



**STAFF REPORT TO THE
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

May 15, 2024

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS REPORT

As of May 13th, the water surface elevation of Lake Powell was 3,561.94 feet with nearly 7.93 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 34% of capacity. The water surface elevation of Lake Mead was 1,070.06 feet with 9.20 MAF of storage, or 35% of capacity. As of May 12th, the total System storage was 24.54 MAF, or 42% of capacity, which is about 3.61 MAF more than the total System storage at this time last year.

As of May 8th, storage in the Upper Basin reservoirs, excluding Lake Powell, included the following volumes: 41% of capacity at Fontenelle Reservoir in Wyoming; 86% of capacity at Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Wyoming and Utah; 95% of capacity at Morrow Point and 67% of capacity at Blue Mesa Reservoir in Colorado; and 68% of capacity at Navajo Reservoir in New Mexico.

As of May 3rd, April observed inflow into Lake Powell was 0.73 MAF (81% of normal) and the May inflow forecast is 1.90 MAF (92% of normal). The forecasted inflow into Lake Powell for WY-2024 is 7.79 MAF (81% of normal). The forecasted April through July 2024 unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was 5.1 MAF (80% of normal). The precipitation to date is 100% normal and the current Basin snowpack is 89% normal.

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Water Supply Webinar

On May 7th, the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) held its last webinar of the season to review the Basin's current water supply conditions and forecasts. The CBRFC reviewed the Colorado River Basin's fall soil moisture conditions in areas that are major contributors to springtime runoff and observed April 2024 unregulated streamflow. The CBRFC noted that in regions with below average soil moisture conditions, streamflow conditions were also below normal. Soil moisture conditions are a critical factor of springtime runoff efficiency. Figure 1 shows soil moisture conditions on the right and the observed unregulated streamflow for April 2024, on the left. The blue colors in both images indicate above average conditions, while orange and yellow colors depict near normal to below average conditions.

Antecedent Soil Moisture Conditions / April Observed Flow

The timing and magnitude of spring runoff is ultimately a result of snowpack conditions, spring weather, and soil moisture conditions.

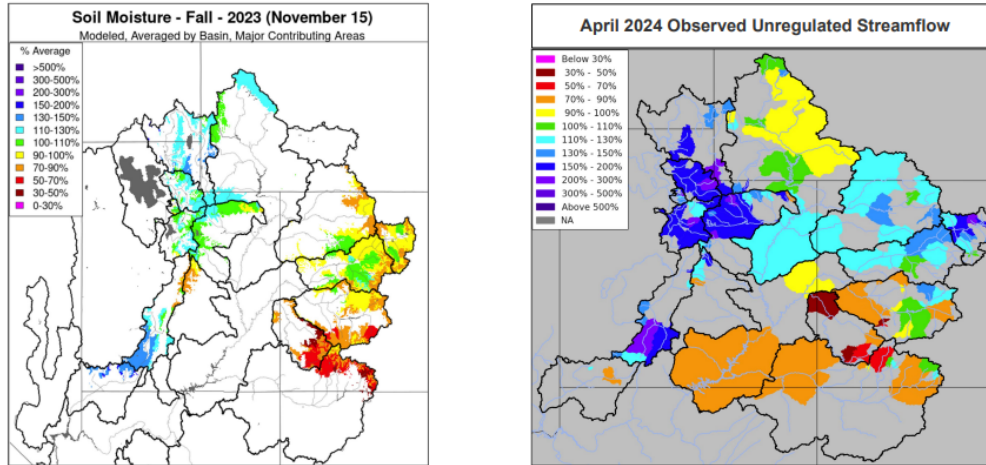


Figure 1: Antecedent Soil Moisture Conditions/April Observed Flow

April precipitation conditions were below normal throughout most of the Colorado River Basin, except for the Colorado River headwaters above Kremmling and central and southern Arizona. Across the Colorado River Basin, Water Year 2024 precipitation is near to below normal.

