



August 1, 2024

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

The San Diego County Water Authority will host a tour of facilities at San Vicente Dam prior to the regular CRB board meeting. To attend the tour, you must submit your request at <https://forms.office.com/r/dsnySy44Vu> by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

### **Tour of San Vicente Dam Facilities**

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024  
Time: **8:30 AM**  
Place: Poway City Hall  
13325 Civic Center Drive  
Poway, CA 92064

**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, August 14, 2024  
Time: **1:00 PM**  
Place: Poway City Hall – Council Chambers  
13325 Civic Center Drive  
Poway, CA 92064

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 August 12, 2024. 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.



## **TOUR AGENDA**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2024 — departing at 8:30 AM**

The San Diego County Water Authority will host a tour of facilities at San Vicente Dam, departing from the parking lot at Poway City Hall at 13325 Civic Center Drive, Poway, CA 92064 at 8:30 a.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2024 — 1:00 PM**

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ADMINISTRATION**

1. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of the May 15, 2024, Board meeting (**Action**)
2. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of the June 12, 2024, Board meeting (**Action**)
3. Recognition of the services of Executive Director Christopher Harris (**Information**)

### **REPORTS**

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



## 6. Chairman's Report

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Search for Executive Director (Gov. Code, § 11126, subdivision (a)(1).)
- B. Appointment of Interim Executive Director (Gov. Code, § 11126, subdivision (a)(1).)

### REPORT ACTIONS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF ANY

### OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion/potential action to approve salary adjustment for an Interim Executive Director (**Action**)

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADJOURNMENT

### Next Scheduled Board Meeting

#### Next Scheduled Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 11, 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, May 15, 2024

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (CRB or Board) was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the Steve Robbins Administration Building of Coachella Valley Water District, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

Gloria Cordero (MWD)	Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)
Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)	Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)	Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)	Peter Nelson (CVWD)
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)	Frank Ruiz (Public Member)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)	David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)	Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)	David Vigil (DFW Altern
Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)	

Others Present:

Steven Abbott	Jessica Neuwerth
Nick Bahr	Alexi Schnell
Jim Barrett	Brad Robinson
Dennis Davis	Alex Rodriguez
JR Echard	Eric Ruckdaschel
Jeff Faxon	Shanti Rosset
Christopher Harris	Tina Shields
Ned Hyduke	Gary Tavetian
Laura Lamdin	Joseph Vanderhorst
Aaron Mead	Petya Vasileva
Travis Moore	Jerry Zimmerman
Yuanyuan Myint	

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

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

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes of the March 13, 2024, Board Meeting**

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the March 13, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Madaffer moved that the minutes to be approved, second by Member Jones. By roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Colorado River Board of California Organizational Overview**

Chairman Hamby stated the purpose of presenting the organizational overview is to provide a background information for the Board to continue the discussion regarding the goals, priorities, and budget for the board in the next two years. Chairman Hamby encouraged suggestions from the Board.

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an overview of CRB's establishment and structure of the Board. CRB was established in 1937 per Part 5, Division 6 of the California Water Code. CRB is a state agency within the California Natural Resources Agency with ten members appointed by the Governor to make reports and recommendations to the Governor. The Board also selects a chairman, who serves as California's Commissioner, who serves at the pleasure of the Board. Under the direction of the Board and to the end that the rights and interests of the State, its agencies and its citizens into and in respect of, the water of the Colorado River System, and the use thereof may be properly safeguarded and protected. The Commissioner is delegated a number of different tasks such as investigating water uses and rights, negotiating with other Basin States and United States, and formulating and recommending actions for the Governor or the Legislature in California. The Board also appoints an Executive Director whose duties are as required by the Commissioner and the Board.

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an overview regarding CRB rules and regulations. CRB rules can be updated at the discretion of the Board and were last updated in June 2018. Elections of Chairman and Vice Chairman are conducted in every four years (starting January 2019). Chairman and Vice Chairman serve at the pleasure of the Board. Vice Chairman presides at Board meetings in the absence of the Chairman. Board meetings are held on the Wednesday after the second Tuesday of the month. Special meetings can be held at the call of the Chairman or a majority of the Board members. The Executive Director is selected by the Board in accordance with State Personnel Board rules.

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided that the ten Board members include: six members from local water and power agencies, nominated by their respective boards then appointed by the Governor; one member each designated by the Director of the California Department of Water Resources and the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and two public members appointed by the Governor.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the six local agencies are also members of the Six Agency Committee and Colorado River Authority, which are Joint Power Authorities that fund CRB's operations, host Basin tours and events, and support lobbying and research projects.

Deputy Director Neuwerth gave a summary of CRB's accomplishments through the years. She stated that CRB has been involved in almost every major activity representing California related to Colorado River such as Arizona vs. California, California's Colorado River Water Use Plan, California's 4.4 Plan in 1999. The goal of the CRB is to provide a unified voice for California, the agencies, and the public in negotiations.

Executive Director Harris added that the idea for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program was born in the back of a bus on a Colorado River Authority tour.

Deputy Director Neuwerth showed the organizational chart of CRB which constituted a technical team and the administrative team. The Deputy Director serves as direct supervisor to both teams. She stated the duties of the Executive Director, and the Deputy Director include but are not limited to representing California's interests and policy positions in negotiations and overseeing procurement and various reports to the State. The Principal Engineer, which is currently vacant, supervises two Water Resources Engineers: Angela Rashid and David Rheinheimer. The engineer team focuses on various tasks such as modeling, tracking hydrology, and forecasting updates. Angela Rashid is the project lead for the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project. David Reinheimer is involved in modeling efforts. The engineering team also helps develop operating plans, prepare water reports, and other meeting materials. Shana Rapoport is the sole environmental staffer, who is the lead for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. Shana Rapoport also serves

on the Minute 323 Environmental Work Group and helps prepare board packets. The administrative team has a long list of responsibilities including but not limited to procurement, budgeting and accounting, board meeting logistics and posting, personnel, and payroll.

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an overview of CRB's major programs and stated that CRB also serves as the State's representative on Federal Advisory Committees such as the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group and Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum.

#### Presentation of Draft Colorado River Board of California FY 2024-2025 Budget

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an overview of CRB's budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. She stated that the budget is included in the Governor's annual budget and must be approved by the legislature. Any changes to CRB's budget require a budget change proposal to be submitted to CRB's parent agency, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the Department of Finance for approval. CRB's total budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 is \$2,840,000, which constitutes \$2,337,000 for total personal services and \$503,000 for operating expenses. Personal services include salaries and benefits. Operating expenses include but are not limited to: contracts, meeting and travel expenses, and office supplies. CRB currently has 12 full-time positions and two part-time positions.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that the Governor's May revised stated that there were 10,000 employees saving by eliminating vacant position. He asked if CRB's vacant positions would be eliminated.

Executive Director Harris responded that CRB would likely retain the vacant positions since CRB does not receive any state funding. Executive Director Harris added that we are in the process of getting the hiring package ready for the Principal Engineer position and exploring the option to reclassify a vacant position to Public Information Officer per the Board's direction.

Member Jones added that there were personnel rules about how long a position is vacant for. However, there were ways to work around it.

Member Fisher mentioned that when the State encountered financial difficulties in the past, there was discussion to eliminate CRB. It took a while to explain and convince the State that there was no need to eliminate CRB since CRB was operated on 100% non-state funds.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that whether CRB is exempt from state directives because of its non-state funding source varies on a case-by-case basis. She added that the unexpended funds from any fiscal year would be returned to us.

Member Jones states that an initiative to eliminate boards and commissions came up fairly routine in the state government. If the boards and commissions were able to demonstrate the needs and values for its existence, the elimination would not likely proceed.

Executive Director Harris agreed with Member Jones. He stated that he had tried to establish a good working relationship with the state government, federal government, and CRB's parent agency. He stated that he would meet with different stakeholders of state government on a regular basis to give status updates for the various issues that CRB represented the state's interest such as basin states discussions and negotiations, and the agreement with the Department of Reclamation for the Salton Sea. Member Fisher concurred and appreciated Executive Director Harris's efforts to build those relationships.

#### Board/Agency Staff Workshop: Priorities and Work Plan

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an update on the results of the CRB stakeholders survey. Responses include but are not limited to 1) water reports and member agency reports were helpful, 2) suggestions on future meeting content relates to more lobbyist efforts, board workshop, Salton Sea, and Mexico. 3) suggestions for more consistent meeting locations, adding virtual meeting options, and increasing board member engagement. There was a general agreement that CRB needs a more robust process for setting and meeting goals. There was a request for increasing coordination with member agencies. There was also a shared interest in improved messaging and public outreach. Deputy Director Neuwerth pointed out there was a chart in the board packet showing detailed statistics of the result.

Member Fisher asked how many total responses received. Deputy Director Neuwerth responded 17.

Chairman Hamby invited all board members to a discussion regarding CRB's priorities and work plan. The topics include 1) strategic and budget planning, 2) communications and outreach, 3) meeting style and format, 4) member agency coordination, and 5) Six Agency Commission and Colorado River Authority review.

Member Joaquin appreciated the expertise every member brought to the board and stated that we should improve on communication and outreach to share the CRB's accomplishments.

Member Jones agreed with Member Joaquin that the communication and visibility of CRB need to be improved. She also emphasized that CRB represents the interest of the State of California.

Member Nelson suggested having a CRB Staff Member, the Executive Director or the Deputy Director, to be the board liaison to support board members with CRB related events or matters.

Vice Chairman Madaffer suggested that he would like to see more collaboration among member agencies and more involvement of alternates. He would like to include alternates in the closed session if it was allowed. He stated that we need to tell a better story about the management and conservation of the Colorado River to the country. He stated that it was in both upper and lower basin's best interests to reach an agreement instead of pursuing judgment in court.

Member Codero stated that her role was not only representing her agency, but the State of California as well. She would like to help to align some of the visions and the goals of all members. She would like to be able to have more engagement as a board member and to build stronger relationships with each other and with the public. She suggested that we should have a board retreat soon.

Member Fisher raised the questions that why and how CRB was established. He thought the reason CRB includes the six local agencies was to bring more local influence along with other board members to better represent California's interests in the Colorado River. He believes that CRB's job was to develop technical expertise on the Colorado River. He mentioned that we used to have agency manager meetings in the past. He believes these agency manager meetings helped us better understand different issues and improved communication among agencies. He suggested that to re-start the agency managers' meeting.

Deputy Director Neuwerth asked if those agency manager meetings also included members of the board.

Mr. Zimmerman answered that the law has evolved, and board members and agency managers both attended the agency manager meetings when he was the Executive Director of CRB years ago. He emphasized that CRB is a state agency and represents the interests of the State of California. The Six Agency Committee was formed to provide financial support to CRB when there were insufficient state funds. The Colorado River Authority, formerly called Colorado River Association, was formed to provide advocacy and lobby for California's rights on the Colorado River. Thus, the Colorado River Authority would host tours, educate other states, and the federal government on what California was doing to conserve the Colorado River.

Member Fisher stated that CRB was a complicated and unique organization. He believes that CRB's job was to focus on providing technical support on issues related to the Colorado River on behalf of California. He did not believe that CRB should focus on public relations or political positioning. He mentioned that CRB has utilized staff from the Metropolitan Water District of

Southern California to do some public relations related works. He believes that we already had the vehicle for doing public relations and might not need to hire a Public Information Officer at CRB.

Member Nelson commented that the agency manager provided viable technical support on Colorado River issues for each local agency. Involving agency managers in decision making was important.

Member Ruiz agreed that CRB was representing the State of California. He acknowledged that there were different perspectives and interests within California. He would like to see the Board include technical expertise from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), from conservation groups, and from nontraditional voices. He believes that public perception of the Board is important. He would like to have a communications and outreach plan that can help us to continue improving. He also would like to have better engagement, better relationships, and better coordination. He stated that he would appreciate hearing different perspectives such as how tribal communities or other communities perceive the role of the Board. There were many NGOs that have done fantastic jobs on the Colorado River. He suggested that we should build better bridges with those NGOs.

Member Jones pointed out that hydrology has changed from a state perspective. CRB does not just represent Southern California; it represents the State of California, which is linked to the rest of the State hydrologically by the State Water Project. During droughts, the State has been working with local agencies to balance the demand on the Colorado River to free up State Water Project water that could help drought-stressed areas in the rest of the State.

Executive Director Harris added that CRB had taken a more holistic approach on the management of entire State water portfolio and established closer coordination with the Department of Water Resources and the California Natural Resources Agency. For example, the Salton Sea did not become basin-wide issues and management of the Colorado River until recent years. He mentioned that we have involved agriculture communities and NGOs. For the first time now, CRB was working with Tribal partners. He appreciated all the comments from the Board.

Member Gloria believes that CRB can do a lot more than just providing technical support on the Colorado River.

Chairman Hamby appreciated all the comments and wanted to summarize the comments provided today. First, we all have a shared understanding that CRB represents California as a whole. There were great suggestions from Board members such as communications; establishing partners with Mexico, NGOs, Salton Sea, and tribes; coordination; and adaptation to change. Based on all the discussion and survey results, he and Vice Chairman Madaffer have created the working concepts for today's discussion, which were distributed to the Board as a handout. First,



establishing the process of setting annual strategic goals and incorporating those goals into budget planning. Second, developing a tool for communication and outreach plans. Third, revisiting our board meeting locations, format, and frequency and maybe including a board retreat in the beginning of the year. Fourth, suggesting some improvements to our board meetings such as: having special presentations/speakers, round table format, and virtual access. Fifth, re-establishing regular agency manager meetings. Finally, evaluating the Six Agency Authority and the Colorado River Authority and considering changes such as updating the membership and consolidating these two organizations. Chairman Hamby was seeking comments from the Board for these working concepts.

Member Jones provided a historical comparison for the multiple interstate rivers in California, which include the Klamath River, the Colorado River, the Truckee River, and the Carson River. All rivers started work on either interstate reclamation projects or negotiations related to interstate allocations around the early 1900s. The Colorado River got an interstate compact in 1922. The Klamath River got a federal reclamation project in 1902 and an interstate compact. The interstate compact commission for the Klamath River has been moot for many years due to litigation. The Truckee, Carson, and Water Rivers had draft compacts that were approved by the State but were not accepted by Congress. The Truckee and Carson River were settled by a congressional apportionment that included a complex operating agreement for the Truckee River. The Waker River remains in debate, and nothing has gone forward.

Member Nelson made comments regarding evaluation of the Six Agency Committee and the Colorado River Authority. He agreed with Mr. Zimmerman that the Colorado River Authority was formed to conduct advocacy for the lobby. He had concerns about combining the Six Agency Committee and the Colorado River Authority. He pointed out that everyone who wishes to attend the Six Agency Committee and the Colorado River Authority meetings should be able to stay as long as we all understand who can vote. He also mentioned that we had to consider the pros and cons of offering virtual access for the CRB board meetings.

Executive Director Chris Harris believes that the State of California is in the process of considering making changes to the current law to allow virtual access for board meetings.

Member Jones added that having a virtual board meeting prior to COVID was very difficult. She believes that the ability to have virtual board meetings was not a permanent status, but would defer to Gary Tavetian, the CRB counsel. She suggested that the Board could consider having some board meetings virtually and some in person since board meetings were the only opportunity for each board member to communicate.

Mr. Tavetian stated that he would investigate virtual options and get back to the Board.

Chairman Hamby summarized the discussion and stated that we would develop an annual strategic and budget planning process for the board to consider for 2025.

Deputy Director Neuwerth clarifies that CRB FY 24-25 budget most likely won't be able to make any changes. Any budget change proposals for FY 24-25 normally would need to be submitted to the Department of Finance around September 2023.

Chairman Hamby asked if there were any comments on the goals, logistics and other discussions with the board.

Member Jones stated that CRB is currently funded by local agencies. Right now, might not be a good time to ask for funds from the State considering the budget deficits. However, CRB could ask for funds from the State in the future. Expanding communications would take resources and California Natural Resources Agency would be supportive. She stated that we just had to consider the timing and planning the budget, when asking for funds from the State.

Chairman Hamby thanked Member Jones for her comment and moved on to the next workplan concepts – developing tools to improve communication and create outreach plan.

Deputy Director Neuwerth added that CRB Staff had started looking into potentially developing an internal position and its responsibility includes public outreach and public relations. CRB Staff had also considered utilizing funds from the Colorado River Authority to develop a strategic communications plan. She stated that we could reclassify existing vacant positions to include some public outreach without any impact on day-to-day operations.

Chairman Hamby moved on to the next workplan concepts – reviewing meeting frequency, location, and format for the best interest of the Board.

