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Letter #: 1

Date Received: 6/27/2023

Sender Names: 3: Linda Joy Salas

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Colorado River relation to Salton Sea

To Whom This May Concern,

Around 2003 I joined EcoMedia and the Salton Sea Coalition along with scholars from various Universities. We went to lobby Sacramento to consider building a pipeline from the Sea of Cortez and/or the Pacific Ocean to fill the drying Salton Sea.

I'm told there is a 45 mile pipeline constructed in the late 1940's around the Long Beach area going east. Pipelines are absolutely no problem to build for oil transport but for the most essential element water, we cannot even consider it. Money has been allocated by the millions to the Salton Sea effort for the 20 years I've been involved but never for water import. The argument is always that it is too expensive or too complicated. The 2003 cost of $2 million is equivalent in purchasing power of $3,297,423.91 today, an increase of $1,297,423.91. Waiting only creates more environmental problems which costs more money to overcome. Add that to the obvious and inevitable economic prospect of inflation and the conclusion is to start the water import project NOW!!!.

The proposed 10 year plan will barely touch the surface mitigating the air and water quality issues. It will simply cost more money once again postponing the inevitable damage to our neighboring communities. Air quality has been increasingly very unhealthy and will get worse covering over a 100 mile radius. This means that not just Riverside and Imperial counties but as far as LA, San Bernardino and Orange Counties will be impacted by residue from the sea as it dries creating lung disease for all those living in these counties. The economic impact will also be devastating. People will move further away, properties will go up for sale and no one will want to buy where they can't breathe. California will lose thousands of homeowners, businesses and simply tax paying residents. The consequences are too many to list.

You must consider in your Colorado River planning:

DON'T FORGET THE SALTON SEA

RIVER WATER CUTS WITHOUT OCEAN WATER IMPORT

WILL KILL THE SALTON SEA

IMPORT & DESALINATE OCEAN WATER TO THE SALTON SEA

Linda Joy Salas

Letter #: 2

Date Received: 6/27/2023

Sender Names: 1: Judy Graham

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: The Salton Sea

To all the powers that be,

I try not to be bitter with what I have learned about all of the political controllers of the Salton Sea WE live close to and you don't. I have helped point out the years of non-compliance, challenged the hypocrisy of giving a planning review to some northern California group of decision makers completely unrelated to our situation, watched the politicians boost some luxury production in the north sea, and lithium money pits in the south, all while the water shrinks.

I live 1 mile from the San Andreas Fault. Science tells you that by removing water which helps stabilize the sand and dirt in the ground, that we are all more in jeopardy of having a dry heave cracking and the big one will hit.

Continuing without water importation to the Salton Sea will enhance our pending earthquake damage. Please remember this when a quake cuts us off from civilization. You haven't cared, nor listened to anyone who is a stakeholder in the valley. I am sending this as another underlooked reason for the water importation to the Salton Sea. This will be found in the rubble of my home so others may see that you were warned.

I have thanked you before, sincerely, so let all those other times count,

Judy Graham

Letter #: 4

Date Received: 6/23/2023

Sender Names: 2: Loren Hettinger

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: NOI to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead - Comment

Dear Amanda Erath, et al.,

One of the overriding questions I have on water appropriations that relate to the EIA to address operational guidelines is the way water is allocated. I know the rights to Colorado River water have been adjudicated based on historic water rights and agreements. However, using a finite amount based on acre-feet allocations is flawed, especially when annual flows are so limited as they often have been the last 20 years (2023 exception). Allocations should be based on a percentage of the flow that occurs each year (or perhaps on a past 5-year average at the most), especially since historical acre-feet allocations often cannot be met during drought conditions. To meet acre-feet commitments in 2026 operational guidelines is a fatal flaw, assuming that drought in the western and southwestern US is likely in the future.

Sincerely,

Loren R Hettinger, PhD

Letter #: 5

Date Received: 6/15/2023

Sender Names: 5: Mark Lewis

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: Can I submit comments on the Colorado River plan?

Can I submit comments on the Colorado River plan at this process? Can I testify at the meeting?

Letter #: 7

Date Received: 7/17/2023

Sender Names: 7: Silviu Dorian Chelaru

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_17

Dorian is my name. I'm with the chance of Shannik Llc U.S.A. My question is simple, why don't we consider importing massive water from Mexico to lower Colorado River?

And when I say massive water, I mean billions of acre food per year. It is possible it is feasible. It's not expensive. I haven't seen this consideration anywhere in the Bureau's documents, although there is a pattern, our pattern. They don't want to advertise this, but it is possible to do it beyond our idea. So why not? That's my question.

My name is Dorian from trans to Shannik again.
My comment is very short
The water is not infinite for Colorado, but we can have 2 or 3 times more water. Then we have in the Colorado natural water, then Colorado, because the flow of Mexican rivers to Pacific Ocean is at least twice the Colorado, and it's possible to make our other transfer to. So, we have to think out of the box. We have to see how we solve this problem. So, California will agree and would say, yes, we want to build the these systems. Yes, we can do it, and everybody will have all the what, and there will be no more fighting for it. It will be just drinking whiskey. That's why we have no fighting for water and this drinking whiskey for the all the States around Colorado. Thank you.

Letter #: 8

Date Received: 7/17/2023

Sender Names: 8: John Coffee

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_17

Hi, there! okay, I have 2 things I want to say.
On April eleventh of this year the New York Times reported that the Biden Administration wanted the same percentage of water cut for both the Imperial Valley in California. Arizona, and Nevada. Why wasn't this done? And if the California farmers are not going to take the money from the Federal Government to not to the Federal. Excuse me only short again if the California farmers. The Imperial Valley are not going to take the Federal money to follow the land and not usually land and let it go dry.
Then why don't they use the remainder of the money to cloud seed both the lower and approbation of the Colorado River.
I am In the Q. And A. I cited a woman who wrote about Cloud seating for a scientific magazine. What she said was, was that in in Dubai, in the Middle East there are a few clouds, and they cloud seeded them, and there with they got something they didn't expect in Dubai, because they cloud seeded in the middle of the Middle East it flooded.
Furthermore, she reported in an article that You know that that that a cloud seating of a small amount of clouds can produce a stadium full of snow.
I think this would be the best way to refill the Hoover and Glen King and Dams. What do you think of that? Hello.
So, do I need to say it again, and the stuff I typed in.
Sorry about that, anyway. The there's this institution called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It's a branch of the UN. Have you guys? They're aware of the Colorado ever going dry. They talk about it sometimes. If you guys talk to them at any, or is that superfluous?
Hello!
Hello!
Okay, that's fine. Thank you.

Letter #: 9

Date Received: 7/17/2023

Sender Names: 9: Brett Simpson

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_17

Okay.
Okay. I think I think one of the they oh, Brett Simpson, B-R-E-T-T.
I think one of the hard things is, is some of these questions as they come out, you'd really like an answer to. But again, as you stay, no answer is coming.
Everything I've read over the past couple of years California has truly not committed to any of this. When 6 of the States in the Basin got together for cuts over the past 2 years, California definitely made the grandstanding, in my opinion position, that they were not going to participate, nor comply with anything that was going on with everything that I had kind of read my question, I guess, posing it out there to the ether would be until all the States are either on board or forced to be on board pretty much as of this a moot point. They keep stating that they're going to push their grandfather water rights as priority and take what they need want desire and it seems to me that most people realize that water is not something that just shows up. There is no infinite supply of and until everyone's playing on the same page with the correct numbers, with the correct volume of water that's following with the correct breakdowns of everything that truly this is just a can that keeps getting kicked down the road.
Luckily our forefathers thought long enough and hard enough in advance that they built these reservoirs for time of feast, and to have in time of famine. And do we, as a populace of the Us. Now take these that have been put in place and basically start to say. you know, this is going to be a a national vision and not just a seven-state vision.
Many things are done over water, they used to say. In the West is, water is for fighting, and whiskey is for drinking. And thank you very much. I get 38 s left, and you all have a great day.

Letter #: 10

Date Received: 7/17/2023

Sender Names: 10: Steven ZoBell

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_17

Perfect. Hey? Good afternoon. You know I keep hearing rumblings.

That's what kind of got me on here, as well. Of the rumblings. We hear what I would call extremists, that we need to remove the Glen Canyon, Dan, and what I just want to really talk about is, I really believe we need the ongoing operations of both the Glen Canyon Dam and the Hoover dam. because it's crucial for the conservation of water resources and ensuring their availability in years to come.

Those graphs showed how we see years where there is excess, where there's not with these 2 infrastructures. They really play the significant role, not only in water management, but also energy production and the regional economies.

We know that these dams have been huge for our conservation efforts as they facilitate the collection of storage of water.
But this sort water also can be systematically released during the drier period as we've seen. So, while they've been really low, we're grateful. We have them because they're keeping us moving in these times of drought.

Moreover, I just see how they provide water to millions of people across several states supporting. You know what we need in our homes as well as agriculture. and it helps us cultivate crops in the semi-arid regions that would be impossible otherwise I look at it from the energy perspective both of the dams contribute significantly to renewable energy mix by generating hydroelectric plow power. And as we're pushing more toward electric vehicles and more of the electrification, we need as much of that as we possibly can, because it reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and lowers our carbon footprint.
And then, finally, both Glen Canyon humor dam are crucial components and really giving our regional economies a boost.
They not only create jobs later, their maintenance and operations, but a thriving tourism industry for both of the locations.
So, I just want to get on the record. You know. I believe the preservation and continuous operation of both the Glen Canyon and Hoover dam is crucial for our overall, sustainable future. and really see that they play a pivotal role in water conservation, renewable energy, generation, and economic sustainability.

So, thank you for your time, and thank you for holding this forum so we could all speak.

Letter #: 12

Date Received: 7/18/2023

Sender Names: 19100: Greg Bolla

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_18

Yes. Can you hear me?
Right.
This is not quite prepared, but more off the cuff, but with the law, the river being a set of pieces of legislation that go back, you know, at least 100 years. The compact from 1,922. I think I think a, a, a, a problem with government, not just in this this context.

And I by problem, I mean, some an issue to resolve is layers and layers and layers of legislation that have accumulated over the years that have made innovation and flexibility very difficult. And so, in other contexts.

There are things like, the like, how Internet companies are regulated is based on a 1994 piece of legislation. And so, the legislation isn't in lockstep with the realities that we're living with today. And so, the situation with the Colorado River is similar in that respect. So, so my general comment is, is to develop mechanisms through which legislation can be adapted updated a I adapted and updated in an appropriate timeline which the situation requires. Because, as there is less and less water and more and more people using that water, it becomes, more and more of an untenable situation. So, developing the legal frameworks to adapt to those changing hydrologic conditions, I think, is, I think, is critical. And then to echo with the previous comments, the comments are points. just making sure that that we put tribes. not only in a seat of the table, but potentially first. you know, they've had to deal with making more with less and there are steps in the right direction. The Gila River Indian Communities Agreement to put solar covered panels over canals to eliminate evaporation and increase electricity, provide some mechanism to increase their sovereignty and increase their economic independence. And so yeah, that's my other general comment is to make sure that we're giving tribes the tools that they need to thrive.

Thank you. yeah, I appreciate the presentation. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here.

Letter #: 13

Date Received: 7/18/2023

Sender Names: 13: Michael Carpenter

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_18

Yes.
It appears to an outsider that the Bureau has run rough shot over a couple of Indian communities, and I would certainly like to see that cease. My question has to do with the Upper Basin states.

It appears that for 80 years the reason that it all worked was because the Approbation States didn't take their share, they gauge immediately upstream from Lake Powell appears to not measure discharge. So do you know how much water has been flowing into Lake Powell over the last 80 years and has that been in excess of half of the river's allocation and the arrangement, as it appears. California and Arizona are going to be paid for leaving water in Lake Mead and the States that have been providing excess water all of this time get nothing that seems pretty unfair to me, and I wondered if you're going to do anything in the way of compensation for the aggregation States.

That's it for me.

Letter #: 14

Date Received: 7/18/2023

Sender Names: 14: Nikola Lockage

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_18

Hello! Can you hear me?
My name. My name is Nicola Lockage. I'm architect and inventor. I'm out on the proposal for the restoration of the Sultan Sea that, include sir. breakthrough technologies which I have modified to incorporate local conditions of the Southern Sea. Now. I would like if I will send actually public comment. before August 24. But I just want to let you know you should include Sultan Sea into consideration for this. plan on it.

It's. The thing is. my proposal allowed less water from Colorado River to make functional lake a certain sea. today is dying lake, because it's in the depression below sea level, and everybody considered that as a waste. Land and dining lake! There is a solution how we can.

A, how, we can change that and make feel it back, despite the quantification settlement agreement that imports less water from color on the river. So, I will send something soon, and I would like, if you can include Sultan Sea in your consideration. And if you can study my work, it's an amazing start, and: wasn't able to get on the Internet for some reason. And I'm just on phone right now. So, and they'll study a little bit.

Go on website and see a little bit more. Although I am fighting this for the last 10 years. It's a serious matter, and it's a great a proposal that for some reason was ignored for 10 years. Right now, is under the View review by the Us. Army corps of Engineers, and hope I hope they will be objective and see that. But just want to ask to let you know and to include Sultan Sea. It's very, very important.

Functional can be functional like, we can restore it back to the level. 19 fifties and sixties tight restriction, restriction of water in flow from the Colorado River. So and right now I can just let you know to expect. one better for me. My name is Nicola, N-IK-O-L-A. Lockage, L. A. K, I, C. And I made quite a few public comments about it.

Thank you very much.

Letter #: 15

Date Received: 7/24/2023

Sender Names: 15: David Wegner

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_24

Yeah, I had to find the right key here to unmute. I think this question is for Russ. In particular, there are a number of environmental programs, endangered fish programs, water quality programs that are already in existence in the Colorado River system. How do you see those being integrated into the overall process? Thank you.

Letter #: 17

Date Received: 7/24/2023

Sender Names: 17: Sarah Matz

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_24

Okay. Yes. Hi! My name is Sarah Matz. I am here in Arizona, and I I'm not sure if this is the right place to address this question, but I'm just gonna go for it. I know that here in Arizona we have been alerted that I think it's called a stage a tier, one, water shortage alert.
And my question is. Do you think that we are headed for the next phase in that, like the next level of water shortage alert at the pace that we're going?

Letter #: 18

Date Received: 7/24/2023

Sender Names: 389: John Rickenbach

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_24

Sure. Can you hear me?
I plan to submit a written comment. But just as a first thought here it in developing alternatives for study. I want to clarify first for myself. And maybe this is a question. First of all, that we're providing comments, both on the short-term operations NEPA compliance, and the long-term EIS, that will likely come out to deal with the post 2026.

That's a question. but the comment in terms of the short term, anyway, probably the long term as well is, if there are modifications to operations related to releases from Glen Canyon Dam, or, for that matter, Hoover dam that there'd be greater flexibility than what was shown in the scoping meeting from earlier or the preliminary alternatives that were developed before the process was put on hold pending the 7 States Agreement, where I think it showed is a minimum of 6 million acre feet could be released in any given year as opposed to the current. I think something like 7 depending on the situation. I don't see the reason why you couldn't consider a more open-ended, flexible down to 5, say to account for certain situations that might not otherwise be covered.

For example, right now. There were extraordinary circumstances in the last couple of years that may have dictated an even lesser release than was actually the case in 2,021 and 2,022, and maybe this year, with things being up such as they were a little more flexibility, and the guidelines for releases as well. And then the other comments that would be I know this is the in the short term we're really just talking about if changes to use in the lower basin States. But I do think the long-term solution really involves all 7 States and Mexico, and some sort of proportional cutbacks that affect all of them, and I think, in the short term, you can only do what you can do, considering you only have control over the lower basin uses. But I think the long-term big picture really has to involve all 7 states cooperating to get lower than they currently are today. And that'll be my comment directed at the long-term operation question. Thank you.

Letter #: 19

Date Received: 7/24/2023

Sender Names: 19: Kestrel Kunz

Emails: Not Provided

Organizations:

Subject: CO River Public Scoping Meeting 7_24

Thank you. yeah, thank you so much, for the presentation today has been really helpful.
I have a brief comment regarding alternatives that that should be analyzed in the draft EIS and wanted to note that looking at alternatives where either like Mal, like Powell, or like should be decommissioned and then focusing on either filling one of those reservoirs. it's not necessarily a great idea, but it should be analyzed in full in the draft, EIS, and then as somewhat of a separate comment, just want to encourage the bureau to really work with the USGS, and to really use all of the important research that the USGS has done, particularly in the Grand Canyon regarding the recreation, economy, sediment, transport, and a number of other factors. but yes, I'll leave it at that, and I'm looking forward to submitting written comments.

Letter #: 30

Date Received: 7/10/2023

Sender Names: 25:

Emails: 25: mccarp@dakotacom.net

Organizations:

Subject: Colorado River Shortfall

Conclusion first:

For a water year, apportion the previous year's flow, minus estimated evaporation from Lake Mead and Lake Powell, to 10% refilling the two reservoirs and 90% among the states and Mexico according to their fraction of the 16.5 million acre-feet per year. Don't pay California (mostly Imperial Valley) anything for "giving up" the difference between what they will get and their previously allotted 4.4 million acre-feet per year.

In his Feb. 10 column, Michael Hiltzik of the Los Angeles Times drove home his point that California was entitled to 4.4 million acre-feet of water per year. That is based on the assumption of 15 million acre-feet per year near Lee's Ferry.

After the Colorado River Compact, Mexico was allocated 1.5 million acre-feet per year, assuming 16.5 million acre-feet per year. As has been pointed out repeatedly, the annual flow of the Colorado River is considerably below that. Evaporation has never been addressed. The Lower Basin states, and especially California, have benefited from the Upper Basin states seldom, if ever, taking their half for a century.

California has a senior right, but to the best of my knowledge, does not have the sole senior right (which they want us to think) to the exclusion of the other Lower Basin states.

It's curious to me that Hiltzik included the statistic that California has only 2.5% of the drainage area of the Colorado River Basin. He could have also mentioned that California, alone, among all the Upper and Lower Basin States, has no perennial tributaries to the Colorado. It's all take and no give for them.

Lake Powell and Lake Mead were essentially full in 2000. We've done this in two decades. We got away with it for eight decades before that because some states didn't take their share. Now the drought and global warming have come to play, and worse times are ahead.

Keep in mind that Imperial Valley and the Yuma area are the gardens of the United States. However, much of the alfalfa grown with Colorado River water goes to the Middle East. Imperial and others have been wasting water because they have feared (as all entities with water rights fear) that if they did not take it they could lose it.

What right do some recipients of Colorado River water have to waste water when others' taps are dry? All recipients of Colorado River water must decrease use. Those who waste the most must decrease the most.

Here's my outrageous plan. As I understand it, a water level in Lake Mead of 1,025 feet above sea level triggers a situation in which the Secretary of the Interior decides who gets how much water. Keep enough water in Lake Roosevelt to make Lake Mead reach that level. Then the Secretary can apportion water according to needs.

Letter #: 31

Date Received: 7/7/2023

Sender Names: 26: Wesley Scales

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Salton Sea

I urge you to consider and acquiesce to the use of desalinated waters of the Sea of Cortez to sustain the Salton Sea. Though expensive it is the choice most likely to benefit through the process and the result.

Thank you,

WW Scales, Redmond Oregon

Letter #: 46

Date Received: 7/28/2023

Sender Names: 549: Janelle Goligoski

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

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.

My parents started going to the lake as soon as it was filling. We started camping as kids and have never missed a summer since. Now I take my kids and I am hoping and praying to continue this tradition with them, and that they can continue with their kids! Lake powell is more than just a recreational area for me and my family. It is a way of life. It is so many memories. It is what has brought ours and so many families together over the years! I beg that you consider families like mine and your decisions , and keep filling Lake powell.

With all my heart -

Sincerely,
Janelle Goligoski

Letter #: 112

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 192: Hoss DeRoest

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

As a lifetime user of Lake Powell, where the memories created here are generations deep into our family, the one and only family vacation we've ever had has been a 7 week trip to Lake Powell for the past 40 years. All my family memories are created on this lake from Bull Frog bay where my parents where once houseboat owners to Antelope Point Marina where a sister of mine has a timeshare on a houseboat. The water level is a crucial part of the continued memories we have on this lake that result in this national monument's sustainability. As my ultimate vacation home and what I call paradise, I would LOVE to see the lake rise again where it enables so many more recreation benefits that can unpack old memories such as going through the cut, going to the toilet bowl by Gunsight bay, and the never ending list of gorgeous areas that require certain lake levels to experience that we haven't been able to in at least 4 years or longer. This place is where I plan to take my family for the rest of my life and I would love to have my kids experience this beautiful place on earth as I have, and choosing to minimize the amount we give away and store water for drought years to ensure the marinas can at the very least stay fully functioning is extremely important to our family. We never want these memories to die while our loved ones are still here to experience Lake Powell. It's not just recreation, it's fostering and creating new memories that were born on the greatest place on earth!

Sincerely,
Hoss DeRoest

Letter #: 131

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 199: Jen Swenson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

My family and I have been going to Lake Powell for the last 29 years. We started when my son was 9 months old and 3 kids later and 3 grandkids we go at least once a year sometimes a few times. There is no other place like Lake Powell, my kids would pick going to Lake Powell over any other vacation, even Disneyland. We were elated with the amount the lake has risen this year. We pray for more good winters, but we know that isn't a guarantee. We support the Blue Ribbon Coalition and the Path to 3588.
While Lake Powell is an amazing place to recreate, Lake Powell creates power for millions and jobs for thousands of people in and around the lake.

