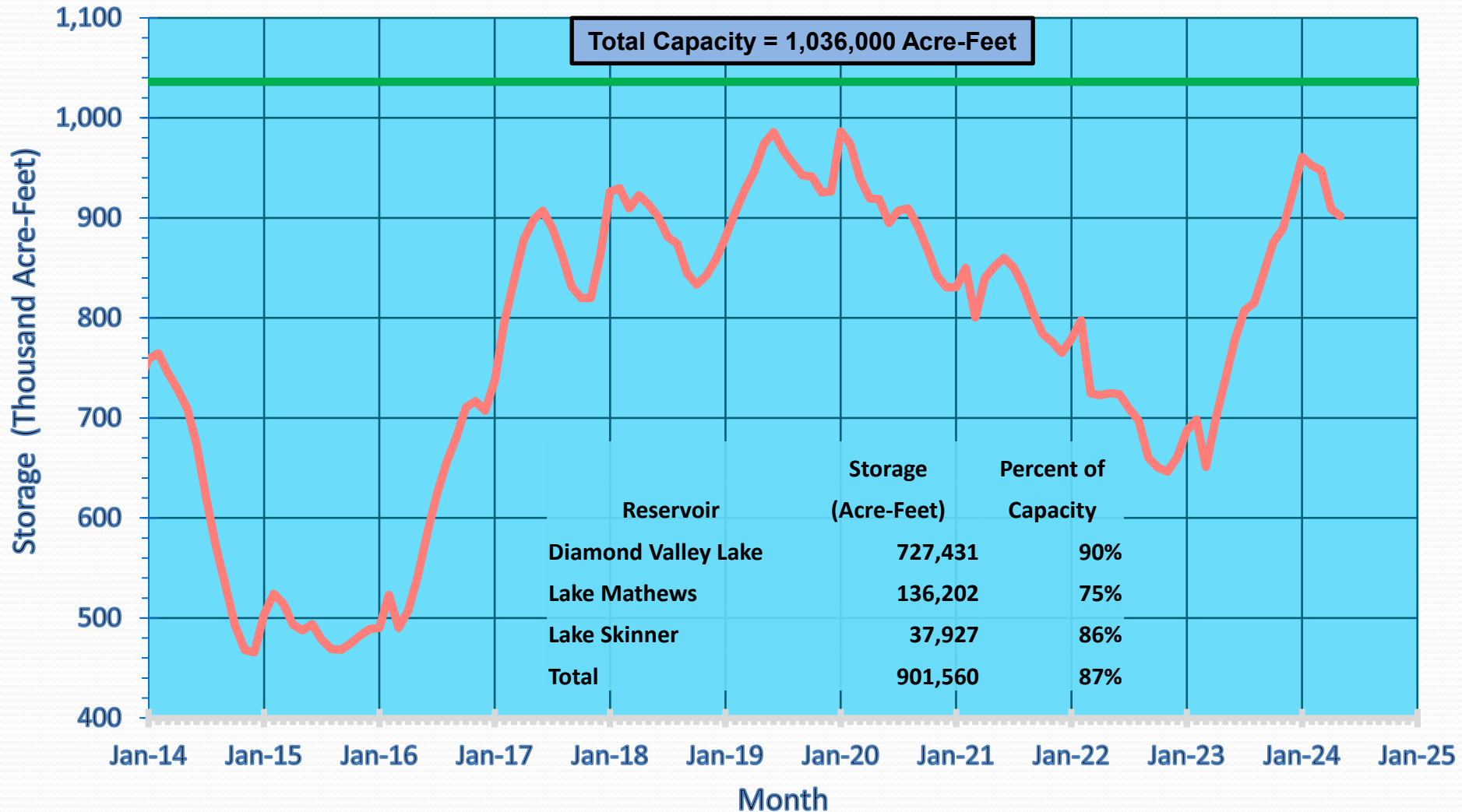
**Table 4:** WY 2023 Groundwater Recharge per Area by Basin. Top 10 basins as volume and normalized by basin area. Recharge values based on data reported through 2023 GSP/Alternative annual reports.

Basin Name (Top 10 ranked by groundwater recharge per area)	Basin Number	Groundwater Recharge per Area (AF/Acre)*	Groundwater Recharge (AF)	Basin Area (Acres)
Santa Clara River Valley - Oxnard	4-004.02	1.92	111,254	57,888
San Joaquin Valley - Tule	5-022.13	1.46	698,330	477,590
San Joaquin Valley - Kern County	5-022.14	1.02	1,824,171	1,782,318
San Joaquin Valley - Kaweah	5-022.11	0.72	316,800	441,048
San Joaquin Valley - Kings	5-022.08	0.66	651,277	981,323
Santa Clara Valley - Santa Clara	2-009.02	0.49	93,600	189,581
Gilroy-Hollister Valley - Llagas Area	3-003.01	0.42	19,800	47,371
San Joaquin Valley - Chowchilla	5-022.05	0.42	60,440	145,574
Santa Clara Valley - Niles Cone	2-009.01	0.35	22,728	65,214
San Joaquin Valley - Westside	5-022.09	0.26	161,930	622,208

*\*Groundwater recharge per area is not indicative of local recharge rates or infiltration properties.*

