

# AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

## Community Government

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December 20, 2022

**Reclamation 2007 Interim Guidelines  
SEIS Project Manager  
Upper Colorado Basin Region,  
125 South State Street, Suite 8100  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138  
[CRinterimops@usbr.gov](mailto:CRinterimops@usbr.gov)**

*Re: November 17, 2022, Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for December 2007 Record of Decision Entitled Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations For Lake Powell and Lake Mead*

Dear SEIS Project Manager:

I submit the following comments on behalf of the Ak-Chin Indian Community in response to the Secretary of the Interior's announced plans to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) associated with the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (the 2007 Interim Guidelines).

Ak-Chin appreciates Interior's efforts to obtain stakeholder input on the scoping of the planned SEIS despite the pressing need for quick action. We hope that the Department will give serious and careful input to stakeholder comments as it makes critical decisions regarding Basin management in these unprecedented conditions.

While sensitive to the competing interests that Interior must consider in undertaking the difficult task at hand, Ak-Chin must remind the Department of its trust obligation to fully protect the water rights of Ak-Chin and other Basin Tribes even in the face of water shortages and drought conditions. For Ak-Chin, this obligation includes ensuring that the Community receives both the full quantity and quality of water that it is entitled to receive under its 1984 Settlement Act and its 1985 Water Delivery Contract with the Bureau. As you are likely aware, Ak-Chin makes full use of its Colorado River/CAP water right for a variety of purposes, including as the sole source of potable water for Community members and to support the operation of Ak-Chin Farms, the economic engine that lifted the Community from poverty and continues to serve as one of its primary sources of revenue. While Ak-Chin recognizes the challenges posed by climate change and ongoing drought conditions, it nevertheless expects and demands that its trustee honor its obligations to the Community going forward. If contributions of water owed to Basin Tribes are needed for other purposes in the Basin, those contributions must be the subject of government-to-government consultation and negotiation. They cannot be unilaterally imposed by the Department.

I appreciate your consideration of Ak-Chin's input and look forward to working with the United States to ensure the development and implementation of management policies and procedures that meet the conservation needs of the Basin while remaining protective of Tribal rights and interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Miguel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Miguel  
Chairman, Ak-Chin Indian Community