Deputy Director Neuwerth suggested taking into consideration that there were few board meetings in every year normally been cancelled when planning on the frequency of the board meeting.

Executive Director Harris suggested that we should schedule a monthly board meeting to keep the flexibility.

Member Jones concurred with Executive Director Harris and suggested using the board meeting as a communication tool and providing flexibility as to how to attend the meeting depending on the topics of the month.

Chairman Hamby summarized the discussion for the board meetings and moved on to the last workplan concept – evaluation of the Six Agency Committee and the Colorado River

Authority. He stated that the goal would be to present the 2024 CRB workplan to the Board in the future for approval.

Member Nelson added that it would be great to only schedule agency manager meetings when it is needed.

Chairman Hamby asked if there were any additional comments on the 2024 CRB workplan concepts.

Member Joaquin believes that it is always beneficial to do self-evaluation and appreciates different perspectives.

Chairman Hamby asked if we have skipped two items in the agenda – the budget and the accomplishment. Deputy Director Neuwerth confirmed that the two items were included in the board packet. If anyone has any comments, please let CRB Staff know. The CRB FY 24-25 budget would be presented on June 12, 2024, at the board meeting for approval.

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

Member Jones, representing DWR, reported that the State is experiencing abnormally average precipitation despite the warm temperatures. She noted that the runoff forecast for the big rivers in California fluctuated between 95% to 105% of average. She added that reservoir storage has benefited from carry storage from the previous winter.

Member Jones reported that DWR released a semiannual report on California groundwater conditions which shows improvements in some areas. She explained that groundwater has high latency in terms of data, with a reporting lag of six months because it takes time for a molecule of groundwater to make its way from the Sierra Nevada Mountains down to the central valley floor. She presented a map showing a one-year change in groundwater levels and a bar chart showing a five-year change for the 7,000 wells in the system. She explained that the map and chart show that over the longer time periods, the State's groundwater levels have been changing. She added that last year's water year helped improve groundwater levels. She also displayed a chart showing Water Year-2023 (WY 2023) groundwater recharge by basin which showed that the Santa Clara River Valley-Oxnard had the highest groundwater recharge per acre.

Member Cordero, representing MWD, reported that MWD's combined reservoir storage as of May 1<sup>st</sup> is 87% of capacity. She added that the Colorado River Aqueduct will be on a seven-pump flow through the end of the year. She stated that the 2024 diversion target is 959,000 AF and as of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 214,382 AF has been diverted.

Member Cordero reported that January and February deliveries to its member agencies were 77% of the annual average. She added that the 2024 delivery target for Desert Water Agency Coachella Valley water district is 272,000 AF.

Chairman Hamby reported on precipitation conditions in the Eastern Sierra for the LADWP stating that conditions were slightly below average as of May 14, 2024.

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

Executive Director Harris reported that as of May 13<sup>th</sup>, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,561.94 feet with 7.93 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 34% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,071.06 feet with 9.20 MAF of storage, or 35% of capacity. The total system storage was 24.54 MAF, or 42% of capacity, which is 3.61 MAF more than system storage at this time last year. He noted that the Colorado River Basin is heading into the runoff season, and the precipitation season is largely over.

Executive Director Harris reported that as of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the WY-2024 forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 7.79 MAF, or 81% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 5.1 MAF, or 80% of normal. He stated that observed inflow into Lake Powell for April was 81% of normal and the May inflow forecast was 92% of normal. He reported that WY-2024 precipitation to date is 102% of normal and the current Basin snowpack was 113% of normal.

Executive Director Harris reported on the Colorado River Basin's antecedent soil moisture conditions, which influence runoff capacity. He presented a map displaying fall 2023 soil moisture conditions and April 2024 observed soil moisture and unregulated streamflow. He explained that conditions in fall 2023 were dry and resulted in less streamflow. He stated that runoff conditions in the Colorado River headwaters are normal and slightly above normal. He added that the San Juan Basin, in the Four Corners region, has much drier antecedent soil conditions and may experience reduced runoff.

Executive Director Harris reported on basin-wide precipitation conditions in March and April, stating that conditions in March were above average, while conditions in April were dry. He added that the Basin will likely experience dry conditions through next fall and early winter. He reported that the snow water equivalent (SWE) above Lake Powell is 110% of median.

Executive Director Harris reported on the April 2024 24-Month Study projections. He stated that the most probable release from Lake Powell will be 7.48 MAF for WY-2024 and WY-2025. He reported that it is projected that Lake Mead will remain in a Tier 1 shortage condition for WY-2024 and WY-2025.

Executive Director Harris reported that through the end of April, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 31,147 AF and 27,332 AF respectively. He also reported that excess deliveries to Mexico were 14,684 AF, compared to 14,603 AF at this time last year. Executive Director Harris stated that saline drainage bypass to the Cienga de Santa Clara is currently about 49,041 AF.

## **COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS STAFF REPORT**

### **Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Legislation**

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an update regarding the salinity control fix legislation. The proposed legislation would adjust some of the non-federal cost shares required under the Salinity Control Act, which will lessen the strain on the Lower Basin Development Fund. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the bill was introduced in the House in early April and has a number of cosponsors. CRB is keeping an eye on the legislation as it moves forward.

Member Nelson asked if the legislation has a number. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the number is the Board packet.

### **Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program**

Mr. Tavetian provided an update regarding the *Save the Colorado v. United States* lawsuit. Mr. Tavetian stated that the lawsuit challenging the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP), purporting that the plan didn't take climate change issues into account.

Mr. Tavetian stated that the court of appeals upheld the trial court decision which was in favor of the United States. Mr. Tavetian added that the challenge against the LTEMP should be dead; however, they can always petition for review before the Supreme Court.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the Technical Work Group (TWG) for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) met in April.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the GCDAMP received an update from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that it has issued a biological opinion that provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) coverage for the change in Glen Canyon Dam operations for the interim period Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the GCDAMP is still working on efforts to control non-native fish and smallmouth bass. Ms. Neuwerth added that the National Park Service is slowly working on modifying the slough located a couple miles below the dam that is a known breeding hotspot for these fish. Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that it is a kidney-shaped

slough and that the top end of it needs to be opened so it has flow through to cool down the water. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the habitat modification is going to eliminate the area as a non-native refuge.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) is holding a virtual meeting right now and that the TWG will be meeting again in July.

#### Lower Colorado Multi-Species Conservation Program

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the Lower Colorado Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) has a new Biological Opinion. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that this is the second patch to this program to increase the coverage for reductions in flow to cover activities such as the creation of intentionally created surplus (ICS), other reasons for leaving water in Lake Mead, and moving water between users that impacts the flow in the river and requires ESA coverage.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that when the LCR MSCP began it included coverage for about 850,000 acre feet of change in flow between Hoover and Parker Dams. About a year ago, the coverage for flow was increased to 1.574 MAF; however, that proved to be insufficient. The new biological opinion provides coverage up to 2.083 MAF, which was the number in the original interim period SEIS, with the opportunity to expand that coverage if needed to up to three million acre feet.

Deputy Director Neuwerth added that conservation measures in the new Biological Opinion include the creation of a little more backwater and marsh habitat, increased monitoring and research, and some minimization actions at existing habitats to lessen the potential effect from the reduction in flow.

Member Nelson inquired as to how long the extension in coverage is applicable. Deputy Director Neuwerth replied that it is through 2028.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the program, which goes through 2055, is going to need a broader patch and that we are in the initial stages of figuring out what kind of coverage will be needed for the remainder of this program.

Executive Director Harris added that it provides a bridge between the remaining interim period and the post-2026 operations.

Member Nelson asked for a description of CRB's involvement in the development of biological opinion and who else from California and the other states participated. Deputy Director Neuwerth replied that although the Biological Assessment was drafted by the Bureau of Reclamation, a small group of MSCP members, including CRB, have been meeting weekly for over

a year to provide input. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that because this program is a federal and non-federal partnership, it's been a little bit unusual to change the federal permit but not the non-federal permit. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that they have been making sure that the federal permit covers the non-federal permittees. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that there is a pretty good relationship with the USFWS.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the water accounting report for 2023 is being finalized and that we are at the tipping point of the coverage that was available before that latest Biological Opinion, and the small LCR MSCP group is discussing how to proceed.

Member Nelson inquired regarding what would happen if the diversions were more than the coverage. Deputy Director Neuwerth replied that we have to consult with the USFWS and it would be up to them to determine what corrective action is necessary. Usually if coverage is exceeded, the next step would be to consult with the USFWS to get additional coverage. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the consultation has already been done.

Executive Director Harris added that additional conversation measures are probably going to require some additional marsh and backwater habitat and that if it gets up to three million acre-feet, that is expensive habitat to create. Cottonwoods and honey mesquite habitat is pretty cheap and straightforward. It's expensive to move a lot of dirt and create a new backwater and marsh. Executive Director Harris added that we are trying to dial it in, trying not to do too much but also ensure that it is broad enough that we can be flexible and nimble in our water management activities and ensure that we retain our incidental take authorizations.

Deputy Director Neuwerth added that this is going to be important going forward to make sure that we have this piece in place for the next set of guidelines.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the LCR MSCP had its technical meeting last week hosted by San Diego. Deputy Director Neuwerth thanked the San Diego representatives.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that in 2023 about 150 acres of cottonwood willow habitat were established, bringing the total program acreage to about 7,200. The program's total required acreage is 8,132. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the 8,000 number will likely get a little bigger when with additional change in flow mitigation.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the program has in its sightlines the next habitats it is likely going to build. Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that work continues at the Dennis Underwood Conservation area in the PVID area, and the program is dredging a new connected backwater in California called Section 26. The program has also stocked about 400,000 native fish from 2005 to 2023. Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the program is required to stock 1.2 million fish through 2055, and the program is largely on track.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that species monitoring is ongoing. Some of the covered species have been detected at the Dennis Underwood Conservation Area and other sites are continuing to be good spots for birds.

### Salton Sea Workshop

Executive Director Harris reported that at the end of April and on May 1<sup>st</sup> there was a workshop that was put together by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (U.S. ACOE). The U.S. ACOE is in the process of preparing a feasibility assessment to see what their role can be in participating, cooperating, or adding to the existing Salton Sea Management Program being implemented by the State of California, the Imperial Irrigation District, the United States, et cetera.

Executive Director Harris stated that the U.S. ACOE is fact finding, gathering information, and hearing from the various stakeholder groups that are involved. Executive Director Harris added that Member Ruiz and Ms. Shields attended as well and that he thought the workshop was well done and could lead to additional federal involvement, participation, and potentially funding.

Executive Director Harris reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' feasibility report says, yes, this is something that the U.S. ACOE should get involved in and that he thinks that Mike Connor could do a chief's report that could lead to additional federal involvement in the Salton Sea. Executive Director Harris stated that this is the introductory phase of this planning process, conducting the feasibility assessment.

Executive Director Harris asked if Member Ruiz or Ms. Shields had anything to add. Ms. Shields stated that they are hearing that the federal government is going to pay for sixty-five percent. Ms. Shields added that she has asked specifically what projects they have funded at this scale in ecosystem restoration. Ms. Shields stated it was a much smaller list and you have to request appropriations every year.

Executive Director Harris stated that the only other program the U.S. ACOE is doing that is similar in scope and scale is perhaps the Everglades. Ms. Shields added that there are projects in Arizona.

Member Nelson asked if they had to request money last week. Ms. Shields responded that she believed it was for the study. Executive Director Harris confirmed the funding was for the study.



## **MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

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

PVID General Manager Mr. JR Echard showed a slide and described the process of repairing a break in PVID's water delivery system to prevent a longer-term outage. Mr. Echard focused on one particular gate failure, noting that it typically takes around five days to replace such infrastructure.

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

Deputy Director Neuwerth showed a slide summarizing the 2024 Lake Havasu General Sport Fish Survey. Deputy Director Neuwerth noted that DFW is doing fish studies. Executive Director Harris explained that the activity was with a longstanding partnership between the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, DFW, and Arizona Game and Fish, and that they have been doing this study for more than 20 years in Lake Havasu to improve sport fishing opportunities.

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

Member Jones began by showing and describing a map of where DWR has been doing Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) electrical resistivity surveys to support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Referring to numerous surveys transect lines on the map, Member Jones explained that the lines are where a helicopter flies with an antenna to assess nonurban areas where groundwater recharge potential could be evaluated. Member Jones highlighted that many transects have been completed and that the actual survey data is now online for the Central Valley. Member Jones noted that transects have now been flown for most of Southern California and that at the Salton Sea hydrology workshop it was mentioned that they are using some of DWR's AEM data, including pre-published raw data. Finally, Member Jones noted that some transects for Southern California and the Owens Valley will be coming online later this summer.

Executive Director Harris expressed awe with the program. Member Nelson also expressed appreciation, noting that he has seen the survey put into practice in the Paso Robles Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and that the product is helpful for groundwater management. Member Jones noted that a practical application of this is in an area thinking about permitting more urban development, to avoid developing in an area because it has high groundwater recharge potential. Member Nelson remarked that it is also good for the agricultural community to be able to say whether or not a site is good for drilling for water.

### Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

IID Water Department Manager Ms. Tina Shields showed a slide with a map and key points about the planned East Highline Reservoir. Ms. Shields first noted that IID is trying to build the reservoir, with a capacity of about twenty-one hundred acre-feet. Ms. Shields then noted that IID just received a second batch of federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Ms. Shields then noted that there is now a total of 16.5 million dollars in BIL funding for the project, IID's environmental documentation for the project was just certified, and that IID will be proceeding with the final design with the hope of starting construction next year. Ms. Shields commented that the project is modeled after Brock Reservoir. Ms. Shields expressed that the new reservoir would provide IID with a lot of flexibility through its recapture and re-regulation capability. Ms. Shields stated that IID will fill it at night and release from it during the day to serve downstream users.

Member Dockstader noted that May is water safety month and described Dippy Duck, noting that Dippy Duck is just as popular as Santa Claus in the Imperial Valley. Dippy Duck has been IID's water safety mascot since 1966, and, during May, visits schools in full costume. Ms. Dockstader emphasized how important Dippy Duck is and his message to stay out of the canals.

### San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Vice Chairman Madaffer began by noting that May is Water Awareness Month in California. Vice Chairman Madaffer emphasized the importance of the Salinity Control Fix Act. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that more than half of SDCWA's water comes from the Colorado River. He further noted that 200,000 acres of land in its service area are for agriculture, with salinity-sensitive crops such as avocados, strawberries, and citrus. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that the 1970s Salinity Control Program is at risk due to a funding imbalance. He then discussed Senate Bill 2514, noting that SDCWA had expressed its support for the bill. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that the bill was introduced last summer and that CRB continues to work with its basin partners to support it. He indicated that he believed the bill is going to a committee in the House or Senate on Ag, Nutrition and Forestry, but further indicated that there is currently no hearing date. He expressed concern about when it might be heard and hope that it would be approved.

Vice Chairman Madaffer then reported that Jaymie Bradford joined SDCWA as the new assistant general manager, overseeing public affairs and government relations. He noted that most recently, Ms. Bradford was executive vice president and chief operating officer for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that Ms. Bradford spent more than a decade with the City of San Diego, indicated that he was proud that when he was

on the San Diego City Council, Ms. Bradford served as his chief policy director, and expressed that he knows that she will do a great job at SDCWA.

#### Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Member Nelson provided a verbal report, noting that CVWD is dealing with a new Chromium-6 Maximum Contamination Level (MCL), with rules currently being written. He noted that Coachella Valley water has very small amounts of naturally occurring Chromium-6 in the groundwater, and that they are trying to figure out how to address this in a new way. Member Nelson noted that several years ago there was an implementation of the Chromium-6 MCL, but that it was challenged due to economic reasons. He indicated that, had that MCL remained in place, it was going to cost CVWD about 250 million dollars to comply.

Member Nelson reported that CVWD is nearly finished with its regulating reservoir near the most recent lining of the Coachella Canal and that he would follow up with a report on that when they are finished. Chairman Hamby requested that Member Nelson share photos and video of the reservoir next time and Member Nelson agreed.

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

Member Cordero reported that MWD passed its biannual budget last month, giving MWD's chair and general manager an opportunity to meet with the Los Angeles Times editorial board. She noted that the meeting went very well, and that MWD's chair and general manager were pleased. Member Cordero then noted one of their quotes in the editorial as "over the decades Southern California's residents may have come to think of cheap water as a birth right, but it will take additional investments to keep water flowing. Even with higher costs passed down to consumers, water in this increasingly arid region remains a bargain."