May 1st, snow water equivalent (SWE) conditions in the Upper Colorado River Basin are near to below normal, ranging from 70% to 100% of normal. The May 1st water supply forecasts for April to July runoff volumes into Lake Powell for the Upper Colorado River Basin have declined due to poor precipitation conditions in April. The Upper Colorado River Basin water supply forecasts range from 56% of average, in the Dolores-McPhee reservoir basin to 107% of average in the Yampa-Deerlodge basin. The most probable April to July unregulated inflow forecast to Lake Powell is 5,100 KAF, or 80% of normal.

In the Lower Colorado River Basin, the January to May runoff volume ranges from 80% to 150% of median.

El Nino conditions are expected to transition to ENSO-neutral between April and June with a 60% chance of a La Nina developing between June and August 2024.

Over the next two weeks, weather models forecast near to slightly above precipitation is predicted for the western U.S. with average temperatures likely.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAM UPDATES

SEIS Record of Decision for the 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines – Near-Term Operations

On May 6, 2024, Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead. Because of the declining water supply and storage conditions in the Basin and the continued need to protect critical infrastructure, the Department of the Interior, through Reclamation, initiated a process on November 17, 2022, to identify and analyze modified operating guidelines to address current and foreseeable hydrologic conditions. The modification of proposed operating guidelines is focused on the remaining interim period (2023-2026) of the 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines and may help inform subsequent planning efforts related to development of the post-2026 guidelines for the Colorado River System.

The Preferred Alternative identified and described in the ROD modifies Sections 2, 6, and 7 of the 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines. Specifically, these modifications include the following:

Section 2.E. (New) Reservoir Protection Conservation – Includes the assumptions contained in the Lower Basin May 2023 Interim Period Plan to create up to an additional 3.0 MAF of SEIS conservation for storage in Lake Mead during the 2023-2026 period, with a minimum of 1.5 MAF conserved by the end of 2024. This SEIS conservation is in addition to that required in 2007 Interim Guidelines and 2019 Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan. Of this 3.0 MAF of SEIS conservation, up to 2.3 MAF is anticipated to be federally compensated, and the remainder could be compensated from other sources or uncompensated.

Section 6.E. (New) Mid-Elevation and Lower Elevation Balancing Tiers – When operating in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier or the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier, Reclamation will consider the utilization of all tools available during the interim period to ensure that Lake Powell does not decline below 3,500 feet. If the minimum probable 24-Month Study projects in any month an elevation below 3,500 feet in the next 12 months, the Secretary shall begin planning to reduce releases, as needed to not less than 6.0 MAF from Lake Powell in the Water-Year to maintain an elevation of 3,500 feet.

Section 7.B. Consultation – The Annual Operating Plan (AOP) will describe the projected range of releases that may be possible for the current year, including releases from Lake Powell down to 6.0 MAF. The SEIS ROD also contained new guidance in Section VII.B. associated with

coordination and consultation related to recent infrastructure and operational issues for reducing releases from Glen Canyon Dam, as needed, to not less than 6.0 MAF in the Water-Year.

Whenever Lake Mead's contents are projected to be below an elevation of 1,025 feet, based on the April 24-Month Study minimum probable projection, the Lower Division States will have 45-days to provide a plan to Reclamation that protects Lake Mead from declining below 1,000 feet.

Any additional operating decisions made through this ROD will be coordinated through the Colorado River Management Workgroup, and if the elevations described above are being projected in any 24-Month Study for Lake Powell or the April 24-Month Study for Lake Mead, Reclamation will notify the Basin States representatives to initiate responsive actions.

The ROD has also been posted to Reclamation's SEIS webpage and can be accessed [here](#).

Minute No. 330 to the 1944 U.S./Mexico Water Treaty

Minute No. 330 to the 1944 U.S./Mexico Water Treaty was executed on March 21, 2024, in El Paso, Texas, and recently went into force after approval by both countries. The purpose of Minute No. 330 was to implement a binational program in parallel with and complementary to the Lower Basin's May 2023 Interim Period Plan adopted as part of the SEIS modifying operations pursuant to the 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines.

