

Letter #: 478
Date Received: 12/20/2022
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Organizations: Las Vegas Boat Harbor
Subject: Lake Mead - BOR / NPS - lake levels and services

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Dear Project Manager:

Las Vegas Boat Harbor, Inc., as an authorized concession of Lake Mead National Recreation Area for over 65 years, is committed to the continued operation and access of the park for all as it has been for the previous 86 years. As such, recent developments regarding the future of Lake Mead NRA from the National Park Service compel us to join a conversation we have not been a part of, either by design or by accident.

As a long-time partner of the NPS and a promoter of this majestic land and lake, we are concerned decisions are being made without all factors and affected parties being considered. The following list is not exhaustive nor fully inclusive; rather, it should be considered the beginning of a conversation with the various parties who are affected by these decisions.

- ? Bureau of Reclamation needs to keep Lake Mead water flow stabilized on the Colorado River System. All efforts must be made to maintain current levels and not be allowed to fall below current levels.
- ? BOR needs to develop alternatives that support current recreational opportunities and analyze future infrastructure needs in support of growing recreational demands.
- ? Las Vegas Boat Harbor, Inc., supports Path to 3588' for Lake Powell, in no small part because its proposals are contingent upon healthy and stable lake levels for Lake Mead.
- ? The seven states that are part of the Colorado River System must be held to new and better standards regarding current drought conditions in the Southwestern US. Among these must include reduction in water allocations, increase of current and new water conservation efforts, and greater public awareness.
- ? NPS must commit to keeping launch ramps, campgrounds, services, concessions, and infrastructure maintained and kept in place for all visitors now and future. It is important for NPS to recognize that Lake Mead is a National RECREATION Area; a place open for RECREATION for all visitors. Over seven million people visit Lake Mead NRA every year, more visitors annually than Grand Canyon NP, Yosemite NP, Yellowstone NP, and Zion NP. NPS must also recognize what a crucial factor that motorized recreational boating is to those seven million + visitors and how highly important is to their daily lives.
- ? Lake Mead is an economic driver for Southern Nevada. The estimated economic impact of Lake Mead visitation is over \$500 million annually plus an additional billion dollars in indirect impact in surrounding communities. If Lake mead is let go - what about recreation, what about services... what would happen to the community of visitors and supporting businesses.
- ? NPS should follow the 2018 amendment to the General Management Plan until the lake reaches 950. There is not sufficient data that shows NPS needs to create a different plan because of the "faster decreasing water levels".
- ? NPS needs to make plans with current concessioners on their commitments to Lake Mead.

Again, the above list should not be considered the only subjects we seek to address. They are merely components in a larger conversation. Las Vegas Boat Harbor, Inc., would like to be part of these discussions and solutions for the future that best serve all parties involved. As such, we request an extension of the public commentary period along with more opportunity and access in any future discussions on this subject.

Furthermore, we as concessioners and long-time partners seek continued open dialogue with the relevant parties to develop plans for continued recreational opportunities for the millions of visitors to Lake Mead NRA in the future. We formally request to be a part of these discussions and have continued conversations with NPS with any future decisions.

Sincerely,

Candice Hayes [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]