

**From:** [Alena Callimanis](#)  
**To:** [Bainson, Marcelle \(Marcie\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment by December 20, 2022 on Colorado River SEIS  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:19:39 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed SEIS. My comments are in regards to the wasteful use of Colorado River water by the proposed Crystal Springs Lagoons, Surfing Parks in the Coachella Valley in California, and the excessive watering of golf courses in the Coachella Valley. This does pertain to other developments being proposed in the seven affected states.

As an example, in Rancho Mirage, California, there is a Disney Cotino Resort that is being built with a 24 acre lagoon, 18 football fields filled up to 12 feet deep with Colorado River Water. This is approximately 50 million gallons. There is never any mention of how much Colorado River water is needed to fill it. The Environmental Impact Report only states that the lagoon plus all the houses being developed will use an excessive amount of water that cannot be mitigated except by purchasing more Colorado River water to replenish the aquifer. What Colorado River water are they planning to purchase? The evaporation rates in the Water Assessment and EIR are in error and too low. In the desert excessive heat and wind, the daily evaporation will be enormous. This lagoon will be used for swimming and non-motorized water sports. Why must we provide water front property to houses in the desert? Another 20 acre Crystal Lagoon for Surfing and Swimming is being proposed at a new development, Kohl's Ranch, in Thermal, California, about 20 miles away from the Disney location. This evaporation was not even recalculated because the EIR stated that this was originally going to be a golf course. Golf courses can use recycled water. The Thermal Surf Park cannot do that because of people swimming in the water. There are locations in Thermal that have contaminated well water. But three miles down the road they are building this surf/swim lagoon. How is this fair? Evaporation for a surfing lagoon is even higher than was originally calculated due to the wave action.

There are two other smaller surfing parks approved in Palm Desert and Palm Springs. There is another 18 acre surfing lagoon that will probably be proposed in the unincorporated areas of La Quinta and Riverside County. Why is this happening? It is because the Coachella Valley Water District says they have plenty of water in the underground aquifer. We have too many golf courses (150) that use excessive amounts of Colorado River water. If we don't limit golf course watering and we don't eliminate Surfing Parks and Swimming Lagoons in the Coachella Valley, our underground water will be continuously depleted. With the SWP allocations down to 5%, we already have the situation in the Coachella Valley Water District where the water being pumped out exceeds the amount of Colorado River water used to replenish the aquifer. As a matter of fact, CVWD is stopping the replenishment of the aquifer at the Thomas E Levy Replenishment Facility. And they publicly stated it was to allow water for agriculture and "large landscaped areas". Read that as golf courses. So they are sacrificing replenishing our aquifer with Colorado River Water so that golf courses can be watered.

We must stop this wasteful use of Colorado River water to preserve the drinking water for the Coachella Valley and the rest of the 7 State area. You must issue a moratorium on new golf courses, wave parks and lagoons and limit the amount of watering on the current golf courses. There needs to be more turf removed from golf courses and there should be specific ratios established for fairway and greens to rough. The rough should not be watered.

I would be happy to talk to anyone about this. We need to stop this practice of using Colorado River water for wave parks and lagoons, and we need to restrict the water oning our golf courses.

Respectfully,

Alena Callimanis  