Member Cordero noted that MWD is celebrating Water Awareness Month this May with a number of activities, including issuing One Water awards to four organizations and businesses for their innovation in their water-saving work, which saves 200 million gallons a year, noting that these projects were partially funded by MWD.

Member Cordero reported that in the previous week MWD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two new collaborating agencies, including the Friant Water Agency and Westlands Water District. Member Cordero reported that the second is known as a blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley. She indicated that this agreement represents MWD's intent to collaborate with these organizations on common goals and potential for future sustainability.

Member Cordero reported on several opportunities to involve different groups on inspection tours. Member Cordero first noted the Colorado River inspection trip with CVWD,

which she indicated went well. She then noted MWD's first ever Spanish language inspection trip, to the State Water Project, expressing that it was well received by communities and that they hope to do more. She finally noted that later this month MWD will have an inspection trip for the Water Education for Latino Leaders organization in Los Angeles.

Finally, Member Cordero reported that former CRB Member Glen Peterson announced that he is retiring, noting that he received a standing ovation at MWD's last board meeting for his commitment and work. She expressed hope that CRB can invite him back to a board meeting to do the same.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Interim Period SEIS Record of Decision**

Executive Director Harris reported on the Record of Decision (ROD) for the SEIS for the 2007 Guidelines and stated a link to the SEIS was included in the Board packet. Executive Director Harris stated that the SEIS modified three portions of the existing 2007 Guidelines ROD. The first part was the May 2023 Lower Basin Interim Period Plan, whereby the three Lower Basin States agreed that they would create up to 3 MAF of additional conservation that would be retained in storage in Lake Mead between 2023 and the end of 2026. Half of that conservation is to be completed by the end of 2025. Executive Director Harris added that the effort is on track.

Executive Director Harris reported that the second significant piece of the SEIS ROD allows the Secretary to reduce the releases from Glen Canyon Dam to as low as 6 MAF in order to protect elevation 3,500', which is ten feet above minimum power pool. The minimum release included in the 2007 Interim Guidelines as 7.0 MAF. Executive Director Harris noted that the likelihood of triggering this provision before 2026 is fairly low.

Executive Director Harris reported that the third major change is a provision to protect elevation 1,000' in Lake Mead. If there is a -24-Month Study projection showing Lake Mead declining to or below 1,025' in the next twelve months, the three Lower Basin States get a 45-day opportunity to develop a plan that would hard protect elevation 1,000' in Lake Mead. If the Lower Basin States' plan is insufficient, Reclamation can take additional actions.

### **Minute 330**

Executive Director Harris reported that in late March, the United States and Mexico executed Minute 330 and that it is the complimentary piece to the Lower Basin's May 2023 Interim Period Plan.

Executive Director Harris stated that the United States is contributing up to 3 MAF of additional conservation for the remaining interim period and Mexico has agreed that it will do 400,000 AF of additional conservation on top of their obligations under Minute 323.

Executive Director Harris stated that this results in a combined 3.4 MAF benefit to Lake Mead storage and that 250,000 AF of Mexico's 400,000 AF commitment will be to the benefit of all system water users rather than remaining in Mexico's water reserve. Executive Director Harris reported that, in exchange, the federal government is going to provide \$65 million to Mexico for projects and activities that help generate those conserved water supplies.

Executive Director Harris added that the Mexican section, water users in District 14, and the municipal and industrial users on the Baja Coast were all committed to this effort.

Executive Director Harris stated that Minute 330 is in the board packet and can also be accessed on the International Boundary and Water Commission's (IBWC) webpage.

#### Updated Consumptive Users and Losses Reports

Executive Director Harris reported that Reclamation is in the process of updating the Consumptive Uses and Losses reports. These are five-year snapshots of system uses across the basin, both in the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin and include reports on the water release to Mexico. Executive Director Harris reported that the last basin-wide Consumptive Uses and Losses report was issued in 2005. Executive Director Harris added that there have been periodic releases of Upper Basin Consumptive Uses and Losses reports, but with inconsistent methods for calculating consumptive use across the four Upper Basin states.

Executive Director Harris explained that Reclamation is not only working with the states, but also with the USGS, in refining and updating the data and creating new reports and updating earlier reports accordingly. Executive Director Harris stated that these reports will start coming out now and continue through the end of 2025.

Executive Director Harris reported that Reclamation is developing natural flow estimates for the Little Colorado River, the Virgin River, and the Bill Williams River. Executive Director Harris added that a feasibility assessment is being completed to develop a natural flow estimate for the Gila River system.

Executive Director Harris stated the importance of understanding the full water budget to inform decision-making going forward. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the benefit of these reports is, unlike the annual Water Accounting Reports, they show how much water is used on the tributaries in the Lower Basin.

Member Nelson inquired if the report would account for the Salt and the Verde Rivers. Executive Director Harris confirmed that the reports would include the entire Gila River Basin. Deputy Director Neuwerth noted that California has very little tributary use, and the data would likely show that Arizona is the biggest user of system water.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the reports will only release Lower Basin data through 2015, missing the more recent period when significant Lower Basin reduction has occurred. The reports will likely show pretty high Lower Basin usage when the mainstream and tributaries are included. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that she would expect the Upper Basin to seize on this as evidence that the Lower Basin is overusing water, and the Upper Basin shouldn't be required to share in future reductions.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that there is a real opportunity for us to emphasize all that's been done since 2015. Chairman Hamby added that last year was the lowest water use in the Lower Basin since WWII.

Executive Director Harris stated that CRB has also begun to develop some very preliminary messaging points associated with what we expect to see. Executive Director Harris added that he would remind everybody to go back to Brian Richter's paper last month and see what the numbers are for total uses in the Upper Basin system and in the Lower Basin. Executive Director Harris added that he expects that what Reclamation releases will align quite nicely with what Brian already has out there in the public space.

Executive Director Harris stated that he, Chairman Hamby and others have been thinking strategically about having some talking points for how to respond positively and the value of having this information and how to appropriately look at it and evaluate it and use it going forward. Those talking points will be shared shortly.

Member Jones asked a follow-up question. After the Salton Sea Future Hydrology Workshop a few weeks ago, since there was discussion about groundwater balance in there, Member Jones went back and looked at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) accounting surface calculations. They were last updated with 2007/2008 data, and a lot of that accounting surface is in Arizona where there's a lot of extraction going on. Member Jones asked if Executive Director Harris knew if the USGS has plans to update the accounting surface.

Executive Director Harris responded that he didn't know if the Tucson USGS office or Reclamation plan to revisit those calculations. Executive Director Harris stated that one of the uses of the data was implementation of California's the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project, which is now up and running; however, updated data may be necessary to execute a similar program in Arizona. Executive Director Harris stated that it was a great question, and he would follow up.

### Update on Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act of 2022

Executive Director Harris reported that he included in the monthly report that Congress passed the Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act in 2022. It was signed by the President in very early 2023 and allows the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) to implement water conservation activities within the Arizona portion of their reservation and then store the water. Executive Director Harris added that the water can be stored in Lake Mead, with the Arizona Water Banking Authority, or the tribes can forebear on the volumes that have been stored and transferred to other users within Arizona. Executive Director Harris stated that primarily it is focused on helping to backstop or bolster water supplies that are available to the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas, or could be stored for the tribe's own behalf, or on somebody else's behalf in storage in Lake Mead.

Executive Director Harris stated that he is optimistic that over the course of the post-2026 guidelines there will be more tribal opportunities, particularly among the five mainstream tribes, to take their federal entitlements and have additional management flexibility and perhaps realize additional economic benefit of these very valuable senior water rights.

Executive Director Harris stated that this is a great example of the Secretary of the Interior, the Arizona governor, and CRIT Chairwoman Amelia Flores getting together to sign this first set of agreements that allow the CRIT now to market portions of their water allocations off reservation within Arizona.

### Water Accounting and Operations Update

Executive Director Harris reported that the final AOP for water year 2024, calendar year 2024, is being finalized and that the rationale for it being so late this year is because Reclamation wanted to have the SEIS ROD included in the decision made in the AOP. The final consultation was held yesterday by webinar. Executive Director Harris added that the AOP includes good information and sets the stage as we shift to going forward into post-2026.

Executive Director Harris reported that Reclamation will imminently be releasing the final 2023 Water Use and Accounting Report for the three Lower Basin states. Executive Director Harris added that the report includes a lot of very good information, including technical comments from Metropolitan and others in California that were provided to Reclamation to help them finalize the report.

### Washington, D.C. Report

Executive Director Harris reported that Sara Tucker provided updates and there is a writeup in the monthly report. Executive Director Harris added that CRB is trying to get better at providing links where for Board members to look at the information themselves.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:41 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 11126, subdivision (a)(1) of the Government Code, an Executive Session was held to address personnel issues.

### **REGULAR SESSION**

The Board resumed the regular session at 1:00 p.m. No action was taken.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Hamby stated that the June 12, 2024, board meeting will be at San Diego, CA.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.





MINUTES OF MEETING  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (CRB or Board) was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at the San Diego County Water Authority, 4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

Gloria Cordero (MWD)	David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)	Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)	Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)	Peter Nelson (CVWD)
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)	David Vigil (DFW Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)	Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)	Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)	Frank Ruiz (Public Member)
	Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)

Others Present:

Steven Abbott	Ned Hyduke
Gary Arant	Neal Meyers
Nick Bahr	Yuanyuan Myint
Jaymie Bradford	Jessica Neuwerth
Kelly Cole-Walker	Meggan Quarles
Dennis Davis	Alex Rodriguez
JR Echard	Jason Rollo
David Edwards	Alexi Schnell
Sue Fisher	Tina Shields
Daniel Gaytan	Gary Tavetian
Christopher Harris	Joseph Vanderhorst

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:06 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.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:06 a.m.

Pursuant to Section 11126, subdivision (a)(1) of the Government Code, an Executive Session was held to address personnel issues.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

The Board resumed the regular session at 11:04 a.m. No action was taken.

Executive Director Harris announced his retirement in November 2024 and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director.

Member Pettijohn, Member Nelson, Member Cordero, Member Fisher, Member Jones, Chairman Hamby, and Vice Chairman Madaffer thanked Executive Director Harris for his service.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes of the April 10, 2024, Board Meeting**

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Member Fisher moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Nelson. Member Vigil and Member Cordero abstained. By roll-call vote, this item was unanimously approved.

### **Consideration and adoption of the Board's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget**

Executive Director Harris provided an overview of the budget.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the Board's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. Vice Chairman Madaffer moved to approve the budget, seconded by Member Fisher. By roll-call vote, this item was unanimously approved.

#### Consideration and Adoption of 2024 Board Work Plan

Chairman Hamby stated the goal of the 2024 work plan was give the Board the direction for discussions throughout the year. He walked through the eight items in the 2024 work plan and asked for an update on the progress about the 2024 work plan at every remaining board meeting in 2024.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the 2024 work plan. Member Cordero moved to approve the 2024 work plan, seconded by Vice Chairman Madaffer. By roll-call vote, this item was unanimously approved.

#### Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Overview

Mr. Gary Tavetian, the CRB counsel, provided an overview of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene). The overview included but was not limited to 1) the purpose of Bagley-Keene, 2) the definition of meetings and remote meetings, 3) closed sessions, and 4) differences between Bagley-Keene and the Brown Act.

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

Member Jones, representing the Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that the current cumulative statewide precipitation for the water year is a bit above average, with parts of Southern California experiencing 100% to 150% of average. She stated that last year's winter was exceptionally cold, adding that this winter has been warmer than average. She noted that temperatures in 2021 were the hottest of recent years.

Member Cordero, representing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that MWD's combined reservoir storage as of June 1<sup>st</sup> is 87% of capacity. She added that the Colorado River Aqueduct will be on a seven-pump flow through September. She stated that the 2024 diversion target is 903,000 acre-feet (AF) and as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 287,919 AF has been diverted.

Member Cordero reported that during the first third of the year, deliveries to its member agencies were 73% of the annual average. She added that the 2024 delivery target for Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District is 213,000 AF combined.

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

Executive Director Harris reported that as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,569.92 feet with 8.51 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 37% of capacity. He reported that the water level at Lake Mead was 1,066.86 feet with 8.95 MAF of storage, or 34% of capacity. He reported that the total system storage was 24.80 MAF, or 42% of capacity, which is 1.26 MAF more than system storage at this time last year.

Executive Director Harris reported that as of May 16<sup>th</sup>, the WY-2024 forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was 7.79 MAF, or 81% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 5.1 MAF, or 80% of normal. He reported that observed inflow into Lake Powell for April was 81% of normal and the May inflow forecast was 72% of normal. He reported that WY-2024 precipitation to date is 100% of normal and the current Basin snowpack is 140% of normal.

Executive Director Harris reported on basin-wide precipitation conditions in April and May, stating that the Colorado River Basin is experiencing significant drying. He reported that precipitation in April was greatest in the southern portion of Arizona. He added that some portions of the Upper Basin experienced late spring snowfall or rain in May. He reported that there was virtually no precipitation in the Four Corners region.

Executive Director Harris reported on the May 2024 24-Month Study projections. He stated that the most probable end-of-December elevation for Lake Powell is 3,575 feet with a 7.48 MAF release for WY-2024. He reported that the 7.48 MAF release from Lake Powell will likely continue to lower Lake Mead's elevation. He added that the Lower Basin Plan, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-funded conservation plan, along with additional system conservation, may keep Lake Mead from reaching critical elevation.

Executive Director Harris reported that through the end of May, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 42,057 AF and 35,942 AF respectively. He also reported that excess deliveries to Mexico were 16,019 AF, compared to 22,061 AF at this time last year. Lastly, Executive Director Harris reported that saline drainage bypass to the Cienga de Santa Clara is currently about 60,415 AF.

## **COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS STAFF REPORT**

### **Colorado River Salinity Control Program**

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported on meetings held in Durango, Colorado the previous week. A work group meeting was held, followed by meetings of the Colorado River Basin Salinity

Control Forum (Forum) and Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council (Advisory Council).

Deputy Director Neuwerth provided an update on the status of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU). PVU was previously turned off due to earthquakes in the vicinity and is now operating at approximately two-thirds capacity. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that starting in March, a swarm of earthquakes occurred near the well. The earthquakes have been small, less than magnitude 2.0, but it is clear from their locations that they are being caused by the pumping of saline brine.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation has a relatively low risk tolerance for causing earthquakes in this area and is keeping a very close eye on the pumping. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that we will need to wait and see if the recent earthquakes were an aberration, such that things may have settled down, or if we may see larger earthquakes. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that PVU was shut down in response to a 4.8 magnitude quake. In response to a question from Chairman Hamby, Deputy Director Neuwerth noted that the injection well is 13,000 feet deep. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the issue is that the injection zone seems to be saturated, and pressure is starting to build. Reclamation is monitoring the pressure at the bottom of the well, but earthquakes can occur without much warning.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the issue at PVU is ongoing, and an alternative to the existing well is being sought. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2020 was utilized to look at PVU alternatives. Reclamation chose the no-action alternative because none of the alternatives were very appealing. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that drilling a new well is very expensive, and evaporation ponds require a big footprint, and the evaporated salt must be properly disposed of. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that there are no great solutions, but that PVU continues to be a priority because it controls a lot of salt. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the efforts at PVU are measurable, as compared to on-farm efforts where effects can only be estimated. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that it is a priority for California that PVU continues to operate.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation issued a Request for Information to determine if local industry was interested in using the brine from Paradox Valley; however, there was limited interest.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the Advisory Council voted to recommend funding several Scientific Investigation Reports (SIRs), to be carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). One of the recommended SIRs is an evaluation of groundwater flows in the Paradox Valley, to determine if some of the brine could potentially be intercepted in a different location so that it wouldn't reach the river.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that there was a hearing recently in the House regarding the Salinity Control Fix legislation. Deputy Director Neuwerth added that the legislation is on separate tracks in the House and in the Senate and may be included in the Farm Bill. The legislation would decrease the nonfederal cost share. Deputy Director Neuwerth explained that the Salinity Control Program is supported by federal and nonfederal cost shares, with the Lower Basin's nonfederal cost share coming from hydropower revenues in the Lower Basin Development Fund. However, hydropower has not been generating enough revenue for the fund to be solvent.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the funding change will not provide a permanent fix as there are quite a few salinity funding issues that need to be addressed. Arizona is currently not paying into the program and the Upper Basin contributes only fifteen percent of the nonfederal cost share. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that there are broader fixes that need to happen, but this is a fix to stop the continued losses, for which there seems to be broad support.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the Forum and Advisory Council will be meeting again in October.

#### Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation released a final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP). The SEIS was driven by the expansion of smallmouth bass below Glen Canyon Dam. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that nearly all the humpback chub in the world is located in the Grand Canyon, and when Lake Powell was low, smallmouth bass passed through the turbines and started reproducing below Glen Canyon Dam. The main goal of the modification to the LTEMP is to change the flow of the dam to use the bypass tubes to cool down the water temperature and, theoretically, keep the smallmouth bass from successfully spawning.

Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that the concern is that if smallmouth bass spread, they can threaten the native fish population, which could prompt burdensome restrictions on Glen Canyon Dam operations. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that some of the alternatives proposed for post-2026 include keeping Lake Powell above elevation 3,570' to keep the water temperature cool enough to disadvantage these fish. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that if we cannot control the smallmouth bass downstream, there is going to be a lot of pressure to change Glen Canyon Dam operations in a way that we might not like in order to control nonnative fish.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the hope is to conduct these experiments for a couple years. She stated that it will be relatively expensive, maybe \$30 million per experiment,

with a reduction in hydropower generation at Glen Canyon Dam, but that there is likely only a narrow window in which to prevent establishment of smallmouth bass.

Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that Reclamation is moving forward fast in the hopes that they can perform these experiments starting this summer. A SEIS Record of Decision is expected shortly.

Member Nelson stated that you could put a lot of fishermen on the river to help catch all of the fish for \$30 million. Deputy Director Neuwerth responded that the program has an incentive for anglers to remove brown trout.

Executive Director Harris noted that nonnative fish are the primary obstacle to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) native fish stocking program. Executive Director Harris stated that the program has stocked hundreds of thousands of native fish into the river and the fish are rarely recontacted, largely due to predation by nonnative fish. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that one of the goals of the LTEMP SEIS is to avoid scenarios where a similar stocking program may be needed to support native fish populations in Grand Canyon.

Executive Director Harris stated that his fear with the Glen Canyon and Grand Canyon reaches is that once the smallmouth bass become established, it will be almost impossible to get rid of them. Deputy Director Neuwerth agreed, stating that in a few years, it may be too late to successfully intervene. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that CRB has been pushing Reclamation to move quickly, and that Reclamation completed the SEIS in less than a year, an impressive feat.

Member Jones asked whether a temperature control device for Glen Canyon Dam had been considered, noting that Reclamation has retrofitted several of its canals with temperature control devices. Deputy Director Neuwerth confirmed that it had been considered, but the infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam would be extremely difficult and expensive to modify. Deputy Director Neuwerth stated that Reclamation is continuing to look at temperature control devices, as well as installing a curtain above the dam that could control temperature and prevent fish passage.

## **MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

### **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)**

Member Pettijohn reported that LADWP is working to retrofit about nine parks in the San Fernando Valley to turn them into stormwater-capture parks, to recharge the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin. Member Pettijohn highlighted Valley Village Park, one of the nine parks. Member Pettijohn stated that Valley Village Park has a tributary area of about 453 acres



and based on calculations can capture on average about 136 AF/year of water, a large amount for a stormwater-capture project. Member Pettijohn stated that a 0.7-acre underground infiltration gallery will be built underneath this park. Member Pettijohn stated that LADWP received a WaterSMART grant that will help with the capital costs of the project. Member Pettijohn reported that LADWP recently received a \$30 WaterSMART grant to modify LADWP's Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant into an advanced water purification facility producing about 22,000 AF/year of indirect potable reuse-quality water. The water will be used to replenish the San Fernando Basin through the Hansen spreading grounds in the San Fernando Valley. Member Pettijohn stated that the project was expected to cost \$750 million, and that LADWP has secured about \$400 million in funding from outside sources for the project, in addition to the recent WaterSMART grant. Member Pettijohn stated that seventy percent of the design for the project is complete. LADWP will start construction in October of this year and the project is expected to begin producing water in early 2028.

#### Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)

PVID General Manager Mr. Echard provided an overview of Palo Verde Irrigation District's (PVID) metering process. Mr. Echard explained that PVID staff measure flow in PVID's outfall drain twice a week, using a basket to cross the drain and drop a meter into the water, taking measurements every two feet horizontally and vertically within the channel. Mr. Echard noted that the flow in the outfall drain generally remains steady day-to-day.

Mr. Echard reported that PVID staff use a similar process to measure flow just below PVID's intake from the Palo Verde Diversion Dam, with metering occurring five days a week, Monday through Friday. Mr. Echard noted that flow at the intake changes much more regularly than flow in the outflow drain. Member Fisher added that the outfall drain represents return flow to the main stem of the river from the Palo Verde Irrigation District. For every acre-foot of water diverted by PVID, PVID returns, through the outfall drain, about six-tenths of an acre-foot of water. Member Fisher stated that PVID is quite efficient in its use of water and that the metering measurements are very important.

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

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported about SDCWA's Innovative Citizens Water Academy, noting that it is led by SDCWA's public affairs department and that they just finished their spring session. He further noted that the program started in 2015, that it was designed to increase awareness among civic and community leaders about where San Diego gets its water and how SDCWA manages it, and that about 800 people have participated in the program since it started.

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported that SDCWA's "Thanks for Planting Me!" program, which was started in 2023, received an Excellence in Public Information and Communications (EPIC) award from the California Association of Public Information Officials.

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported that SDCWA just started a project to upgrade their historic First Aqueduct, which connects San Diego to the Colorado River Aqueduct. He provided a brief history of the aqueduct, noting that it was constructed in the early 1940s, starting with a push from the federal government to bring imported water to San Diego to support the region's role in WWII. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that in August the Board will tour San Vicente Dam, the terminus for the First Aqueduct. Vice Chairman Madaffer also noted that today eleven of SDCWA's twenty-three member agencies are served by that First Aqueduct. He further noted that the aqueduct renovation project will be ongoing through 2026, that it is probably one of the most extensive renovation efforts in SDCWA's eighty-year history, and that the investment in infrastructure is very important for SDCWA to avoid major pipeline damage.

#### Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

IID Water Manager Ms. Tina Shields reported that through May, IID has saved a total of 7.7 million acre-feet of water under the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). Ms. Shields reported that IID has met all its conservation efforts this year, conserving in excess of half a million acre-feet of water.

Ms. Shields reported that in 2023, IID added 106,000 acre-feet of water to Lake Mead as part of the SEIS Lower Basin Plan, and that IID will contribute more to the coming years, once IID and Reclamation complete the contracting process for the 2024-2026 conservation program.

#### Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Member Nelson showed a video of CVWD's Mid-Canal Storage Project and described the project, first noting that the Coachella Canal is completely lined from Drop 2 through CVWD as a result of the QSA. He noted that a 4.9-mile section of the lined canal goes through an impermeable clay section of the ground, where the ground regularly swells and shrinks due to changes in soil moisture. He indicated that CVWD has had many lining panels popping off and cracking in this section of the canal as a result. Member Nelson then explained that CVWD has spent four million dollars repairing these panels, and that they are jointly managed by CVWD, SDCWA, and the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority.

Member Nelson continued, explaining that because of these expenses, the managing agencies decided to put the water back into the original canal, make improvements to the lined section, and use it to increase storage. He noted that this storage operates much like Brock Reservoir for storing excess deliveries, and that drawing down water from the new storage has

no adverse effects on the panels. Member Nelson finally noted that the project will store about 728 Aft of water, and that they just completed it with a 7.5-million-dollar loan from Reclamation that will be paid back by the three managing agencies.

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

Member Jones showed several numbers related to DWR monitoring and data networks, including stream/staff gauges, groundwater wells, water quality stations, snow courses/sensors, and weather stations. She noted that California Senate Bill 19 directs DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board to prioritize stream gauge sites and identify new gauges. She indicated that there are currently about 1,000 stream or staff gauges in California that publicly report data, further noting that DWR owns or funds USGS to operate 250 of those.

Member Jones also highlighted the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS), DWR's network of weather stations, and that it generates data for both landscape and crop irrigation purposes. She indicated that CIMIS is very widely used and that some of the largest users are private companies that pull data from CIMIS and then turn that data into web applications that they sell to people, such as growers. She noted that if a farmer calls up an irrigation schedule on their phone, it is very likely the data supporting that is the evapotranspiration data from CIMIS. Member Jones also noted that DWR has satellite-based information, such as the land-subsidence monitoring data through interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) or the work DWR is starting with OpenET, whereby DWR purchases data and shares it with the public.

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

Member Vigil reported that CDFW's local Colorado River program staff have installed another wildlife drinker under the Water for Wildlife Drinker Enhancement grant. The program aims to replace small-game drinkers with big-game drinkers suitable for all wildlife. The newest installation, designated RB20, is located in the desert and is the third installation out of a planned total of eighteen. Member Vigil also mentioned that the grant is nearing its expiration. As a result, CDFW plans to request a no-cost time extension. The extension is necessary due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related stay-at-home orders, which temporarily suspended operations. The grant had previously been extended to allow an additional three years for project completion.

Member Vigil then reported on Palo Verde Ecological Reserve (PVER) Expansion #5, the Gabrych property, noting that CDFW toured the property. At its May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved funding for the property acquisition. Member Vigil explained the breakdown of funding, with WCB to contribute eight million dollars, DWR two

million dollars, and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP) 25.5 million dollars for the 1,931-acre conservation area to be made available to the LCRMSCP.

Lastly, Member Vigil reported that CDFW's science institute has increased its interest in PVER and that they therefore put a Sentinel Site Network camera trap there and photographed mountain lion on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Member Vigil also noted that CDFW has been conducting some public outreach and posting signs in PVER to increase awareness and let people know that there are mountain lions in the area.

Member Nelson asked if the PVER Expansion #5 is a completed deal. Deputy Director Neuwerth reported that the expansion is close to being finalized. The funds have been approved, but the official title transfer agreement has not yet been signed. She noted that the signing option remains valid through June. Mr. Vanderhorst, with MWD, noted that by his understanding the escrow closing date is July 5<sup>th</sup>, and that it is hoped that the state funding would be available by then. Executive Director Harris commented that this transfer is critical for post-2026 mitigation needs for California, helping California and the LCR MSCP meet its California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) obligations post-2026.

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

Member Cordero reported that two weeks ago, MWD was able to host Reclamation Commissioner Touton, where the Commissioner announced new federal funding for large scale water recycling projects, including 99 million dollars for Pure Water in Southern California. She noted that LADWP, the City of Ventura, and the Washington County Water Conservation District in Utah will also receive funding. She expressed appreciation for the funding. Member Cordero also noted others in attendance, including Congressman Napolitano, Congressman Barragan, State Water Resources Control Board Chair Esquivel, and representatives from the Central Arizona Project and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Member Cordero reported that MWD Board Chair Ortega and General Manager Hagekhalil led a coalition of water, labor, business, and community-based organizations at a meeting in Sacramento with California state legislators and Governor Newsom administrative officials, where they advocated for funding for water infrastructure.

Member Cordero reported that MWD General Manager Hagekhalil recently testified before the U.S. Budget Committee in a hearing entitled "Drought, Dollars and Decisions", which focused on water scarcity in a changing climate.

Member Cordero reported that she was able to join MWD's board chair, a board member, and staff on a tour of the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) area. She noted that it was interesting to be there with Amelia Flores, CRIT's chair, to discuss additional possibilities for partnerships.

Member Cordero concluded by reporting that MWD has received several awards over the past month or so. One was from the United States Society on Dams, which highlighted MWD's accomplishments on public safety and emergency planning. Another was an EPIC award for MWD's Pure Water facility, which, she noted, was renamed Grace Napolitano.

Chairman Hamby commented on the member agency reports this month were diverse in showing the innovation and scale of what California does for water conservation including urban, agriculture, and environmental efforts. He suggested using CRWUA as the platform to communicate the California story.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Operations**

Executive Director Harris reported that a final Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for 2024 was awaiting final approvals. The report was significantly delayed this year because Reclamation was waiting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Record of Decision (ROD) to be released, which would then allow for reduced releases from Glen Canyon Dam if necessary to protect elevation 3,500' in Lake Powell. Executive Director Harris reported that the AOP also includes actions under the newly signed Minute 330 between the United States and Mexico, and that Minute 330 will bring an additional 400,000 acre-feet of water into Lake Mead between now and 2026.

Executive Director Harris reported that the first consultation for the 2025 AOP was held the day prior, and a draft 2025 AOP is now available on Reclamation's website. Executive Director Harris reported that 2025 is projected to be very similar to 2024, with a 7.48 MAF release from Lake Powell and a Tier 1 shortage condition in Lake Mead.

### **Updated Consumptive Users and Losses Reports**

Executive Director Harris reported that Reclamation has begun releasing new and updated Consumptive Uses and Losses reports, which provide data on basin-wide mainstream, and tributaries' uses. The last basin-wide Consumptive Uses and Losses report was issued in 2005. Executive Director Harris noted that Reclamation is implementing a more consistent methodology for calculating use across the Basin. Updated Lower Basin uses from 1971-2005 are now available on Reclamation's website, including interesting and interactive visualizations. Executive Director Harris noted that Reclamation is also evaluating the feasibility of calculating estimated natural flow for the Gila River and its contribution to the mainstream.

### Post-2026 Process Update

Executive Director Harris reported that the Lower Basin principals continue to refine and develop additional details for the Lower Basin Alternative that was submitted to Reclamation in March, to be modeled in Reclamation's post-2026 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Executive Director Harris noted that much of the remaining work is related to development of a storage and recovery program, similar to the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) program under the 2007 Guidelines, and how to transition existing conserved water supplies to this new program. Executive Director Harris stated that California's priority is to maximize flexibility for its water users in the creation and use of conserved water supplies.

### Washington, D.C. Report

Executive Director Harris reported that a thorough write-up on Washington D.C. updates was included in the June Executive Director's report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Hamby noted that a turf bill is being discussed in D.C., with staffers from Senator Hickenlooper reaching out to Senator Padilla's office on a potential bill that would authorize millions of dollars in funding for turf removal as part of the WaterSMART grants program.

Chairman Hamby thanked Member Cordero for an invitation to speak at the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, which includes various private and public water agencies in the San Gabriel area. Chairman Hamby also reported that he had joined the other Commissioners at a panel at the Getches-Wilkinson Center conference in Boulder the previous week. Chairman Hamby noted that Upper Basin seems to be striking a less aggressive tone in recent meetings and discussions. He stated that discussions with the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin would continue over the summer.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.



8/5/2024

# LOWER COLORADO WATER SUPPLY REPORT

River Operations  
Bureau of Reclamation

Questions: [BCOOWaterops@usbr.gov](mailto:BCOOWaterops@usbr.gov)

(702) 293-8373

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

	PERCENT	Content 1000 ac-ft (kaf)	Elev. (Feet above mean sea level)	7-Day Release (CFS)
CURRENT STORAGE	FULL			
LAKE POWELL	41%	9,606	3,583.86	12,100
* LAKE MEAD	33%	8,527	1,061.37	12,200
LAKE MOHAVE	95%	1,718	643.69	10,000
LAKE HAVASU	95%	591	448.56	8,100
TOTAL SYSTEM CONTENTS **	44%	25,850		
As of 8/4/2024				
SYSTEM CONTENT LAST YEAR	44%	25,832		
*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	83%	1,900		
Painted Rock Dam	0%	0	530.00	0
Alamo Dam	13%	124	1,120.88	31
Forecasted Water Use for Calendar Year 2024 (as of 8/5/2024) (values in kaf)				
NEVADA			201	
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER SYSTEM				193
OTHERS				8
CALIFORNIA			4,075	
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				975
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS				3,084
OTHERS				16
ARIZONA			1,935	
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT				898
OTHERS				1,036
TOTAL LOWER BASIN USE				6,211
DELIVERY TO MEXICO - 2024 (Mexico Scheduled Delivery + Preliminary Yearly Excess <sup>1</sup> )				1,337
OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION				
UNREGULATED INFLOW INTO LAKE POWELL - AUGUST FINAL FORECAST DATED 8/1/2024				
		MILLION ACRE-FEET	% of Normal	
FORECASTED WATER YEAR 2024		7.944	83%	
PRELIMINARY OBSERVED APRIL-JULY 2024		5.327	83%	
JULY OBSERVED INFLOW		0.647	67%	
AUGUST INFLOW FORECAST		0.210	56%	
		Upper Colorado Basin	Salt/Verde Basin	
WATER YEAR 2024 PRECIP TO DATE		98% (25.6")	104% (22.2")	
CURRENT BASIN SNOWPACK		NA% (NA)	NA% (NA)	

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



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)

	Use To Date CY 2024	Forecast Use CY 2024	Approved Use CY 2024	Excess to Approval CY 2024
<b>WATER USE SUMMARY</b>				
Arizona	1,269,994	1,934,699	1,981,323	(46,624)
California	2,378,376	4,087,252	4,087,252	0
Nevada	118,052	200,352	200,352	0
<b>States Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3,766,422</b>	<b>6,222,303</b>	<b>6,268,927</b>	<b>(46,624)</b>
Total Deliveries to Mexico <sup>4</sup>	910,798	1,306,934	1,306,934	
Creation of Mexico's Recoverable Water Savings <sup>5</sup>	0	30,000	30,000	
Creation of Mexico's Water Reserve <sup>6</sup>	934	3,039	3,039	
Delivery of Mexico's Water Reserve <sup>7</sup>	(18,492)	(22,973)	(22,973)	
Creation of System Water <sup>8</sup>	1,351	133,000	133,000	
Total to Mexico in Satisfaction of Treaty Requirements <sup>9</sup>	894,591	1,450,000	1,450,000	
To Mexico in Excess of Treaty <sup>10</sup>	17,915	30,667	27,417	
Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242 <sup>11</sup>	80,441	129,514	117,909	
<b>Total Lower Basin &amp; Mexico<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>4,775,576</b>	<b>7,689,418</b>	<b>7,721,187</b>	

<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 May 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 for Mexico's Water Reserve in accordance with Minute No. 323 Section V and Minute No. 330.