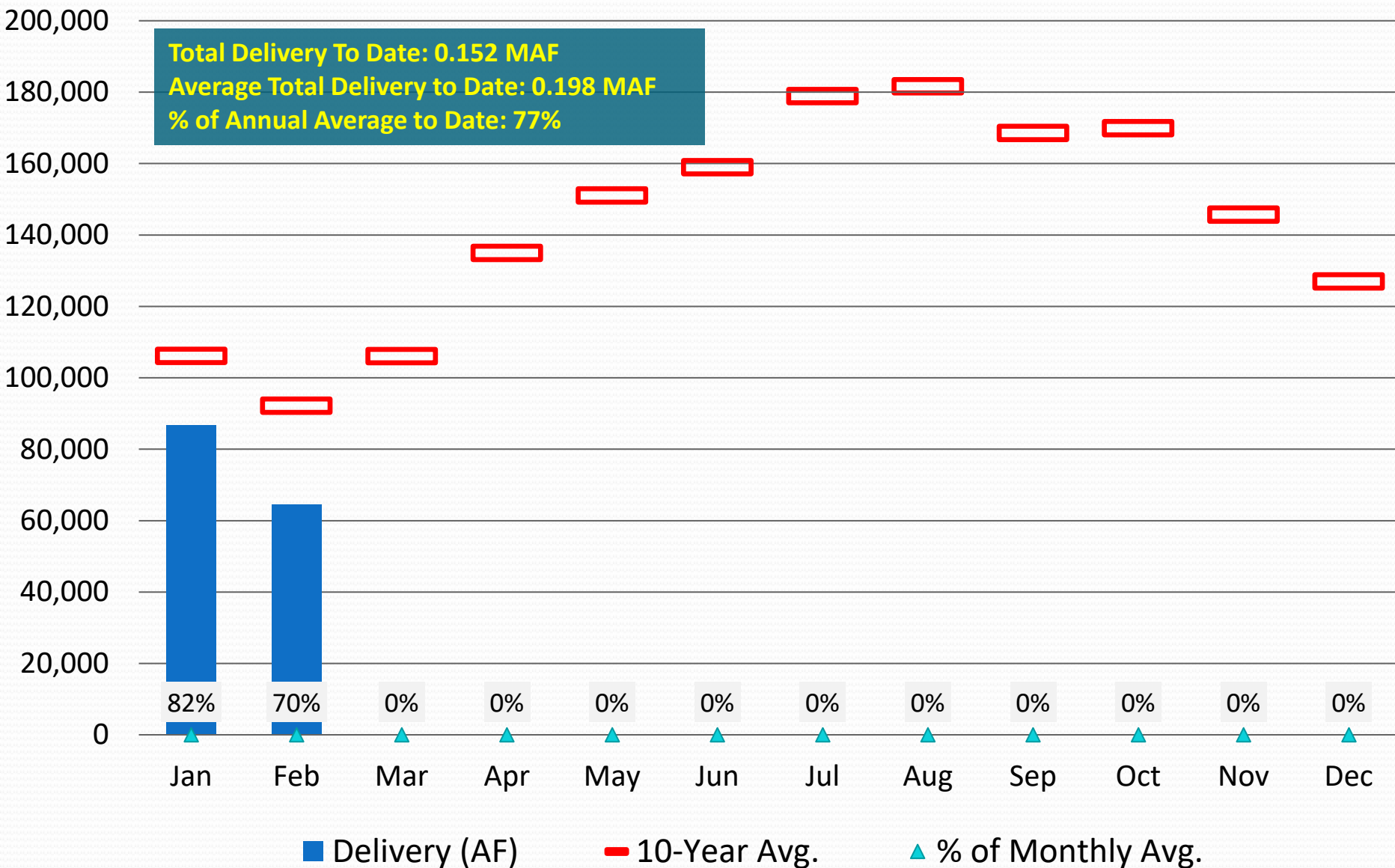
# MWD's Combined Reservoir Storage as of May 1, 2024

Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake

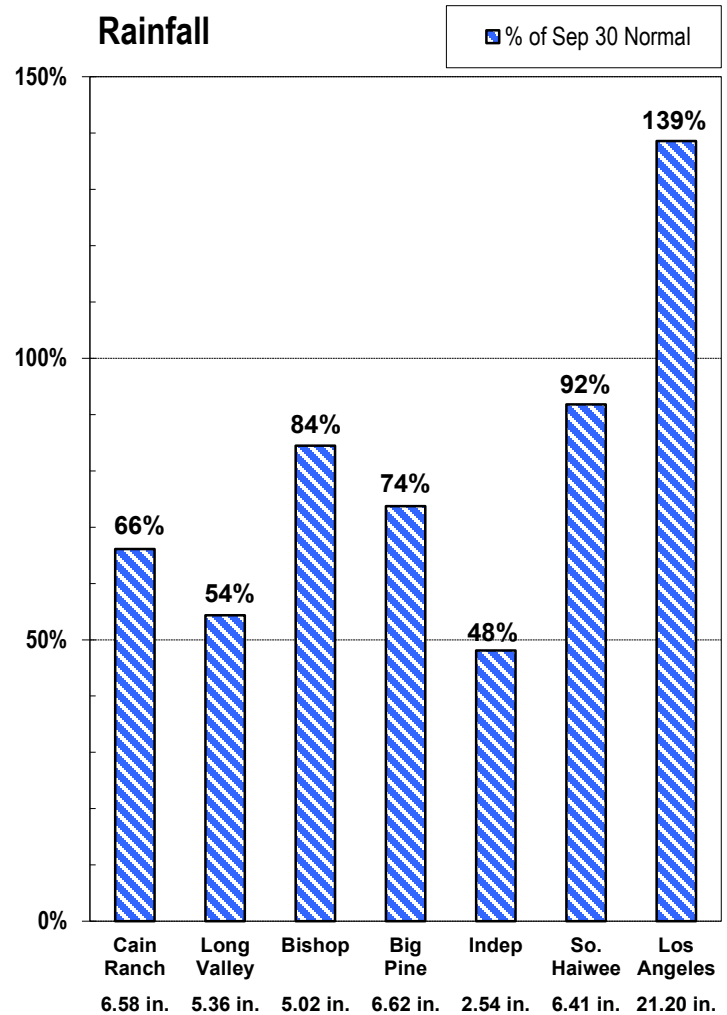
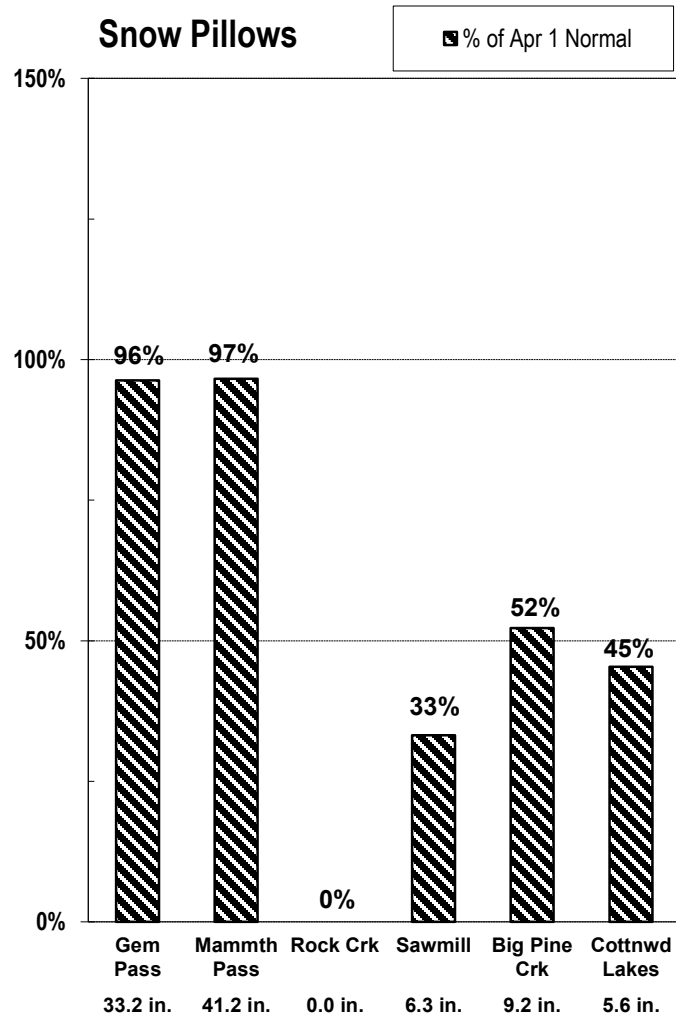
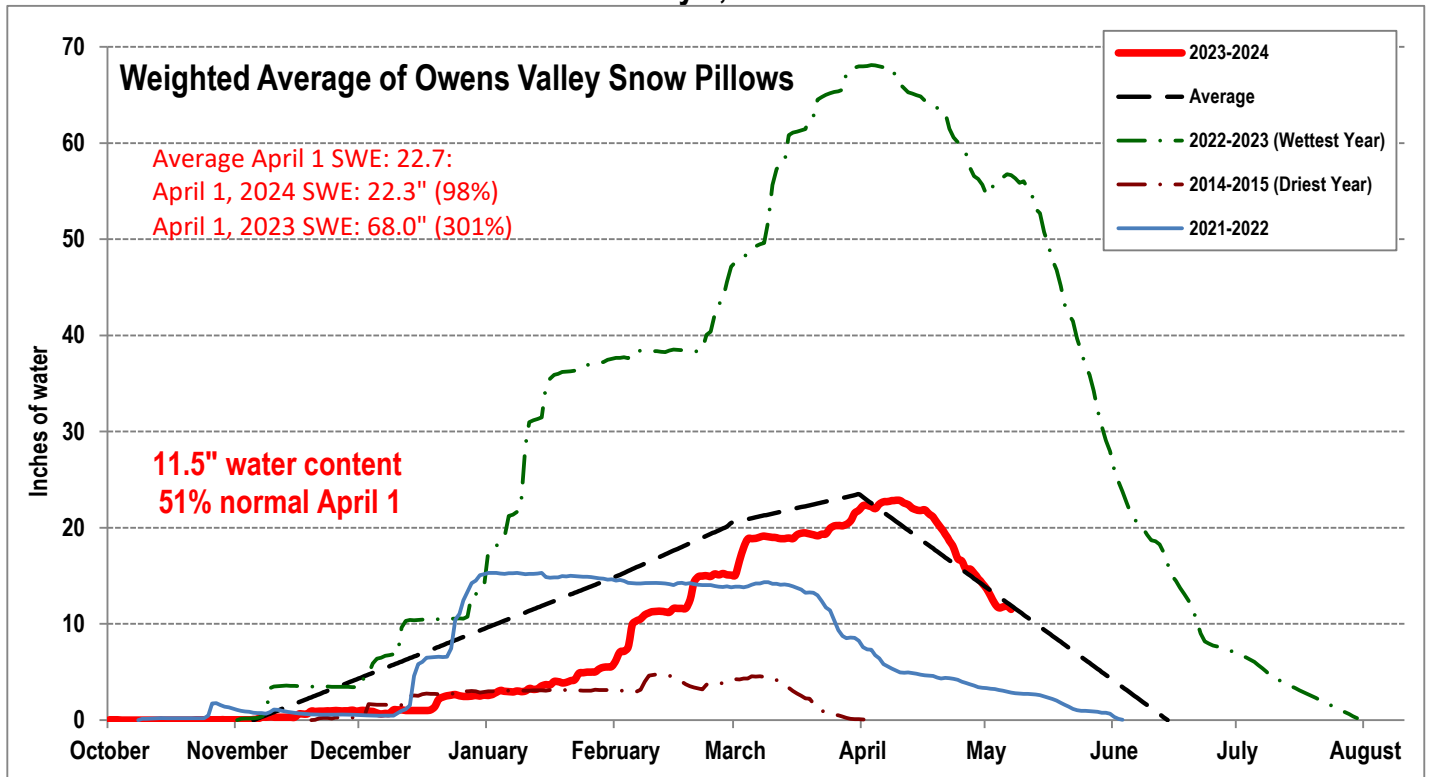


# 2024 Water Deliveries to Agencies (AF)

Total Delivery To Date: 0.152 MAF  
Average Total Delivery to Date: 0.198 MAF  
% of Annual Average to Date: 77%



# EASTERN SIERRA CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS May 7, 2024



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



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico**

For immediate release  
April 18, 2024

### **U.S. AND MEXICO SIGN AGREEMENT TO EXPAND COLORADO RIVER TEMPORARY MEASURES**

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) has signed Minute No. 330, "Expansion of Colorado River Temporary Measures." The agreement establishes the commitment of the United States and Mexico to undertake additional measures through December 2026 in light of low reservoir storage in the Colorado River basin and the potential for system reservoirs to drop to critical elevations.

IBWC officials signed Minute 330 at a brief ceremony held in El Paso, Texas. The United States and Mexican Governments have provided notification of their approval of the agreement through the U.S. Department of State and Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Relations; therefore, it has entered into force.

As indicated in Minute 330, actions are being undertaken in the United States to conserve approximately 3 million acre-feet (3,700 million cubic meters) of Colorado River water between 2023 and 2026. For the conservation projects in the United States, funding support comes from federal and non-federal sources.

During the same period, the Mexican Government, through conservation projects, will generate a total of 400,000 acre-feet (493.396 million cubic meters) of water for the system and for Mexico's Water Reserve, in addition to the volumes already identified in IBWC Minute 323, "Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin," dated September 21, 2017.

