

**Letter #:** 447  
**Date Received:** 12/20/2022  
**Sender Names:** 1057: Derek Johnson  
**Emails:** 1057: [REDACTED]  
**Organizations:**  
**Subject:** Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

I grew up in Las Vegas, and my family never had a boat. After college in Tucson, I returned to Las Vegas with the top goal of getting a boat to go water skiing, fishing, and camping at Lake Mead. Las Vegas is a great City, and to me, Lake Mead is one of the main reasons why. I have trailered and launched three boats at Lake Mead since 1981 (an 18', 21', and current 23'), never being without a boat in over 40 years. Recreational boating on Lake Mead attracts enthusiasts from hundreds of miles around and even farther, many hauling their boats on trailers, to enjoy this beautiful and unique opportunity. Boating tourism is a valuable addition to our economy, along with professional fishing tournaments and race events, and the experiences everyone gets can be priceless.

Of all the recreational opportunities at the Lake Mead NRA, the only one that has been almost entirely lost due to the low water level is medium-large size boat launching and loading. I can no longer safely launch and load my boat at the one approved ramp. It should be obvious to the BOR and NPS that restoring safe launch ramps and adjacent courtesy docks is the #1 priority. On 12/16/22 in Las Vegas, the Deputy Secretary of the Interior was quoted as saying "Without immediate and decisive actions, elevations at Lake Powell and Mead could force the system to stop functioning. That's an intolerable condition that we won't allow to happen." Forcing the system to stop functioning means dropping below the 950' level where Hoover Dam power generation stops and the 895' level where no water can be released downstream through the dam.

If that is the U.S. Government's firm position, then the Colorado River Water Users Association cannot be allowed to delay any longer, and ALL states in the Association, as well as Boulder City, must be forced to adopt the necessary water management policies and restrictions to accomplish that goal, without fail. Once this is done, a reliable minimum water level can be established and new boat ramps can be constructed at Lake Mead that will be operational long into the future, with continued power generation and water releases downstream.

This plan would work. Our leaders in Congress and the Interior Department need to provide the funding to complete the site analysis, engineering plans, and construction of new boat ramps, roads, parking lots, and courtesy dock improvements to restore safe launching and loading access for trailerable boats at Hemenway Harbor, Callville Bay (deep water slope), and Temple Bar (deep water slope). When the lowest allowable water level is reached, Lake Mead can be restored to its full function as a National RECREATION Area in a manner that will last, with unlimited water sports, beautiful beaches, nature trails, and historical treasures. Effective water management and full public access seem to be the primary duties of the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service. Please understand how much this means to all of us, and do your best to make it happen. Thank you.

I am in full support of the Coalition statement, but I had to delete it as the total message was too long. My personal experiences and feelings are above. We are all essentially fighting for the same things, so please fight even harder for us in Washington. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Derek Johnson

[REDACTED]