Please take this into consideration when you decide on new allocations for the next 20 years.

Sincerely,
Jen Swenson

Letter #: 135

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 328: Teanna Beckstead

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I am a farmer and I see a need for water storage. If we have more droughts we could run out of water and therefore running out of food. Please consider keeping more water in the reservoirs. Also they are such an amazing place for recreation and it uplifts the economy in surrounding areas around them. For example, Lake Mead is so important to Las Vegas economy and lively hood. It is so important to have storages in place In case we have continued droughts. Thanks so much for reading this.

Sincerely,
Teanna Beckstead

Letter #: 138

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 618: Jon Stones

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I met my wife in Lake Powell in 2002. Got engaged to her 13mos later in Lake Powell, and we have been going 2-4 times per year since. Lake Powell is in my family's DNA. My family of 6 absolutely love going on the Lake and exploring it in addition to playing on the water. I don't know what we would do without this absolute unique and amazing place. We also explore other Southern Utah canyons and deserts, but this is a different experience. The lake and what it offers is the best of both worlds... form & function of recreation and exploring the natural beauty of the region.
Please, please, please change the play book so that more common sense is factored in with managing the water and water levels. I think the needs for everyone involved above and below the dam can be met with better management and water conservation in Lake Powell.

Respectfully

Sincerely,
Jon Stones

Letter #: 139

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 540: Angela Fielding

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to consider the recreation interests Lake Powell. Please stop releasing water from Lake Powell. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Angela Fielding

Letter #: 176

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 150: Brynlee Shippen

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

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 have been going to Lake Powell every year for the last 15 years and my family has gone for more than 30 years. This lake is so important and having the water levels be high enough is not only crucial to safety but for the enjoyment for recreational purposes. Living 8 hours away from Lake Powell leaves us with hesitantly because we don't know if it's worth the drive when the water levels aren't high enough. So please fill Lake Powell!

Sincerely,
Brynlee Shippen

Letter #: 182

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 307: Matthew Sim

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

My name is Matt Sim, I am from Scotland. I moved to the United States about 20 years ago at age 26. My wife's family have been going to lake Powell for about 40 years to recreate. When I moved to the states I was fortunate enough to be able to join them on their trips. I have travelled to many places around Europe and the world and I would venture to say there are few places as beautiful as lake Powell.

Over the last few years as the lake level has dropped to record lows it has been heart breaking to see. Over the last few years as we have grown our own family and invested in a boat and a house boat to allow our growing family the same experiences that we have had, we have been so saddened to see the lake drop in level.

I understand that the law cannot be changed quickly but as you look to the future and to the new guidelines, I urge you to put in place laws that would preserve the water in lake Powell for many reasons and a myriad of benefits it provides.

Please, please, please. Allow our children and grandchildren to enjoy the same beauty and recreation time on that most amazing Lake as we have had.

Thank you for your time

Matt Sim

Sincerely,
Matthew Sim

Letter #: 205

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 98: everett Strazza-Whalen

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public comment

To whom it may concern,

When looking at a sustainable future in the Colorado River basin and the cities and agriculture that are dependent upon this river in the future the biggest thing that stands out is the ability to correct a mistake made in 1966, when glen canyon dam was constructed and resivor powell began to fill. Over the last twenty years drought conditions and acidification of the west particularly in the Colorado River basin watershed has depleted our resivors to all time lows. The notion that we will continue to receive large winters such as the winter of 2022/2023 is naive and should not be a determination on any decisions around the resivor. Instead we need to look at the demand put upon a river system that John wesly powell took one look at and said there isn't enough water in the west. That was in 1869 and we chose to ignore it. Fast forward to 2023 and we wonder why this is still such an issue. Glen canyon is not only one of the biggest environmental disasters to be created it also is outdated and potentially failing technology. If we contuie with more years of reduced inflows the ability to generate power could become an issue that will cost taxpayers money and still not solve the problem.
Filling lake mead and draing the resivor behind glen canyon does a myriad of things for our river system. The biggest benifit is a consolidation of a resource into a resivor better suited to handle water. What I mean by this is the sandstone powell is built in,is an absorbent rock compared to the basement layers that lake mead is housed.
This eliminates as much loss yo seepage while also reducing surface evaporation by having one resivor evaporating instead of the two we currently have.
On a personal note I grew up in the red rock canyons of southern Utah spending my summers as a child and an adult on the Colorado River. I have witnessed first hand the sediment deposition and the huge impact it has had on the lower reaches of cataract canyon. The dominant formation is foul, rotting vegetation trash from houseboats past and a number of unpleasant things have been caused by none other than the glen canyon dam. Drain resivor powell, restore glen canyon and the Colorado River system through the grand canyon and enjoy the beauty of a place once thought to be lost gor good.

Letter #: 208

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 389: John Rickenbach

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 Colorado River Operations - Scoping Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the process and scope of the NEPA document related to the Post-2026 operations and management of the Colorado River basin. In our lifetimes, we are not likely to see a more important effort come before the Bureau, affected states, tribes, and other stakeholders affected by this process, which includes millions of people living in the region. What began in 1922 has morphed into something that struggles to keep up with the changing realities of our region and the world, including the effects of population growth and increasing demand for the resources provided by the river, all in the context of undeniable climate change.

Now is our one chance to get it right.

In order to do this, we have to start by looking forward, not backward. We begin with today's realities, not a wish that it was somehow 1955 again, when Glen Canyon Dam was not in place, and the population of the seven states that rely on the resources the river system provides was a quarter of what it is today.

I am attaching a reasonable proposal that should be considered as a potential alternative in the EIS to be prepared for this process, which I'm calling The Way Forward: A Plan for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. It is based on the following key principles:

1. Water supply, power supply, recreational opportunities, and natural resources associated with the major reservoirs in the system must be maintained sustainably, since those resources are crucial to the health, safety and economy of the West.

2. Given the current drought and recent extremely low levels of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, any action under this plan needs to occur immediately and collaboratively for the plan to be most effective.

3. Any needed water use reductions to implement this plan must be shared fairly and equitably among all seven states that use the water, as well as Mexico. Tribal rights and water use must also be addressed in that framework and would also be subject to the same proportional reduction as needed.

4. Because the entire Colorado River water supply and power system does not work unless both Lake Powell and Lake Mead are viable actions to stabilize storage in both reservoirs need to be addressed simultaneously. One reservoir should not be prioritized over the other.

5. The plan must be flexible and recognize changing conditions over time. The magnitude and duration of possible water use reductions in the states are linked to the volume of water stored in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Conceptually, if water volume in the reservoirs rises, water use reductions can ease.

6. It is recognized that any comprehensive solution to the complex challenges related to the use of the Colorado River cannot be solved unilaterally by The Bureau of Reclamation, and for that reason, this or any reasonable plan that goes beyond the limited mission of the Bureau must be considered in the NEPA process as well as any other related planning process. Dismissing any such plan for including aspects that are potentially outside a narrow purpose and need defined by the Bureau is unacceptable and short-sighted. The Bureau must work collaboratively with the states, tribes, Mexico, and other federal agencies, such as the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service, to implement those aspects of this plan that are beyond what can be accomplished by the Bureau alone.

It is an updated and modified version of a plan I previously submitted for possible study in the recent Near-Term Colorado River Operations NEPA process. In the since-shelved April 2023 Draft SEIS, the previous version of plan was dismissed from further consideration because:

it does not meet the purpose, need, or objectives of the proposed action (which focuses on the critically low elevations impacting operations of both Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams during the interim period). It would not allow compliance with essential water delivery requirements, including the Law of the River and the 2007 Interim Guidelines. It also would not comply with other federal requirements and regulations, including the GCPA and the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement (2019).

That may have been true for Near-Term Operations, but in the context of Post-2026 Operations, when all aspects of the existing Law of the River are on the table, including water delivery requirements and reservoir-related operations, the plan absolutely meets the purpose and need of the proposed action, the outcome of which would modify many existing federal regulations, and supplant the existing 2007 Interim Guidelines. Dismissing a serious analysis of this proposal in the EIS would deprive stakeholders and the general public of its right to consider an objective evaluation of a reasonable alternative consistent with the project goals, as well as its purpose and need, which as noted above, is much broader than the narrow confines of what can be accomplished by the Bureau alone. The NEPA process, at its heart, is about full disclosure in order to allow for informed decisions to be made, the overall goal of which is to find an optimal outcome. Let's not short-circuit that process.

Incidentally, I've often seen a figure of 40 million used to describe the number of people who rely on the river in one way or another. But nowhere have I seen how that number was derived. Is it actually higher? Or lower? Im curious if you can show any of the math behind that number. In the end, it probably doesnt matter, because its a lot of people, any way you slice it.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to address one of the historic challenges of our time. Im looking forward to seeing a fair, equitable and sustainable outcome for our collective future, and for the future of the Colorado River basin.

Sincerely,

John Rickenbach_____

The Way Forward: A Plan for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

by John Rickenbach
July 2023

In June 2022, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) called for an immediate 2-4 million acre-foot (maf) reduction in water use among the seven states served by the Colorado River watershed in order to avert catastrophic consequences to water and power supply within the system. Based on the recent average annual water use among the states, this call to action represents a 16-32% reduction in use from this fragile water supply.[1] If that sounds like a dramatic call to action, it is.

In an era of unprecedented drought, old assumptions and protocols for managing water supply in the Colorado River watershed no longer work. Creative, collaborative solutions are needed to ensure that the major reservoirs in the system can store sufficient water, generate power, and provide economically important recreational opportunities into the future. As recognized by the BOR, the current rate of water consumption within the system is unsustainable, at least as long as water supplies and snowpack remain generally below historic averages, a trend likely to continue into the future.

The following describes a way forward to meet this historic challenge. It involves a combination of 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.

Key Principles of This Plan

1. Water supply, power supply, recreational opportunities, and natural resources associated with the major reservoirs in the system must be maintained sustainably, since those resources are crucial to the health, safety and economy of the West.

2. Given the current drought and recent extremely low levels of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, any action under this plan needs to occur immediately and collaboratively for the plan to be most effective.

3. Any needed water use reductions to implement this plan must be shared fairly and equitably among all seven states that use the water, as well as Mexico. Tribal rights and water use must also be addressed in that framework, and would also be subject to the same proportional reduction as needed.

4. Because the entire Colorado River water supply and power system does not work unless both Lake Powell and Lake Mead are viable—actions to stabilize storage in both reservoirs need to be addressed simultaneously. One reservoir should not be prioritized over the other.

[1] The average annual collective water use among the seven states from the Colorado River from 2016-20 was 12.55 million acre feet (maf), which includes the required delivery of 1.5 maf to Mexico.

5. The plan must be flexible, and recognize changing conditions over time. The magnitude and duration of possible water use reductions in the states are linked to the volume of water stored in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Conceptually, if water volume in the reservoirs rises, water use reductions can ease.

6. It is recognized that any comprehensive solution to the complex challenges related to the use of the Colorado River cannot be solved unilaterally by The Bureau of Reclamation, and for that reason, this or any reasonable plan that goes beyond the limited mission of the Bureau must be considered in the NEPA process as well as any other related planning process. Dismissing any such plan for including aspects that are potentially outside a narrow "purpose and need" defined by the Bureau is unacceptable and short-sighted. The Bureau must work collaboratively with the states, tribes, Mexico, and other federal agencies, such as the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to implement those aspects of this plan that are beyond what can be accomplished by the Bureau alone.

Key Assumptions Under the Plan

Inflow to Lake Powell

BOR reports that the average annual inflow to Lake Powell from 1991-2020 is 9.6 million acre feet (maf). Over time, that number has been generally decreasing, but with considerable variation up and down from year to year. In 2021, unregulated inflow to Lake Powell was only 3.5 maf, while in 2023, it is likely to end the water year at about 14 maf based on BOR projections.

For modelling purposes underlying this plan, the 5-year period that includes water years 2016-20 (WY 2016-20) was used to calculate a more recent realistic "average" to form the baseline for future projections. This period captured Lake Powell inflows ranging from 5.4 to 11.7 maf, encompassing relatively "good" and "bad" years. The average annual inflow during that time was 8.99 maf, slightly less than the 1991-2020 average, and thus a reasonable and conservative basis for future projections.

Inflow to Lake Mead

Inflow to Lake Mead is a function of three major factors: releases through Glen Canyon Dam, inflow from the tributaries that feed the Colorado River below the dam (notably the Little Colorado and Virgin rivers), minus any evaporation between Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam.

Releases through Glen Canyon Dam are highly variable, and vary based on protocols established by the BOR, depending on the surface elevation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. This typically varies from 8.0 to 9.0 maf/year, but can be higher or lower. For modeling purposes, this plan creates modified delivery protocols, depending on the surface elevation of the two reservoirs at the end of a given water year.

The average annual input from tributaries below Glen Canyon Dam from WY 2016-20 was 0.89 maf. This is also factored into calculating volume and surface elevation of Lake Mead.

Water Use

For the purpose of this plan, the baseline for calculating water use is the collective average of the seven states use in the 5-year period that encompasses Water Years (WY) 2016-20.

Upper Basin Water Use is reported in the February 2022 report entitled *Upper Colorado River Basin Consumptive Uses and Losses 2016-2020*. Upper Basin use as reported by BOR not only includes consumptive use, but evaporation from smaller reservoirs other than the large mainstem reservoirs such as Lake Powell or Flaming Gorge, which are accounted for separately. The average annual water use in the Upper Basin from WY2016-20 was 4.15 maf.

Lower Basin Water Use is reported in the annual reports issued by BOR entitled *Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Arizona, California and Nevada*. The reports also include data about deliveries to Mexico, as well as releases through the smaller dams downstream of Hoover Dam. The average annual water use in the Lower Basin from 2016-20 was 6.90 maf.

Each year annual deliveries to Mexico have been consistently at or very slightly above 1.5 maf in accordance with treaty requirements between that country and the USA.

Upper Basin Reservoir Additional Storage

There are several mainstem storage reservoirs above Lake Powell, the largest of which is Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Other significant reservoirs include Lake Navajo and Blue Mesa Reservoir. These essentially function as a "bank" for water in the Upper Basin that can be later used downstream, should the need arise. Collectively, these reservoirs have a potential capacity of about 6.4 maf, nearly 60% of which is within Flaming Gorge. The reservoir levels fluctuate as downstream need or flood control dictates, but in general, these reservoirs hold about 65-90% of their collective capacity at any given time. The 5-year average from 2016-20 is 81.4%. In May 2022, these reservoirs held only about 65% of their capacity. In July 2023, they held about 89% of capacity.

Upper Basin Reservoir Evaporation

"Upper Basin Reservoir Evaporation" includes reported evaporation in the mainstem reservoirs in the Upper Basin along the Colorado or Green Rivers, most notably Lake Powell itself. Of the average annual 0.47 maf evaporative loss in those reservoirs (based on WY2016-20), about 80% comes from Lake Powell, and 17% from Flaming Gorge. The remaining 3% comes from all other smaller reservoirs such as Blue Mesa and Morrow Point. Lake Navajo evaporation is not included in this dataset in the February 2022 USBR report (see Table UC-1 of that report). Although evaporated water is not technically "available" for later use, it is an important component in calculating the total water supply before any is either used or released downstream.

Lower Basin Reservoir Evaporation

"Lower Basin Reservoir Evaporation" includes reported evaporation below Glen Canyon Dam, primarily in Lake Mead, but also in the stretch of the river between the dam and Lake Mead. The figures are reported in each of USBR's 24-Month Studies, which include summarized historic data for the previous year. Evaporative loss is one of the reported numbers in that dataset. The average annual evaporative loss during the period inclusive of WY2016-20 was 0.54 maf.

Total Water Availability

In order to project future lake levels, it is first necessary to calculate the total water available in the Upper Basin watershed prior to considering any diversions, use, or evaporation. Based on existing BOR documentation, it is possible to calculate water availability in any past year using this equation:

> ***Total Water Availability in the Upper Basin =*** *Inflow to Lake Powell + Upper Basin Water Use + Upper Basin Additional Storage + Upper Basin Reservoir Evaporation*

Based on the assumptions described above, the Total Water Availability in the Upper Basin on average in the period WY2016-20 was 13.59 maf annually. This forms the "baseline" for calculations for future years, and allows for modeling hypothetical reductions or increases in precipitation for future years, if "total water availability" is used as a proxy for "total precipitation" within the basin.

Baseline Surface Elevations

In July 2023 the BOR issued its latest 24-Month Study, which forecasts inflows and outflows for all reservoirs affecting the entire Colorado River watershed. The forecast is based in part on projected long-range precipitation forecasts, historic trends, and projected releases from each reservoir. The forecast extends through June 2025, or beyond the end of Water Year 2024 (WY 2024). BOR also forecasts the projected surface elevation for Lake Powell and Lake Mead during this period. For the purpose of this plan, surface elevations at the end of WY2023 (September 30, 2023) are used as one baseline scenario for projecting future lake levels modeled under the plan. For Lake Powell, this elevation is roughly 3575, while Lake Mead is about 1065. A second planning scenario is based on much lower lake levels, in the event that sharp drought conditions continue, and planned water reductions under revised near-term operational protocols (revised 2007 Interim Guidelines) do not occur or are not effective. Under this second scenario, the plan assumes a baseline elevation of 3525 for Lake Powell, and 1025 for Lake Mead.

Table 1 summarizes key baseline assumptions related to the two reservoirs, water availability, and water use in the Upper Basin, Lower Basin, and Mexico.

Table 1. Key Baseline Assumptions Related to Water Availability and Use

	WY2016-20 Annual Average
Upper Basin Water Availability (prior to diversion or use)	13.59 maf
Inflow from rivers between Glen Canyon and Hoover Dam	0.89 maf
Upper Basin Water Use [1]	4.15 maf
Lower Basin Water Use	6.90 maf
Water Delivered to Mexico	1.50 maf
Upper Basin Mainstem Evaporation	0.47 maf
Lower Basin Mainstem Evaporation	0.54 maf

Sources: USBR 24-Month Studies (2010-2022); Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Arizona, California and Nevada (various years); Upper Colorado River Basin Consumptive Uses and Losses 2016-2020; http://lakepowell.water-data.com; http://lakemead.water-data.com.

1. *Upper Basin Water Use also includes 0.24 maf of evaporation on non-mainstem reservoirs*

Action Plan

The following tables summarize the key aspects of the action plan for water use reductions and releases through Glen Canyon Dam to implement the key principles described at the outset of the plan, based on the previously-described assumptions. In general, required actions are based on surface elevations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead at the end of a particular water year (September 30) as reported by BOR, with water use reductions and dam releases applied to the following water year. These actions supersede any potentially conflicting protocols previously established under the 1922 Colorado River Compact and subsequent related laws, collectively known as the "Law of the River".

Table 2 shows key elevations within Lake Powell and Lake Mead that provide guidance in developing this plan, particularly regarding water use and the magnitude of releases from Glen Canyon Dam in a given year.

Table 2. Key Elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Elevation Condition	Lake Powell	Lake Mead
Full Pool	3700	1225
Minimum elevation for all recreational facilities to be operational [1]	3588	-
Buffer elevation (35 feet above minimum power pool) [2]	3525	985
Minimum Power Pool	3490	950
Dead Pool	3370	895

1. Includes all Lake Powell marinas, launch ramps, access points, campgrounds, and the Castle Rock Cut
2. Provides a sufficient buffer to ensure continued power production, allowing for water levels to drop over the winter season.

Required water use reductions from the baseline 2016-20 average in any given year will be based on the surface elevation of Lake Mead and Lake Powell at the end of the previous water year. These could range from no reductions at all up to 30%. Notably, water use reductions would be proportional, with an equal percentage applied to all seven states and deliveries to Mexico, as well as to the affected tribes as they are included in a revised planning framework. Tables 3 and 4 show the required reductions by basin and by state for a water year, based on criteria related to the surface elevation of Lake Powell and/or Lake Mead at the end of the previous water year (September 30).

Table 4 shows the baseline water use for each state (average annual usage from WY2016-20), and the maximum allocation for each state depending on the percentage reduction in use required in a given year as shown in Table 3. Note that if no reduction is required in a particular year, existing water use protocols under the Law of the River, including any short-term operational revisions to the 2007 Interim Guidelines would apply for that year.