To support water conservation efforts in Mexico, the U.S. Government will provide \$65 million dollars through the IBWC in funding for projects and actions in Mexico to generate water for the Colorado River system and that will also allow for more efficient water use in the Mexicali Valley in the future. The water conservation projects in Mexico will be determined by Mexico's National Water Commission (CONAGUA).

United States Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner said, "Cooperation between the United States and Mexico is key as we deal with current water scarcity at our shared border and prepare for the future. As we have in the past, we will continue to work with the seven U.S. Colorado River basin states and Mexico to ensure our limited water supply is managed fairly."

Mexican Commissioner Adriana Resendez said, "Expansion of these temporary measures in the Colorado River basin are necessary to assure the sustainability of the basin, and they were agreed to promptly by CONAGUA, Baja California State Government, and Mexican users." She added, "Under this same mechanism, work will continue with the interested parties to seek better solutions to the issues that are being faced in the Colorado River basin."

Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said, “The Bureau of Reclamation is pleased with this agreement as both countries work to ensure temporary measures are in place to address the Basin’s water conditions through 2026.” He added, “The approval of Minute 330 demonstrates the collaborative spirit so critical to improving and protecting the stability and sustainability of the Colorado River as we develop long-term solutions in the Basin.”

CONAGUA Technical Deputy Director General Humberto Marengo said, “This agreement highlights the Government of Mexico’s interest in addressing the current prevailing shortage conditions in the Colorado River basin, and its implementation will contribute to reducing the potential negative effects in Mexico, particularly in Irrigation District 014.”

The Minute 330 agreement reflects a shared commitment of the two Governments and interested parties in both countries to work to proactively address the potential for unprecedented reductions on the Colorado River as a result of the hydrologic drought conditions, meeting system demands, and increased temperatures in the basin.

In this same cooperative framework, officials from both countries will continue meeting with the goal of identifying potential future actions to address the effects that could be faced as a consequence of the prolonged shortage conditions in the basin. The IBWC will also continue reporting periodically on the evolution of system conditions in order to keep users in both countries informed.

For more information:

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915-832-4106



**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

**MINUTE NO. 330**

**El Paso, Texas**  
**March 21, 2024**

**EXPANSION OF COLORADO RIVER TEMPORARY MEASURES**

The Commission met in the Headquarters offices of the United States Section in El Paso, Texas at 2:00 p.m. on March 21, 2024 to consider the expansion of the Colorado River temporary measures in light of low reservoir storage and the potential for reservoirs to drop to critical elevations.

The Commissioners referred to the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande, signed at Washington on February 3, 1944 (1944 Water Treaty), which, among other provisions, allots a portion of the waters of the Colorado River to Mexico. They also referred to Minute No. 323, "Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin," signed September 21, 2017 and which entered into force on September 27, 2017. Minute No. 323 includes provisions related to distribution of waters under low elevation reservoir conditions, joint cooperative actions identified as the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan, investment in water conservation projects to generate water for the Colorado River system to benefit all users (system water), and establishment of Mexico's Water Reserve, among other provisions.

Minute No. 323, in Section III, paragraph D states, "When the January 1 elevation of Lake Mead is projected to be at or below elevation 1,045 feet msl, the Commission will meet to discuss measures that could be undertaken, recognizing that reductions in both countries may need to increase." In light of this paragraph and projections for low elevation reservoir conditions during the term of Minute No. 323, the Commissioners decided in December 2022 to establish a Binational Emergency Response Group to identify additional joint cooperative actions that could be implemented through December 31, 2026 to help prevent Colorado River reservoirs from reaching critical elevations.

The Commissioners considered the appropriateness of coordinating basin operations under low elevation reservoir conditions, as was done through the framework of Minutes Nos. 319 and 323, noting the importance of aligning operations for both countries. The Commissioners recognize that it is in their governments' mutual interests to continue to proactively address the potential for unprecedented reductions on the Colorado River should the main storage reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, reach critical elevations, which could occur absent significant conservation efforts in the Colorado River Basin.

The Binational Emergency Response Group considered actions that are being undertaken in the United States to protect the critical reservoir elevations by implementing

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

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projects to conserve approximately 3 million acre-feet (3,700 million cubic meters) of water during the years 2023 through 2026, including projects funded by the United States Government and state and local entities. In light of this, the work group observed the need to develop a complementary program in Mexico to generate 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) in conserved water volumes through 2026.

To support water conservation efforts in Mexico to achieve the volume of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters), the United States Government indicated its willingness to provide, through the Commission, \$65 million U.S. dollars in funding for projects and actions in Mexico to generate water for the Colorado River system. Additionally, Mexico will undertake actions to generate volumes for Mexico's Water Reserve. Mexico indicated its willingness conserve the volume of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) and, as part of the program to create this volume, to undertake some of the water conservation actions without funding from the United States Government in order to generate waters for Mexico's Water Reserve, for future delivery to Mexico after December 31, 2026, subject to the conditions described in Minute No. 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 and the "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers with the Operational Provisions Applicable to Water for the Environment Stipulated in Minute 323," dated December 16, 2021. United States Government funding of \$65 million dollars to generate system water is provided in consideration of Mexico ensuring implementation of new water conservation projects to achieve the combined volumes of system water and Mexico's Water Reserve as indicated in the following schedule:

Date	Minimum Cumulative Volume (acre-feet)	Minimum Cumulative Volume (cubic meters)
By December 31, 2024	133,000	164,054,000
By December 31, 2025	333,000	410,752,000
By December 31, 2026	400,000	493,396,000

The Commissioners also noted that the above-referenced volume of new system water and new water in Mexico's Water Reserve of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) that will be conserved over the period of 2023-2026 refers to water in addition to the volumes already identified in Minute No. 323. In light of the available funding from the United States Government, the Commissioners decided that at least 250,000 acre-feet (308,372,000 cubic meters) of the conserved volume of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) would be system water for the benefit of all users. Any conserved volumes in addition to the volumes identified in Minute No. 323 that are generated in 2023 or 2024 prior to the entry into force of this Minute are to be accounted for as part of the 2023-2026 commitment of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) if identified for such purpose by Mexico.

