

Letter #: 233
Date Received: 12/20/2022
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Organizations:
Subject: Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

Large bodies of water provide a way of life for many people. I recognize the importance of the reservoirs and dams in the Colorado River Basin for providing a reliable source of water and energy. I also realize that since the formation of Lake Mead it has also been used and designated as a place of recreation. Furthermore, I realize that despite recent years of drought and low water levels, the Lake will continue to be used as a reservoir and source of clean energy that can easily be made accessible for recreation as it always has been. The Lake's use as a place of recreation will have minimal if any detrimental impact on the Lake's ability to continue to serve as a reservoir and energy source.

The majority of all the necessary infrastructure to provide recreational access to the Lake is already in place, built and refined over the many years of the Lakes existence. The relative amount of investment and effort required to maintain the current recreational access is exceedingly small compared to the vast and enduring efforts that have already been put forth to allow access to this beautiful place.

The Lake is both remote enough and large enough that it's utilization as a place of recreation is predominantly dependent on the concessionaires and launch ramps to facilitate boating, camping and trailer parks. Removing these facets would effectively remove the vast majority of the Lakes potential for recreational use.

As a healthcare professional, I am kept increasingly aware of robust and steadily growing body of current research highlighting the important role that both outdoor recreation and time spent in nature play in restoring and maintaining mental and physical health. Personally I can attest that these Lakes provide some of the most appealing and affordable resources for family oriented outdoor recreation for a very large population.

I now represent a third, and my two daughters a forth generation of Lake Mead recreational enthusiasts. For the past four generations of my family, Lake Mead has not only been a place of recreation, but has been a cornerstone to our way of life. Boating and camping at Lake Mead have provided much needed respite from the long harsh winters of our home, along with providing extensive opportunities for developing close family relationships along with interests and skills that have been paramount to healthy lifestyles. I urge the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service to not only consider the environmental and direct economic impacts if limiting recreational access to these lakes, but to also consider the vast negative impact such limitations would pose to the social mental and physical health of such large populations and generations to come.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bradley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]