Table 3. Required Annual Water Use Reductions

Annual Water Use Reduction					When Applicable [2, 3]	
Percentage Reduction from Baseline [1]	**Total Volume that may be used annually** [4] *(million acre feet)*				**Lake Powell**	**Lake Mead**
	Upper Basin	*Lower Basin*	*Mexico*	***Total***		
30%	2.904	4.831	1.050	**8.784**	< 3540	< 1025
25%	3.111	5.176	1.125	**9.412**	> 3540 and < 3575	> 1025 and < 1050
20%	3.318	5.521	1.200	**10.039**	> 3575 and < 3600	> 1050 and < 1075
10%	3.733	6.211	1.350	**11.294**	> 3600 and < 3625	> 1075 and < 1100
0%	4.148	6.901	1.500	**12.549**	> 3625	> 1100

1. Based on average annual water use from WY2016-20, as reported by BOR.
2. Surface elevation at the end of a given Water Year (September 30). If no reduction is required, then prior existing usage protocols apply.
3. If the condition of one reservoir is more restrictive than the other, the higher percentage reduction of the two is required to be applied to all users in the system. For example, if Lake Powell is at 3580, but Lake Mead is at 1030, a 25% reduction in water use would apply.
4. Reductions within each basin are allocated by State as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Colorado River Annual Water Use Reductions by State
(based on WY2016-20 Average, in million acre feet)

Location	Average Usage (WY2016-20)	Percentage Reduction			
		10%	**20%**	**25%**	**30%**
Lower Basin					
California	4.115	3.703	3.292	3.086	2.880
Arizona	2.543	2.289	2.035	1.907	1.780
Nevada	0.243	0.219	0.194	0.182	0.170
Subtotal	***6.901***	***6.211***	***5.521***	***5.176***	***4.831***
Upper Basin					
Arizona *	0.026	0.023	0.021	0.019	0.018
Colorado	2.275	2.047	1.820	1.706	1.592
Utah	1.006	0.905	0.805	0.754	0.704
New Mexico	0.420	0.378	0.336	0.315	0.294
Wyoming	0.421	0.379	0.337	0.316	0.295
Subtotal	***4.148***	***3.733***	***3.318***	***3.111***	***2.904***
Mexico	1.500	1.350	1.200	1.125	1.050
Total	**12.549**	**11.294**	**10.039**	**9.412**	**8.784**
Reduction from Baseline (maf)	*0*	*1.255*	*2.510*	*3.137*	*3.765*

Sources: Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Arizona, California and Nevada (various reports); Upper Colorado River Basin Consumptive Uses and Losses 2016-2020. Both publications by BOR.

** A small portion of Arizona is included in the Upper Basin for the purpose of calculating water consumption under the Law of the River.*

If no reduction is required, then prior existing usage protocols apply.

Table 5 shows the protocol for releases from Glen Canyon Dam in a given year, based on the surface elevations of both Lake Mead and Lake Powell at the end of the previous water year.

Table 5. Protocol for Releases Through Glen Canyon Dam

Required Release Through Glen Canyon Dam *(million acre feet)*	**Applicable Condition** [1]	
	Lake Powell	**Lake Mead**
5.0	< 3540 AND	> 1000
5.5	< 3540 AND	< 1000
6.0	3540-3575 AND	> 1025
6.5	3540-3575 AND	< 1025
7.0	3575-3600 AND	> 1050
7.5	3575-3600 AND	< 1050
8.0	> 3600 AND	> 1075
8.23 minimum, or more as needed to balance the reservoirs	> 3600 AND	< 1075

1. Surface elevation at the end of a given Water Year (September 30).

Possible Outcomes

Outcomes if Action is Taken Starting in WY2027

Tables 6 and 7 illustrate two possible 5-year outcomes of applying this plan starting in WY2027, depending on the water availability in a given year. Table 6 illustrates how the plan would be applied if the reservoirs began that period at a level similar to what is likely to be the case at the end of WY2023, which is to say Lake Powell at 3575, and Lake Mead at 1065. Table 7 illustrates a more critical condition, if the reservoirs were to begin that period at extremely low levels, with Lake Powell at 3525 and Lake Mead at 1025. The purpose of showing two scenarios is to demonstrate whether the plan can effectively respond to different baseline conditions.

These tables show a range of possible forecasts and outcomes, from 40% less than baseline average water availability, to 20% greater than baseline average. In all cases under either scenario, power generation though each dam would continue uninterrupted through this period under this plan. With the exception of an extended drought period similar in magnitude to what was experienced from 2000-04, or perhaps an extension of the historically dry year that occurred in 2021, both reservoirs would steadily recover, and in average conditions, water use reductions could be removed by the end of the 5-year period. However, continued water use reductions in the range 10-30% would still be required if water availability remains below average. In the event sustained drought at the 2000-04 levels continued for more than 5 years, even greater water use restrictions beyond those described in this plan would be required.

Crucially, this plan assumes that the seven states (and Mexico) are able to implement a 25-30% reduction from their current average use from the outset, and that BOR is willing to reduce flows through Glen Canyon Dam to as low as 5.0 maf. These are challenging but necessary steps to protect the viability of the entire system, particularly if extreme drought continues.

Table 6. Possible Outcomes of Plan Implementation

(if Lake Powell started at 3575 and Lake Mead at 1065 – similar to end of WY2023)

Water Availability scenarios (WY 2027-31) [1]	Water Year	Water Use Reduction[2]	Release through Glen Canyon Dam[2] *(maf)*	Lake Powell level (Sept 30)	Lake Mead level (Sept 30)
	2026	-	-	3575	1065
40% less than average (8.1 maf/yr) [3] *(similar to 2000-04 or 2021)*	2027	25%	6.0	3556	1061
	2028	25%	6.0	3543	1057
	2029	25%	6.0	3528	1053
	2030	30%	5.0	3533	1041
	2031	30%	5.0	3538	1028
20% less than average (10.9 maf/yr) *(similar to 1988-92)*	2027	25%	6.0	3591	1063
	2028	20%	7.0	3592	1069
	2029	20%	7.0	3594	1075
	2030	20%	7.0	3595	1080
	2031	20%	7.0	3596	1086
10% less than average (12.2 maf/yr) *(similar to 2003-07)*	2027	25%	6.0	3606	1065
	2028	20%	8.23	3609	1088
	2029	10%	8.0	3611	1097
	2030	10%	8.0	3611	1105
	2031	10%	8.0	3611	1112
Average (13.6 maf/yr) *(average defined as 2016-20)*	2027	25%	6.0	3622	1066
	2028	20%	8.23	3635	1091
	2029	10%	8.23	3643	1103
	2030	0%	8.23	3652	1105
	2031	0%	8.75	3654	1112
10% above average (14.9 maf/yr) *(similar to 2005-09)*	2027	25%	6.0	3633	1067
	2028	20%	8.75	3653	1100
	2029	0%	9.0	3665	1112
	2030	0%	9.5	3670	1128
	2031	0%	9.5	3677	1143
20% above average (16.3 maf/yr) *(similar to 1996-2000 or 2023)*	2027	25%	6.0	3646	1068
	2028	20%	9.0	3673	1103
	2029	0%	12.0	3670	1150
	2030	0%	11.0	3675	1177
	2031	0%	11.0	3680	1201

1. Assumes a consistent level of water availability from year to year, and does not account for likely variations. Total water availability shown in parentheses is water available in the upper basin prior to its use, diversion, evaporation. The amount available for inflow to Lake Powell is considerably less, and is the remainder after Upper Basin water use, diversions, or evaporation is considered.
2. Follows protocols established in this plan.
3. Assumes that 500,000 AF is released to Lake Powell from upper basin reservoirs beyond typical release patterns in 4 of the 5 years.

Table 7. Possible Outcomes of Plan Implementation
(if Lake Powell started at 3525 and Lake Mead at 1025)

Water Availability scenarios (WY 2027-31) [1]	Water Year	Water Use Reduction[2]	Release through Glen Canyon Dam[2] *(maf)*	Lake Powell level (Sept 30)	Lake Mead level (Sept 30)
	2026	-	-	3525	1025
40% less than average (8.1 maf/yr) [3] *(similar to 2000-04 or 2021)*	2027	30%	5.0	3521	1005
	2028	30%	5.0	3525	989
	2029	30%	5.5	3522	980
	2030	30%	5.5	3517	974
	2031	30%	5.5	3513	966
20% less than average (10.9 maf/yr) *(similar to 1988-92)*	2027	30%	5.0	3563	1014
	2028	30%	6.5	3577	1026
	2029	25%	7.5	3574	1047
	2030	25%	6.0	3590	1045
	2031	25%	7.5	3587	1064
10% less than average (12.2 maf/yr) *(similar to 2003-07)*	2027	30%	5.0	3582	1015
	2028	30%	7.5	3597	1045
	2029	25%	7.5	3610	1065
	2030	10%	8.23	3608	1078
	2031	10%	8.0	3608	1086
Average (13.6 maf/yr) *(average defined as 2016-20)*	2027	30%	5.0	3597	1016
	2028	30%	7.5	3625	1048
	2029	25%	9.0	3635	1090
	2030	10%	8.23	3645	1103
	2031	0%	8.23	3650	1105
10% above average (14.9 maf/yr) *(similar to 2005-09)*	2027	30%	5.0	3612	1018
	2028	30%	9.0	3637	1075
	2029	10%	9.0	3651	1098
	2030	10%	9.5	3662	1125
	2031	0%	9.5	3667	1140
20% above average (16.3 maf/yr) *(similar to 1996-2000 or 2023)*	2027	30%	5.0	3625	1019
	2028	30%	9.5	3655	1085
	2029	10%	12.0	3656	1145
	2030	0%	11.0	3665	1185
	2031	0%	11.0	3670	1205

1. Assumes a consistent level of water availability from year to year, and does not account for likely variations. Total water availability shown in parentheses is water available in the upper basin prior to its use, diversion, evaporation. The amount available for inflow to Lake Powell is considerably less, and is the remainder after Upper Basin water use, diversions, or evaporation is considered.
2. Follows protocols established in this plan.
3. Assumes that 500,000 AF is released to Lake Powell from upper basin reservoirs beyond typical release patterns in 4 of the 5 years.

What if the Bureau, States and Other Stakeholders Don't Take Meaningful Steps Now?

In June 2022, the Bureau called on the seven states to find a way to reduce their collective water use by 2-4 maf, and gave them 60 days to come up with a plan. This was a sensible and necessary first step to take. We are now in the middle of that process. But what is needed in the long-term is a fundamental rethinking of the underpinnings of the Law of the River, where all parties work collectively to find a long-term solution that is not perfect, may be uncomfortable for some, disappointing for others, but in the end is the most actionable path to long-term sustainably.

This plan represents one possible solution to meeting this challenge. The baseline assumptions could be altered, the percentages tweaked, the thresholds modified, but the overall concept and the key principles underlying that concept are sound. It must think beyond just limiting actions to what the Bureau can accomplish on its own, and must account for all affect agencies and parties. In order to be effective in the long-term, water use reductions must apply fairly and equitably to all seven states, not just those in the lower basin.

Deferring immediate and decisive action along the lines described in this plan, changing the existing legal framework and collective mindset, would be a huge mistake and a reckless gamble betting against our own future.

Letter #: 223

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 586: Lily Sundell

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

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.

Lake Powell is very important to me and my family, we have gone every year since my dad was a kid and so many of my favorite memories were made at Powell. If the water is drained to a level that makes going out on houseboats not possible we would be devastated. Powell has a special place in mine and so many others hearts and watching the water levels drop is very sad. So sustaining water levels to the lake would mean everything to so many people.

Sincerely,
Lily Sundell

Letter #: 284

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 603: Drew Hunt

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I would like to voice my concern and ask the bureau to reconsider releasing so much water. It seems wise to store more water especially where very recently we've had record lows on the lake. Ever since I was a kid, a lake power with more water has been more of a novelty. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Drew Hunt

Letter #: 289

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 194: Courtney and Scott Rasband

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

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.

Our family of 6 started boating in 2019 at the suggestion of a friend who knew we wanted more quality family time. We quickly fell in love with baiting and found that it does offer so much togetherness as a family. We have been boating in Lake Powell every year since. It has become a place of special memories for us. We are worried that we introduced our children to this incredible place only to have it disappear. We would be so sad if Lake Powell ever didn't exist and our kids told their children that there used to be a beautiful lake here, but it is gone now.

Please make policies that will preserve lake recreation now and for future generations.

Sincerely,
Courtney and Scott Rasband

Letter #: 298

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 220: Alexis McAllister

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

This year was the first time I've been back to Lake Powell for almost 2 years! It was amazing to experience water levels of close to what I remember for years previous to 2020-2022.

This lake has such a special place in my heart, and in my family's traditions. Please consider retaining more water in Lake Powell!

Sincerely,
Alexis McAllister

Letter #: 364

Date Received: 7/26/2023

Sender Names: 243: Dan Mateer

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Please drain lake powell and decommission glen canyon dam. The waste of tax payer dollars is egregious and will become a deepening burden. Propping up this failing storage unit is only going to become a money sink for the BOR, and funds can be much better directed towards other projects. It is truly just a matter of time before glen canyon dam needs to be removed. It's the least the BOR can do to think about the generations ahead, and how to set them up for success, instead of leaving them with a disaster of a reclamation project. Let the desert west be the desert west.

Sincerely,
Dan Mateer

Letter #: 397

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 572: Bri Rhoton

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

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.

My family of now 3 generations have grown up on this lake. I started going every year at 6 weeks old and have gone every year sense. My family had been quite concerned with the amount of water being taken from this beautiful lake. Please allow us to use it for what I believe it was made for. Don’t take all the memories people will make on this lake. It’s important that we work together to create a solution but continuing to take this much out will not work in the long run.

Sincerely,
Bri Rhoton

Letter #: 453

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 50: Stan Moore

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I grew up waterskiing and I want my kids to enjoy the beauty and fun of recreation on Lake Powell. I think that the minimum target elevation for Lake Powell should be at least 3588. The BOR should prioritize recreation as directed by Congress in the creation of the Glen Canyon National Recreation area. I also support the comments and proposal from the Blue Ribbon Coalition.

Sincerely,
Stan Moore

Letter #: 458

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 74: Jennifer Barnes

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

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. Lake Powell has been a Huge part of our lives since little and a huge part of our kids lives. It is not only our favorite place in the entire world, but so many people say the same thing. It is so many peoples “happy” place and we want to keep LAKE POWELL!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Barnes

Letter #: 459

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 630: Rachel Wood

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I have grown up going to Lake Powell for 40 years!! This includes ountless experiences and the most connecting core memories with hundreds of loved ones throughout the years. I now take my kids and family there and this is our most memorable family trip every year. We take several families with us each year. The ripple affect of this magical place is huge. There is no place on earth like it. When this lake is empty, it is worthless to people, it must be filled with water to continue these remarkable traditions. Nobody will visit unless there is water. It is way too hot. There is no reason why Lake Powell should not be full, unless there's alternative motives such as money and power. Millions of people flock to Powell each year and you will hear from all of us. It's that important and memorable. Make the right choice!

Sincerely,
Rachel Wood

Letter #: 463

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 654: Sage Black

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

To whom it may concern, i was born and raised in Las Vegas NV; and going to lake mead was a big part of my childhood. I have since moved to Utah; and I have NOT been to lake Powell. But despite all that, regardless of my own experiences, draining lake Powell for lake mead and the rest is no longer sustainable. Lake mead is at record lows because we've ALL had FAR more years of drought than not, AS WELL AS very poor water management laws in Nevada and California. Nevada politicians are not concerned with long term water issues at all and we actually moved away because life in Las Vegas specifically cannot continue in the way that it is with the limited water supply. Lake Powell isn't the solution. It's a bandaid on a bullethole. And it's creating monumentally more problems than it is solutions. The water laws in Nevada and California need to be completely rewritten. And lake Powell needs to be preserved. Lake mead is NOT our concern. Lake Powell is. And they've had 20 years to prove they are not responsible with the water they've been given. Again, I'm someone who, according to my own experiences, should feel the total opposite about lake mead. But it doesn't take a lot of common sense to figure out that the current water situation isn't working. And robbing Peter to give to Paul isn't a solution. Rewrite the water laws. Preserve lake Powell.

Sincerely,
Sage Black

Letter #: 472

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 168: Tyler Rex

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

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.

For me lake Powell is more then just a lake it's been the place where I get to see friends and family that I rarely get to see. Every year my family has a family reunion at lake Powell my uncle has a houseboat and we a few wake boats that we bring down but in recent years with the drought it's been hard to go because of the worries of hitting a rock or not being able to reach some of the beautiful areas we love. The record lows we've had in past years have greatly affected my family reunion trips we've had to find different places to park our houseboat and we are always on edge for the worry of hitting a rock with our wake boats and potentially sinking. In fact a few years ago we had someone hit a rock and completely destroy one of our wakeboats which almost completely ruined the trip and it wasn't the drivers fault you couldn't even see the rock under the water until you were right above it. I hope that we can hold more water in lake Powell so that my family and family's like ours can continue our traditions of visiting this magnificent place called lake Powell. I urge the bureau of reclamation to consider the recreation impacts of releasing so much water. I hope that you find a way to save our lake because it is practically home to a lot of family's including mine!

Sincerely,
Tyler Rex

Letter #: 477

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 91: Brad Haroldsen

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I say simply compare water conservation numbers. Utah when asked to conserve water will gladly do so during a drought and our golf courses go yellow and most everyone's lawns dry up. However Californians and Nevada people are not the same they key wasting water in even hotter temperatures kind you water that they never see unless it's coming out of there sprinklers. They don't come to lake Powell they don't pay taxes in our state why should they get any of the water we conserve. It's flawed we sacrifice to have great reservoirs and they steal our hard work. Imagine if Utahns decided to keep our courses and lawns always green then there would be no reservoirs they'd dry up as it is they are hanging by a thread. Use the billions of gallons of treated grey water that gets pumped into the ocean so what if it was grey water it's watering a lawn and it was treated don't waste it

Sincerely,
Brad Haroldsen

Letter #: 494

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 447: Matthew Riddle

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I
Lake Powell, a majestic reservoir straddling the borders of Arizona and Utah, has long been a cherished destination for outdoor enthusiasts, offering a diverse range of recreational opportunities, including boating, fishing, hiking, and camping. However, the lake's water levels have been steadily declining due to various factors, including droughts and increased demand for water in the region. In order to maintain the vitality of Lake Powell's recreational aspects and preserve its ecological balance, it is crucial to implement measures that reduce water outtake from the reservoir.

Environmental Sustainability:
Reducing water outtake from Lake Powell is essential to protect the ecological health of the lake and its surrounding environment. As water levels decline, critical habitats for various wildlife species are threatened, leading to potential disruptions in the delicate ecosystems that thrive in and around the lake. By preserving higher water levels, we can ensure the survival of native flora and fauna, safeguarding biodiversity for future generations.
Economic Benefits:
The recreational aspects of Lake Powell play a significant role in supporting local economies through tourism and related industries. A vast array of businesses, including hotels, restaurants, marinas, and outdoor equipment rentals, rely on the influx of visitors drawn to the lake's recreational opportunities. Higher water levels sustain these enterprises and provide job opportunities for residents in the region, bolstering economic growth and prosperity.

Enhanced Recreational Experiences:
Maintaining higher water levels in Lake Powell translates to an enhanced recreational experience for visitors. Boaters, kayakers, and water enthusiasts, in general, benefit from a larger and more navigable lake, offering diverse opportunities for exploration and adventure. Access to secluded coves, sandy beaches, and hidden gems becomes possible, enriching the overall experience and attracting even more tourists to the area.
Cultural and Historical Significance:
Lake Powell holds immense cultural and historical significance, with numerous Native American sites and artifacts submerged beneath its waters. By ensuring higher water levels, we can protect these sacred locations and preserve the tangible connections to the past for indigenous communities and researchers alike. Additionally, maintaining a healthy lake helps retain the stories and memories of generations who have lived near and interacted with the reservoir.

Water Resource Management:
Adopting measures to reduce water outtake from Lake Powell is vital for better water resource management in the region. As climate change and population growth continue to strain water supplies, responsible stewardship of water reservoirs becomes imperative. By managing water levels more effectively, we can ensure a sustainable water supply for both human needs and ecological balance, mitigating the risk of severe

water shortages during drought periods.

Preserving Lake Powell's recreational opportunities through higher water levels is not only crucial for the region's economy but also for the environment, cultural heritage, and water resource management. Reducing water outtake from the reservoir is a proactive step in securing the future of this iconic landmark and safeguarding the livelihoods of those dependent on its thriving recreational aspects. By working together to strike a balance between human needs and ecological sustainability, we can ensure that Lake Powell remains a cherished destination for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Matthew Riddle

Letter #: 514

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 93: Tyler Davis

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to consider updating the water release rules so that we can keep Lake Powell and Lake Mead as full as possible.
Both lakes have been my family's go to destination spot every year for family vacations. The lakes mean so much to me and my family and I want to make sure they are around and as full as possible for my future family to make just as many memories on.

Sincerely,
Tyler Davis

Letter #: 528

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 362: Colton Roberts

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

My small town of hanksville depends on lake traffic and tourism that comes with having this lake at a high capacity for recreational use. allowing states that don't use their own resources to collect water hurts us and so many others please something has to be done. Like holding states like California accountable for relying on us to support them and not doing anything to catch their own runoff. Thank you

Sincerely,
Colton Roberts

Letter #: 556

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 650: Jared Hardy

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Stopping wasting our precious water at lake Powell. We finally get an amazing snow year, yet we are releasing record amounts of water.

Lake Powell is an incredible place that me and my family have enjoyed for the past 30 years. It is my favorite place on the planet. I have some of my fondest memories there, and love making new memories every year. My kids are 8, 6, and 4, and I love creating new memories with them, and seeing the lake through their eyes.

The last few years have been very bleak to the say the least with how low the water levels have been.

Please, please, please stop wasting so much water. Let's fill the reservoir and get the lake back up to a healthy water level!!