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

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The Commissioners noted that the temporary measures contemplated in this Minute are in addition to the measures identified in Minute No. 323, which provisions were reviewed and considered, and remain in force and are applicable to this Minute, as indicated in the pertinent Resolutions of this Minute.

The Mexican Commissioner explained how water reductions and savings under Minute No. 323 disproportionately affect Mexican users who receive water that is delivered by the United States to the Northerly International Boundary as opposed to those who receive water that is delivered at the Southerly International Boundary. In consideration of the above and because of the additional conservation being undertaken in accordance with this Minute No. 330, she noted the importance of establishing a binational work group to explore operational mechanisms or infrastructure that could address these impacts.

The Commissioners referred to the provisions of Minutes Nos. 242 and 323 regarding salinity management of waters arriving in Mexico on the Colorado River; they also noted the current operations in this regard in both countries, particularly when conditions occur under which reductions and savings are required in Mexico, and volumes are deferred to Mexico's Water Reserve in accordance with Minute No. 323.

To address the Minute No. 242 salinity differential, the Commissioners highlighted the approach identified in Paragraph VI.A.1 of Minute No. 323 and the exchange of letters of the Principal Engineers completed on July 25, 2017, and suggested that the concept of Intentionally Created Mexican Allocation (ICMA) be applied, only for the purpose of the salinity calculation, to the total volume of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) identified in this Minute No. 330.

In consideration of the above, and because of the potential impacts on salinity for both countries during the additional water conservation to be carried out in accordance with this Minute No. 330, the Commission considered it appropriate to establish within 45 days following the Minute's entry into force a Minute No. 330 Salinity Policy Work Group. Within 30 days of its creation, this Work Group would develop the Scope of Work for its activities for approval by the Commission.

Within one year of approval of the Scope of Work, this Work Group would prepare a report to evaluate the existing and projected impacts of the salinity on the Colorado River waters in both countries, potential projects to address these impacts, and in turn, submit joint recommendations to the Commission. The Commissioners would review this report and consult within their respective countries about the means to implement the recommendations. The Minute No. 330 Salinity Policy Work Group would provide progress updates via presentations at Minute Oversight Group meetings. All projects considered by this Work Group, for implementation by the Commission, should be limited to the jurisdiction and powers of the Commission and conform to the provisions of the 1944 Water Treaty.

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

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In light of the above, the Commissioners adopted the following Resolutions, subject to approval of the two Governments:

1. For the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the schedule in Resolution 2, Mexico shall generate, through conservation projects, a total of at least 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) in system water and Mexico's Water Reserve in addition to the volumes already identified in Minute No. 323. At least 250,000 acre-feet (308,372,000 cubic meters) of this volume shall be system water compensated by the United States for the benefit of all users. The combined volume of Mexico's Water Reserve and system water created in any given year shall not exceed 250,000 acre-feet (308,372,000 cubic meters).
2. The United States Government shall provide the Government of Mexico with \$65 million U.S. dollars to support system water conservation projects in Mexico as they are implemented to achieve the volumes identified in Resolution 1 as indicated in the following schedule:

Date	Minimum Cumulative Volume (acre-feet)	Minimum Cumulative Volume (cubic meters)
By December 31, 2024	133,000	164,054,000
By December 31, 2025	333,000	410,752,000
By December 31, 2026	400,000	493,396,000

3. In addition to the provisions of Resolution 4 of Minute No. 323, any volume of Mexico's Water Reserve referenced in Resolution 1 above shall remain in Mexico's Water Reserve through December 31, 2026, subject to the provisions described in Minute No. 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 and the "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers with the Operational Provisions Applicable to Water for the Environment Stipulated in Minute 323," dated December 16, 2021.
4. Any conserved volumes in addition to the volumes identified in Minute No. 323 that are generated in 2023 or 2024 prior to the entry into force of this Minute shall be accounted for as part of the 2023-2026 commitment of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) if identified for such purpose by Mexico.
5. The volumes of system water and Mexico's Water Reserve conserved under the terms of this Minute shall be effected by means of a downward adjustment in Mexico's Colorado River water delivery schedule. The United States shall be deemed to have fulfilled its delivery obligations to Mexico under the 1944

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

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Water Treaty during the term of this Minute, notwithstanding any volumes conserved for system water or Mexico's Water Reserve.

6. Mexico shall submit its notification for the downward adjustment in its delivery schedule for 2024 within 45 calendar days of this Minute's entry into force. For 2025 and 2026, this downward adjustment shall be included in Mexico's annual schedule. For both cases, when Mexico advises of the volumes that it will be conserving each month, it shall indicate which volumes correspond to Mexico's Water Reserve and which correspond to system water. To ensure that water deliveries to Mexico are undertaken in order to achieve the volumes identified in the schedule in Resolution 2, the United States shall determine and undertake the necessary operational actions for that purpose, recognizing that the monthly volumes in the annual delivery schedule that Mexico presents could be subject to the modifications determined by both countries.
7. Resolutions 1 through 6 of this Minute are understood as exceptional measures, of a temporary nature, subject to the duration of this Minute; they do not establish any precedent regarding the interpretation or application of the provisions of the 1944 Water Treaty nor do they contravene it.
8. The Commission shall convene a Work Group to review concepts that could address disparate impacts to Mexican users depending on whether they receive water delivered by the United States at the Northerly or Southerly International Boundary.
9. The salinity differential for the full volume of 400,000 acre-feet (493,396,000 cubic meters) of Mexico's Water Reserve and system water identified in this Minute No. 330 shall be calculated using the formula referenced in Paragraph VI.A.1 of Minute No. 323 as described in this Minute.
10. The Commission shall establish the Minute No. 330 Salinity Policy Work Group to make recommendations to the Commissioners on this matter. The Commission shall actively participate in and shall ensure coordination of the Minute No. 330 Salinity Policy Work Group.
11. The United States and Mexico recognize that Minute No. 323 remains in force, under its own terms. Resolutions 4, 10, 14, and 15 of Minute No. 323 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* for implementation of this Minute No. 330, which shall also be implemented consistent with the associated Joint Reports.
12. This Minute shall remain in force through December 31, 2026.

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

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13. This Minute shall enter into force upon notification of approval by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States through the respective Section of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned.