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

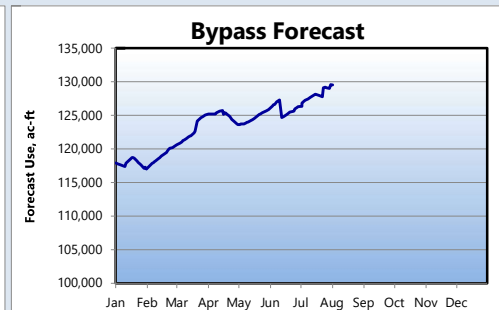
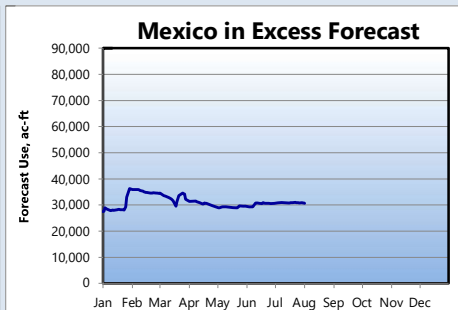
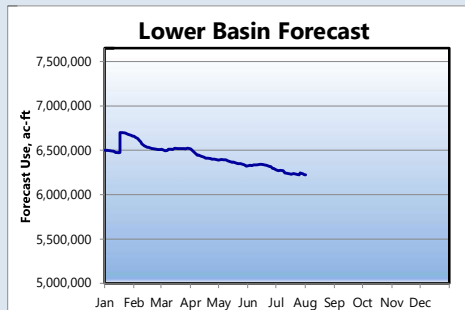
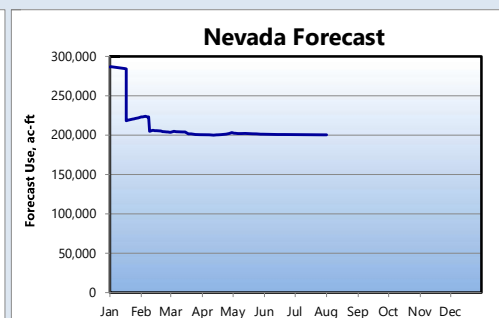
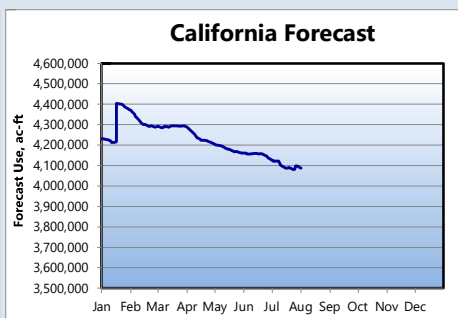
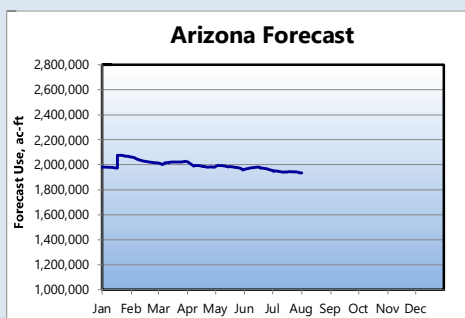
<sup>8</sup> Creation of System Water pursuant to IBWC Minute 330.

<sup>9</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>10</sup> "To Mexico in Excess of Treaty" forecast is based on the 5-year average for the period 2018-2022.

<sup>11</sup> "Water Bypassed Pursuant to IBWC Minute 242" forecast is based on the average for the period 1990-2022.

<sup>12</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 rate 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**

**NOTE:**

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

**ARIZONA WATER USERS**

Forecast end of year diversion/consumptive use

Forecast based on use to date and approved annual water orders

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

	Use To Date CY 2024	Forecast Use CY 2024	Estimated Use CY 2024	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2024	Diversion To Date CY 2024	Forecast Diversion CY 2024	Approved Diversion CY 2024	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2024
<b>WATER USER</b>								
TV Marble Canyon, AZ LLC	7	10	10	---	10	15	15	0
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mead	32	62	65	---	32	62	65	-3
Lake Mead NRA, AZ - Diversions from Lake Mohave	146	243	243	---	146	243	243	0
McAlister Family Trust	5	7	7	---	7	10	10	0
Bureau of Reclamation - Davis Dam Project	1	2	2	---	6	9	9	0
Bullhead City	4,248	8,302	8,799	---	6,439	12,739	13,730	-991
Mohave Water Conservation District	562	854	854	---	839	1,275	1,275	0
Mohave Valley I.D.D. <sup>1</sup>	4,854	9,687	12,267	---	8,987	17,935	22,716	-4,781
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, AZ	20,277	36,322	46,167	---	37,550	67,266	85,500	-18,234
Golden Shores Water Conservation District	190	289	289	---	285	433	433	0
Havas National Wildlife Refuge	2,017	2,996	3,564	---	16,816	28,296	41,835	-13,539
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. - CSA No. 1	320	582	595	---	493	896	916	-20
Crystal Beach Water Conservation District	48	73	73	---	74	112	112	0
Lake Havasu City	5,246	9,245	9,052	---	8,461	14,911	14,600	<b>311</b>
Arizona State Parks (Windsor Beach)	6	9	9	---	9	14	14	0
Central Arizona Water Conservation District <sup>2</sup>	653,012	898,132		---	653,012	898,132		--
Springs Del Sol Domestic Water Improvement District	1	2	2	---	2	3	3	0
Hillcrest Water Company	12	18	18	---	18	27	27	0
Frontier Communications West Coast	1	1	1	---	1	1	1	0
Town of Parker	184	342	388	---	443	821	897	-76
EPCOR Water Arizona, Inc. - CSA No. 2 (formerly Brooke Water, LLC)	169	306	318	---	253	456	474	-18
Colorado River Indian Reservation, AZ	209,558	326,097	360,641	---	324,525	561,399	662,402	-101,003
GM Gabrych Family	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Ehrenberg Improvement District	172	266	257	---	270	416	391	<b>25</b>
B&F Investment	6	9	7	---	8	11	10	<b>1</b>
North Baja Pipeline	137	208	208	---	211	320	320	0
Arizona State Land Department - Domestic	24	47	57	---	39	74	87	-13
Cibola Island	479	728	728	---	670	1,018	1,018	0
Cibola Valley I.D.D.	1,464	2,767	2,958	---	2,048	3,870	<i>4,137</i>	-267
Red River Land Co.	142	203	214	---	198	283	300	-17
Hopi Tribe	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
GSC Farms, LLC	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0
Arizona Game & Fish	1,286	2,011	2,032	---	1,798	2,811	2,838	-27
Western Water, LLC	121	285	379	---	169	398	530	-132
Bishop Family Trust	197	300	300	---	276	420	420	0
Cathcarts	4	6	6	---	5	8	8	0
Cibola Sportsman's Club	101	154	154	---	142	216	216	0
Cibola National Wildlife Refuge	8,674	15,464	15,575	-111	13,992	24,944	25,122	-178
Imperial National Wildlife Refuge	2,820	4,717	4,717	0	4,550	7,610	7,610	0
BLM - Leased by L. Pratt	16	25	25	---	26	39	39	0
BLM Permittees (Parker Dam to Imperial Dam)	857	1,302	1,302	0	1,318	2,003	2,003	--
Martinez Lake Cabin Sites	5	7	7	---	7	11	11	0
Fisher's Landing Water and Sewer, LLC	5	8	8	---	8	12	12	0
Shepard Water Company	11	16	16	---	16	25	25	0
U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds	238	421	421	---	238	421	421	0
JRJ Partners, LLC	407	618	618	---	625	950	950	0
Cha Cha, LLC	589	1,152	1,365	---	906	1,772	2,100	-328
Beattie Farms Southwest	404	656	722	---	623	1,009	1,110	-101
Gila Monster Farm	2,258	3,695	4,812	---	3,940	6,507	8,500	-1,993
Wellton-Mohawk I.D.D.	147,651	243,897	278,000	-34,103	212,357	366,572	424,350	-57,778
BLM Permittees (Below Imperial Dam)	75	114	114	0	115	175	175	--
City of Yuma	8,034	13,870	15,548	-1,678	13,990	24,949	27,500	-2,551
U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma	511	992	1,219	---	511	992	1,219	-227
Union Pacific Railroad	16	28	29	---	28	48	48	0
University of Arizona	323	669	839	---	323	669	839	-170
Yuma Union High School District	51	111	150	---	66	148	200	-52
Desert Lawn Memorial	18	28	28	---	26	40	40	0
North Gila Valley Irrigation District	6,00	8,311	9,231	---	21,145	36,445	43,500	-7,055
Yuma Irrigation District	19,298	33,905	38,977	---	33,925	62,125	73,400	-11,275
Yuma Mesa I.D.D.	25,899	50,901	62,410	---	92,159	170,991	188,219	-17,228
South Gila Valley/Yuma Mesa - Other Users	222	337	337	---	792	1,204	1,204	0
Unit "B" I.D.D.	6,724	10,467	10,474	---	15,761	26,361	28,300	-1,939

	Use To Date CY 2024	Forecast Use CY 2024	Estimated Use CY 2024	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2024	Diversion To Date CY 2024	Forecast Diversion CY 2024	Approved Diversion CY 2024	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2024
<b>WATER USER</b>								
Arizona State Land Department - Agriculture	2,292	3,970	4,295		3,565	6,148	6,607	-459
Ott Family	163	248	248		251	382	382	0
Ogram Boys' Enterprises	378	574	574		581	883	883	0
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation	2,054	3,121	3,121	---	3,159	4,801	4,801	0
BLM - Leased by M. Lee	97	148	148		149	227	227	0
Armon Curtis	85	129	129		130	198	198	0
Yuma County Water Users' Association	127,457	231,615	279,319	---	183,310	325,710	367,300	-41,590
R. Griffin	21	32	32		32	49	49	0
Power	68	103	103		104	158	158	0
Cocopah Indian Tribe (PPR No. 7)	168	256	256		259	394	394	0
Griffin Ranches (PPR No. 7)	64	98	98		99	150	150	0
Milton Phillips (PPR No. 7)	36	55	55		56	85	85	0
Griffin Family Ltd. Partnership (PPR No. 7)	15	23	23		23	35	35	0
Cocopah Indian Reservation	762	1,753	1,821	---	859	2,388	2,812	-424
Reclamation - Yuma Area Office	66	100	100	---	66	100	100	0
Arizona Public Service Company	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Gary Pasquinnelli	130	198	198		201	305	305	0
<b>Total Arizona</b>	<b>1,269,994</b>	<b>1,934,699</b>	<b>2,174,468</b>		<b>1,674,533</b>	<b>2,692,935</b>	<b>3,063,275</b>	
Central Arizona Project (CAP) <sup>2</sup>	653,012	898,132				898,132		
All Others	616,982	1,036,567	1,188,128			1,794,803	2,076,935	
Yuma Mesa Division, Gila Project	51,200	93,117	110,618	-17,501		269,561		
Total 242 Well Field Pumping <sup>3</sup>	40,501	56,689	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>1</sup>	up to 30,980
<b>Total State Adjusted Apportionment</b>	<b>1,981,323</b>
<b>Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment</b>	<b>(46,624)</b>
<b>Estimated Allowable Use for CAP</b>	<b>944,966</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* (LBOs), 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.

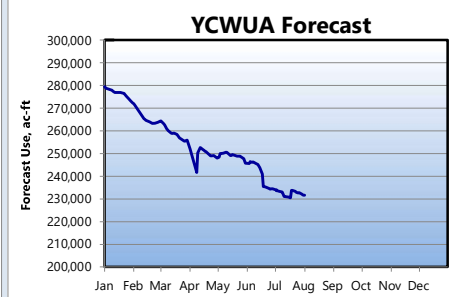
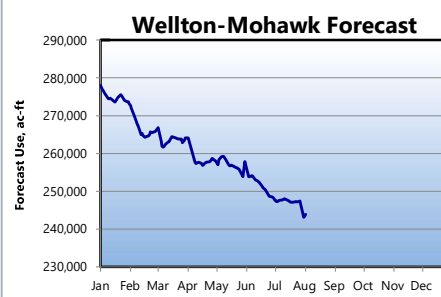
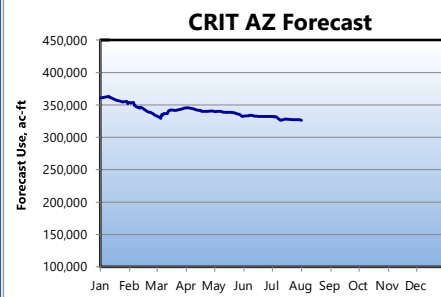
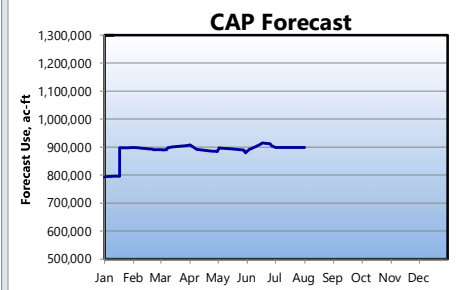
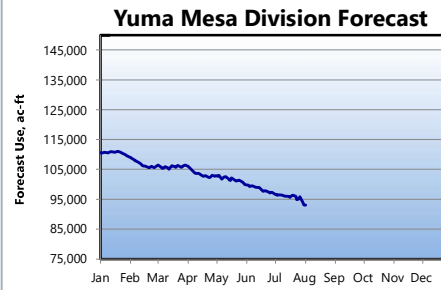
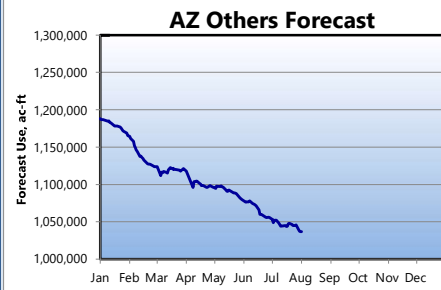
Footnotes continued on next page.