Sincerely,
Jared Hardy

Letter #: 580

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 377: Bridger Guiles

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

The importance of Lake Powell is a lot more than just a place to launch an expensive boat and go ride the lake and stay on nice houseboats. This is a place that is referred to as paradise, a happy place, a saving grace, and even heaven on earth. This place for myself has done wonders for my life simply because of the amazing memories I make with my friends and family. I have been an avid visitor of Lake Powell for countless years. The draining of this Lake would lead to countless memories and family trips being absolutely shattered. Being able to visit this lake has provided my life with more happiness than any other place on earth. It is a spiritually happy place and can bring so much peace to everyone who attends the lake. Draining the lake will strip the happiness of taking out the boat for a family boat ride to see the gorgeous canyons and various rock formations we all know and love. Spending the weekend on a fishing trip with dad or taking out the houseboat and camping up the canyon grilling burgers and hot dogs. These are all memories people cherish and love. Like I stated powell has been in my family for years and I plan to keep it that way. There is no reason for this beautiful lake to be drained all because some “laws” made 20 years ago prevent to store any water. The rocks alone are absolutely beautiful but to be able to access canyons via boat ride is an extreme blessing we have to further our exploration through out the canyon. Countless people would be put out of work and all of the hard work they have provided to the lake will be cut short all because we think we think the water can be used in a better place. I will fight for Lake Powell and continue to disagree with laws made against Lake Powell and I will not stand for the draining of our beautiful lake to fill Lake Mead and for destroying family memories and many many more to come. FILL LAKE POWELL

Sincerely,
Bridger Guiles

Letter #: 587

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 600: Cynthia Sparks

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

STOP RELEASING WATER FROM LAKE POWELL. I GREW UP IN THIS LAKE. HAD A HOUSE BOAT FOR 10 YEARS ON THIS LAKE IN THE 90s. I CAN NO LONGER TAKE MY KIDS TO SEE ALL THE BEAUTIFUL CANYONS I SAW BECAUSE THERE IS NO WATER LEFT. YOU PEOPLE HAVE RUINED THIS LAKE.
IT IS DISGUSTING WHAT YOU ARE DOING. WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU WANT TO EMPTY THIS LAKE. GREEDY MUCH

JUST STOP. STOP WASTING ALL OF POWELLS WATER. STOP RUINING FAMILY TRIPS. STOP RUINING PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS THE RIGHT TO LET THEIR FAMILIES EXPERIENCE WHAT WE DID MANY YEARS AGO.

KEEP POWELL FULL. STOP WASTING AND RELEASING WATER NOW

Sincerely,
Cynthia Sparks

Letter #: 595

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 454: Brienne Poole

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

You guys are letting TOO MUCH water out of Powell! The Antelope Point Marina needs to be usable! The entire cities sustainability is based off of that marina running. The lake needs to be high enough for THAT marina, not just for Waheap. My grandpa is 94 and we have been going to Lake Powell as a family since the lake was built. My grandpa BUILT a boat and we used to camp. We eventually started staying at the Days Inn in Page. Our friends have invited us to stay on their houseboat. We've shopped at Walmart, been golfing, used the airport, attended religious gatherings, eaten at countless restaurants, etc. But since the lake has been too low for the Antelope Marina, we haven't been. The lake is TOO LOW for anyone to enjoy. You are killing that city and the people who reside in it. Please let us enjoy the lake that my family and I have loved for decades!!

Sincerely,
Brienne Poole

Letter #: 623

Date Received: 7/25/2023

Sender Names: 170: Natalie Hancock

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to consider how much water they require to be released from Lake Powell to Lake Mead in the future. This should not be tied to a certain amount of water inflow to Lake Powell. While recreation on Lake Powell does play a part that is not the only reason. Lake Powell was created as a water source for the Colorado River Basin. In the last few years with the decrease in water level without the existence of Lake Powell, then Lake Mead would not have any water. It is important to keep Lake Powell at a higher level to ensure a similar instance does not happen in the future when a decrease of precipitation occurs. The water inflow and water output should become equal to ensure Lake Powell remains the water reservoir it was meant to be.

Sincerely,
Natalie Hancock

Letter #: 651

Date Received: 7/24/2023

Sender Names: 554: Steve Davis

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: BOR Colorado River Project

Good Day,

Just for the record, I am an resident of the state of Arizona and have attended some classes in my community about the water situation in Arizona and the Southwest. That is the limit of my expertise. The average person probably doesn't know much more than the fact there is a problem in the Southwest with water. Sorry to say, but the info provided in the webinar did very little to educate them and give them some basis for commenting on the situation. It needed to provide them with some facts and figures of how dire this situation is about to become with the Colorado River. Sorry to be critical, but the information needs to be there. I am extremely concerned about how much work you must accomplish in the short time frame involved. It is going to be a monumental challenge and I wish you the best in accomplishing your goal as the survival of the Southwestern United States and its way of life depends on your work.

My first comment would be that all your work should be completed with the thought of maintaining the current lifestyle of those who choose to live in the 7 states involved in this project. All 7 states must be involved in this new agreement, the 3 main Lower Basin states cannot conserve the amount of water we need to conserve and maintain that lifestyle. And when I speak of lifestyle, I address not only providing water to the residents, but also to agriculture. We all have to eat and this part of the country grows a large amount of the winter vegetables and fruit we all love throughout the country. In the same light, agriculture needs to come to the table since they use approximately 75% of the water consumed from the Colorado River. Your new program cannot continue to pay them to just fallow fields to save water. They need to be required to take the money they receive to fallow fields and reinvest a large percentage of that money into efficient irrigation methods to continue to grow the same amount if not more food than they do now. Only so much water can be saved through conservation, we must improve the usage of the water we have available.

California does not want to let go of their "senior" water rights from the original 1922 Colorado River Compact, but they are going to have to do so. They need to step up to the table big time and participate in a reduction of their use. Granted, the majority of their usage is in the Imperial Valley for agriculture, but we need to look at growing different crops with different methods of more efficient irrigation. Arizona is currently foregoing large amounts of water from the River and I imagine will have to continue to do so in the future. Nevada is probably the state that is most active in water use reduction. All 7 states need to look at what Nevada has done and implement the same programs in their states. The reductions must come from all the states involved. The BOR asked the 7 states to come up with a plan to reduce consumption by 3maf per year. After missing the first 2 deadlines, the lower basin states came up with a plan to save 1 maf in 3 years. If the states can't do the job, the BOR is going to have to get tough and make the hard decisions necessary to keep the river alive.

The large drop off in the water stored in the lakes from 2000 to 2005 occurred because everyone wanted to continue to receive their share of the water from all the compacts, laws of the river etc etc and the BOR continued to draw down the lakes until we went, "Houston, we have a problem." Fixing the problem is a monumental task as every state is going to want to continue to receive their fair share. It can't happen. We got lucky with the winter of 2022 -23. The Rockies received significant snowpack resulting in a good runoff to help refill the reservoirs to some extent. We can't count on that happening again. With the current climate changes going on, the hydrology changes of the ground and a year or two of low snow pack, we could be right

back to threatening dead pool levels again.

Runoff is currently down to about 12.5 maf. With the continuing climate change this number is only going to continue to drop. It was mentioned in the webinar that one goal was to provide each state with an amount of water they could count upon each year to avoid fluctuations. That is an almost impossible number to provide them due to the variations in the snow pack and run off. High snow pack does not always result in high runoff especially after several dry years. I would have two suggestions on trying to achieve that goal. The first being, make a determination of a level that you are fairly certain the river can provide. 10 maf, 8 maf? Divide that up between the states based on the percentage they currently use. That would be a guaranteed amount every year. If the snow pack provided more runoff, the states would get more water. A second option would be that the states get a percentage of the run off. This would be more difficult because you don't know the amount of water you can provide until maybe June/July. Whatever method you choose during this project, the states will figure out how to get by on whatever they get. Maybe they would have to cut back on growth, or stop selling water to foreign entities at ridiculously cheap rates so they can grow alfalfa to send back to their home countries because they don't have the water to do it. Your job needs to be to protect the river, provide the guidance to the states and let the states figure out how to make it work.

A large part of the difficulty here is that many states are demanding their share of the water they are entitled to from the 1922 Colorado River Compact. That was 101 years ago. Times have changed. That compact has to be thrown out in its entirety and we start over from scratch with today's accurate data to determine which state gets what amount. I believe the agreement expires at the end of this year (I could be wrong), once it expires, it doesn't apply any longer and we start over from scratch. If you are able to pound out an agreement that everyone is unhappy with, yes unhappy as nobody is going to be happy, it has to be reviewed and adapted every 5 years, 10 years at the most. It has to be maintained and adjusted as the situation dictates. This situation is not going to get better, it will only continue to worsen. We can't look at this every 100 years as I can pretty much guarantee you that we won't be here in our current lifestyle in 100 years if we were to make that the review date.

I also feel that the BOR has to look at investigating the practicality and possibility the movement of water between states. Controversial yes, cheap, of course not. But if we are going to continue to allow the population to continue to grow in the 7 Basin States, we have to find more water. In theory, we could move water from the lower Mississippi River to Lake Powell. In theory, we could move water from the Great Lakes (again, major changes in laws and compacts regarding the Great Lakes). How about from the Columbia River down to Lake Mead. Jason Robison in his book Cornerstone at the Confluence even suggested pulling water down from Canada to the Southwest, now there is a bureaucratic nightmare in today world. We move oil around this country like its water, lets move water around this country like its water. In WWII, the US built an oil pipeline from Louisiana to Virginia in 1 1/2 years to provide fuel for the war effort. A different day and time, yes, (no EPA rules) but it can be done. We have an interstate highway system, use those right of ways to build the pipelines. Get creative. Nobody wants to give up what they have, but we better start doing something before its too late.

As I said in the beginning, you have a monumental task ahead of you and I wish all of you the best of luck with this task. Thanks for your time.

Steve Davis

From:	Squarespace
To:	CR_POST2026_EIS
Subject:	Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2
Date:	Sunday, August 6, 2023 3:09:05 PM

Sent via form submission from *Virtual Public Engagement*

Name: Neil Fischnaller

Email:

Organization:

Opt-in: Opt-in

Comment: Post 2026 operations should begin with a clean slate - all previous allocations, commitments, and guidance should be re-evaluated.
A high priority should be placed upon increasing the water level in the two reservoirs. We should strive to reach 50% capacity by 2028, and reach 60% capacity by 2038. The upper basin needs to make limited conservation efforts with a target to reduce water use by 10% by 2036. The tribal areas should have a similar limited target to reduce their consumption. The lower basin needs to make the greater cuts to achieve stability in the system.
For the lower basin, the prioritization of use of the water needs to be re-allocated to account for the increase in population in Nevada, and Arizona. Much of this population growth has come from California, so that state should not receive priority. Efforts to assure recycling of domestic water similar those in place in Nevada should require a commitment of 40% plus of all residential & commercial water use be recycled by 2036. The historical prioritization of water allocated to agriculture needs to be re-evaluated. Significant conservation targets need to be put in place to reduce agricultural use by as much as 30% or more in the long term. Agriculture can move to crops which require less water, but this requires some lead time, so the targets put into place should graduate from an initial 10% reduction increasing to 20% or greater by 2034, and 30% by 2041. Arizona & California should not be growing crops such alfalfa, and almonds which require significant use of water. Production of many of these crops could be re-located to areas of Texas or other areas which receive much more natural rainfall. Moving these agricultural areas to water saving crops such as Agave will assure a growing industry.
Thanks for your consideration.

Letter #: 799

Date Received: 8/6/2023

Sender Names: 2314: Janet

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Colorado River EIS

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to urge you to include in the scope of the EIS an analysis of impacts, both positive and negative, for an alternative which includes the elimination or significant reduction (by any of a number of means, including bypass) of water retention behind the Glen Canyon dam. It is crucial that the alternatives included in the EIS consider making Lake Mead the primary reservoir from which water can be allocated to both the upper and lower states. A realistic analysis of recreation impacts in the EIS also needs to go beyond the obvious implications to a 50 year pattern of power boating as the primary recreation on the reservoir and include that more historic, and appropriate future, uses such as hiking and floating in the river and its side canyons.

The analysis of impacts resulting from the elimination of impoundments in Glen Canyon and its side canyons must consider gains to both archaeological and historic indigenous use patterns. And, of course, the EIS needs to fully address the vast array of ecosystem implications to the restoration of once inundated reaches.

I hope that policy makers will avail themselves of this crisis and opportunity to rectify past errors and take a long term, pro-active approach to realistic water and resource management rather than try to prop up a system that makes no sense in today's (or yesterday's…) world.

Sincerely,
Janet Welch. R.S.

Letter #: 807

Date Received: 8/6/2023

Sender Names: 6500: TW Kreuser

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Lake Powell.....retain the side canyons.

Dear Sirs…..In planning for the future of the Colorado River , please consider FILLING LAKE MEAD FIRST…when it is brim full then additional waters can be again stored in Lake Powell and upper river reservoirs with Powell being the last lake to retain water. The reasoning is that some of America's wildest and most scenic canyons have again emerged from Lake Powell as it drops its lake level during the current and seamingly continueing drought. Seems by filling Lake Mead first we can again and still begin to enjoy the wilderness of these once drowned canyons all over again. If and when additional rains fall and ALL other reservoirs are filled …then and only then should water again be allowed to be impounded by Lake Powell. I see this policy as to no threat to the continued use of Colorado River water and still with a side benefit of being able to once again roam the remote hidden side canyons of Glen Canyon.
Sincerely Submitted, Tom Kreuser

Letter #: 832

Date Received: 8/6/2023

Sender Names: 4453: Gary Wockner

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: USBR: It's time to Fix the Colorado River!

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 create adaptation to, climate change that will further decrease flows in the future.

Long-term, equitable, sustainable solutions should include:

1. Decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam and storing the water in Lake Mead.
2. Stopping all proposed new dams, diversions and pipelines.
3. Enacting conservation programs to save Lake Mead.
4. Letting 10% of the river's total water flow into and through its Delta in Mexico to sequester carbon in Delta wetlands and mangroves.
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,
Sincerely,

Gary Wockner

Letter #: 835

Date Received: 8/6/2023

Sender Names: 5718: CANDI WARNING

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glen Canyon Dam EIS

I am writing this to encourage you to go ahead and plan on bypassing Glen Canyon dam in order to fill Lake Mead. The beautiful canyons, new riparian system, and I hope in time the creation of a new National Park means it is now time to correct the mistake made in building the dam in the first place.
I sincerely hope my grandson's and their children will be able to enjoy this wondrous place for years to come.

Thank you,
Jeff Warning

Letter #: 1113

Date Received: 8/4/2023

Sender Names: 12128: Curtsi Glines

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I believe that lake powell and lake mead should retain as much of tbe water as is possible. Only realease what is absolutely needed. We need to keep as much as we can so when we do run in to dry years, we have some "savings in the bank". I think every lake should opperate this way. These past few years should have spoken loud enough that we as a society should take note and save what we can and use it sparingly. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Curtsi Glines

Letter #: 1215

Date Received: 8/4/2023

Sender Names: 1468: Paula Narbutovskih

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

A vast number of wildlife species are in danger of becoming extinct by the end of the century. We humans are leaving nothing upon which wild creatures can survive. Humans are not in danger of becoming extinct except that when most or all of our wildlife is gone, we will go, too. Give wildlife the priority when deciding how the water from the Colorado River will be allotted.

Sincerely,
Ms. Paula Narbutovskih

Letter #: 1323

Date Received: 8/4/2023

Sender Names: 5002: Harry Newell

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Colorado River EIS

Hello,

As a frequent visitor to the US Southwest, I am well acquainted with the issues of managing Colorado water flows.

On a visit to Coyote Gulch in Utah and the stretch of the Escalante River into which it flows, I have seen the re-emerging natural environment upstream from the Glen Canyon dam and Lake Powell. Given that remarkable recovery, and the precarious state of reservoirs Powell and Mead, I believe this Environmental Impact Statement requires a holistic look at the river system, with new eyes that take nothing for granted, and which don't "see" sunk costs.

This new review should incorporate studies of options not previously considered, e.g. allowing Mead to fill to near full pool before retaining any of the river's flow behind the Glen Canyon Dam. Flooding the spectacular landscapes of Utah's Glen Canyon, while exposing both Mead and Powell to wasteful evaporation seems ill-considered in light of events unforeseen at the time of dam construction.

I hope the Bureau will be able to envision a better future than to retain the over-optimistic premises and failed execution of the present.

Harry Newell

Letter #: 1483

Date Received: 8/4/2023

Sender Names: 7348: Lynda Beltz

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Dear Sir/Madam-/

Please protect ALL who use the Colorado River, including flora and fauna and wildlife—not just humans.

Sincerely,
Dr Lynda Beltz

Letter #: 1829

Date Received: 8/3/2023

Sender Names: 9303: Jim Podesta

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: colorado river eis

Given climate change, an increasingly warmer and drier climate in the Southwest, combined with a growing population making more demands for water, I would think it more prudent and economical to realize that trying to continue operating both Lake Mead and Lake Powell is no longer practical. The better situation would be to store all the water in one reservoir Lake Mead thereby reducing loss due to evaporation. I realize this suggestion/solution will not be met warmly in Page, Arizona, but a changing climate requires changing conditions. On the positive side, returning Glen Canyon to its former appearance will lead to greater tourism and somewhat mitigate the economic downturn caused by the removal of Lake Powell.

Jim Podesta

Letter #: 2277

Date Received: 8/2/2023

Sender Names: 10083: james koeller

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: EIS

The emerging beauty in Glen Canyon must be taken into consideration when we choose where to store water. We need to prioritize water storage in Lake Mead-not Glen Canyon. We will probably never fill both reservoirs again, so let's fill Mead first. I favor at least analyzing the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam. Given the evaporation and seepage in Lake Powell, this will provide the most water for all the Colorado River's users.

Letter #: 2301

Date Received: 8/2/2023

Sender Names: 5888:

Emails: 5888: candnbagley@comcast.net

Organizations:

Subject: Post 2026 EIS Comment

The EIS needs to analyze the option of draining Lake Powell with what-ever mechanism, blow out or bypass the dam with a diversion tunnel.

All climate scientists predict that Climate Change will steadily worsen over the next 50 years. Lake Powell water levels are going to drop and never recover. Powell does not release water directly to any community but Page. The huge surface area (though shrinking) exposes so much water to sunlight and wind that evaporation is a major loss.

However, Lake Mead is the vicinity of canals/pipelines serving So. Calif. Nevada and Arizona. Mead volume is huge due to the depth, and it's area is smaller than Powell. Let Powell become a river to Mead, saving water.

Charles Bagley

Letter #: 2355

Date Received: 8/2/2023

Sender Names: 9300: Susan Westervelt

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

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, but 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.

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

Sincerely,
Ms Susan Westervelt

Letter #: 2361

Date Received: 8/2/2023

Sender Names: 3475: Gordon James

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Please make sure that habitat for birds and other wildlife remains protected.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Gordon James

Letter #: 2737

Date Received: 8/2/2023

Sender Names: 3719: Curtis Peacock

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Please consider ALL while deciding the future use of the Colorado River. This includes the birds and animals and their habitat as well as the people who depend on the river for water.

Take into account the native American people who also depend on the river. In the past they have been marginalized in deciding on the river use.

Sincerely,
Curtis Peacock

Letter #: 2875

Date Received: 8/2/2023

Sender Names: 5763: Sylvia Wilcox

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Please do all that you can to include protection and restoration to Colorado River Management. A heathy ecosystem along the river assures better water quality for all, birds, fish, plants, animals, AND humans who rely on the river.

Thank you.

Sylvia Wilcox

Letter #: 4470

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 10059: Carolyn Boatsman

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

I understand that the management of the Colorado River is up for review and decision. I urge you to place protection of the natural environment and all of the wild creatures and plants that depend upon it at the top of the list of priorities. Please invest in solutions to ensure habitat protection.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ms Carolyn Boatsman

Letter #: 5284

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 3891: Nancy Sekijima

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

My greatest concern for the future of the Colorado River is protecting and restoring habitat and ensuring long-term water availability for birds and wildlife that are dependent on that river, its tributaries and its riparian corridors.

Please plan for long-term support of wildlife in your decisions on future protection and management of Colorado River flows.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Nancy Sekijima

Letter #: 5579

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 5102: Anne Wallace

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

We simply cannot afford to lose what remains of our natural heritage.

Whatever needs humans have (and whatever desires they insist upon, like golf courses, green lawns in the desert, fountains in Vegas, swimming pools in every yard, etc), habitats and wildlife also have needs and they, unlike humans, cannot reverse human decisions and combat human greed. They lose and lose and lose and lose.

The time has come to give habitats, wildlife, and our natural and national heritage top priority.

We humans can do without green in naturally brown landscapes, long showers when we have to dam rivers to achieve them, swimming pools in our yards just because we can, and fountains with no purpose but an exaggerated display of privilege.

Thanks for seriously considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Ms. Anne Wallace

Letter #: 7989

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 8632: Paul West

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

I am writing in reference to Colorado River water management.

I support the planned efforts to manage the Colorado River reservoir levels and flows for the long-term.

As a critical component of the river system management, I urge the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure that wildlife habitats also have a secure water supply.

Areas of wildlife habitat in the Grand Canyon, the Lower Colorado River (Multi-Species Conservation Program), the Salton Sea and wetlands in the Colorado River Delta all need sustained water.

Sincerely,
Mr. Paul West

Letter #: 8242

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 9868: Edward and Beatrice Simpson

Emails: 9

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

We must protect the Colorado River. Most humans would say for the many people who use (often waste) the water. We say save it for the plants and animals, whole eco systems who depend on this mighty river.

The Bureau of Reclamation must ensure habitat for birds and other wildlife remains protected.

So many ignored the science and the dedicated people who warned of climate disaster, aka climate change. Few listened. Now others are waking up, is it too late we ask?