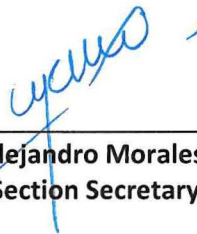
**Maria-Elena Giner**  
**United States Commissioner**



**Adriana Beatriz Carolina Reséndez Maldonado**  
**Mexican Commissioner**



**Sally E. Spener**  
**United States Section Secretary**



**Manuel Alejandro Morales Galván**  
**Mexican Section Secretary**

# THE LOWER BASIN STATES' ALTERNATIVE FOR POST-2026 COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS

The Lower Basin States' Alternative for Post-2026 Colorado River Operations will help ensure the river system's health and sustainability for decades to come. It moves beyond temporary solutions to build a sustainable and resilient river.

The Alternative was drafted collaboratively by Arizona, California and Nevada. The goal is to address the impacts of drought and climate change through a holistic and sustainable approach to the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead that improves predictability for water users.

Water managers have learned a great deal from how the system has been operated over the past two decades, including during times of shortage. Those lessons have informed the improvements proposed in the Lower Basin Alternative.

This approach provides a clear picture of the health of the entire system, allowing water managers to better maintain that health while providing long-term stability and greater predictability for water users.

The system would be managed using actual hydrology and directly measured data, minimizing the use of forecasts.

Reductions to protect the system would be triggered by live storage in seven of the system's reservoirs: Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Navajo Lake, Lake Powell, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu. This is called the Maximum System Contents Approach.



## RESOLVES

Resolves the structural deficit in the Lower Basin and builds resiliency through Lower Basin reductions



## RESPONDS

Responds to climate change, with additional reductions shared across the entire Basin



## MANAGES

Manages the system as a whole, basing reductions on total system contents – the volume of water in seven major reservoirs across the Basin



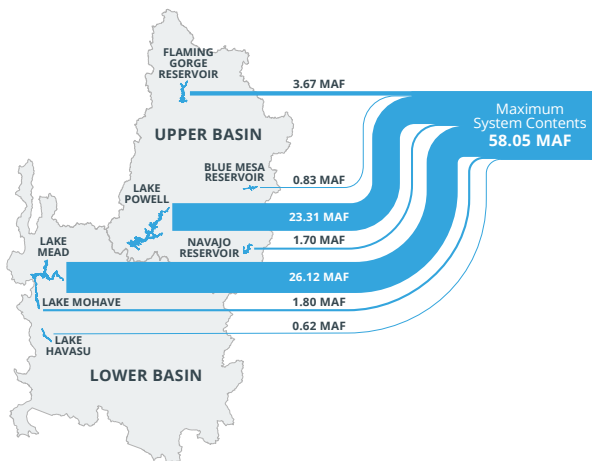
## ENCOURAGES

Encourages opportunities for storage and augmentation to encourage conservation, innovation and investment

## LOWER BASIN ALTERNATIVE REDUCTION DETERMINATION

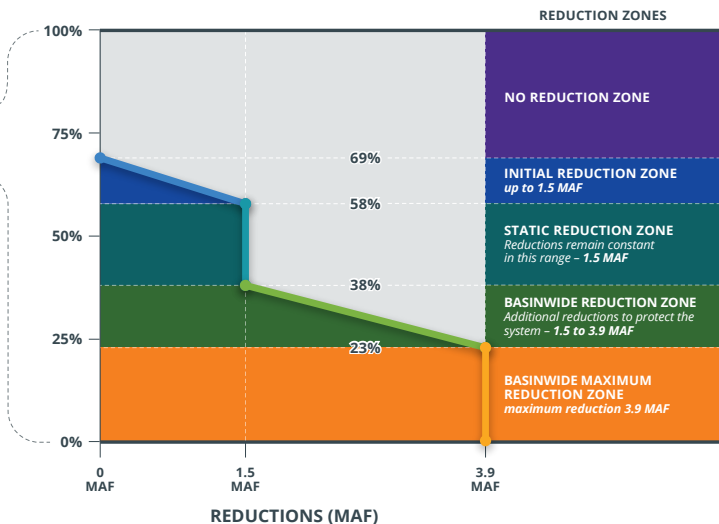
### MAXIMUM SYSTEM CONTENTS

System contents are based on the volume in each reservoir that is available for release, in millions of acre-feet (MAF)



### REDUCTION DETERMINATION

Reductions are based on the available system contents, based on the function below



When total system contents reach certain levels, relative to capacity, reductions would be as follows:

- Initial Reduction Zone (69% – 58% of capacity): Reduction to Lower Basin water uses increasing from 0 to 1.5 MAF
- Static Reduction Zone (58% – 38%): Consistent 1.5 MAF reduction to Lower Basin water uses
- Basinwide Reduction Zone (38% – 23%): Additional reductions to protect the system, increasing from 1.5 MAF to 3.9 MAF
- Maximum Basin-wide Reduction Zone (23% and below): Consistent 3.9 MAF reduction

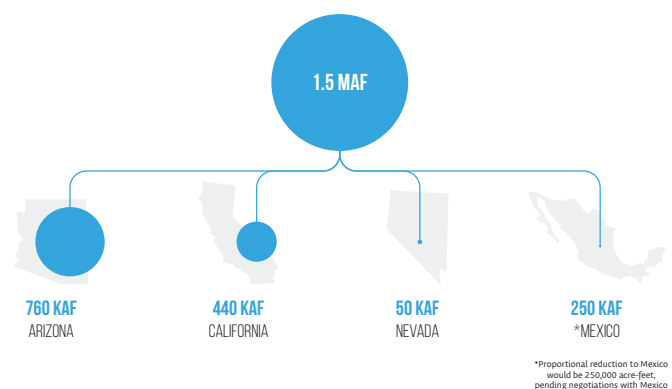
## HOW ARE REDUCTIONS SHARED IN THE LOWER BASIN STATES' ALTERNATIVE?

Under this Alternative, reductions would be divided into four different zones – Initial Reduction, Static Reduction, Basinwide Reduction and Maximum Basinwide Reduction. While the Lower Basin States have proposed a way to share shortages in the Initial Reduction Zone and Static Reductions Zone, discussions continue on how to share shortages in the Basinwide Reduction Zone. Additionally, Arizona and California are in discussions about how to share reductions within each state for this Alternative.

Under the Static Reduction Zone and beyond, Arizona, California and Nevada have proposed taking the reductions necessary to address a long-standing issue within the river community – the structural deficit below Lake Powell.