**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.

	Use To Date CY 2024	Forecast Use CY 2024	Estimated Use CY 2024	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2024	Diversion To Date CY 2024	Forecast Diversion CY 2024	Approved Diversion CY 2024	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2024
<b>WATER USER</b>								
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, CA	3,042	6,280	8,994	---	5,653	11,673	16,720	-5,047
City of Needles (includes LCWSP use)	687	1,359	1,605	-246	1,103	2,049	2,261	-212
PPR No. 30 (Stephenson)	11	16	16	---	19	29	29	0
PPR No. 38 (Andrade)	15	23	23	---	27	41	41	---
PPR No. 40 (Cooper)	4	6	6	---	7	10	10	---
Chemehuevi Indian Reservation	121	184	184	---	7,462	11,340	11,340	0
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California <sup>1</sup>	469,920	975,787	---	---	471,636	978,542	---	---
Colorado River Indian Reservation, CA	2882	4,380	4,380	---	4,776	7,258	7,258	0
Palo Verde Irrigation District	192,786	321,538	400,228	---	411,739	720,739	826,000	-105,261
PPR No. 31 (Mendivil)	2	3	3	---	3	5	5	0
Yuma Project Reservation Division	14,508	30,945	46,515	---	37,933	72,459	95,734	-23,275
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Bard Unit	---	---	---	---	13,622	31,222	49,800	-18,578
Yuma Project Reservation Division - Indian Unit	---	---	---	---	24,311	41,237	45,934	-4,697
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Ranch 5 (Surface Delivery)	688	1,102	1,194	---	1,242	1,990	2,160	-170
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation - Other Ranches (Pumpers)	1,282	1,948	1,948	---	2,317	3,522	3,522	0
Yuma Island Pumpers	1,314	1,997	1,997	---	2,377	3,613	3,613	0
Imperial Irrigation District <sup>2</sup>	1,509,509	2,397,891	2,612,800	-214,909	1,510,625	2,470,057	2,782,987	---
Coachella Valley Water District	181,244	343,244	359,000	-15,756	188,423	363,431	383,674	---
Other LCWSP Contractors	327	497	497	---	501	761	761	0
City of Winterhaven	34	52	52	---	49	75	75	0
<b>Total California</b>	<b>2,378,376</b>	<b>4,087,252</b>	<b>4,414,905</b>		<b>2,645,892</b>	<b>4,647,594</b>	<b>5,114,358</b>	

### 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 - MWD (Estimated) <sup>8</sup>	(147,582)
<b>Total State Adjusted Apportionment</b>	<b>4,087,252</b>
Excess to Total State Adjusted Apportionment	0

### Estimated Allowable Use for MWD

**1,123,369**

<sup>1</sup> Forecast Use is based on an MWD operational projected diversion of 0.954 MAF.

<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.

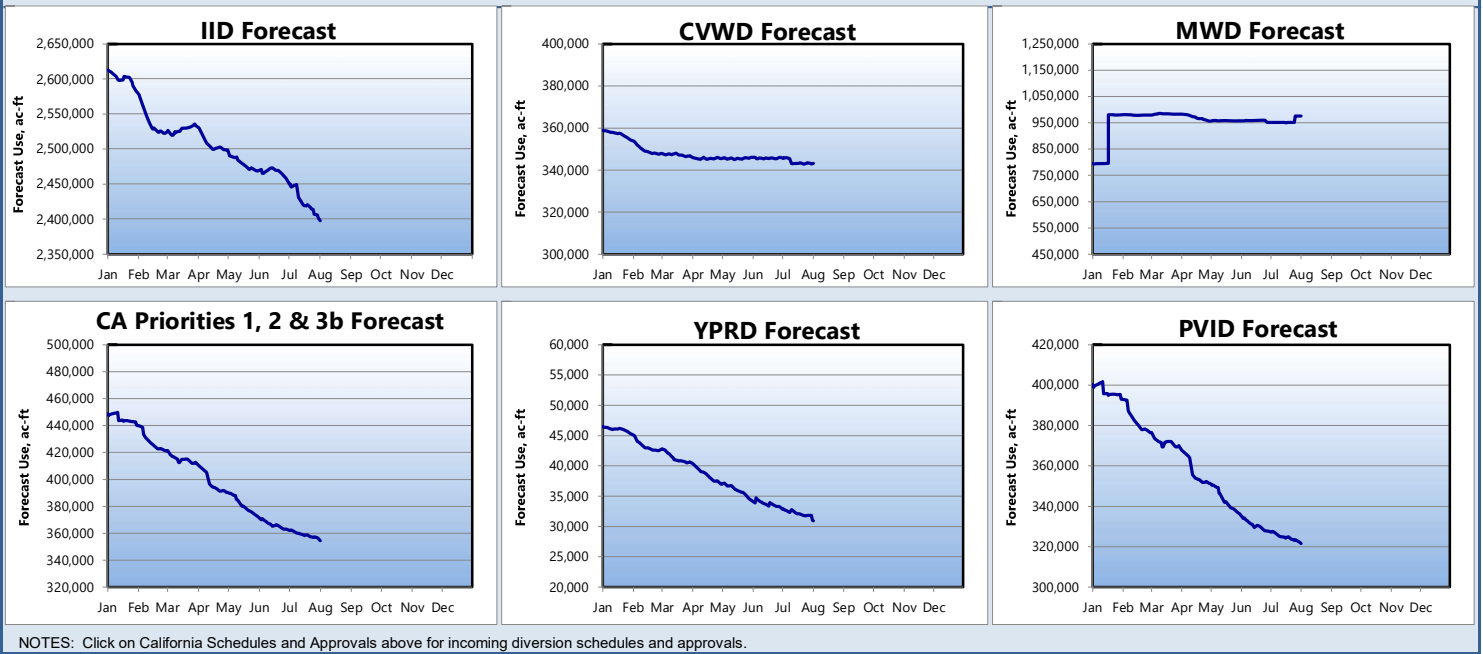
<sup>5</sup> The estimated amount of System Conservation Water that will be created pursuant to SCIA No. 23-XX-30-W0764.

<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* (LBOs), 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 LBOs.

Continued on next page.



LOWER COLORADO BASIN REGION  
CY 2024

## NOTE:

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

## NEVADA WATER USERS

Forecast end of year diversion/consumptive use

Forecast based on use to date and approved annual water orders

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

	Use To Date CY 2024	Forecast Use CY 2024	Estimated Use CY 2024	Excess to Estimated Use CY 2024	Diversion To Date CY 2024	Forecast Diversion CY 2024	Approved Diversion CY 2024	Excess to Approved Diversion CY 2024
<b>WATER USER</b>								
Robert B. Griffith Water Project (SNWS)	257,182	434,462		---	257,182	434,462		---
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mead	416	985	1,500	---	416	985	1,500	-515
Lake Mead NRA, NV - Diversions from Lake Mohave	144	331	500	---	144	331	500	-169
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.	450	882	928	---	450	882	928	-46
Boulder Canyon Project	118	180	180	---	197	300	300	0
Big Bend Water District	1,591	3,689	4,823	---	3,164	7,371	10,000	-2,629
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	1,096	2,371	3,683	---	1,635	3,539	5,500	-1,961
Las Vegas Wash Return Flows	-142,945	-242,548	-232,886	---				
<b>Total Nevada <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>118,052</b>	<b>200,352</b>	<b>212,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>263,188</b>	<b>447,870</b>	<b>452,000</b>	<b>-5,320</b>
Southern Nevada Water System (SNWS)	114,237	191,914				434,462		
All Others	3,815	8,438				13,408		
Nevada Uses Above Hoover	115,221	193,961				436,629		
Nevada Uses Below Hoover	2,831	6,391				11,241		

## 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>

(86,648)

Total State Adjusted Apportionment

200,352

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* (LBOs), 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 LBOs.

Robert B. Griffith Forecast



LV Wash Return Forecast



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

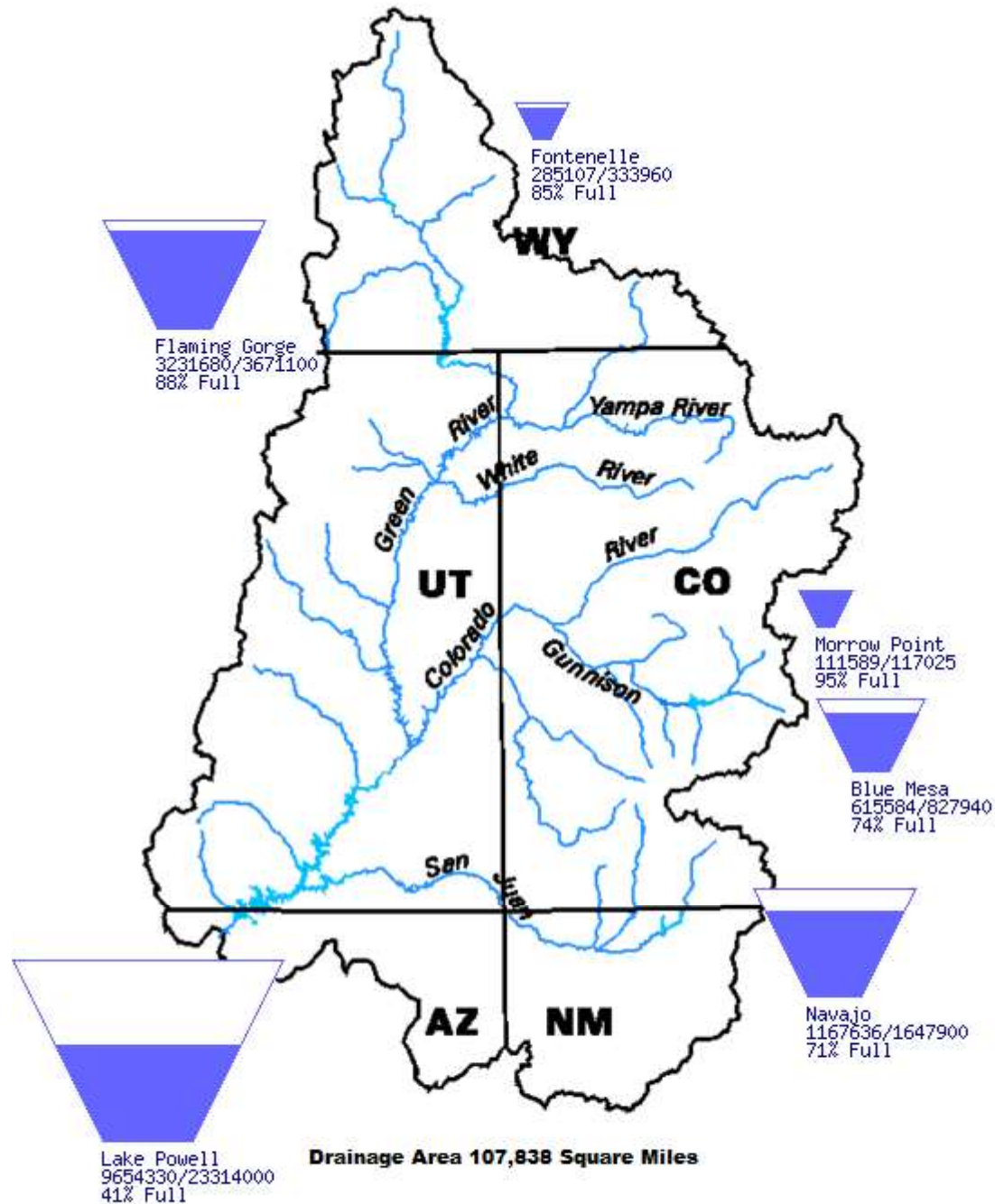


# Upper Colorado Region Water Resources Group

## River Basin Tea-Cup Diagrams

Data Current as of:  
08/01/2024

### Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

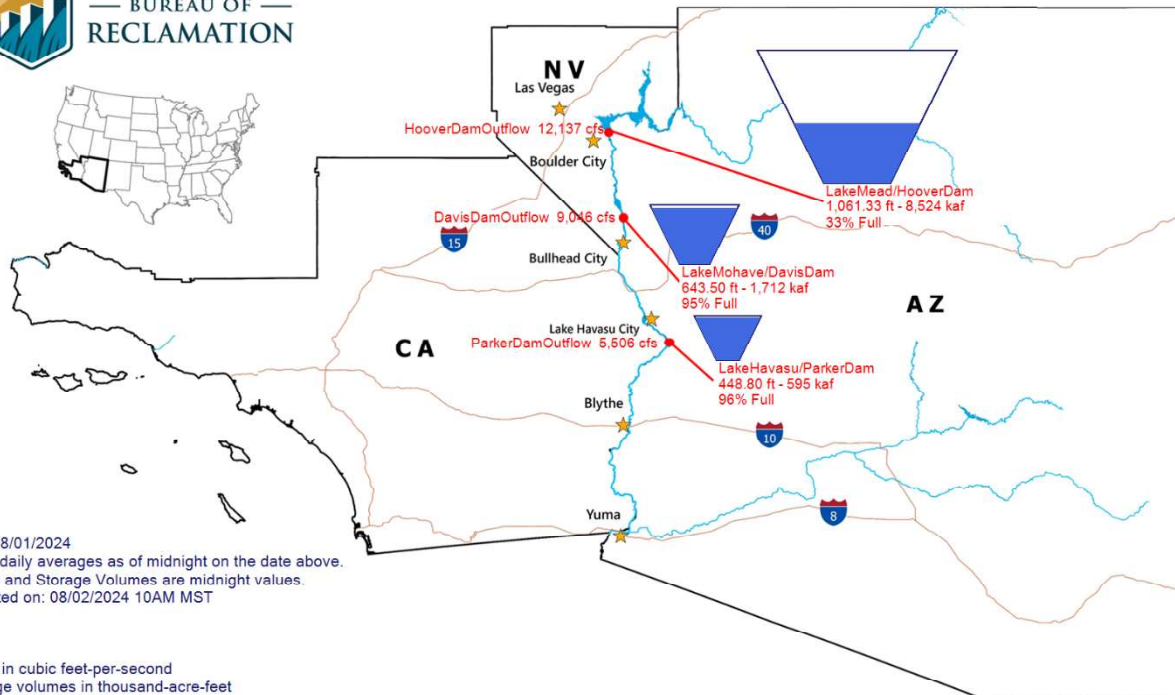




# Lower Colorado River Teacup Diagram



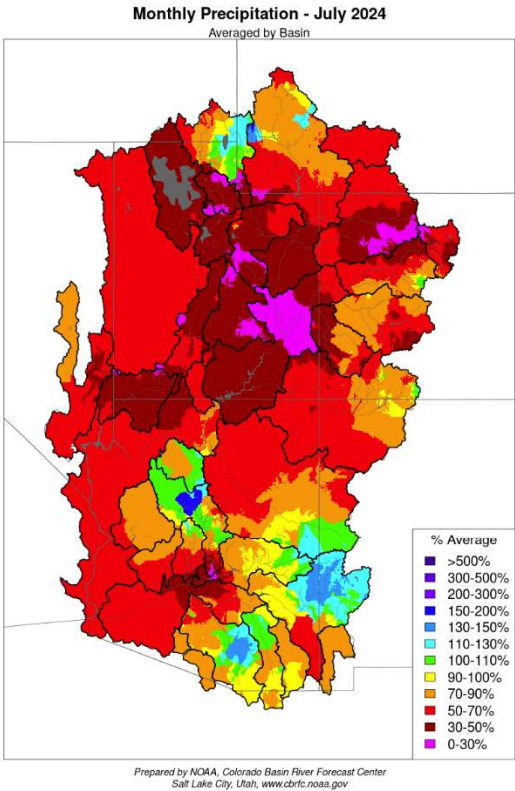
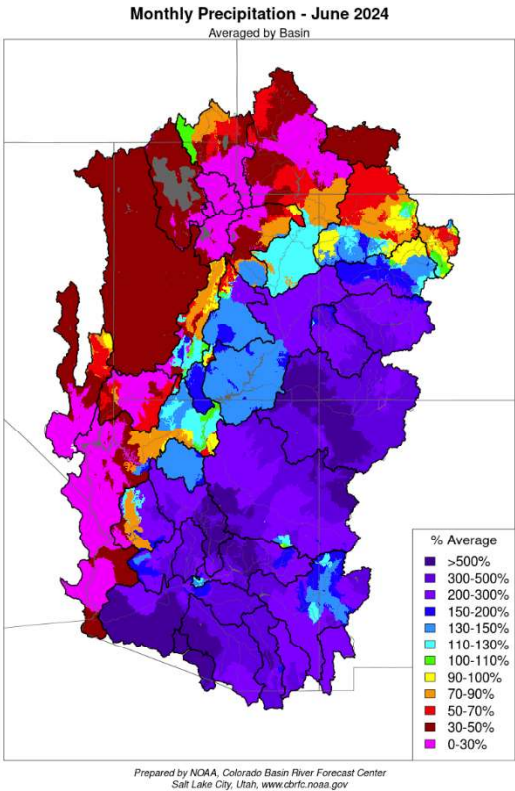
BUREAU OF  
RECLAMATION



Data for: 08/01/2024  
Flows are daily averages as of midnight on the date above.  
Elevations and Storage Volumes are midnight values.  
Last updated on: 08/02/2024 10AM MST