Birds must have certain habitats to continue their time on this beautiful planet. We are told 70% of all wildlife in the region visit the Colorado River's last wetlands and riparian forests. Wow! How important do you and others hold this information?

So many species, so much habitat has been lost. We who care can't afford to lose any more. We must not make extinct more plants and animals. We have done so much irreparable damage....please save this life-filled place.

Sincerely,
Mr. Edward and Beatrice Simpson

Letter #: 9865

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 6739: Jane Haspel

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

I am writing about the management plan for the Colorado River currently in development, and I'm urging you to take into consideration the importance of the river to the birds and wildlife that rely on it, including migrating and endangered species.

As a Texan, I understand all too well how important the Colorado River is and its impact on our land and people. I'm not sure Texas has been very good at prioritizing water management as it encourages population growth, so I absolutely 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.

However, habitats for birds and other wildlife that do not have secure water supplies must also be protected. Please find solutions that will not only benefit humans but also birds and wildlife.

Please especially 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.

Given how climate change will continue to contribute to the destabilization of the Colorado River system, I urge the Bureau 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.

We've already lost massive amounts of habitat, and we can't afford to lose more. The Colorado River is an essential resource, not just for humans but for birds and wildlife too, and they must also be considered as you plan for the future. Everyone benefits from a stable ecosystem that must include birds and wildlife.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jane Haspel

Sincerely,
Dr. Jane Haspel

Letter #: 10791

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 9487: Joseph Chlup

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Protecting the Colorado river is essential.

I support rigorous actions to reduce the amount of water used on the Colorado River. I urge the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure habitat for wildlife remains protected.

The federal government should look more broadly and intelligently at the impacts of proposed management actions. Create solutions for habitats that do not have a secure water supply.

I ask you consider bird habitats in the Grand Canyon, the Lower Colorado River, 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 Americas symbol, the Bald Eagle.

More than a third 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 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to understand how important environmental resources will change, invest in solutions, (including available federal funding), to help ensure these habitats continue to support the birds and other wildlife that depend on them.

We were assigned caretakers of Gods creation.The stakes are enormous for people, wildlife, and country.

Sincerely,
Mr Joseph Chlup

Letter #: 11148

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 11531: Linda Craig

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The future of the Colorado River is in your hands. As climate change makes water more and more valuable to people and the economy, it also becomes imperative that wildlife and ecosystems are considered. People can learn to conserve water; agriculture can learn to plant drought-tolerant crops....but wildlife is dependent on the riparian areas and wetlands and refuges that the Colorado River provides.

Please consider wildlife and wetland ecosystems in your deliberation and make these areas safe for future generations.

Sincerely,
Ms. Linda Craig

Letter #: 11608

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 10763: Louise Gray

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Are you going to ensure habitat for birds and other wildlife remains protected or let them go extinct?

You think you can exist without the Natural World?

You think you can live without trees, bees, birds, Etc?

Fact is without Wildlife, Trees, Etc. we don't stand a chance of survival!

Sincerely,
Ms. Louise Gray

Letter #: 11809

Date Received: 8/1/2023

Sender Names: 4968: Ken Kurtz

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The Colorado River is precious to our nation and vital for our economy. Let's safeguard it for future generations.

To protect the river's reservoir levels and flows, I support reducing water usage rigorously. But, please, let's also make sure the habitat for birds and other wildlife remains safe.

The federal government must carefully examine proposed management actions and find solutions for habitats without a secure water supply.

Consider the Grand Canyon, the Lower Colorado River, the Salton Sea, and wetlands in the Colorado River Delta. They all need sustained water to protect unique bird species like the Bald Eagle, Yellow Warbler, and California Condor.

Around 70% of the region's wildlife rely on the river's wetlands and forests during their life cycles, including 400 bird species along the Lower Colorado River.

With climate change impacting the river, we must plan for changes in environmental resources. Let's invest in solutions, using available federal funding, to support the birds and other wildlife that depend on these habitats.

We've already lost so much habitat over the decades; we can't afford to lose more. The stakes are huge—for people, for birds, and for our entire country. Let's act with care and responsibility to preserve this treasure.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ken Kurtz

Post- 2026 Colorado River Guidelines

July 29, 2023 by: Curtis L. Cloud

It appears two Major items that must be addressed to get the Major Reservoirs on the Colorado under control. In addition there is other issue item can be corrected or adjusted by the Bureau administrative before Post- 2026 Guidelines go into effect.

First Major Item: Is the **Evaporation & Conveyance Losses** in the Colorado River, between Lake Mead & the Northern Boundary with Mexico. It is estimated the amount of losses is around 1.2 Million acre feet each year. Recommend that each State on the Lower Colorado River reduce there Consumptive Use, based on a percentage of their entitlement to be fair & equable. In addition Mexico is included in this activate using current Minutes to the 1944 Water Treaty. The Colorado River Compact of 1922 set forth each state's entitlement, along with the U.eS .Supreme Court 1963 AZ vs. CA. In 1928 the Boulder Canyon Act was authorized. This Actee made the Secretary of the Interior the Water Master of the Lower Colorado River. By having thisee authority Secretary should include these requirements into these Guidelines & make them a partee of the Colorado Rivet Compact.ee

However, if my recommendation to limit the CRIT Irrigation Project & the PVID Irrigation District division to only 1.4% of their Consumptive Use & discontinue giving Unmeasured return flow credits between Parker & Imperial Dams. According to the accounting reports none of the Unmeasured water makes it down to Imperial Dam. Based on the water division reduction additional 100,000 acre feet of water will show up at Imperial Dam. Therefore, 100,000 acre feet less will be needed at Imperial Dam. The Unmeasured water will equal an additional 100,000 acre feet. All together a total of 300,000 acre feet of water could be saved.

Second Major Item: Is the reduction of the average runoff of the Colorado River. In years of below average runoff & falling storage in Lake Powell & Lake Mead all the users in the Upper & Lower Basin States must reduce there Consumptive Use. How that issue is addressed will require equal reduction by each State based on the percentage of their entitlement. Or some other method of reduction must be worked out?

Other item that must be addressed by the Bureau of Reclamation:

The following item can be addressed by the Bureau administrative prior to 2026 if they see fit.

Water Losses & Credits given to the users of the All-American Canal? The Bureau said the one year the total canal lost some hundred thousand acre feet. The follow year it was over two hundred thousand acre feet. Then the next year it was over three hundred thousand acre feet. Based on the records of the Reservation Drain #4 & the Araz Drain #8, which collect a 60% of the 20 mile section (between Sta. 60+00 & Sta. 1117+00) the seepage water only produces some 2,500 acre feet per mile. There is something wrong with this picture. The section of the canal between the mouth of the Araz Drain and the Northern International Boundary (NIB) is a distance of 2.5 river miles. There is no measuring of seepage water within that section. Also, the Bureau does not show in the annual accounting report seepage losses for

the water delivered through the Pilot Knob Power Plant, the California Wasteway, or into the Brock Reservoir. That because no Irrigation District or State receives credit for that water.

The section of the Colorado River between Imperial Dam & Laguna Dam has many sources and the evaporation rate is around 20 to 30 percent. It appears that 60,000 acre feet per year of seepage & evaporation losses would more in line. Also the volume of water they show on the annual accounting report do not show up @ the NIB. However the Un-Measured Return flow has shown an increase of 150,000 to 200,000 acre feet since the completion of the Brock Reservoir in 2011.

Excess Water to Mexico: This issue was to be solved by the construction of the Brock Reservoir. This is an issue that falls in the lap of the Bureau. The Yuma office of the Bureau orders all the water for the lower Colorado River & Mexico. When they theoreticallyfill the 8,000 acre feet Brock Reservoir 15 times in one year & still delivers an average of 38,000 acre feet over the last 12 years, some adjustment is in order. The Post 2026 Guidelines must address this issue. That portions ordered by the AZ & CA users does not always match the total of Excess Water going to Mexico. With the falling elevation of water in Lake Mead & Lake Powell the on going orders must be held to a bare minimum. With the storage in Senator Wash & Brock Reservoirs & 3 days of travel time between Imperial & Parker Dams they should be able to manage the water more efficiently. If they run short, they will just have to live with it.

Recommend that the Brock Reservoir only store up to 3,000 AF during normal operations. Only fill the Brock Reservoir to capacity in an emergency. To address this issue a Document mandating all the Irrigation Districts that diverts water from the Colorado River below Parker Dam, be party to this agreement. The first provisions should limit each Irrigation District from increasing their diversion by more than 10% with in a 24hour period provided the water is available. Also each Irrigation District must be required to pay back the water they ordered & do not take delivery. Make each Irrigation District more responsible for the water they order.

Observation: By the Irrigation Districts not taking delivery of water they ordered, they are wasting water that also belongs to junior users.

Letter #: 12812

Date Received: 8/7/2023

Sender Names: 13070: Theo Gochnour

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glen Canyon Post 2026

Hello,

I am writing to express the need I see for the upcoming EIS to study the following scenarios:

1. The EIS should analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam. Climate change has led us to an unpredictable place with regards to water availability, as has been shown in the last few years. Lake Powell needs to have the flexibility and adaptability to respond to a potentially arid future. A full bypass could be necessary to preserve downstream ecosystems and economies, so it should be included in the EIS.

2. The EIS must acknowledge the extensive resources that have emerged in Glen Canyon. As the reservoir has dropped, significant amounts of riparian ecosystems and wildlife habitat have emerged, which provide immense value and health to the surrounding desert. This reality must be addressed in the EIS so that it can be effectively considered and not undone by future policy.

Thank you,

Theo Gochnour

Letter #: 12840

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 12980: Joana Zhang

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Hey, here's one of my favorite arguments I've read, from the 2007 California Condor FAQ about why we spent so much money on bringing them back from the brink.

In aggregate, the budget for the entire endangered species program since its inception would not be sufficient to pay for the construction of a single war plane. Is not a complete arsenal of the world's biotic diversity as important a defense for our future as airplanes?

And I know, I know that you can only do so much. That funding is absolutely still an issue and pushback from farmers and landowners makes your job so much harder than it should be. But I, and hundreds of thousands of people like me, and billions of birds and trillions of insects are depending on you. This year will be my first election, and I will vote for wildlife, for conservation, for common sense. Will you act for it?

Sincerely,
Joana Zhang

Letter #: 12844

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 14409: ikmarchini

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: EIS=2026 Colorado River

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to offer some points as you consider EIS-2026.... Colorado River.

I am of the firm opinion that Lake Mead should be filled first to near capacity
even if this results in a lower Lake Powell.

I hope you will also look at a full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam, it being superfluous and damaging to the environment and wildlife.

I am sure you also understand just how much has been buried underwater for
decades and now coming back into view - canyons, arches, a natural bridge. And of course that the Government would deliberately flood Native American archaeological sites is unthinkable.

I do hope you will take all of this into account as you study the Colorado River. It needs to be given back to the people and to Nature.

sincerely,

Kenneth Marchini

Letter #: 12954

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 14176: Lynn Norris

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The Lesser Prarie Chicken will no longer have the support of those responsible for its dire situation. Could someone at least do something about the Colorado River. It impacts humans as well. Not just what is in their wallets, but clean drinking water can be helpful sometimes. I feel like ignorance is spreading like COVID. Except nobody cares!

Sincerely,
Dr. Lynn Norris

Letter #: 13120

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 12796: Angelina Urias

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

I live along the Colorado River in Blythe California, it's in my backyard. In the past years I've seen many fires, man made and natural. I've seen wildlife such as birds, bears, and deer fleeing their homes due to such disasters. It makes me sick to my stomach and saddens me. I would love to help.

Sincerely,
Miss Angelina Urias

Letter #: 14516

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 14861: Cressida Wasserman

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The Colorado River is an amazing natural resource and driver of the U.S. economy. This is why it is critical to protect it for future generations.

I support more action to reduce the amount of water used on the Colorado River in order to protect reservoir levels and flows over the long-term, but urge the Bureau of Reclamation to also protect the habitats of birds and other wildlife.

The federal government needs to look more broadly and carefully at the impacts of proposed policies to ensure the habitats of birds that lack secure water supply. With this is mind, please take into consideration bird habitats in the Grand Canyon, Lower Colorado River (Multi-Species Conservation Program), the Salton Sea, and wetlands in the Colorado River Delta. These areas all need sustained water to protect iconic bird species such as the Bald Eagle, Yellow Warbler, and California Condor. 70% of all wildlife in the region visit the Colorado River's remaining wetlands and riparian forests at some point, including 400 bird species along the Lower Colorado River.

As you strive to find the best solutions, please identify the ways in which important environmental resources will change in future years and embrace solutions--including federal funding--to ensure that these important habitats will continue to support birds and other wildlife. At this point, in the face of increasing threats posed by climate change, it is vital to protect these habitats on which birds, other wildlife depend. With careful, thoughtful decision-making, you can do this.

Sincerely,
Cressida Wasserman

Letter #: 14571

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 13356: Pfeiffer, Wayne

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment regarding EIS for Colorado River Post-2026

Hi,

Please consider bypassing the Glen Canyon Dam and filling Lake Mead first.

1. This will reduce the evaporative water loss from Lake Powell and so will better conserve water in a future that is likely to see continued drought.

2. It will also restore access to many of the wonders of Glen Canyon that were flooded by the dam.

Thanks for your consideration.

Wayne Pfeiffer

Letter #: 14729

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 15377: Wallace Elton

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

As someone who has explored the Colorado River in many parts of its course over several decades, I am aware of its importance to communities throughout its basin and as a major driver of the U.S. economy. Protecting its many values for future generations is essential.

Although I certainly support actions to reduce the amount of water used along the Colorado River to protect reservoir levels and flows for the long-term, I also recognize the vital role the river plays in providing and sustaining critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. I urge the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure protection for such habitats into the future.

I believe that the federal government has a responsibility to take an encompassing view and careful review of the potential impacts of all proposed management actions and adopt solutions for habitats that do not have secure water sources.

In particular, please 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 bird species like the Bald Eagle, Yellow Warbler, and California Condor. Indeed, evidence shows that 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 just along the Lower Colorado River.

As ongoing and significant climate change destabilizes the Colorado River system, I urge the Bureau to identify how important environmental resources will be affected and to invest in solutions, including federal funding, to protect these habitats so they continue to support the birds and other wildlife that depend on them into the future.

As I am sure you realize, we have lost a massive amount of essential habitat over recent decades. Scientists believe we are at risk of losing many species in the near future globally. If we want most species to survive, we really cannot afford to lose any more habitat. The stakes are huge for communities, people, birds, and our country as we have known it. You have a key role to play.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Dr. Wallace Elton

Letter #: 15966

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 15766: Cheryl Stevenson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The Colorado must be protected. It is a vital resource and habitat and needs to last for a long time under very difficult circumstances.

Sincerely,
Ms. Cheryl Stevenson

Letter #: 16143

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 14860: Sue Ordway

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The Colorado River is not only a critical source of water for people and their livelihoods in Western states, but also a provider of essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. Hundreds of species of resident and migratory birds depend on this habitat.

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.

Future management proposals need to include the creation or preservation of secure areas of permanent water to maintain these habitats. Bird habitats in the Grand Canyon, the Lower Colorado River, the Salton Sea, and wetlands in the Colorado River Delta all need sustained water in order to protect birds and other wildlife. Research has shown that some 70% of all wildlife in the region visit the Colorado River's remaining wetlands and riparian forests during their life cycles.

Obviously, changes in water use in the West will have to be addressed as the climate changes. But I hope these changes will not come at the expense of birds and other wildlife.

Sincerely,
Ms. Sue Ordway

Letter #: 16552

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 16992: Susanna Miller

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

As a wildlife ecologist who saw the new restrictions include a fantasy number impossible to sustain, 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.

These creatures were here first, in non fantasy numbers, and deserve priority over human self service that pretends the Colorado has more water than it does.

Sincerely,
Ms. Susanna Miller

Letter #: 16668

Date Received: 8/13/2023

Sender Names: 16661: Tina

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Colorado River System

To whom is may concern:

Please develop an operational strategy for the Colorado River System that ensures that enough water ALWAYS remains in Lake Mead and Lake Powell to keep these reservoirs from ever coming close to dead pool. Keeping adequate water in Lake Mead and Lake Powell ensures that hydroelectric power will always be generated by Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam. Keeping these great reservoirs above dead pool ensures that water will be able to be delivered to communities and farmlands that so depend on this water. And keeping adequate water in Lake Mead and Lake Powell will allow for continued lake recreation on these two magnificent lakes. This benefits the health and well being of all those able to visit and enjoy these lakes and also has a tremendous impact on local economies that depend on this recreation for survival.

Thank you for allowing for public comment on this very important issue. Thank you for working diligently to develop an operational strategy for the Colorado River System that addresses the continued hydroelectric energy production, water delivery, and the financial and recreational opportunities that adequately a full Lake Mead and Lake Powell allow for.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tina Spotofora

Letter #: 16688

Date Received: 8/13/2023

Sender Names: 14111: Edward Timmons

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public Comment On BOR Colorado River Operational Strategies

Please develop an operational strategy for the Colorado River System that ensures that enough water ALWAYS remains in Lake Mead and Lake Powell to keep these reservoirs from ever coming close to dead pool. Keeping adequate water in Lake Mead and Lake Powell ensures that hydroelectric power will always be generated by Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam. Keeping these great reservoirs above dead pool ensures that water will be able to be delivered to communities and farmlands that so depend on this water. And keeping adequate water in Lake Mead and Lake Powell will allow for continued lake recreation on these two magnificent lakes. This benefits the health and well being of all those able to visit and enjoy these lakes and also has a tremendous impact on local economies that depend on this recreation for survival.

Thank you for allowing for public comment on this very important issue. Thank you for working diligently to develop an operational strategy for the Colorado River System that addresses the continued hydroelectric energy production, water delivery, and the financial and recreational opportunities that adequately full Lake Mead and Lake Powell allow for.

Warm Regards,

_____

Edward E. Timmons IV, M.S.E.I.

Letter #: 16741

Date Received: 8/13/2023

Sender Names: 16866: Iman Jaffrey

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Driving a boat through the mysterious and mesmerizing canyons of Lake Powell creates a place of timelessness and showcases the most beautiful parts of our shared American culture and history. It demonstrates how when Americans come together, we can create some of the most beautiful things the world has ever seen, and often intersecting and complimenting nature, as we hold it to be one of our most important virtues and heirlooms that we hope to pass down through generations. On my last trip to Lake Powell, I thought about my father and the time I have spent on the lake with him, and the fact that we will always have those moments of going through those beautiful canyons of Lake Powell together. That is where I hope to go back to visit him when he is gone, and that is where I hope my kids will go to visit me when I am gone. Please take care of what the American people have entrusted you with, and know that there are important things that we must save to keep our identity as Americans. Always United and always setting the trend for the rest of the world to follow. Fill Lake Powell, and save Lake Powell forever.

Sincerely,
Iman Jaffrey

Letter #: 16770

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 18502: Keegan Kuhn

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: post-2026 EIS

I realize this is the final hour of comments, but I wanted to voice my concern that the current management of the reservoir behind Glen Canyon Dam is an ineffective, wasteful and ecological nightmare.

I'm advocating for the removal of the dam or at very least utilizing complete dam bypasses to allow the Colorado to flow freely again. The ecological benefit to an unobstructed river through Glen Canyon would be tremendous and the sustainable recreational uses phenomenal.

Keegan Kuhn

Letter #: 16780

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 16632: Landon Sawaya

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Future of Glen Canyon

Hello,

I am writing as someone who is not only local to the Glen Canyon area, but who's livelihood depends on it. I work full-time as a backpacking Guide in the Grand Canyon and Escalante, and I have a deep personal connection to the entire place. I feel strongly that Glen Canyon Dam is an unnecessary feature in the structure of our society, and as aridification takes place it is increasingly clear that even more of a liability than ever.

For these reasons, I would like to see post-2026 management plan and EIS evaluate multiple alternatives to the current situation. These include:

1. Continuing regulated operation under a "Fill Mead First" strategy that priorities water storage downstream. This should include a policy to not fill Powell above 3550' elevation, in order to permit the continued recovery of the amazing natural and cultural resources of Glen Canyon.
2. Fully bypassing the dam
3. Removal of the dam

Thank you for your consideration,
-Landon Sawaya

Letter #: 16821

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 14523: Teal Lehto

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post 2026 Guidelines EIS Public Comment

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit the following for public comment for the Post 2026 Operational Guidelines EIS:

As a lifelong resident of the Colorado River Basin and as a young person looking to build a life, family and career here in the region, it is imperative to me that the post 2026 guidelines usher in an era of sustainable water use in the region. I am relying on the BOR's decision making to ensure that the members of my generation (and the generations to come after) have a secure water future. The post 2026 guidelines are a critical opportunity for the BOR and the 7 states within the basin to acknowledge the changing environmental realities of this region and address long standing inequities within the basin.

I would like the upcoming SEIS and the forthcoming operational guidelines to address the following concerns:

1. Acknowledge the possibility of Tribes within the basin utilizing the entirety of the water rights they are entitled to, regardless of current population or development on tribally owned land. Any plan moving forward needs to guarantee the ability for all federally recognized tribes within the basin to settle with the states for their water rights and to build the infrastructure in place to access them.

2. Require the Lower Basin to limit water use to match the annual hydrology of the river. If the Upper Basin can allocate to each state based upon a percentage of flows that are actually available that year then there is no reason the Lower Basin cannot follow suit.

