



December 19, 2022

Reclamation 2007 Interim Guidelines SEIS Project Manager
Upper Colorado Basin Region,
125 South State Street, Suite 8100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Sent via email to: CRinterimops@usbr.gov

RE: 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”

To Whom it May Concern:

Please find below our response to the Bureau of Reclamation’s (BOR) request for public comment on the subject Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), which is necessary to “develop revised operating guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead to respond to rapidly changing conditions in the Basin in order to better protect the Colorado River System.”

The City of Henderson is the largest full-service city in Nevada, serving a population of approximately 335,000 residents. We are a nationally recognized, award-winning city with accredited Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Utilities, Police and Fire Departments. We are home to large corporations and companies that play critical roles in industrial manufacturing and distribution such as Google, Haas Automation, Ocean Spray and Amazon, as well as national sports teams including the Las Vegas Raiders, Vegas Golden Knights, and the world champion Las Vegas Aces. Sustaining water security for the city is of the utmost importance for our residents, our visitors, and our economy.

The City of Henderson is also a member agency of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the regional water agency that is responsible for managing Nevada’s Colorado River allocation, along with implementing regional water conservation programs, managing water supplies on behalf of the entire community, and water treatment and delivery. With worsening hydrologic conditions within the Colorado River Basin, we agree the strategies identified within the 2007 Interim Guidelines are insufficient to maintain critical levels within Lake Mead and Lake Powell. In uncertain times, any future operating strategy must consider protecting water supplies for public health and safety. The City of Henderson is nearly fully dependent on Colorado River supplies to meet the drinking water demands of its residents. Any interruption in those supplies would be catastrophic for our community.

Therefore, any proposed recommendations by the BOR for coordinated operations of Lake Mead and Powell to sustain these critical levels, must require specific demand management strategies to be adopted by all seven (7) Basin States, Tribes, and the Country of Mexico. Nevada adopted stringent water conservation regulations over two decades ago. As a result, Southern Nevada has

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reduced its consumptive use by almost 100,000 acre-feet per year over the last 20 years, despite adding approximately 750,000 people. This foresight and leadership by Nevada should be considered when defining these strategies and identifying the appropriate plan for the coordinated operation of Lake Mead and Powell. Moreover, these strategies must be quickly enacted, and the City of Henderson supports the expedient action of the Bureau of Reclamation in addressing Lake Mead and Lake Powell operations.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed SEIS. We look forward to the publication of the draft report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra March". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Debra March
Mayor