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

NOAA National Weather Service Monthly Precipitation Map June and July 2024



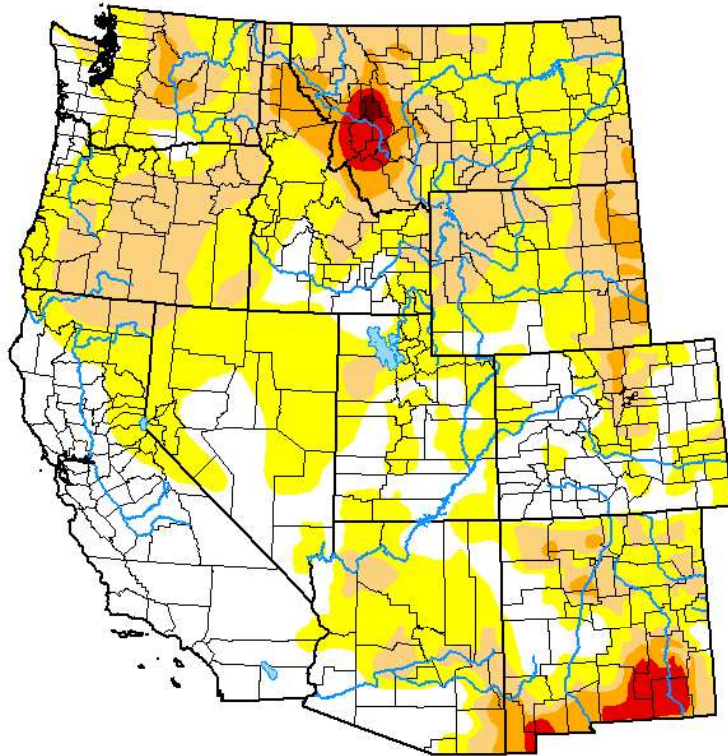
USDA United States Drought Monitor Map

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**West**

**July 30, 2024**

*(Released Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024)*

**Valid 8 a.m. EDT**



*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	30.26	69.74	28.68	6.79	1.79	0.11
<b>Last Week</b> <i>07-23-2024</i>	31.38	68.62	26.77	6.51	1.79	0.11
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>04-30-2024</i>	53.60	46.40	20.60	6.41	1.57	0.16
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-02-2024</i>	51.19	48.81	25.08	13.17	4.67	0.66
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-26-2023</i>	55.99	44.01	31.24	17.70	6.09	0.70
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>08-01-2023</i>	50.18	49.82	21.14	5.63	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**

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

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

**Author:**

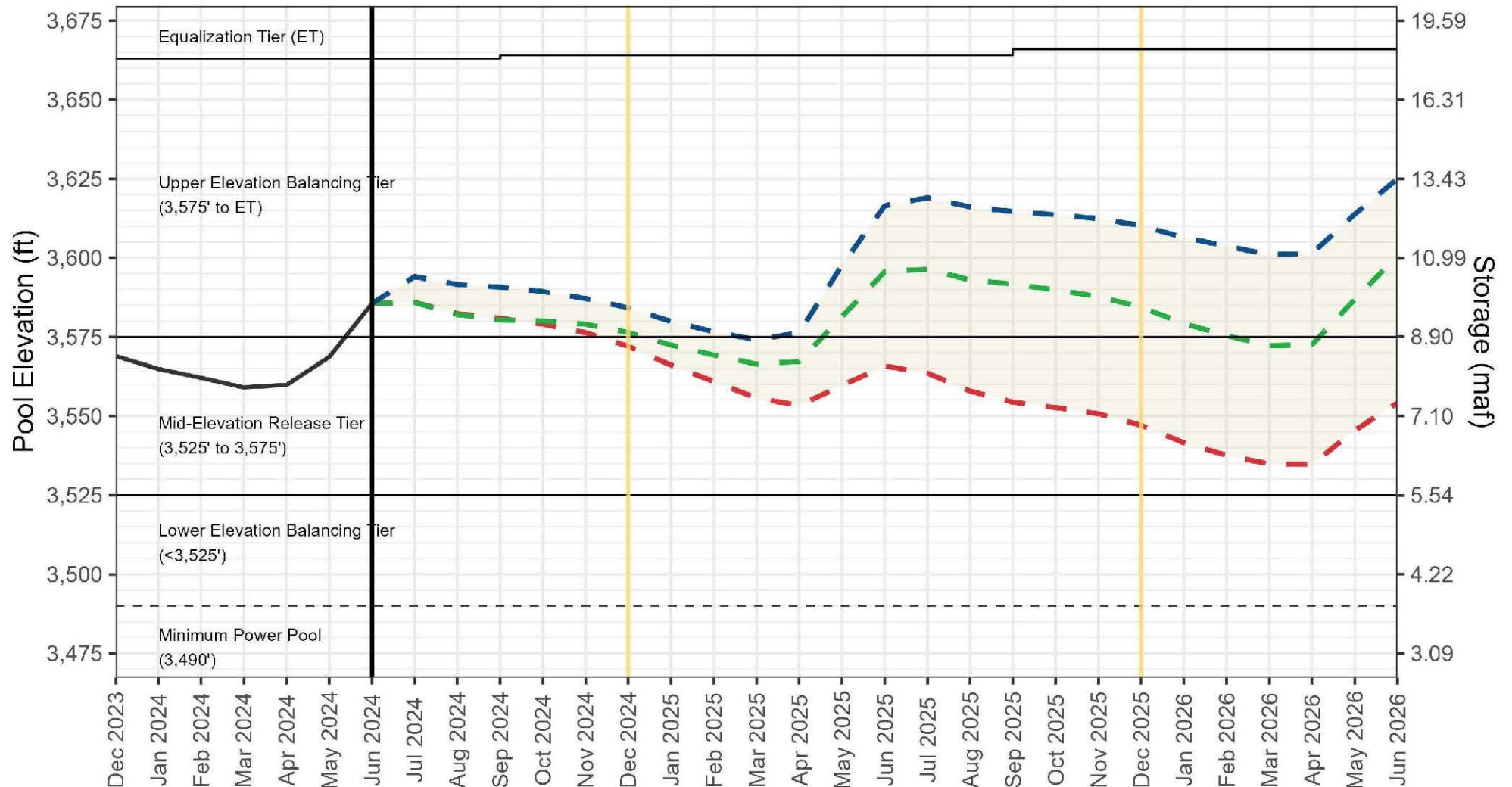
Lindsay Johnson  
National Drought Mitigation Center



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

# Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations

## Projections from May and July 2024 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios

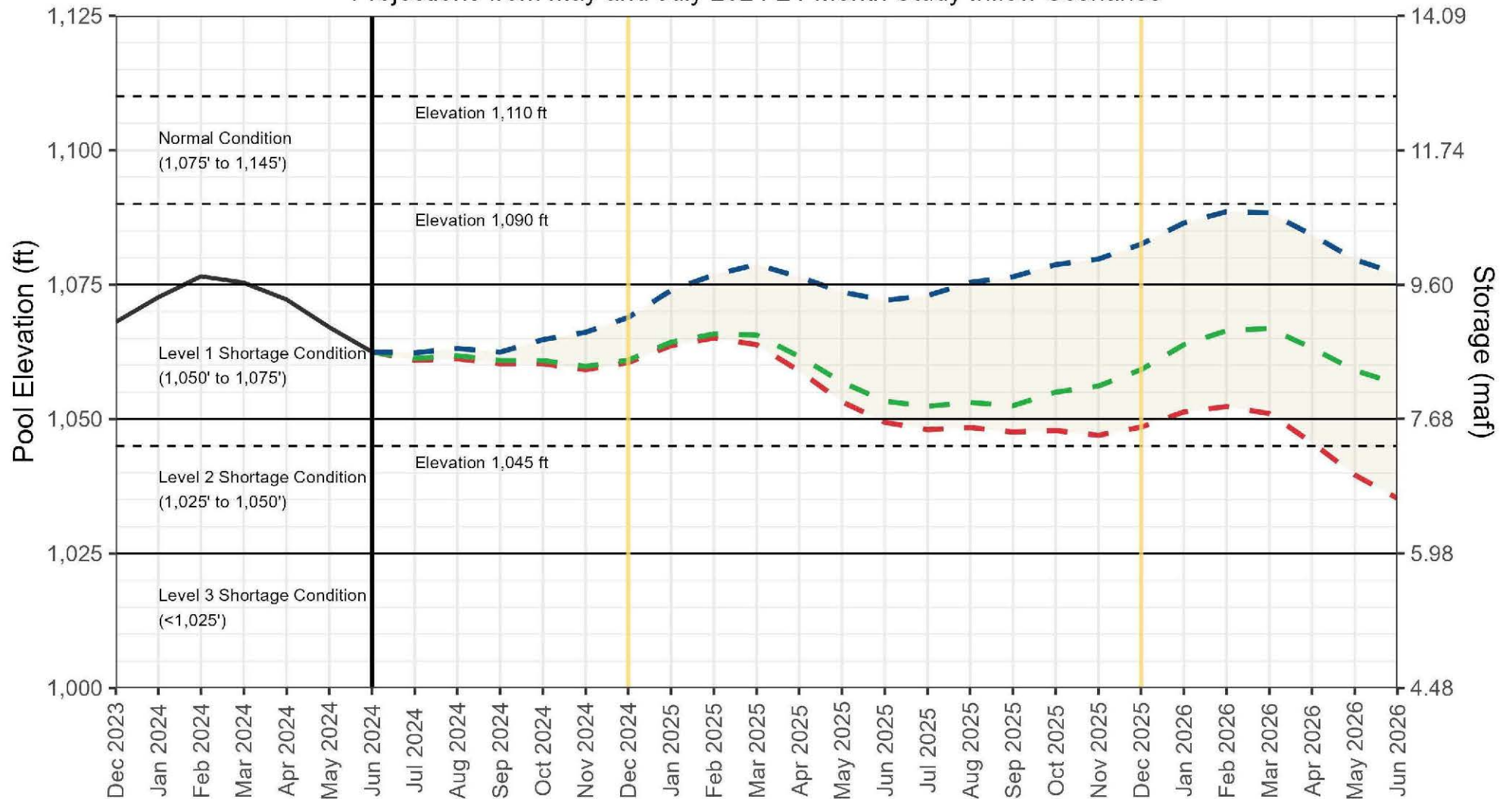


- Historical Elevations
- May 2024 Probable Maximum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2024 and 9.00 maf in WY 2025
- July 2024 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2024 and WY 2025
- July 2024 DROA Probable Minimum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2024 and WY 2025



# Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations

## Projections from May and July 2024 24-Month Study Inflow Scenarios



- Historical Elevations
- May 2024 Probable Maximum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2024 and 9.00 maf in WY 2025
- July 2024 Most Probable Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2024 and WY 2025
- July 2024 DROA Probable Minimum Inflow with a Lake Powell release of 7.48 maf in WY 2024 and WY 2025

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

### Statewide as of 07/30/2024

Water Year to Date: **23.39"**

% of Average: **102%**

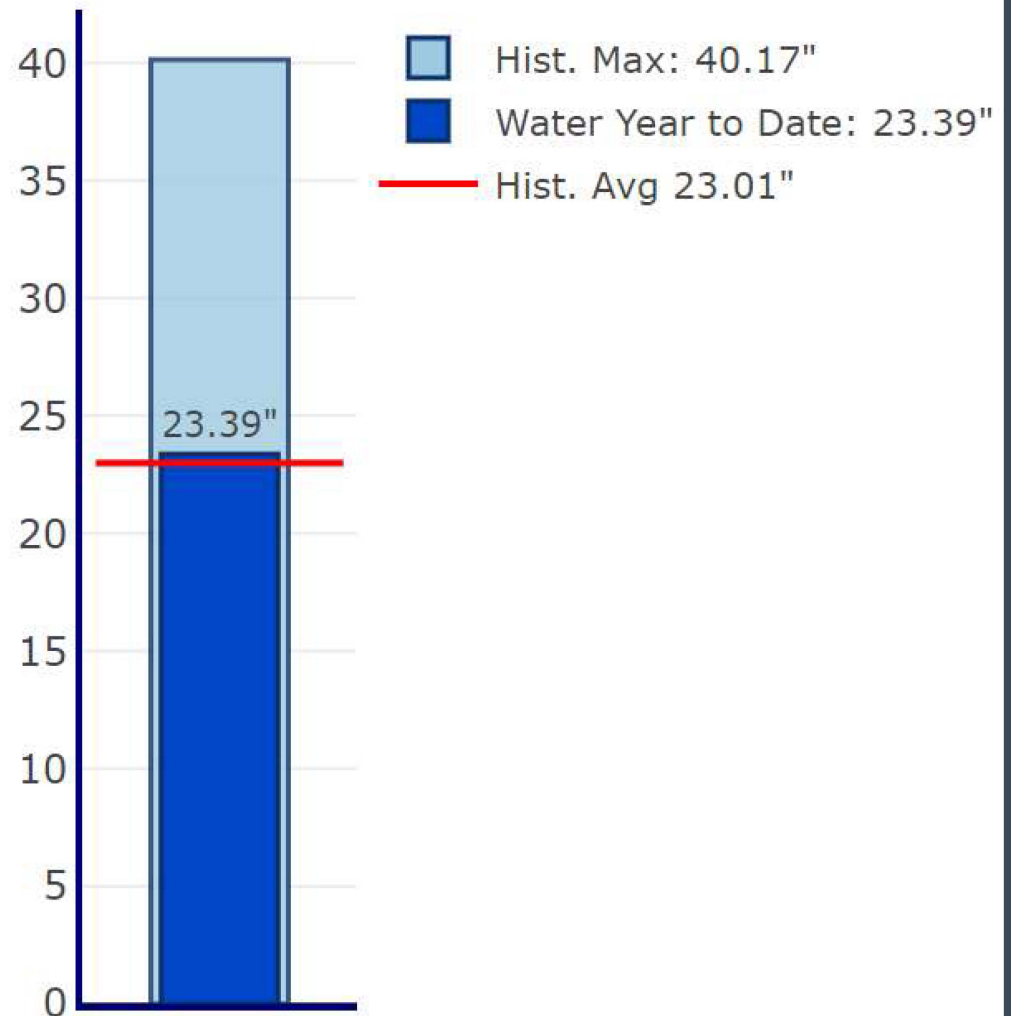
Precipitation % of average for  
full water year through  
September 30th: **98%**