3. Closely examine and address the existing impacts and potential future impacts of climate change on our water supply in the long term. It is well known that the region has gotten hotter and drier over the last century, and the Fourth National Climate Assessment indicates that our water resources could be diminishing even further in the next century. The post 2026 operational guidelines need to prioritize the kind of adaptability and flexibility that will be required to respond to our rapidly changing climate.

4. Consider the amount of water that is lost to evaporation and seepage, especially in the Lower Basin. It is well known that evaporation and seepage are responsible for approximately 1.5 million acre feet of water loss every year, this loss needs to be accounted for in the post 2026 operational guidelines.

5.Assess the feasibility of the 'Fill Mead First' model. Simply put, if there is not enough water to fill both Lake Powell and Lake Mead it makes more sense to fill Lake Mead first. This option may not be an immediate possibility but the BOR should put in a reasonable effort to assess its feasibility for the future.

Sincerely,
Teal Lehto (@WesternWaterGirl)

Letter #: 16827

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 18720: tom dodson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glen Canyon

fill Mead first
bypass Glen Canyon Dam
free up the canyon

Letter #: 16859

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 15386: Nathan French

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Protecting the West

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to share some information about the numerous benefits of protecting Glen Canyon and bypassing the Glen Canyon Dam. Glen Canyon is a natural treasure that has been impacted by the construction of the dam, and there are many reasons why it is important to protect this area.

One of the main benefits of protecting Glen Canyon and bypassing the dam is that it would help to maintain a reliable water supply for millions of people who depend on Lake Mead. The dam blocks 95% of the crucial sediment, preventing nutrient delivery and quickly deteriorating sediment levels within the Canyon. Bypassing the dam would allow water to flow more naturally through Glen Canyon Dam, helping to heal Grand Canyon ecosystems.

In addition, bypassing the dam would permanently lower Lake Powell, exposing many more portions of Glen Canyon that have been flooded under the reservoir and allowing their recovery. This would mean that the flow of the Colorado River through Glen Canyon would be somewhat restored to normal and the reservoir would dwindle to just a small pool of water, essentially disabling the purpose of water storage.

I hope this information has been helpful in understanding the importance of protecting Glen Canyon and bypassing the Glen Canyon Dam.

Sincerely, Nathan French

Letter #: 16860

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 18572: kathy dodson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: comment on post 2025 EIS (Colorado River, Lake Powell, Glenn Canyon Dam)

*I would like to comment on the post 2026 Please:

* Please analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam
* Please measure and account for the extensive resources that have emerged in Glen Canyon since climate change will be with us for many decades to come
*Please analyze a "Fill Mead First" model that will prioritize water storage in Lake Mead
* Please include a don't fill pasta 3,550 policy at Lake Powell

Sincerely

Kathryn Dodson

Letter #: 16897

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 12798: Corinna Camfield

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comments on Glen Canyon EIS

Hi,

I'd like to write in support of re-evaluating the purpose of lake powell. I'm a resident of Utah, and I'm very concerned about the long-term drought and future of water in the region.

I'd like to support:

*The analysis of a full bypass of glen canyon dam
*Evaluating the value of The numerous amazing environmental, and recreational resources in Glen Canyon
*Analyzing a "fill mead first" model to help reduce evaporation and allow the full use of one reservoir

Thank you
Corinna Camfield

Letter #: 16947

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 15332: Karen Tyler

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Lake Powell has dropped too low and having the current recommendations for the amount of water that needs to be released is silly.

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.

Sincerely,
Karen Tyler

Letter #: 17236

Date Received: 8/11/2023

Sender Names: 16186: Erin Peffley

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

To the Bureau of Land Management:

Our Colorado River is a national treasure. It is also a major driver of the U.S. economy. To protect it, and the human and wildlife habitats it provides, is essential.

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. As I have stated, it is necessary that the Bureau of Reclamation ensure that habitats for birds and other wildlife remains protected.

The federal government must take an extensive and careful look at the impacts of proposed management actions. It is especially important to create viable solutions for habitats that do not have a secure water supply at this time.

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. Each of these needs sustained water in order to protect beloved bird species such as the American Bald Eagle, the Yellow Warbler, and the California Condor. Seventy percent of the wildlife in the region visit the Colorado River's wetlands and riparian forests during their life cycles. This includes 400 different bird species along the Lower Colorado River.

Climate change has destabilized the Colorado River system. I urge the Bureau of Reclamation to first identify how important environmental resources will change, and then invest in solutions to protect and manage these resources. Federal funding is available to help ensure that these habitats continue to support the birds and other species of wildlife that depend on them.

Over decades, we've lost a staggering amount of wildlife and human habitat. We must not lose more. Our lives, our birds, and our varied wildlife depend on sustaining these natural living areas.

Thank you for considering us.

Sincerely,
Erin Peffley

Letter #: 17285

Date Received: 8/11/2023

Sender Names: 15318: Marshall Kinnison

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I support and think it imperative to fill lake powell to it's highest capacity. We should not aim for anything less than full pool at lake powell. We are currently in a 20+ year drought in the region! The purpose of resevoirs is to hold water for such occassions; working under the assumption that the drought will not last forever we should propose a plan that will fill our lake in years like 2022-23 where we experienced record snowfall and runoff. Instead, with the current situation we have record output from the dam! This is exactly the opposite of what we need. We need to hold on to the water that we get in record breaking years and conserve and minimize output of water in years when the snowpack runoff is low. Lake powell is a treasured water reserve that should be used by all, but we need to use it wisely! We cannot continue to take more water out of our reserves when input is low. We should foster a culture of accountability for the water that is coming out of the dam and account for all the water we send out to make sure it is used responsibly.

Sincerely,
Marshall Kinnison

Letter #: 17337

Date Received: 8/11/2023

Sender Names: 13431: Slade G Sheaffer

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 EIS: Restore Glen Canyon

Greetings,

It has come to my attention that the Bureau of Reclamation is accepting public comments for an Environmental Impact Statement for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for the Colorado River.

In the interest of one of our nation's greatest natural wonders, and in consideration of the ongoing and worsening western water crises, I'd like to make my thoughts known. I feel that the future of Glen Canyon is a future beyond Lake Powell, and a future where Glen Canyon is allowed to heal and return to its natural state.

Practically, this just makes sense. Despite this year's record precipitation, drought will return and Lake Powell levels will again begin to recede. Lake Powell as a water tank is highly inefficient--winding through hundreds of miles of Glen Canyon's sandstone, absurd amounts of water are lost through these porous walls. Meanwhile, Lake Mead downstream is also mostly empty. With current water overallocation, and no possibility of sustained higher precipitation in coming years, it is senseless to drown the natural wonders in Glen Canyon while a more efficient (and important) reservoir sits mostly empty a few hundred miles downstream. With this in mind, I feel the Bureau of Reclamation must consider the following as they prepare their post-2026 plan for the future of the Colorado River:

1. The EIS should analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam - the dam's usefulness for power has greatly decreased along with Lake Powell's water levels, and as the reservoir drops further, the dam has become a liability and a threat. Dropping below dead pool threatens any flow through the Grand Canyon and to Lake Mead--a very possible scenario that would threaten a major crises for southwestern cities and states. Bypassing the dam would eliminate the possibility of this catastrophe while allowing Glen Canyon to begin restoring itself.
2. The EIS should recognize the value of cultural and natural sites that have reemerged in Glen Canyon - with the dropping levels of Lake Powell, countless indigenous cultural sites and natural wonders that have been drowned under Lake Powell for decades have reappeared. The Bureau of Reclamation should recognize the value of restoring Glen Canyon, which has been called "America's lost national park" and a place equivalent or greater in grandeur to its downstream neighbor, the Grand Canyon, with perhaps even greater significance to local tribes. While Lake Powell has become a major hub for recreation, its elimination would not mean huge economic losses--Glen Canyon has the potential to become a national park with as much visitation as Lake Powell. Beyond the economics, and perhaps most importantly, Glen Canyon is one of our world's greatest natural wonders, which has been tragically been damaged by its decades-long inundation. The inherent value of allowing this place (and its vital ecosystems) to heal should be reason enough to bypass the dam.
3. The EIS should analyze a "Fill Mead First" model - until a longer-term solution of bypassing Glen Canyon Dam could be realized, storing water in Mead should be prioritized, filling that reservoir before needlessly drowning the natural wonders of Glen Canyon and its many tributaries. Not only is Mead the more important

reservoir, but it's the more efficient one. As mentioned above, Powell's sandstone walls make it a very leaky tank. A policy of "don't fill past 3,550 ft" should be implemented at Lake Powell, allowing the restoration of side canyons and their valuable ecosystems to continue.

While it may take years and several steps to achieve, given the reality of water in the West, and the continuing trends of drought and climate change, restoring Glen Canyon (thus bypassing Glen Canyon Dam) is the right thing to do. Glen Canyon Dam was a huge cost in the first place, even with the different realities of Colorado River water that existed in the 1950 and 60s--even many government officials have even acknowledged the mistake the constructing Glen Canyon was. Now, with less water available and more people relying on the Colorado River, spending more to attempt to preserve the impracticalities and liabilities of Glen Canyon Dam would be a huge mistake. Planning should start now for the transition and elimination of Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell. While water usage and climate change in the West are major crises, the possibility of the return of Glen Canyon is surely a silver lining to look forward to.

I thank you for reading my concerns, and look forward with hope to a smart, ecologically-appropriate plan for the future of the Colorado River and Glen Canyon.

Best Regards,
Slade Sheaffer, Architect and Public Lands Enthusiast

Letter #: 17405

Date Received: 8/11/2023

Sender Names: 15680: Joshua Haiges

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Lake Powell and Lake Mead: A Call for a Balanced Approach

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this message finds you well. I write to you today as a concerned citizen who values the rich assets of our country, particularly the grand reservoirs of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. These reservoirs are not just bodies of water, but pivotal elements of our ecosystem, economy, and the recreational activities that millions of Americans cherish.

With that in mind it is in my best interest to support the Path to 3588 plan developed by BlueRibbon Coalition that provides a way forward to meet this historic challenge we are currently facing.

Despite their significance, we have watched with growing concern as the water levels of these lakes have steadily declined over the years due to ongoing drought and climate change. The impact of this decline is being felt far beyond the lakes' shores, affecting a wide array of industries that depend on these water bodies, from tourism and recreation to hospitality and services.

Recreational activities on the lakes, such as boating, fishing, and water sports, contribute significantly to our economy. They attract tourists from around the globe, bolster local businesses, and provide employment opportunities for thousands. However, as the water levels drop, these activities are increasingly threatened, and so are the livelihoods depending on them.

Furthermore, the declining water levels also pose a threat to the natural beauty and biodiversity of these areas. The balance of our delicate ecosystems is being disrupted, and numerous species that call these water bodies home are at risk.

We understand the Bureau of Reclamation's role in managing these reservoirs, and we are aware of the immense challenges posed by the ongoing drought and the need for water conservation. However, we believe that there must be a balanced approach to this issue.

I kindly request that the Bureau of Reclamation consider strategies that will maintain reasonably higher water levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. This could include revised water management practices, more sustainable water usage policies, and increased investment in technologies and infrastructure that enhance water conservation and reduce wastage.

The goal is not only to preserve the recreational activities and the industries that depend on these lakes but to ensure the long-term sustainability of these precious natural resources. We believe that with a balanced and forward-thinking approach, we can tackle the current challenges and ensure that Lake Powell and Lake

Mead continue to be vibrant and vital parts of our nation's landscape.

We trust in the Bureau's commitment to sustainable water management and the preservation of our country's natural resources. We hope to see action taken that will safeguard the future of these lakes, the industries they support, and the communities that love and depend on them.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Best regards,

Josh Haiges

Sincerely,
Joshua Haiges

Letter #: 17504

Date Received: 8/11/2023

Sender Names: 15235: Amy Lehner

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Dear Good People Leading,
I know there is hope - as i have seen results from Washington with the Clean Water Act and our precious Florida waters. Please put your powers to this most noble endeavor - and ask for help from above - for if you need more resources ask for them - I believe that they will stand up, sign off, on ALL efforts and allocations to recommend and support the Bureau of Reclamation relative to the research and continuing efforts and wisdom of the Audubon Society regarding small creatures in the big picture of the Colorado River. We ask, knowing that you too will ask, for the funding and support you need to do this right. May you thrive in the blessing and science of “the Miracle of Water” a good book, good people. Thank You. And Godspeed.

Sincerely,
Amy Lehner

Letter #: 17606

Date Received: 8/11/2023

Sender Names: 15618: Brianne Brode

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Being Navajo and seeing the good this lake does for not only my people, but thousands of others is something I will fight for. I support this movement and I hoping we can save lake powell. It's too important and sacred to us Navajos to potentially lose.

Sincerely,
Brianne Brode

Letter #: 17717

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 16664: Kyle Stapish

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Lake Powell (bullfrog) is literally my home town it's where I graduated school. It's where I grew up. It one of my favorite places on earth and I want to show it to my kids someday and I want everyone else to experience it. Don't kill powell

Sincerely,
Kyle Stapish

Letter #: 17725

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 14845: Jake Asay

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I am aware that Lake Powell has had a significant amount of water inflow this year due to record snow storms. However, there is no need at all to drain as much as you are draining now. Lake Powell was at a record low of water last year and now we finally have it to levels that are enjoyable but with as much water as is being let out, it will drop again very quickly.
There is much history behind Powell and the memories it has with many people who all agree that it would be better to have higher levels. Please consider allowing the outflow to be restricted to preserve our lake Powell.

Sincerely,
Jake Asay

Letter #: 17780

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 17160: Lori Rumpf

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

I have been an animal and environmental advocate for decades and I'm writing regarding protection of the Colorado River. The Colorado River is a national treasure and a major driver of our economy. Protecting it for future generations is essential.

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

The federal government must 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 such as the Bald Eagle, Yellow Warbler, and California Condor. In fact, 70 percent of wildlife in the region visit the Colorado River’s remaining wetlands and riparian forests during their life cycles, including 400 different bird species.

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

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

Sincerely,
Lori Rumpf

Letter #: 17835

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 494: Justin Piacitelli

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I'm 46 years old and my best memories are being on Lake Powell with my family. It's my 8 kids favorite vacation. I've come to this lake every year for 35 summers. Please do all that you can to make sure this lake is around for future generations!

Sincerely,
Justin Piacitelli

Letter #: 17992

Date Received: 8/10/2023

Sender Names: 13729: Scott Challis

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I have lived in the west my entire life. We often have boom and bust water years. It's common sense that in years of large snowpack and runoff, we should fill our reservoirs. We need common sense water management not complicated and mandatory water release amount. The winter of 2023 has been a record year for water, so we should be saving as much as possible in our reservoirs for potential drought years to come. Fill lake Powell and Lake Mead on years like 2023. The new rules going forward should have plans to fill our reservoirs when we have the water.

Sincerely,
Scott Challis

Letter #: 18216

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 12788: Sally Schwartz

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

As parents, as tax-payers and as voters, we care deeply about the future of the Colorado River.
We know the many possible choices you may make.....and we strongly urge you to fully and permanently PROTECT this natural wonder of America.
We thank you for your vision.....and for your political courage. Sally & Jake Schwartz and Children
Sincerely,
Mrs Sally Schwartz

Letter #: 18850

Date Received: 8/9/2023

Sender Names: 10763: Louise Gray

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

Will you include in your plans America's most unique and iconic bird species like the Bald Eagle, Yellow Warbler, and California Condor and 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?

We of course hope you do!

Sincerely,
Ms. Louise Gray

Letter #: 19686

Date Received: 8/8/2023

Sender Names: 13800: Michael Johan

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: USBR: It's time to Fix the Colorado River!

Michael Johan
1600 Waneka Lake Trail

Lafayette, CO 80026

Letter #: 19860

Date Received: 8/8/2023

Sender Names: 13930: Max Knight

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I've had an unconventional life for the last 18 years, moving between homes every year, having to make and lose new friends, from one place to the next. While I have been living in Idaho for about 3 years now (longest I've lived somewhere), there is one place above all that REALLY feels like HOME.

That is Lake Powell. Despite moving so much, every year my family makes the effort to get out there at least once or twice per summer. I'm 21 years old now and have been to lake Powell every year, in total, at least 150 times. I've spent approximately 2 1/2 - 3 years of my lifetime on the lake with family, and friends. And it is the same case for not only me, but my brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles and parents. Lake Powell is home to us because it is where we all get to be as a family, and do what we really love to do. Have fun, and get closer.

My dad talks of stories when he would come in his younger years to the lake. I find it so cool to have a tradition that is generational, and so far that is what Lake Powell is for us. I look forward to the day I get to bring my children and share the experiences I had, while they build their own. The thought that one day the lake could be gone for good, because of how much water is being let out after such terrible years of water, is terrifying.

It's sad to me that 1 day I might not be able to go to the lake at all, share the experiences with my own children, and stop a tradition not only held by me, but thousands of other family's that travel far distances just to be in one of, if not the best places on earth.

I love this Lake and consider it my HOME. If there is anything I can say or do to help save it, I will do so forever.

Sincerely,
Max Knight

Letter #: 19927

Date Received: 8/8/2023

Sender Names: 18358: Richard Banger

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Stop letting all of the water out of our lake you fucking morons. We don’t get snowfall like that every year. We have our own water problems here, we don’t need to be bailing other states out.

Sincerely,
Richard Banger

Letter #: 19933

Date Received: 8/8/2023

Sender Names: 15099: Elisabeth Good

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Colorado River EIS

I am commenting on the future of how the Colorado River and its reservoirs should be managed.

The Fill Mead First model should be adopted. As the drought continues, there hasn't been enough water in the Colorado's mainstream reservoirs to fill either Powell or Mead. It doesn't make sense to needlessly store water in Lake Powell when that water is drowning one of the most beautiful canyons in the United States. If Lake Mead is filled, boaters who currently use Lake Powell could visit Lake Mead and have a very pleasurable experience. Lake Mead is much bigger than Powell and, with the addition of more water could easily accommodate local boaters and those who come from the Lake Powell area.

As water in Lake Powell declines Glen Canyon has been restoring itself. Riparian ecosystems are re-developing. Plant and animal life are returning to the area where they flourished before the dam. Wonders of geology are re-emerging, as are some of the archeological sites which were drowned. One only needs to visit Cathedral in the Desert to see that Glen Canyon Dam never should have been built in the first place.

And speaking of the dam, it should be dismantled. If you aren't going to dismantle the dam, then allow the water to bypass it and flow downstream. This would provide for the full restoration of Glen Canyon, and a more natural, free flowing river through the Grand Canyon.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Elisabeth Good

Letter #: 20081

Date Received: 8/7/2023

Sender Names: 16486: Alexis Whitney

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

My family and I have grown up going to the lake for as long as I can remember. Not only did it stay between my close family, the love of the lake grew from my grandparents and even my great grandparents. Me being 20 has nothing what I've heard from their stories on the water. My Great Grandpa John pulling his pontoon boat behind his dually, cutting his Levi's into shorts, and wearing his cowboy boots on the sand sipping on an ice cold Pepsi. Great Grandpa John started the tradition of going out to lake powell and spending quality family time out on the water. Nothing beats the amazing view of the red rocks and blue water. It's basically a heaven on earth. With the water it makes it convenient to travel up the canyons and see the beauty Mother Nature provides. One memorable moment my family has shared is eating water melon up "water melon" canyon. Gassing the boat up at dangling rope. Eating the soft served ice cream on that hot summer day, taking the mile hike up to rainbow bride. On that note, my grandparents have a picture of their boat almost directly under rainbow bridge back from the late 80s. I'd be amazed to ever see the water up to those levels again. My family never could afford a house boat. We would pack the whole house and some would say even the dog into our boat and drive up the canyon all the way to padre bay. That was our spot. We pitched tents, shade tents and we had the food system down to a science, tarps and sealed containers to keep the mice and bugs from snatching our snacks. What great memories I have of the sand all up in every crevice you could think of. The lake is a therapy. It brings peace while being in such a wonderful place. Not to mention being able to ride in the boat and play behind the boat makes it all worth your while. Once my siblings and I got older we were able to help support our parents in our Powell trips. My family and extended family got into a houseboat share and it was the best time I could have ever imagined. We would lay our mattresses on the top of the houseboat and sleep under the stars. The sounds of the waves hitting the shore, crickets buzzing, and the cool breeze could almost soothe the soul. It's heartbreaking to see how low the water has gotten but I'm grateful we have had amazing memories there. One day I hope to continue the lake trips with my kids in the future and my great grandchildren. But with the uncertainty of the water who knows if lake powell will be a place when that time comes around. I live in Washington Utah and it's only getting bigger. Sand hollow has become so busy the beaches are constantly covered and boaters are everywhere basically like ants. It's almost too dangerous to do anything without the constant feeling of being ran over. Lake Powell is only a couple of hours away. It has much bigger recreation opportunities without the feeling of being overcrowded and unsafe. Lake Powell will always have a place in my heart. It's the best escape anyone can ask for. After a week of being on the lake I never want to leave. It sucks going back to reality after "lake therapy". Lake Powell is a recreational place and allows others to visit such a beautiful place that isn't like any other in this world. Let's fill Lake Powell and continue the lively hood it brings people out on the water.

Sincerely,
Alexis Whitney

Letter #: 20104

Date Received: 8/7/2023

Sender Names: 12691: Hayden Flores

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

My family has been enjoying Lake Powell for 3 generations. Houseboating has become part of the fabric of our family's identity. Over the past 2 years, we have had to cancel our family vacation due to the low water levels in the lake.

