Form Letter 1

Organization Affiliation: BlueRibbon Coalition

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to consider the recreation interests Lake Powell, Lake Mead and the other reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin as BOR reconsiders the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines.

I am aware the "target" elevation is 3,525 feet and the minimum elevation to operate the hydropower, or power pool, is 3,490. Although 3,525 allows you to continue to run hydropower operations, this level restricts numerous recreation opportunities. 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. Once the lake gets to the target elevation, because of the numerous variables it could be too late to keep the hydrology operations going. In the long run,

The balancing tiers that were introduced in the Interim Guidelines, and I believe these should be incorporated into long-term management for Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

I support the Path to 3588 plan developed by BlueRibbon Coalition that provides a way forward to meet this historic challenge we are currently facing. Even though this plan focuses on painting a viable water level for recreation at Lake Powell, the plan provides an excellent framework for equitably reducing water use among the affected states and Mexico, reimagining the volume and timing of water releases through the major dams, and having enough flexibility built in so that if the reservoirs begin to fill sufficiently, restrictions on water use can ease. The BlueRibbon Coalition Plan also maintains viable lake levels in Lake Mead, and it should be a preferred alternative to any plan that would suggest draining Lake Powell to fill Lake Mead.

As the Bureau of Reclamation creates alternatives, BOR needs to strongly consider the needs of recreational users and balance these needs along with the interests of other water users. Outdoor recreation generates billions of dollars each year, sustaining many local economies. These communities rely on continued recreation access to Lake Powell and Lake Mead for continued economic growth. These communities, which include neighboring Tribal Nations, would suffer significant losses if recreation is lost or decreased due to water elevation levels. NPS estimates that both Lake Mead and Lake Powell produce almost $500 million in direct economic impact to gateway communities, and we estimate that the broader impact is measured in billions. This economic impact positions recreation to provide comparable economic benefit as power generation and agriculture.. By developing a "recreation alternative" BOR will also have a plan that allows for better water level buffers that are needed to prevent reaching the points of lost power generation capacity and/or dead pool.

I hope BOR 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.

Form Letter 2

Organization Affiliation: Nation Audubon Society

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The Colorado River is a national treasure and a major driver of the U.S. economy. Protecting it for future generations is essential.

While I support more rigorous actions to reduce the amount of water used on the Colorado River to protect reservoir levels and flows for the long-term, I urge the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure habitat for birds and other wildlife remains protected.

The federal government needs to look more broadly and carefully at the impacts of proposed management actions and create solutions for habitats that do not have a secure water supply.

In particular, I hope you will consider bird habitats in the Grand Canyon, the Lower Colorado River (Multi-Species Conservation Program), the Salton Sea, and wetlands in the Colorado River Delta--all of which need sustained water in order to protect some of America's most unique and iconic bird species like the Bald Eagle, Yellow Warbler, and California Condor. In fact, some 70% of all wildlife in the region visit the Colorado River's remaining wetlands and riparian forests during their life cycles, including 400 different bird species along the Lower Colorado River.

As climate change destabilizes the Colorado River system, I urge Reclamation to identify how important environmental resources will change, and invest in solutions--including available federal funding--to help ensure these habitats continue to support the birds and other wildlife that depend on them.

Over the decades, we've lost a massive amount of habitat--we can't afford to lose any more. The stakes are enormous for people, for birds, and for the entirety of our country.

Form Letter 3

Organization Affiliation: Glen Canyon Institute

The Post-2026 EIS is a critical moment for the Colorado River. It's a system that has been drastically over-allocated, with consequences for its citizens and the environment. A sustainable future for the river will require using less water and also rethinking Glen Canyon Dam.

-The EIS should analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam, using Lake Powell as a backup facility. As climate change continues to reduce flows on the river, the dam becomes more of a liability preventing water from flowing downstream. Fully bypassing the dam to allow natural flows and sediment downriver would give the river, its users, and its ecosystem the most flexibility and adaptability in a drier future.

