

**Letter #:** 570  
**Date Received:** 12/20/2022  
**Sender Names:** 826: Karli Walsh  
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**Organizations:**  
**Subject:** Proposed SEIS Guidelines

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Dear Project Manager:

I was born and raised in Las Vegas and since I can remember I have been spending every summer at the Lake Mead with my family. Once I had kids and grandkids of my own we bought a boat and also spend countless summer hours on the lake. This is the best family bonding there is! To take this away from families in the valley would be a tragedy!

I enjoy recreating on public lands and waters. I also recognize the importance of the reservoirs and dams in the Colorado River Basin for providing a reliable source of water and energy. I am writing to provide feedback for the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead as well as the National Park Service's proposed concepts for addressing low water levels on Lake Mead. I recognize that this message is being sent to both agencies, because even though each agency is conducting a separate planning process, the two plans are interrelated.

I believe the Bureau of Reclamation needs to take action due to declining water levels in reservoirs. I encourage the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service to consider the recreation interests of Lake Mead and Lake Powell. I believe BOR and NPS need to protect the future of recreation and motorized access on the reservoirs. If NPS chooses to not build new infrastructure or maintain current resources based on low water levels it could jeopardize or completely eliminate the recreational experience of over 7 million visitors to Lake Mead and 4 million visitors to Lake Powell.

We are already starting to see unthinkable impacts to recreation because of the lack of viable guidelines for addressing shortages in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Regarding Lake Mead the National Park Service is considering the closure of each major marina on Lake Mead, I do not support any of the proposals identified in Concept 3 of the NPS plan that would remove all infrastructure and facilities. Concept 3 completely ignores the current and future needs of the public and should not be considered. However, NPS says this alternative in the planning process is necessary in the case that BOR adopts a plan for managing lake levels that doesn't do what is necessary to keep both lakes at higher levels. I strongly support any concept proposed by NPS that makes the necessary adaptations to keep as many facilities open to serve as many members of the public as possible.

I hope BOR and NPS will include analysis of the economic importance of recreation in addition to feedback on power generation and water deliveries. Because there are so many variables affecting the lake's elevation such as precipitation, snowpack, runoff, release volumes, and other reservoir elevations the Bureau needs to consider changing the "target" elevation. In the long run, I think 3588 feet is a better target elevation for Lake Powell and an elevation between 1050 and 1075 is a better elevation for Lake Mead to meet the demand for recreation on the lake in a way that also protects the power generation and water right interests.

Sincerely,

Karli Walsh

Sincerely,

Karli Walsh

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]