I know that I do not understand the ins and outs of water policy. But I hope that keeping water in Lake Powell will be a priority so that my family and all the other families like mine can continue to enjoy the lake.

Sincerely,
Hayden Flores

Letter #: 20162

Date Received: 8/7/2023

Sender Names: 13131: Kylie Anyce Bearden

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 EIS comment

Good afternoon,

I would like to comment on the post 2026 EIS. I strongly believe that the Glen canyon dam should be bypassed completely. I think that we should prioritize filling Lake Mead first. Lake Powell loses a tremendous amount of water to evaporation and absorption into the sandstone. The design of the lake itself just simply does not hold water in a sustainable way for our future. It doesn't make sense for it to be a reservoir in the first place.

I understand that this is a difficult decision based on the consumers of energy from Lake Powell and the businesses that recreate on the lake. I think of it like this. When businesses open up a factory in a small town, the town booms for decades, and then the factory leaves the town, the people generally leave the town as well. We cannot expect to live in unlivable environments. A large population of humans simply should not be living in the Southwest during 120° record-breaking heat. We must look to more compassionate and sustainable solutions.

I also would like to add that I have been able to visit different parts of Glen canyon that have previously been inaccessible. The cathedral in the desert is one of the most moving places I have ever visited. I don't want to lose those places again. We've already lost so much from this natural wonder.

We really should be looking at different energy sources and water sources for the desert Southwest.

Thank you.

Letter #: 20181

Date Received: 8/7/2023

Sender Names: 13881: Douglas Tolman

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public Comment Regarding the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for the Colorado River EIS

Greetings!

Thank you for reviewing my public comment regarding the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for the Colorado River EIS.

Given the long-standing water scarcity in our reservoirs, the EIS should include an analysis of the "Fill Mead First" model. With neither Lake Powell nor Lake Mead having reached full capacity in decades, it seems prudent to prioritize water storage in Lake Mead, implementing a "don't fill past 3,550" policy for Lake Powell. This strategy would address water scarcity and allow for Glen Canyon's remarkable recovery.

Current climate trends necessitate a reassessment of Glen Canyon Dam's role. Anthropogenic climate change and natural climate cycles are reducing Colorado River Basin flows, thereby challenging the dam's efficacy. In this century, such a dam would likely not be constructed due to evolving societal values and climate concerns. An EIS analysis of a full bypass could improve the river's adaptability to a drier future.

The decline of Lake Powell reservoir has been a catalyst for Glen Canyon's renaissance. From the resurgence of the Cathedral in the Desert and Gregory Natural Bridge to flourishing ecosystems and unearthed archeological sites, Glen Canyon has rebounded magnificently. Given the changing climate, inefficiencies in water storage, and reverence for the sacred spaces of Indigenous peoples, the decision to build a dam in Glen Canyon today would be unfathomable. Recognizing these invaluable resources, the EIS should seriously consider bypassing and potentially dismantling the Glen Canyon Dam.

In conclusion, let's not forget that we are mere custodians of this beautiful land. Let us make decisions today that our future generations will thank us for.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Stay hydrated!

Yours in shared stewardship,
Doug Tolman

Letter #: 20184

Date Received: 8/7/2023

Sender Names: 15894: Trey Kettering

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: CRB Post 2026 Comment

Hello,
I am writing my comment in support of draining "Lake" Powell and using the reservoir at a backup if Mead is ever full again. The dam initially destroyed and drowned thousands of miles of riparian habitats along with beautiful geological features, archeological sites, and destroyed the free flowing sections of the Escalante, San Juan, Dirty Devil, Colorado, and more. The basin is drying and it has been shown that a mostly full Mead would lead to less water loss that having each reservoir just barely full. There are ways to reengineer the dam so that a river flowing through could still produce electricity and take sediment into the canyons below. If that does not seem like an economical option, then it is entirely possible, and some would say highly plausible, that the dams time is up. We made a mistake some decades ago - we don't have to keep fueling it. The Colorado should be free flowing through Glen Canyon and waiting on action will only see the issues surrounding the dam worsen. Free the Colorado through Glen Canyon! Use Mead first! Restore what is lost.

SEA-2-SEA

WATER

By, EDUARDO QUEZADA

Imperial Valley Dust Storm.

Salton Sea Lake

WATER

In the United States climate change is affecting water resources with increasing drought and floods. With research data showing the need for planning for solutions are needed.
Like the Central Inteligente Agency, (CIA) in a 30 page report of water shortages from a viewpoint of national security states; “new reliable water sources are needed”!
Additional, The New York Times in a article summarizing another 206-page study warns the United States is ill prepared to assess and prepare for the catastrophes that a heated planet will produce. Unfortunately leadership lacks experience and exposure to understanding real world solutions to problems and avoid solutions fearing the costs.

The current Drought in USA affecting 7 Western States and Mexico are forced to water cuts and are expected to continue through 2026, despite a wet year.
Also the 1922 Colorado River agreement ends in 2026 causing more uncertainty with what will the new agreements be.
To get started the water shortages issues affecting the 7 Western States and Mexico needs to use with real water volumes the Colorado River flows. The estimates are from 9 to 14 million acre feet annual flows not 20 million. Plus consideration for Tribe groups need to be included.
A shortage to all state’s allotments is very likely. And in Northern California despite this wet season demand for water continues rising for farming and cities. Desalination plants are being used for backup and storage projects are being planned.

The drought problems affecting water shortages directly impact life quality and food security.

Arizona is considering three water import projects systems: two from Mexico and one from the Mississippi with costs in the billions. Plus desalination processing cost of $1,700 to almost $6,800 per acre foot of seawater to fresh water. Additional energy to the pumps, CO2 emissions, upkeep of the pipeline maintenance and security of vandalism or natural disasters.
By 2026, the top three Arizona cities that will see the largest water access reductions per person include:
- Buckeye with a 96% reduction
- Queen Creek with a 93% reduction
- El Mirage with an 82% reduction

Salton Sea Lake

In California farmers had reductions of up to 25%.
One of it's most impoverished county suffers a health crisis, caused from poison micro-dust from the playa drying of the Salton Sea lake.

This has decreased tourism the neighboring city of Palm Spring which had a study done. It realize the negative Impact could be in the billions of losses if nothing was done. So they also have raised concerns to push for action for a solution to stop the micro-dust from spreading.

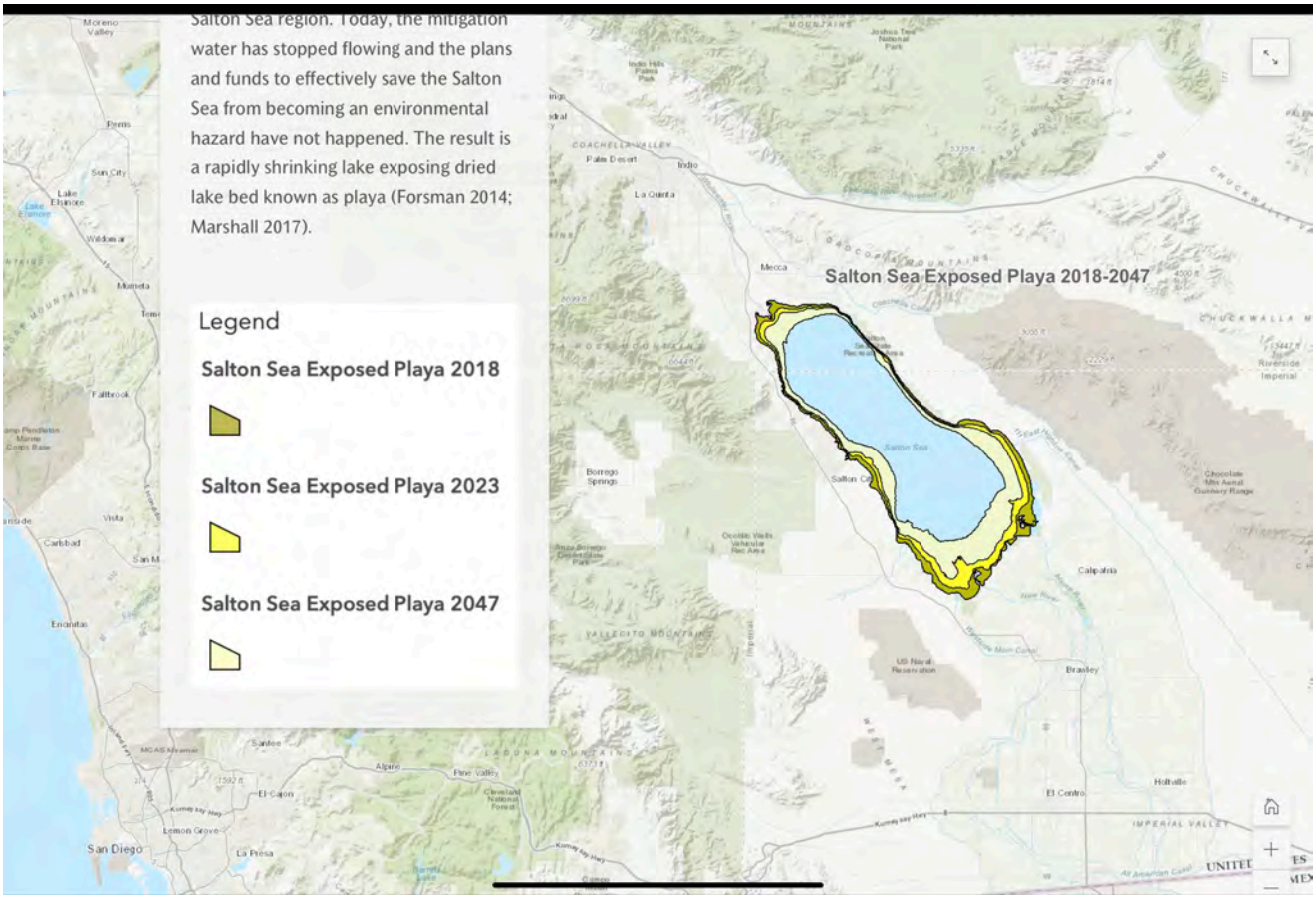
Salton Sea lake is the largest lake in California 35 miles long and 15 miles wide. At it's peek in the 50's and 60's tourism, fishing and boating brought more visitors than Yosemite national park. Personally fishing was a popular attraction when I was 7 years old in 1969. My first time fishing was at the Salton Sea catching a fish so large it broke the fishing pole pulling me into the water thankfully a guy called "El POPO" ran to pull me and the fish out of the water.
Unfortunately diverting water to cities and farmland reducuctions has created a decreasing water supply. Causing salinity levels to rise not allowing fish to grow causing bad smells and pollutants to become airborne. In search for a solution since the 1970's California leadership started paying for RFIs from different companies and one university with only 4 solutions to the problems affecting the Salton Sea.

1. Import seawater from the Pacific Ocean using pumps over ther mountains to the lake.
2. Import seawater from Sea Of Cortez via pumps to the lake.
3. Down size the lake with a sub-brine lake added.
4. Import seawater through the existing river with the sewage treated water from Mexicali.

All building cost and maintenance costs by taxpayers.
Reminds me of President Eisenhower's quotes, "You know, farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

Not a single proposal is sustainable.

Information;
1. That entire area is energy intensive. Starting with geothermal, solar and wind the obvious ones but Plasma-Gasification of municipal solid waste is the most abundant in the amounts and timescales.
2. A look at logistics makes Salton Sea perfect as new source for freshwater. It is 225 feet below sea level. It is close to Major waterways supplying Metropolitan Water District.
3. EPA program of CO2 capture credits as part of revenue streams.
4. The Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) is designed to address the public and ecological health issues at the Salton Sea while securing Colorado River water supplies for the State.
Current activities and critical issues around the Salton Sea are being addressed in a too slow a process. Phase I Ten-Year Plan concentrates on the development of constructed



Dalton Sea Lake Micro-Dust Exposure Map Timeline

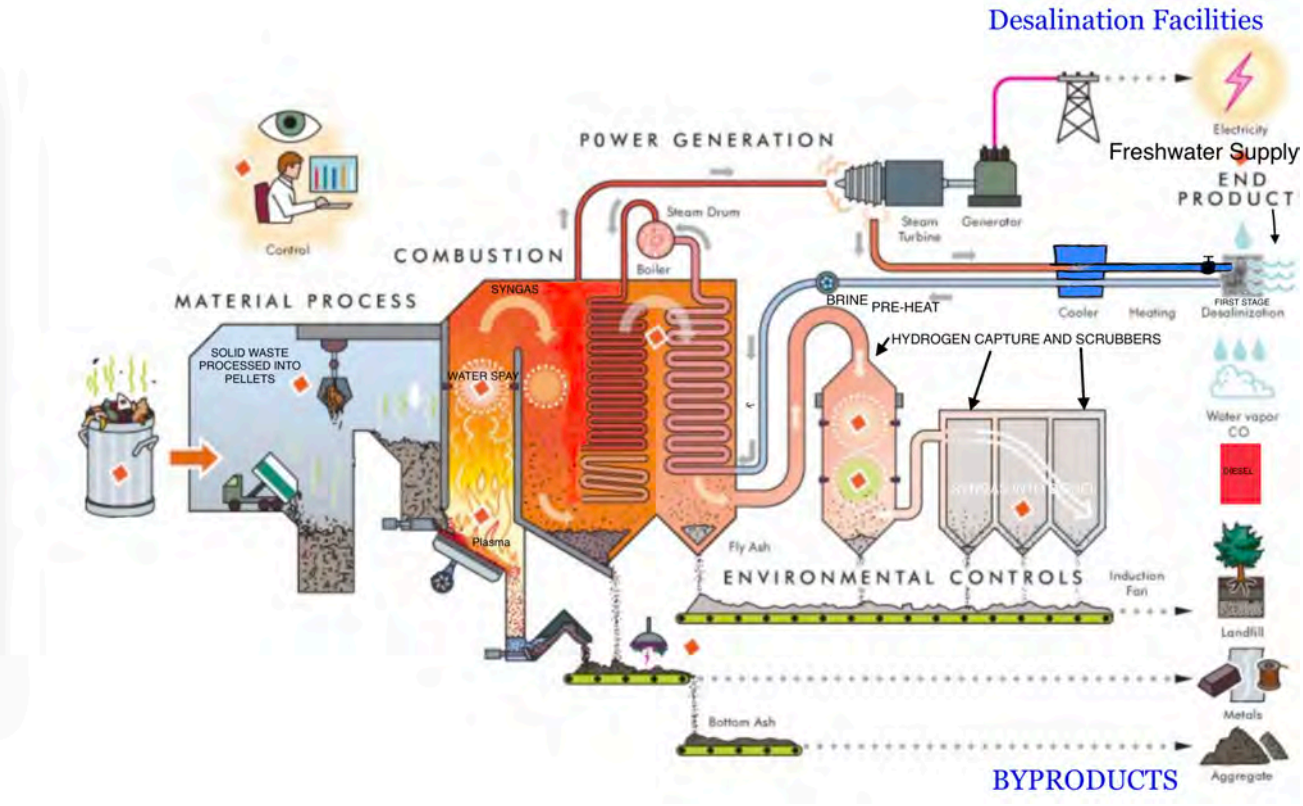
projects the north and south end of the lake where the playa exposure is the greatest and water inflows are most available.
Phase 1 and 2 total 55 years to end with still not solving the water shortage problem to the lake with years of continuous negative impacts to the health of the communities of low income and Hispanic and indigenous descent.

The only thing all experts agree on is water must be imported.

Engineering firms have developed a multitude of proposals that have been submitted over the past 5 decades to solving the Salton Sea disaster.

Salton Sea's issues with water shortage affecting all 7 states, the end of 1922 water agreements and future predictions of continued climate warming are extremely large and difficult problems that Salton Sea lake can turn into the largest positive economic and environmental improvement in history. Creating resilient communities proud shine.

It repays the investment, creates growth in agricultural farms lands, tourism, permanent jobs, national water and food security.



Plasma-Gasification Processes Over View Map by, WTPAW llc

Our Business Plan answers each and every issue by providing freshwater to all communities at reasonable cost. The communication, cooperation, involvement and investment from all stakeholders to achieve a lasting sustainable solution is imperative. Importation of sea water for the Salton Sea by its very nature is complex and ambitious but must be done at a large scale to achieve critical environmental and economic sustainability on it own. To return the investments and profits to reinvest in growth and development on itself.

SOLUTION:
Building a gravitational flowing seawater aqueduct of up to 10 million acres feet annual (AFY), from Sea Of Cortez with all technologies integrated to meet environmental and national security.
Control systems and other safety measures to preventing vandalism threats. The lake sits 225 feet below sea level allows flow to the Salton Sea lake without pumping stations. The lake will serve as a reservoir to supply the new hybrid- geothermal brine-less desalination facilities.

Desalination is extremely energy intensive. Having said this it is crucial the source be plentiful and inexpensive.
The engineering and design requirements for funding and assistance from several federal agencies with programs outlined by President Biden administration in the Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Act.

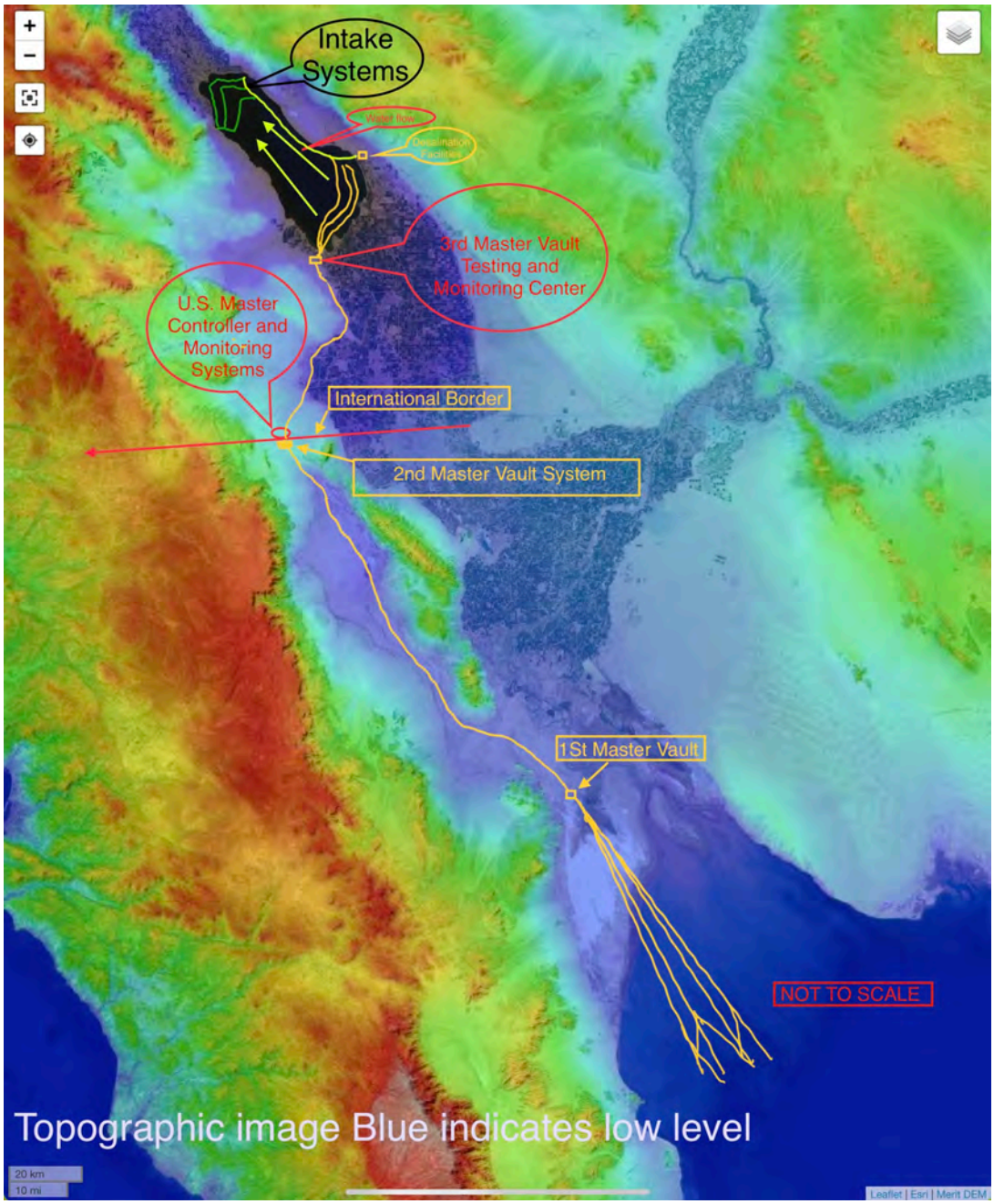
Our application to the Department Of Energy (DOE), for use of technologies and for funding to build this demonstrational energy project. Under title 17, program that aims to provide 240 billion dollars in funds through loan guarantees, grants and direct loans. To use proven technologies to incentivize their use.

Initial use of geothermal energy as a bridge to allow development of the Plasma-Gasification energy facilities infrastructure.

Plasma-Gasification is not a new process. It is being used with low energy utilization.
The largest form of energy it produces is in heat form which all current facilities using this process do not fully utilize. To incorporate heat capture into the system to generate steam for turbines that generate electricity to power the reverse osmosis desalination component and other systems . Utilized steam is then used to heat incoming seawater cooling the steam into freshwater. A utilitarian process of up to 80 percent of the energy in the municipal solid waste materials. Which is very high in the energy sector.