-The EIS should acknowledge the extensive resources that have emerged in Glen Canyon. In the years since Lake Powell reservoir has declined, natural wonders have reemerged like Cathedral in the Desert, Gregory Natural Bridge, as well lush riparian ecosystems, and priceless archeological sites. The immense value of Glen Canyon's resources needs to be accounted for as decision makers choose where to store water. Storing water in Lake Powell would drown one-of-a kind natural wonders, destroy emerged riparian ecosystems, and damage delicate archeological sites.

-The EIS should analyze a “Fill Mead First” model, prioritizing water storage in Mead before Powell, including a “don’t fill past 3,550” policy at Lake Powell reservoir. For most of the past decade, there hasn’t been enough water in the Colorado’s mainstem reservoirs to fill either Lake Powell or Lake Mead. If there isn’t enough water to fill either one, it doesn’t make sense to needlessly drown the national park-caliber canyons in Glen. Fill Lake Mead first, and give Glen Canyon the opportunity to continue its amazing restoration.

Form Letter 4

Organization Affiliation: Unknown

Don't forget the SALTON SEA in your planning. Import Ocean water to the Salton Sea. Colorado River water cuts without ocean water imports will destroy the Salton Sea.

Form Letter 5

Organization Affiliation: Save the Colorado

Dear Commissioner Touton and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Please accept this letter as public comment on the "Post 2026 Colorado River Public Scoping".

Thank you for starting a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the overall management of the Colorado River. In the EIS: 1) the ecological health of the river must be placed at the center of management, 2) BuRec must adopt solutions that are long-term, equitable, sustainable, and actually solve the problems on the Colorado River rather than kick the can down the road, and 3) the river needs to be "fixed" using Nature-Based Solutions that are also "climate action" to mitigate, and allow adaptation to, climate change that will further decrease flows in the future.

Long-term, equitable, sustainable solutions in the EIS should include:

1. Creating a "Grand Canyon Restoration Alternative" that includes bypassing and decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam, and storing all of the Colorado River's water in Mead Reservoir instead of Powell.
2. Stopping all proposed new dams, diversions and pipelines.
3. Enacting conservation programs to save Mead Reservoir.
4. Letting 10% of the river's total water flow into and through its Delta to the Sea of Cortez in Mexico to sequester carbon in Delta wetlands and mangroves and restore the wildlife habitat.
5. Allocating Native American water rights by subtracting that water from current diversions, or, by paying tribes to keep their water in the river.
6. Distributing water allocations to all users based on the percentage of total flow available each year, not a fixed amount.

I will be continuing to send in comments during later phases of the EIS process. Thank you for your work.

Form Letter 6

Organization Affiliation: Food and Water Action

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The Colorado River Basin is a vital source of water for millions of people, but due to poor management and greedy agribusiness corporations, the water supply of over 40 million people is a risk.

Climate change, extreme weather, and mega-droughts further endanger water access. That's why I ask that you prioritize households before big ag when developing plans to converse water in the Colorado River Basin.

Food & Water Watch has issued a new report detailing the abuse factory farms, and agribusiness have to the region's water. It's time to stop this abuse of our water resources.

Please prioritize households, communities, and wildlife over agribusiness greed.

Form Letter 7

Organization Affiliation: Western Resource Advocates

357 people have signed on in support of WRA's five principles for governing the Colorado River.

WRA principles for governing the Colorado River:

1. Reduce water use across the Basin by 25%.
2. Use the best available science and plan for there being less water in the river today and less water in the future due to a warming, drying climate.
3. Protect and improve water flows in the river to protect irreplaceable ecosystems, cultural values, and outdoor recreation opportunities.
4. Include Colorado River Basin Tribes, who have long been denied access to their fair share of water, in decision-making and ensure that they have equitable access to water.
5. Provide impacted people, conservation groups, and other stakeholders the opportunity to meaningfully contribute ideas for sustaining the river.