### Historical Record to Date:

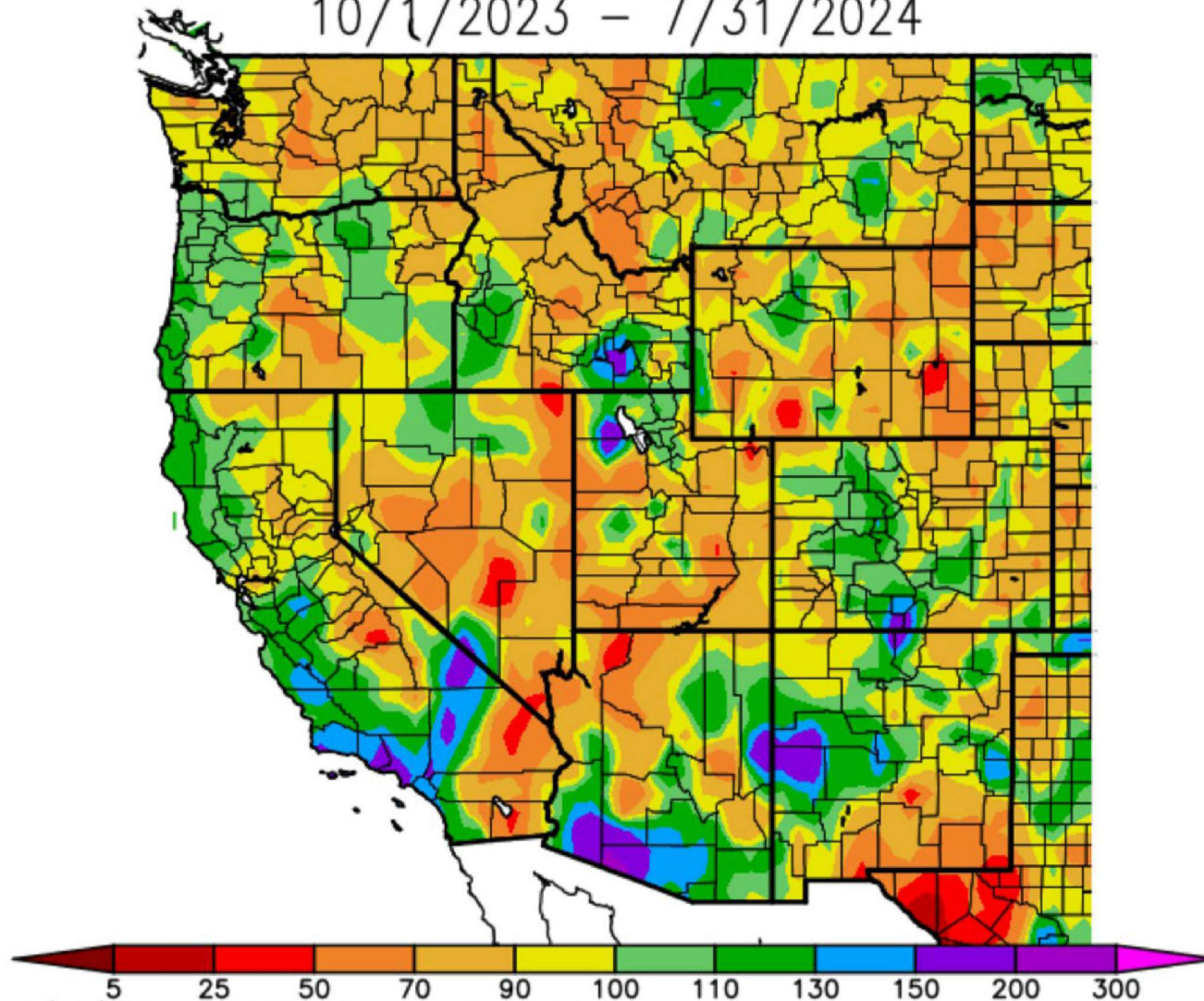
Max: **40.17"**

Mean: **23.01"**

Min: **11.39"**



Percent of Average Precipitation (%)  
10/1/2023 – 7/31/2024



Generated 8/ 1/2024 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers



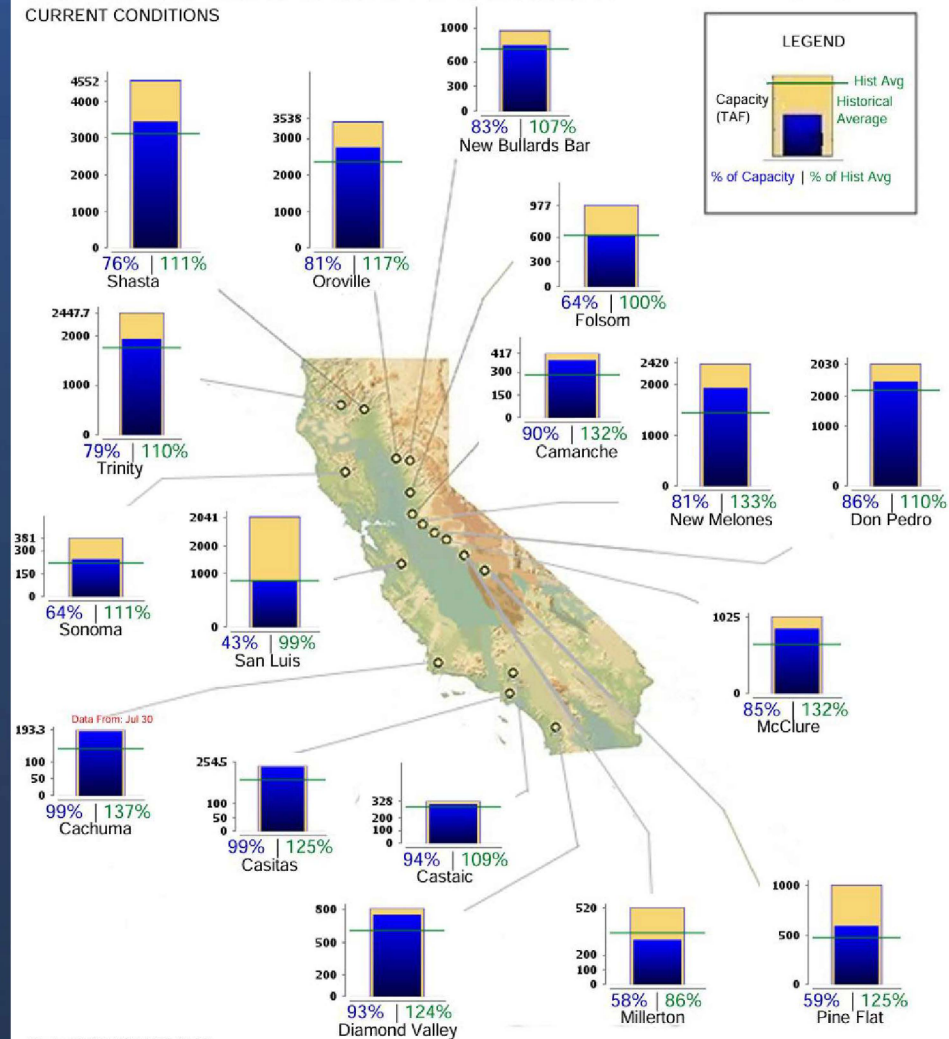


## CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

### CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Midnight - July 31, 2024

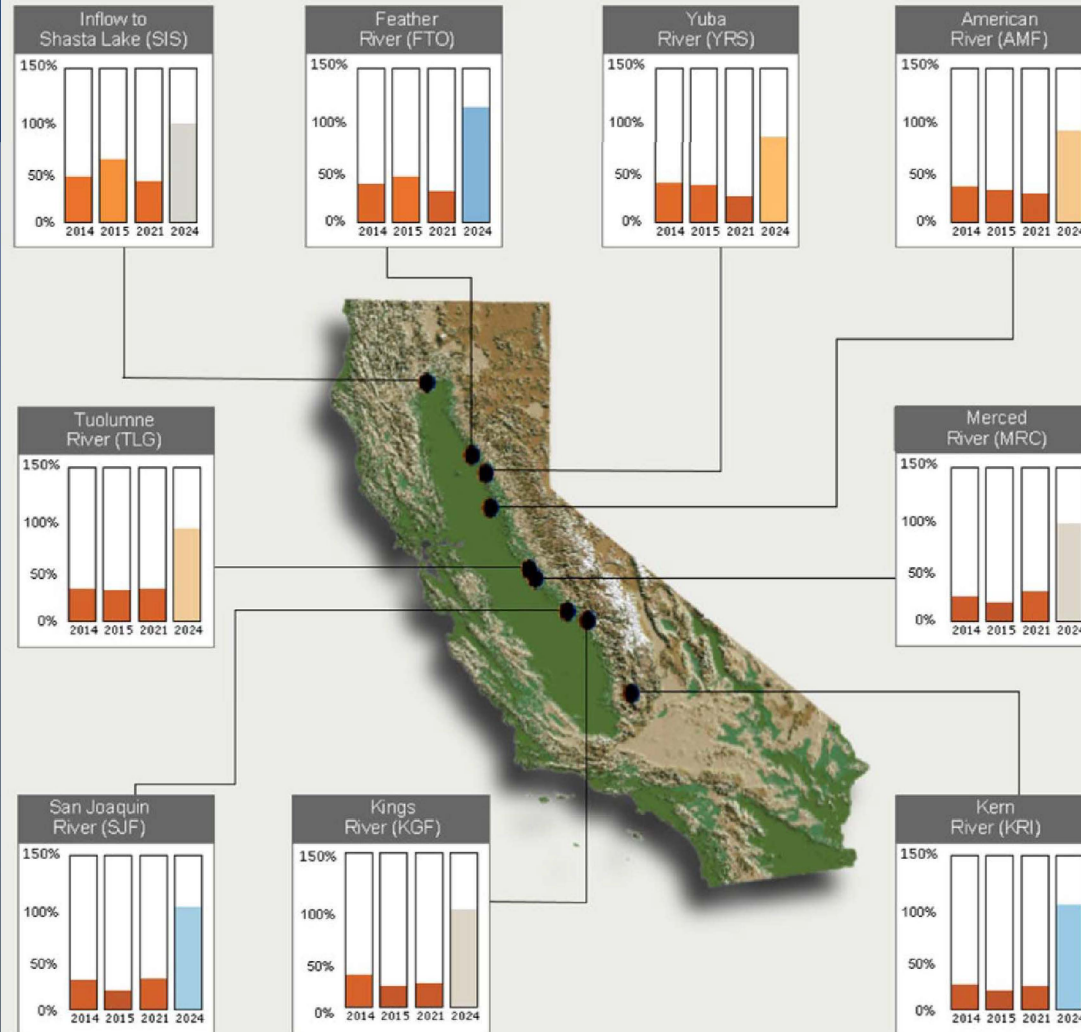




# Full Natural Flow at DWR Forecast Points on Selected California Rivers

Shown as a Percent of Average to Date

Data as of Midnight: 31-Jul-2024

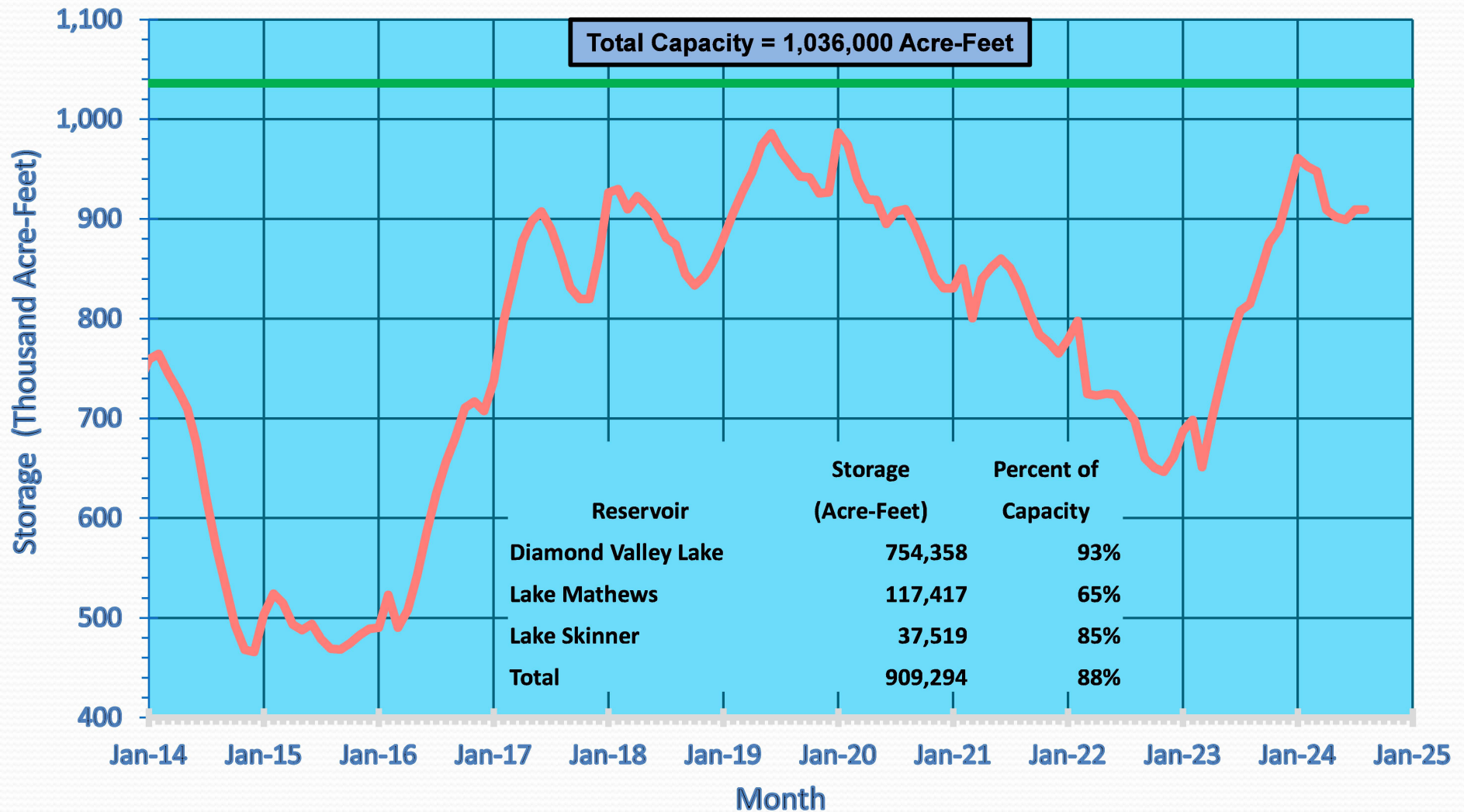


(XYZ) = CDEC Station ID

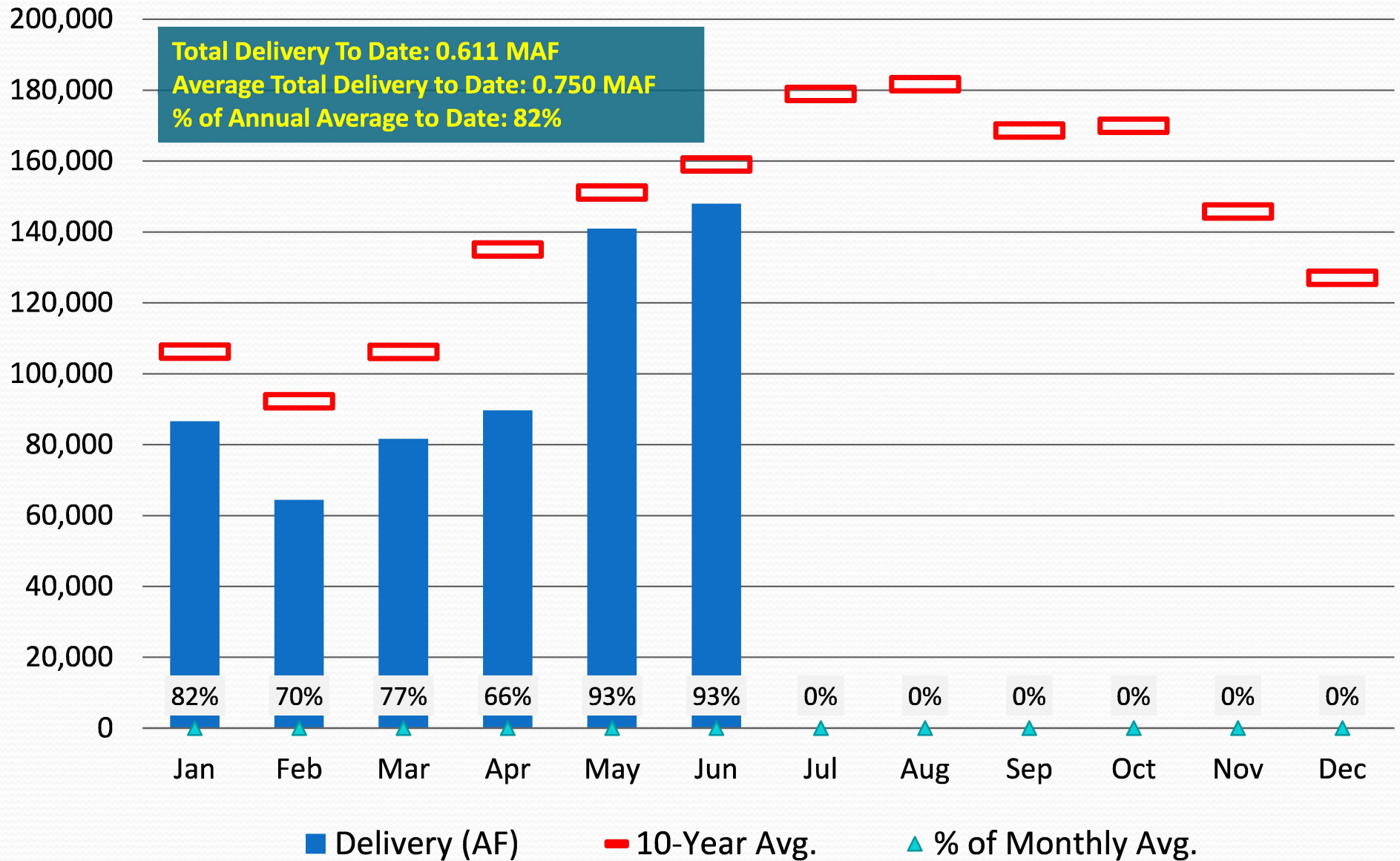
Date Created: 08/01/2024

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

Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake



## 2024 Water Deliveries to Agencies (AF)





## Colorado River Board of California 2024 Workplan

1. Establish an interactive annual strategic and budget planning process.
2. Develop a plan, resources, and tools to ensure effective and ongoing communications and outreach.
3. Review options to optimize board meeting frequency and location.
4. Establish a calendar for special presentations and speakers at board meetings.
5. Coordinate to appropriately reestablish agency managers' meetings.
6. Evaluate and optimize the functions of the Six-Agency Committee and the Colorado River Authority.
7. Explore future opportunities for state funding.
8. Ensure regular opportunities for board self-evaluation.