Under Minute No. 330, Mexico will create up to an additional 400,000 acre-feet of conserved water supplies during the period 2023-2026. The new Minute lays out a schedule for the conservation of this volume, including 133 KAF by the end of 2024, and a cumulative volume of 333 KAF by the end of 2025, and the full cumulative volume of 400 KAF by the end of 2026. To support the Mexican conservation efforts, the U.S. will provide \$65 million (U.S.) for projects and activities to generate the conserved water supplies. Additionally, of the 400 KAF, 250 KAF will be system water for the benefit of all users. Finally, this additional conservation will be created, conserved, and accounted for in addition to the conservation and activities specified in Minute No. 323 (2017).

Minute No. 330 also requires the establishment of a Salinity Policy Work Group to evaluate the existing and projected impacts of the salinity of the Colorado River waters in both countries, identify potential projects to address these impacts, and submit joint recommendations to both sections of the Internal Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). All potential salinity control or improvement projects considered by the Work Group are to be limited to the jurisdiction and powers of the IBWC and conform to the 1944 Water Treaty.

Finally, Minute No. 330 will remain in force through December 31, 2026. A copy of Minute No. 330 has been included in the Board folder materials and can also be accessed on the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission’s webpage.

Updates Regarding the “Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act of 2022”

In late 2022, the Congress passed S. 3308, the “Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act of 2022”. This legislation was then signed into law (P.L. 117-343) on January 5, 2023, by the President. The law authorizes the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) to enter into leases or exchange agreements, storage agreements, and agreements for conserved water for the economic well-being of the CRIT; and the requirement that the Secretary of the Department of the Interior must also approve any lease or exchange, storage, or conserved water agreements entered into by the CRIT. This authorization is provided for the CRIT reservation within the State of Arizona and provides a waiver of Section 2116 of the “Indian Trade and Intercourse Act (25 U.S.C. 177), subject to the conditions that the use “off the reservation” of conserved water supplies is located within the Lower Basin within the State of Arizona (excluding the Counties of Apache, Navajo, and Cochise).

On April 26, 2024, Secretary of the Interior Haaland was joined by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs and CRIT Chairwoman Amelia Flores in Parker, Arizona, in executing documents implementing an agreement allowing the CRIT to market portions of their Colorado River allocation to water users off-reservation within the State of Arizona. Arizona’s U.S. Senator Mark Kelly, Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton, and Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke were also in attendance at the signing ceremony, acknowledging the importance to Arizona of this critical first step in beginning the implementation of P.L. 117-343.

Status of Reclamation’s Efforts to Update the “Consumptive Uses and Losses Report”

On April 30, 2024, Reclamation’s Boulder Canyon Operations Office provided a briefing to Lower Basin stakeholders regarding its efforts to update the five-year “Colorado River Basin Consumptive Uses and Losses Report”. Reclamation’s preparation of this report is required by elements of the 2006 Consolidated Decree in *Arizona v. California* (547 U.S. 150) as well as specific guidance contained in the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act (P.L. 90-537). The report is intended to provide Reclamation’s best estimates of actual consumptive uses and losses every five-years within the Colorado River Basin within the United States, including uses and losses on:

- Upper Basin tributaries;

- Lower Basin tributaries; and
- Lower Basin mainstream.

The 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act requires that this five-year snapshot assessment of uses and losses be published every five years. The last basinwide consumptive uses and losses (CU&L) report was published in 2012 and covered the period 2001-2005. As mentioned above, the report is intended to document all water uses of tributary and mainstream water within the U.S., as well as water passing to Mexico.

In developing the new CU&L report, Reclamation intends to resolve and correct methodologies and data inconsistencies in prior versions of the CU&L reports pertaining to Lower Basin tributaries, and develop natural flow estimates for the Little Colorado, Virgin, and Bill Williams Rivers and update the CRSS model to use these new natural flow estimates. Reclamation also reported that it is committed to explore the feasibility and necessity of computing a natural flow estimate for the Gila River and adding that tributary to the CRSS model too.

Currently, regarding this overall effort, Reclamation is scheduled to release the following work products:

- Recalculated Lower Basin Report (1971-2005) – May 2024;
- Lower Basin Dataset (1971-2015) – May 2024;
- Upper Basin Dataset (1985-2023) – May 2024;
- Publish Upper Basin CU&L Report (2006-2010) – Summer 2024;
- Publish Upper Basin CU&L Report (2011-2015) – Summer 2024;
- Generate 2016-2020 dataset, review, and publish report –Fall/Winter 2024; and
- Generate 2021-2025 dataset, review, and publish report – 2025 and Beyond.