The deficit is caused, in part, by evaporation and conveyance losses, estimated by Reclamation to total about 1.3 million acre-feet annually.

Reductions proposed under all the zones in this alternative are sufficient to stabilize the entire Colorado River system over a broad range of hydrologic conditions, including periods that are drier than have ever been experienced in the past.



*The reductions in the Alternative of up to 1.5 million acre-feet exceed Reclamation's estimate, and the additional water would build resiliency in the system.*

## HOW WILL WATER USERS REALISTICALLY MAKE THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED IN THE LOWER BASIN STATES' ALTERNATIVE?

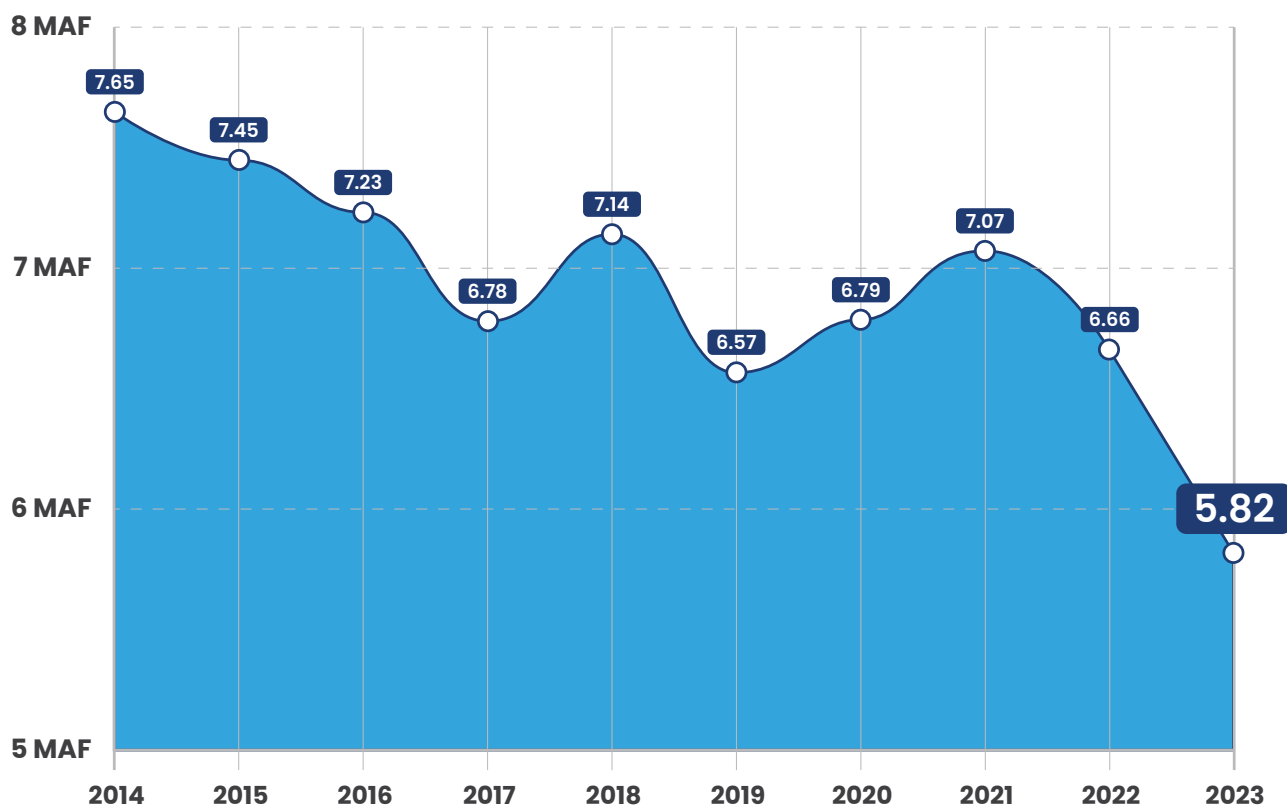
The reductions proposed in the Lower Basin States' Alternative would be mandatory and long-term. Lower Basin states have a successful track-record of mandatory reductions and voluntary actions that have added water to and stabilized Lake Mead for more than a decade through investments in water efficiency across agricultural and urban communities.

*In fact, the Lower Basin has consistently and steadily reduced consumptive use for more than a decade. Consumptive use in the Lower Basin in 2023 was about 5.8 million acre-feet – the lowest since 1983 and 1.7 million acre-feet lower than the Basin's allocation.*

Land fallowing, efficient irrigation practices and significant reductions in urban outdoor water use are among the tools the Lower Basin water users have used and will continue to use to produce the necessary reductions. New tools, including investing in alternative local supplies, such as recycled water, are also being developed.

More innovation, conservation and collaboration will be required across the Basin in the future.

**LOWER BASIN CONSUMPTIVE USE  
2014 THROUGH 2023**



## HOW DOES THE LOWER BASIN STATES' ALTERNATIVE PROTECT THE SYSTEM FROM CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change impacts the entire Colorado River Basin, and all water users must adapt and collectively participate in the solution. In addition to the Lower Basin states proposed reductions to address the structural deficit, additional reductions may be necessary to ensure the Colorado River Basin is protected against increasingly dry hydrological conditions in the future due to climate change or drought.

Under the Lower Basin States' Alternative, additional reductions beyond 1.5 million acre-feet would be shared equally between the Upper and Lower Basins.

Everyone sharing in reductions means no single water user will be overly affected, increasing the sustainability of the entire system.



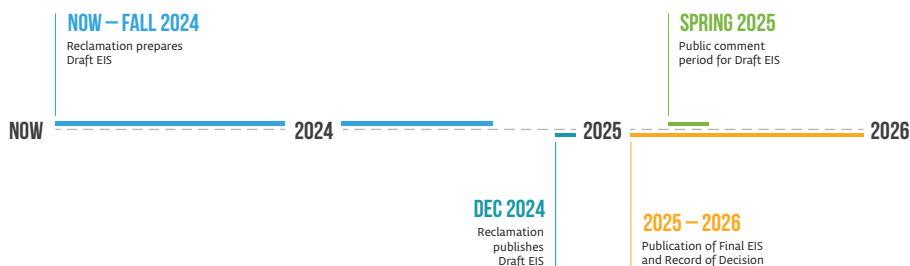
## HOW IS THE LOWER BASIN STATES' ALTERNATIVE DIFFERENT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSED BY THE UPPER BASIN STATES?

