[EXTERNAL] Upcoming EIS input

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AECOM respectfully submits this comment to the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding the upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to develop post-2026 operating approaches for the Colorado River. AECOM recommends the development and publication of an online, interactive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will facilitate access given the geographic size of the basin and diversity of stakeholders. An interactive EIS is more mobile-friendly, allowing project information to be easily accessed and reviewed by broadband-underserved, low-income, and/or mobile-inclined populations. The public can use their own website translation plug-ins to convert the content to their preferred language.

An interactive EIS would include:

- Integration of interactive maps, visual simulations, dashboards, and other media helps the public better understand the project – in a split screen that adapts as text of the EIS is reviewed. In addition, from the map, the public can search locations, addresses, and/or parcels of interest and see how the project and resource data interact with those locations.
- Interactive acronyms, references, and hyperlinks help the public understand the EIS content, and with technical reports linked and accessible for those seeking additional detail.
- Public comment functionality that allows for public comments to be tagged to locations on a map or sections of the EIS, ensuring that USBR fully understands the public's feedback.
- Document sharing for collaborative development by the project team, and publication of technical studies and reports as completed to enhance transparency through the drafting of the EIS.
- Organized and effective project record management.
- Interactive dashboards allow USBR to track the public's review of the EIS and supporting materials over time. USBR would be able to track the flow and types of public comments, as well as the number of viewers to the EIS.
- Published content that adheres to the latest Web Content Accessibility Guideline standards (and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act).

Thank you,

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