Reclamation's release of this updated data will be in the form of new reports, new tables, an Excel dataset of updated/new Lower Basin CU&L data, a methodology manual, and a Power BI Data Visualization model for stakeholder use.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling regarding an appeal of the District Court's decision in *Save the Colorado et al. v. U.S. Department of the Interior; Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior and Colorado River Energy Distributors Association et al.* This case challenged the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that resulted in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Long-Term and Experimental Management

Plan (LTEMP). The Ninth Circuit Court affirmed the district court's decision that Reclamation's NEPA process was sufficient.

The Technical Work Group (TWG) for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) met April 10th – 11th in Tempe, AZ.

The National Park Service (NPS) provided an update regarding potential management measures to prevent the establishment of warmwater nonnative invasive fish below Glen Canyon Dam. NPS is considering modification of the slough located 12 miles upstream of Lee Ferry. The slough has been identified as primary breeding habitat for warmwater non-native invasive fish, likely because the water is more stagnant and warmer than the mainstem river. Potential hydrologic modification would increase the flow of water through the slough as well as lower temperatures, making the habitat less optimal for spawning. Should the project move forward, NPS plans to complete the modification during winter of 2025. In the interim, NPS is purchasing new nets to deter fish passage into the slough and planning for a chemical treatment if needed during the summer of 2024.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that a Biological Opinion has been signed to facilitate coverage under the Endangered Species Act for Glen Canyon Dam operations. The Biological Opinion is for Reclamation's Near-Term Colorado River Operations Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Reclamation provided a report on temperature models that are utilized to predict the temperature of water released from Glen Canyon Dam and at various points downriver from the dam. Efforts have been underway to improve the reliability of the temperature models being relied upon by the GCDAMP. Temperature plays a key role in ecosystem dynamics and the results of these models are utilized for decision-making by river managers, including the future potential use in determination of the necessity to conduct experimental flows to disrupt the breeding of smallmouth bass. Reclamation reported that the Dibble et al. model predictions are reasonable and that predictions are less accurate further downstream from Glen Canyon Dam.

The U.S. Geological Survey's Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) provided an update regarding the rainbow trout fishery. Anglers have been reporting low rainbow trout catch rates. The cause of the population decline is uncertain; however, hypotheses include extended periods of low dissolved oxygen, reduced recruitment over multiple years, and potential increases in competition or predation. GCMRC is undertaking efforts to assess the cause of the decline to better inform management and decision-making. The Arizona Game and Fish

Department reported that management goals for rainbow trout in the Lees Ferry reach have not been achieved for a number of years.

The AMWG is scheduled to hold a virtual meeting on May 15th. The Technical Work Group (TWG) is scheduled to meet July 9th – 10th in Flagstaff, AZ.

Status of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) held a hybrid Steering Committee meeting based in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 24th and a hybrid Technical Work Group based in San Diego, California on May 10th – 11th.

The Steering Committee reelected Seth Shanahan of the Southern Nevada Water Authority as Chair and Vineetha Kartha of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District as Vice Chair.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently signed a Biological Opinion to facilitate coverage under the Endangered Species Act for increased reductions in flow covered by the LCR MSCP. The activity authorized under the Biological Opinion includes a Base Action of reduction in flow from 1.574 to 2.083 MAFY, and if conditions warrant, an Expanded Action of reduction in flow from 2.083 to 3.0 MAFY in Reaches 2 through 5 (from Hoover Dam to Imperial Dam) through January 31, 2028. Conservation measures are included to minimize and mitigate potential effects on covered species and their habitats that may result from the reductions in flow. The Biological Opinion is available at: <https://lcrmscp.gov/publications>.

The LCR MSCP has released a Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2023 Accomplishment Report, available at: <https://lcrmscp.gov/publications>.