The Lower Basin States' Alternative recognizes that everyone who relies on the Colorado River must share in the burden of protecting it. While Arizona, California and Nevada have proposed taking on reductions that, under the majority of hydrological conditions, would stabilize the system, the Upper Basin states would also have to reduce use as climate change increasingly strains the river.

In the Upper Basin alternative, all reductions are the exclusive responsibility of the Lower Basin. Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming make no commitments to reduce their use.

In addition, the reductions proposed in the Lower Basin States' Alternative would be certain and enforceable. The Upper Basin has proposed policies and programs that might potentially produce reductions, but without certainty.

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?



The Lower Basin States' Alternative can now be reviewed as part of a multi-year environmental review process lead by Reclamation.

Additional work remains to refine the details in the Alternative, including determining how to equitably share future reductions that may be necessary as climate change further reduces runoff in the system and how to share reductions within each state.

*The Lower Basin remains committed to working with the Upper Basin along with tribes, environmental stakeholders and Mexico to negotiate a consensus-based approach that balances supplies with demands, adapts to climate change and protects the long-term sustainability of the river system.*

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7872

To amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2024

Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. MALOY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Colorado River Salinity  
5 Control Fix Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SALINITY CONTROL UNITS.**

7 Section 205 of the Colorado River Basin Salinity  
8 Control Act (43 U.S.C. 1595) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the section designation and all  
2 that follows through “(a) The Secretary” and insert-  
3 ing the following:

4 “SEC. 205. SALINITY CONTROL UNITS; AUTHORITY AND  
5 FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE IN-  
6 TERIOR.

7 “(a) ALLOCATION OF COSTS.—The Secretary”;

8 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
9 following:

10 “(1) NONREIMBURSABLE COSTS; REIMBURS-  
11 ABLE COSTS.—

12 “(A) NONREIMBURSABLE COSTS.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In recognition of  
14 Federal responsibility for the Colorado  
15 River as an interstate stream and for  
16 international comity with Mexico, Federal  
17 ownership of the land of the Colorado  
18 River Basin from which most of the dis-  
19 solved salts originate, and the policy estab-  
20 lished in the Federal Water Pollution Con-  
21 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) and ex-  
22 cept as provided in clause (ii), the fol-  
23 lowing shall be nonreimbursable:

24 “(I) 75 percent of the total costs  
25 of construction and replacement of

1 each unit or separable feature of a  
2 unit authorized by section 202(a)(1),  
3 including 90 percent of—

4 “(aa) the costs of operation  
5 and maintenance of each unit or  
6 separable feature of a unit au-  
7 thorized by that section; and

8 “(bb) the total costs of con-  
9 struction, operation, and mainte-  
10 nance of the associated measures  
11 to replace incidental fish and  
12 wildlife values foregone.

13 “(II) 75 percent of the total costs  
14 of construction and replacement of  
15 each unit or separable feature of a  
16 unit authorized by section 202(a)(2),  
17 including 100 percent of—

18 “(aa) the costs of operation  
19 and maintenance of each unit or  
20 separable feature of a unit au-  
21 thorized by that section; and

22 “(bb) the total costs of con-  
23 struction, operation, and mainte-  
24 nance of the associated measures

1 to replace incidental fish and  
2 wildlife values foregone.

3 “(III) 75 percent of the total  
4 costs of construction, operation, main-  
5 tenance, and replacement of each unit  
6 or separable feature of a unit author-  
7 ized by section 202(a)(3), including  
8 75 percent of the total costs of con-  
9 struction, operation, and maintenance  
10 of the associated measures to replace  
11 incidental fish and wildlife values fore-  
12 gone.

13 “(IV) 70 percent of the total  
14 costs of construction, operation, main-  
15 tenance, and replacement of each unit  
16 or separable feature of a unit author-  
17 ized by paragraphs (4) and (6) of sec-  
18 tion 202(a), including 70 percent of  
19 the total costs of construction, oper-  
20 ation, and maintenance of the associ-  
21 ated measures to replace incidental  
22 fish and wildlife values foregone.

23 “(V) 70 percent of the total costs  
24 of construction and replacement of  
25 each unit or separable feature of a

1 unit authorized by section 202(a)(5),  
2 including 100 percent of—

3 “(aa) the costs of operation  
4 and maintenance of each unit or  
5 separable feature of a unit au-  
6 thorized by that section; and

7 “(bb) the total costs of con-  
8 struction, operation, and mainte-  
9 nance of the associated measures  
10 to replace incidental fish and  
11 wildlife values foregone.

12 “(VI) 85 percent of the total  
13 costs of implementation of the on-  
14 farm measures authorized by section  
15 202(c), including 85 percent of the  
16 total costs of the associated measures  
17 to replace incidental fish and wildlife  
18 values foregone.

19 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR NONREIM-  
20 BURSABLE COSTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024  
21 AND 2025.—Notwithstanding clause (i), for  
22 each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the  
23 following shall be nonreimbursable:

24 “(I) 75 percent of all costs de-  
25 scribed in clause (i)(I).

1 “(II) 75 percent of all costs de-  
2 scribed in clause (i)(II).

3 “(III) 70 percent of all costs de-  
4 scribed in clause (i)(V).

5 “(IV) The percentages of all  
6 costs described in subclauses (III),  
7 (IV), and (VI) of clause (i).

8 “(B) REIMBURSABLE COSTS.—The total  
9 costs remaining after the allocations under  
10 clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be  
11 reimbursable as provided for in paragraphs (2),  
12 (3), (4), and (5).”;

13 (3) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection  
14 designation and all that follows through “Costs of  
15 construction” in paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(b) COSTS PAYABLE FROM LOWER COLORADO  
18 RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT FUND.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Costs of construction”;

20 (4) in subsection (c), by striking “(c) Costs of  
21 construction” and inserting the following:

22 “(c) COSTS PAYABLE FROM UPPER COLORADO  
23 RIVER BASIN FUND.—Costs of construction”; and

24 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “(e) The Sec-  
25 retary is” and inserting the following:

1       “(e) UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF RATES FOR ELEC-  
2   TRICAL ENERGY.—The Secretary is”.