During FY-23, 147 acres of cottonwood-willow habit were established, all within the Dennis Underwood Conservation Area. The LCR MSCP has created or restored a total of 7,195 acres of habitat over the life of the program. (Table 1)

Table 1. LCR MSCP Habitat

Land Cover Type	Required Habitat (acres)	Established Habitat (acres)
Cottonwood-Willow	5,940	4,629
Honey Mesquite	1,320	2,046
Marsh	512	362

Backwater	360	158
Total	8,132	7,195

As of the end of FY-23, 415,587 native fish have been stocked through LCR MSCP efforts, including 278,557 razorback suckers and 137,030 bonytail. The goal of the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program is to stock 660,000 subadult razorback suckers and 620,000 subadult bonytail for reintroduction into the Colorado River. This rate of stocking is expected to meet program augmentation goals. In addition, 157,990 razorback suckers have been stocked in Lake Mohave towards the goal of maintaining a population of 50,000 adult razorback suckers as a genetic refuge.

Restoration and monitoring at LCR MSCP conservation sites continues to move forward. Restoration work at the Dennis Underwood Conservation Area was completed in FY-23 and the site is now in the maintenance phase. Gila Woodpeckers and MacNeill’s sootywing skippers were detected at the site.

At the Section 26 Conservation Area, dredging of the new backwater continued in FY-23. Dredging operations are projected to be completed in FY-25, moving approximately 800,000 to 900,000 cubic yards of fill to create 23 acres of connected backwater.

Efforts to develop rearing ponds at Yuma Meadows Conservation Area are moving forward. In FY-2025, the primary production groundwater well for the rearing ponds is planned to be drilled. Solicitation and award of a contract to construct the rearing ponds is anticipated through BIL funding if sufficient funds are available. Construction of the rearing ponds will take approximately 2 years to complete.

Monitoring for covered species continued in FY-23. Sonoran yellow warbler, summer tanager, and Vermillion flycatchers were all detected at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve. Gila woodpeckers were detected at the Dennis Underwood Conservation Area.

As a cost saving measure, Reclamation has been working to transfer monitoring work that has thus far been contracted to consultants to be conducted by Reclamation staff in the future. These transfer efforts continued in FY-23 and will continue to be more widespread through the program in FY-24 and FY-25.

PIT tags continued to be utilized by the program to monitor native fish (razorback suckers and bonytail) during FY-23. PIT tags will continue to be implanted and antennae used to remotely collect this monitoring data as the program moves forward.

The Lake Mead Fish Hatchery remains out of use due to difficulty in transferring water from Lake Mead to the hatchery. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds have been obtained to improve the water delivery infrastructure. The hatchery is anticipated to resume operations in FY-25.

Finally, Mr. Jimmy Knowles, LCR MSCP Deputy Program Manager, announced that he will be leaving the LCR MSCP Program to pursue other opportunities. Board staff thank Mr. Knowles for his dedication and service to Reclamation and the LCR MSCP Program over more than a decade.

A meeting of the LCR MSCP Steering Committee will be held virtually on June 26th.

Salton Sea

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hosted a “Salton Sea Basin Future Hydrology Workshop” April 30th – May 1st in Thermal, California. The purpose of the workshop was for attendees to aid the USACE in gathering data and developing assumptions in order to assess future condition scenarios at the Salton Sea as part of the USACE’s Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The USACE study team presented their proposed study approach during the meeting.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Washington, D.C. Report

Appropriations

Congress initiated the FY25 appropriations process by conducting hearings with Administration representatives to deliberate on the budget requests of various agencies. On April 17th, Commissioner Touton presented Reclamation’s FY25 budget request to the House Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee. The Commissioner will testify before the Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee on May 15th. We expect the Senate to bring appropriations bills to the floor at some time in June.

Drought Bills

On April 16th, Senator Padilla (D-CA) and Congressman Peters (D-CA) introduced the DROUGHT Act which aims to enhance support for projects funded by WIFIA loans. The bill elevates the Federal assistance limit from 80 percent to 90 percent for projects in regions grappling with

severe drought or serving historically marginalized communities. The bill would also alleviate the financial strain on state and local governments in meeting project cost-sharing requirements.

A bipartisan coalition of Western legislators is pushing for the reauthorization of crucial water programs aimed at assisting states in combating over two decades of persistent drought. Senators John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced two bills to bolster new water infrastructure, develop drought contingency plans, and enhance water monitoring.

The first of these bills, the "Drought Preparedness Act," seeks to extend the authorization of the Reclamation State Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, which expired in 2022, through 2028. This legislation empowers the Interior Department, including Reclamation, to undertake emergency measures in response to drought conditions. Such measures include the construction of facilities, facilitation of water transactions, and the management of water storage. Moreover, it enables the Interior Department to offer technical support to state, local, and tribal governments in crafting drought contingency plans.

Additionally, the senators introduced the "Water Data Improvement Act," which aims to renew annual funding of \$4 million for the National Groundwater Resources Monitoring Network and \$10 million for the National Streamflow Information Program.

Earlier this year, the House passed its version of the "Drought Preparedness Act," H.R. 4385, sponsored by Representatives Neguse (D-CO) and Ciscomani (R-AZ). Neguse's "Water Data Improvement Act," H.R. 5770, also passed through the House Natural Resources Committee in January but has not received a vote on the House floor.

Interior Issues \$148M in Water Infrastructure Grants

On May 6th, the Department of the Interior announced it will distribute nearly \$148 million in federal funds for water infrastructure projects across 10 states. A total of 42 projects received grants through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program. To view a complete list of projects, visit the [Bureau of Reclamation's website](#).

Western Lawmakers Urge USDA to Address Long-Term Drought

On April 29th, 31 senators and representatives from western states sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to request more investment in upstream watersheds and forests, as well as improvements in irrigation water efficiency.

“Drought remains a severe risk for American farmers and ranchers and threatens farmland and local economies that rely on dwindling water resources, especially in states West of the 100th meridian,” wrote the lawmakers. “[T]here is more work to do as the places and people we represent are on the frontlines of climate change. We ask the Department to bring all resources to bear in helping address long-term drought and aridification in the Western United States.” The congressional letter can be accessed [here](#).

Farm Bill Preview

On May 1st, Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and House Agriculture Chair G.T. Thompson (R-PA) released separate frameworks on their policies and priorities for the 2024 farm bill.

Senator Stabenow released a detailed [outline](#) how Democrats would keep farm policy focused on combating climate change and preserving nutrition programs for low-income families. Congressman Thompson put forth a less detailed [summary](#) about the forthcoming bill, promising conservation policies less focused on the climate but expanded compared to the last farm bill in 2018.

House Passes Weather Forecasting Bill

On April 30th, the House approved the first major reauthorization of NOAA weather programs since 2017. Lawmakers approved the “[Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2023](#),” H.R. 6093, from House Science Chair Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), by a vote of 394-19. The legislation seeks to improve hurricane and tornado detection, expand the government's work with the private sector on forecasting and improve communication with the public. It also includes language that directs NOAA to establish two pilot projects in the Western and Central U.S. to improve Sub-seasonal to Seasonal precipitation forecasting.

White House Launches Water Initiatives

Following a public session on [Understanding Groundwater](#) in December 2023, the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) has launched a [working group on America’s groundwater](#) to consider the challenges and opportunities to improve the understanding and stewardship of this critical resource. To support the development of a report to advance government-wide action on groundwater, PCAST is collecting input from the public. [Click here](#) for submission details.

On April 23rd, the White House announced a new [America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge](#): a partnership to conserve and restore America’s rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands. The partnership sets a goal of protecting, restoring, or reconnecting eight million acres of wetlands and 100,000 miles of our nation’s river and streams.

Western Representatives Want \$550M for Water Recycling

On April 15th, Reps. Napolitano (D-CA) and Huffman (D-CA) introduced [H.R. 7990](#), the “Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization and Investment Act of 2024.”

The proposed legislation seeks to expand a program initially established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Under the bill, this program, which initially received \$450 million in funding, would now be supplemented with an additional \$550 million to support new projects spearheaded by state, tribal, or local water authorities. Furthermore, the lawmakers propose that projects must meet a higher threshold, with costs totaling at least \$1 billion, doubling the original baseline requirement of \$500 million set by Congress.

In addition to the funding increase, the legislation aims to extend the program for an additional six years past its current expiration date in November 2026.

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