The Plasma-Gasification of municipal solid waste (PGMSW), for desalination financial model only makes sense in extreme large scale and long lifetime projects.
The time and cost to develop and implement all agreements between counties, waste companies, labor, convert landfills into processing and transfer facilities, environmental studies, EPA permits and transportation systems again, very time consuming and costly.
Geothermal is abundant but not enough for the volume of water needed but a perfect bridge to begin desalination and start generating revenue.

The amount of energy demand will be enormous! It’s cost must stay low with supply chains dependable able to handle its demand.
This demand may include the neighboring states to participate as a source. This would be point in the



Option 1 of Aqueduct and Facilities Map

water purchase agreements with keeping costs in mind. Thankfully trash is a commodity people pay to get rid of.

Milestones:
We have identified and acquired a particular path for the aqueduct from Mexico's Sea of Cortez to flow down hill to the international border with California without electric pumps.

We have obtained all permits from the Mexican federal authorities to build and operate the aqueduct.

Help!

On the USA side, much work and support for sourcing funds, agreements, needed permits, studies and land acquisition still need to be done.

”Diamond in the rough.”

A opportunity to turn a disastrous situation into a great source of sustainable clean water with ecological and economic benefits in multi sectors should not be wasted. The Salton Sea and surrounding areas are seen as a burden to our nation and characterization to avoid.

This plan changes everything. As a nation we have the technology and resources to make this happen. Waste To Power And Water llc, WTPAW, and partner companies have the professionals with deep economic, scientific and engineering backgrounds to build and operate every component of this project. The experienced and qualified people to negotiate and manage communications to the communities. To development Sea-2-Sea project collaboration with Salton Sea Management Program , (SSMP). Sea2Sea project aims delivery over seven million acre-feet of freshwater per year. A aqueduct capacity of up to 10 million AFY of flowing filtered seawater from the Sea of Cortez into the lake’s ecosystem. This water flow in a controlled manner restores and maintains the lake’s water quality serving as a storage feedstock for the desalination/treatment facilities. (1.3-1.6 MAF is lost to evaporation)

Acquiring your Support and Agreements to Work together towards the many projects needs and requirements so we can start working on these milestones:

1. Identifying, studying and acquiring Geothermal energy available at available lands
2. Infrastructure of water distribution feed pipelines
3. Future expansion of facilities,
4. Energy feedstocks and storage
5. freshwater storage.
6. Water purchase agreements
7. Alliance with Salton Sea ecological organizations
8. Community outreach and participation
9. Environmental Impact Assessments
10. Land easements
11. Funding
12. Identifying agencies committed to providing assistance.
13. Permissions transferred from USACE
14. -Permits from all required agencies
15. EPA agreements guidance and as part of our pricing formulas.

16. Identifying landfills with over limited capacity permits
17. Agreements for waste with cities and waste companies.
18. Technology use agreements with DOE.
19. Start agreements with Tribal agencies and minority groups to form a Cooperative Alliance for Agricultural Development Agency for sourcing and management of technology education, equipment and funds . To create a fair and transparent process for the allocating and management of agricultural land to the families that demonstrate a willingness to hard work and participate in the required training and long term development of the agency. Provide use of large agriculture equipments, tools, seeds and the many resources that farmers will need to succeed in their business.
20. So many more items that will be listed in the final Business Plan.

SEA2SEA Phase 1:

Estimated initial investment of the project is estimated at $5,387,895,000. The cost of the aqueduct and intake from the Sea of Cortez to the USA, Salton Sea lake is the largest part.

The Geothermal hybrid-desalination power plant and some distribution infrastructure is included. This is the startup funding that is to be returned by sales of freshwater.

Metropolitan Water District and Imperial Irrigation District latest agreement the price of water from the Colorado was for 760.00 per acre foot translates to.0023 cents per gallon.. Carlsbad is paying about 2,200/AF. with a 25 year agreement.

Using 760.00/AF entry price point a minimum of 527,000 AFY of water sales agreements need to be in place with state agencies, counties, cities and organizations that meet requirements to qualify for the water purchase agreements.

This is the financial tipping point for loan servicing is, maintenance, overhead, labor, expenses and profit for the growth.
The Estimates of all cost were obtained from the Carlsbad desalination plus 3 recently built facilities and estimates from aqueduct contractors with years and completed project experience.
Example 1: Taweelah complex Emirate Abu Dhabi, cost 890 million USD, capacity 900,000/ m3/day,

Example 2: Jebel Ali M in Dubai,871 million 151,515/m3/day
Example 3: Sorek Israel 500 million 627,000/m3/day
Example 4: Statica link. Geothermal

The water purchase agreements need be for 25 - 35 year commitments. Thus minimizing risks exposure to investors and communities.

This initial investment does not include the expenses of upgrades to landfills processing facilities for use of plasma-gasification with municipal solid waste for the larger volumes of water desalination.

Sources:

The DOE programs still has available funds for grants and loan guarantees for these type of projects. Under title 17.

DOE also have access to use patents in technologies of solid waste processing that will increase efficiency and improve transportation of waste.

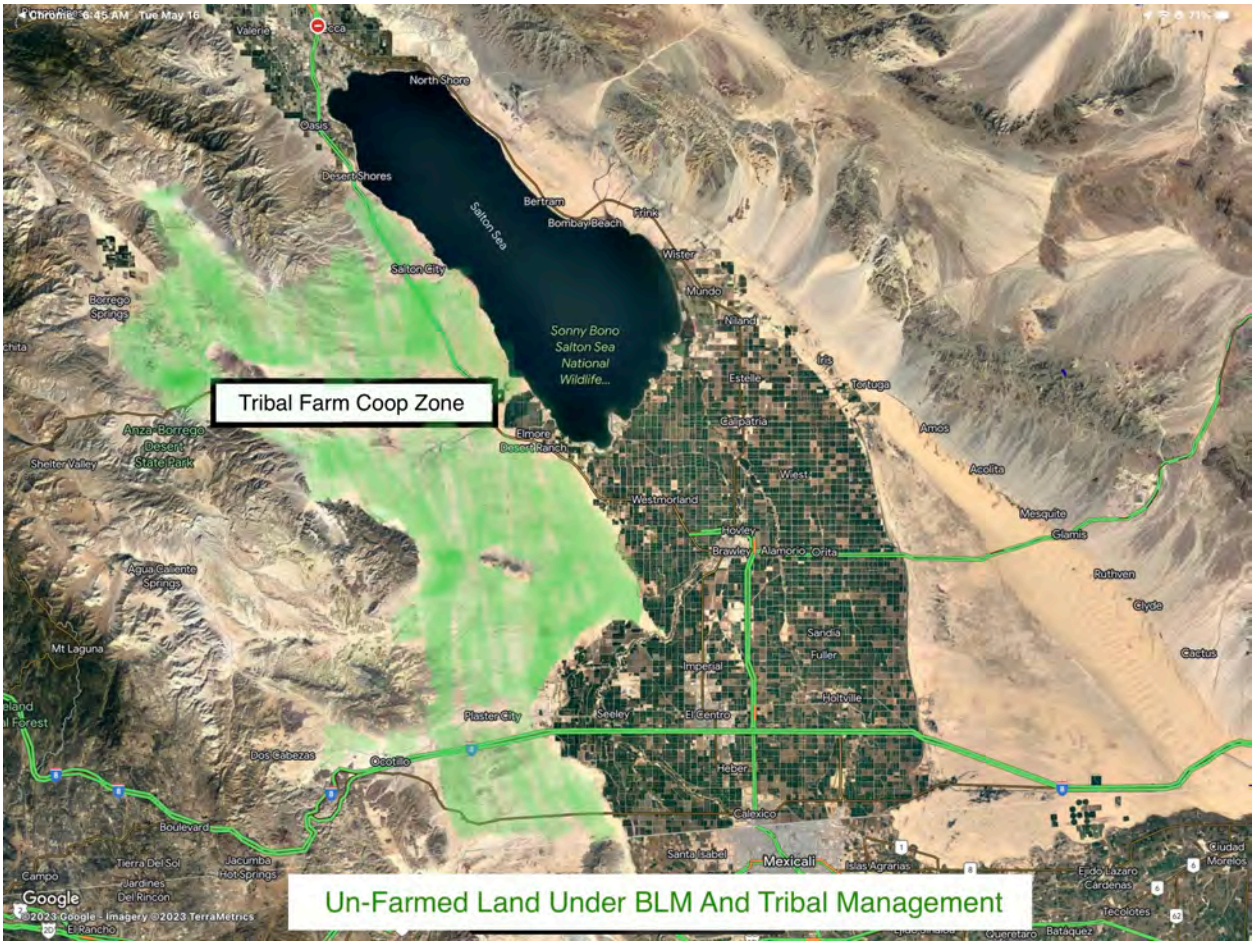
Department of Agriculture can help with grants and loan guarantees for waterways infrastructure to farmers.

EPA, offers programs for carbon capture credits and loans for infrastructure projects that affect landfills reductions.

Justice 40, is also a program this project qualifies for. This program focuses on helping communities affected by environmental health issues.

Last option is going to banks for loans and very last is private investors as this will change the financial culture of the project.

Agriculture, Future vision;
The Imperial Valley is a major agricultural producer and only one able to provide produce production in winter. Transformation of desert land into farms. Much of lands west of the lake is under California Land management. There are programs that allow for a development of a Farm Cooperative Development Zone to grant land to minority families. A programs like this will increase



Possible Agricultural Land Grants for Minority Families

produce productivity improve food security.
Creating a farm Cooperative in a collaborative development with state and federal land management impoverished families can be given a life changing opportunity to build their own business. Increasing global food supplies and local economic growth.

Conclude:
The Aqueduct and Hybrid-desalination plant has a positive impact on all 7 state's water economy currently being affected by the drought and restructuring of the Colorado River agreement. Also help stop pumping water from Northern California to Metropolitan Water District which is the single most electric energy consuming entity in California.
Direct positive impacts Economically from temporary jobs during construction to permanent maintenance and operation jobs.
To Restore water levels with continued filtration and maintenance is the fastest permanent solution to micro-dust pollution. With positive direct impacts to the health of the population in general.

The lake will directly increase tourism, housing, construction, agriculture and indirect increase housing, retail, gas-grocery stores and service's industries.
Indirect positive impacts to other sectors creating a circular economy possible. There is no better way to attract new businesses to the region with so many opportunities doing positive environmental issue solving.
The direct and indirect tax revenue for the local, state and federal governments will be in the billions.
Economist published National park created 16 billion in 2019 the estimated possible on this project is over well over 40 billion in new direct and indirect revenues annually.

Status:
We have obtained Permits From Mexico's federal agencies to harvest sea water and to build a aqueduct from Sea Of Cortez to the international California border. (Conditional on Engineering plans)
We have bought lands, land rights and easements from Sea of Cortez intake to the International border. Costing over 3 million USD. It is only path that gravity flow and minimal populations physical obstructions
For more than four years, WTPAW has been engaged in developing critical aspects of SEA2SEA and undertaking preliminary due diligence.

About
We are a team of professionals in environment, energy, engineering, water management, construction, and other specialized sectors.

I'm Eduardo Quezada, I created WTPAW for this project.
I started my training in the energy creation, integration, and conservation at the age of 16. I was placed at UC Santa Cruz University sustainable energy program. One of the first to receive the green license from California State Licensing Board CSLB.
Which opened consultant work opportunities like for Chevron Energy Solutions in integration of sustainable energy creation.
Also owned and operated a construction firm focused in general building development, plumbing and energy efficiency, creation and integration.
I served as a public servant on the Congressional Committee of Border Crossing Issues between the USA and Mexico,
These experiences have helped me with a unique understanding and abilities to create opportunities from risks and challenges.

Having grown up in Brawley, California, and gone fishing at Salton Sea when fish were abundant to witnessing its decline and the impacts of asthma and respiratory issues on the impoverished communities especially youth and elder of Imperial Valley. Caused from poison micro-dust from the Salton Sea.
Acting on developing a sustainable solution.
This plan is a fastest way to get rid of this toxic micro-dust.
To making a Diamond from the dust.

Please let me know what we need to do to help you help bring water to the Salton Sea Lake and 7 States.

Eduardo Quezada COO
WTPAW llc
E@WTPAW.COM
C. 559 731 4730
O. 559 556 0556

Letter #: 20220

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19331: Cindy Smoot

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I love Lake Powell and it has provided so many good times and memories for me and my family! We need to do whatever we can to make sure that these reservoirs are sustained to healthy levels where all boat ramps are usuable and access is available! Long live Lake Powell!!

Sincerely,
Cindy Smoot

Letter #: 20221

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18935: Ken Jensen

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I support and encourage the conceptual proposals submitted by many, in a variety of forms, to preserve the recreation value of Lake Powell, and initiate conservation measures for water use that mitigate excessive downstream use of water actually allocated to the upstream coalition states.

The dams of the Colorado River system serve a vital purpose of storing water for years of drought, and generating hydropower. Obviously the minimum viable levels for power generation should be protected, for the benefit of all states.

But in principal, beyond that, I would advocate for two principles that I believe are being ignored. First, the continued buildout of homes, golf courses, and general population growth shouldn't be born by sacrificing upstream water rights. Las Vegas, Phoenix, and other metropolitan areas on the lower Colorado have experienced tremendous growth, seemingly under the assumption that water is plentiful and conservation and planning is un-necessary, so someone else' problem. Second, upstream water storage is the most flexible for the entirety of the system, so reservoir levels should focus priority on Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge, before Lake Mead. This can be done in a balanced and responsible way; I'm not advocating draining Mead. But water can't go back upstream, once down. Furthermore, recreation priorities for Lake Powell would be widely acknowledged to be in favor of Lake Powell. Visitation, physical beauty, etc... all align that way. I travel frequently for business and people from across the country and many other parts of the world know of Lake Powell as a natural wonder. Mead, on the otherhand is unknown. Giving equal billing, for anything other than minimum power generation levels is a shame, and only logical for the greed of the lower system states.

This year highlights the problem. A record breaking winter made flows into Lake Powell historic in many ways. But while the water is up significantly, it seems unlikely to last. We are currently pouring water downstream from Powell at double the intake levels despite impaired marinas, launch ramps, etc... There seems to be little effort to rectify the situation; I assume due to water politics driven by downstream populations that won't conserve and limit development until they are required to.

I'm also not advocating that upstream states shouldn't also be more responsible in conserving or developing responsibly. They should as well. But careless approaches downstream shouldn't punish upstream water users who have under-drawn their rights or the recreation interests of the entire western U.S.

It's time to rethink the broken historic water agreements and favor a healthier approach than the loud political voice of California, Nevada, and Arizona.

Thanks for considering the public point of view. We love Lake Powell and spend weeks there every summer. Please let's find ways to make it usable for decades to come, with better usage agreements and conservation efforts across the board.

Sincerely,
Ken Jensen

Letter #: 20234

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19398: Murray Smith

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment on Post-2026 EIS

To whom it may concern,

I spent a week on the Escalante river and Lake Powell Reservoir in April 2023, when water levels were around 3522 ft. I boated and dragged my boat through the mud at the edges of the reservoir, and explored the priceless natural wonders like Cathedral in the Desert and Gregory Natural bridge.

The EIS should analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam.
It should also acknowledge the resources that have emerged in Glen Canyon, including and beyond the ones I was lucky enough to witness before they were resubmerged.

The EIS should also analyze a 'Fill Mead First model, prioritizing water storage in Mead before Powell, including a 'don fill past 3525 policy at lake Powell Reservoir.

I've spent a lifetime exploring Glen Canyon, and have witnessed it intimately in spring 2023 when the water was lower.
Please analyze these options in the post 2026 EIS, as this area is too important to neglect.

Best,

George Smith

Letter #: 20243

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18938: Warren Klain

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I work at Lake Powell as a guide for the Glen Canyon National Recreational Area. I support the lake elevation of 3588. This lake helps me support my family and I in the Page area. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Warren Klain

Letter #: 20259

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19631: Randy Moser

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Just fill the lake!

Sincerely,
Randy Moser

Letter #: 20268

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19301: Rowan Epstein

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 EIS

Hi there,

I wanted to send in some of my thoughts on the post-2026 guidelines for future management of the Colorado River and its reservoirs before the public comment period ends.

My comments are mainly in regards to the Glen Canyon Dam; I believe the Environmental Impact Statement should analyze the full bypass of the Glen Canyon Dam, and that failure to do so would constitute a failure to examine the full scope of possibilities and their environmental effects.

As climate changes continues to reduce flows, the dam becomes more of a liability to water flows downstream, and therefore to the ecology of the Grand Canyon and to Lake Mead. I believe a full bypass of the dam would give the river, its ecosystems, and those who depend on it the most flexibility and adaptability in a drier future.

Glen Canyon Dam is considered by many to be one of the United States greatest environmental mistakes, When the dam was commissioned, there were no environmental laws in place and therefore no studies to assess its impacts, which are extensive and include altering the Grand Canyon downstream and drowning hundreds of miles of canyon upstream - canyons that are not only some of the most beautiful in the world, known as 'America lost National Park,' but also contain countless Native American dwellings, artifacts, and archeological sites.

Despite this, Lake Powell did make it possible for millions of people to live in the arid Colorado river basin by storing precious snow melt for year-round use. However, as the regions population has continued to grow while at the the amount of water flowing into the system has continued to shrink, neither Lake Powell nor Lake Mead have been full - since 1999! To make matters worse, every year hundreds of billions of gallons of water seep into the porous sandstone beneath the reservoir and are lost forever, an issue that might have been negligible when flows were higher, but now every drop counts - and 100+ billion gallons is a lot of drops.

Given this, the EIS should analyze a 'Fill Mead First model. In this scenario, the Colorado River would run freely through Glen Canyon and the Grand Canyon, bypassing the Glen Canyon Dam; however, the dam would remain in place and able to store water if cooler, wetter conditions return. This model has many benefits: combining two reservoirs into one would greatly reduce their surface area, lessening the amount of water lost to evaporation; it would mitigate seepage, as Lake Mead has walls of hard volcanic rock rather than sandstone; and if there isn enough water to fill either reservoir, it simply doesn make sense to needlessly drown the dozens of national-park-caliber wonders in Glen Canyon.

Perhaps most important is the opportunity to save these natural and archeological wonders that were lost when Glen Canyon was drowned. In the years since Lake Powell has declined, we have seen the reemergence of wonders like Cathedral in the Desert and Gregory Natural Bridge, we have found priceless Navajo and

Puebloan structures and other archeological sites, and we have seen lush riparian ecosystems spring back to life. With National Park attendance at its highest in American history (and continuing to grow), the American people deserve to know these wonders. The immense value of these resources needs to be accounted for as we decide how to store water in an increasingly dry future.

We are being given a second chance to examine the cultural and environmental costs of Lake Powell and the Glen Canyon Dam; it is not often that we get the opportunity to reassess earlier decisions and potentially reverse mistakes made by those who came before us (in a world that was ignorant to the costs of environmental damage). It is not unheard of - or even rare - to decommission dams that were built in earlier years of ignorance of their environmental impacts. Over 2000 dams have been removed since 1912, with 69 having been removed in 2022 alone. It is a fact that the removal of dams revitalizes rivers and brings their ecosystems back to life. I urge you to evaluate the benefits of decommissioning the Glen Canyon Damn and allowing the Colorado River to flow freely though Glen and Grand Canyons, giving Glen Canyon the opportunity to continue its amazing restoration and ultimately filling Lake Mead once again.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rowan Epstein

Letter #: 20298

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18790: Jstauss

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post 2026 guideline eis

Hello,

In your post 2026 EIS please consider the new engineering of Glen Canyon Dam that allows for a river run scenario. continue the restoration of Glen Canyon, and use Lake Mead as a one basin solution for water storage.

Study sediment, returning ecosystems, and begin an updated recreation plan for the canyon.

Restore Glen Canyon.

Work to create a better future.

Thank you,

Jack

Jack A. Stauss, MS

Letter #: 20333

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19178: Matt Turner

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I want more water in lake Powell damn it! I'm serious…

Sincerely,
Matt Turner

Letter #: 20342

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19162: dalton reed

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment on glen canyon

Hi,

I would like to make a comment about the Glen Canyon dam. This dam was a mistake and is an environmental disaster. I believe that with the increasing severity and frequency of drought in the west that it is time to remove the glen canyon dam and start restoring glen canyon.

Thanks,

Dalton Reed

Letter #: 20357

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19614: Dylan Mori

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment on Colorado River Post-2026 Operations

Living in the Southwest, I'm often afraid for the future. The threat of drought is never far away, and I know it will come for me after it has come for my neighbors and loved ones downstream. Although I have taken action in my personal life to conserve water - setting up a rain barrel, killing my lawn - it won't be enough without large, national action. Water sustains all life, and clean water should be a right guaranteed to all.

I request the following.

1. Allow Indigenous people and Tribes to access and utilize their water rights from the Colorado River now and in perpetuity.

2. Require the Lower Basin to limit water use to match the annual hydrology of the river.

3. Proactively address the existing impacts and future impacts of climate change on the Colorado River.

4. Account for water loss due to evaporation and seepage, especially in the lower basin.

5. Access the feasibility of the "Fill First" model and prioritize Lake Mead if there is not enough water to fill both lakes.

--

Dylan Mori

Letter #: 20365

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18951: Zach Smoot

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Lake Powell is the most unique reservoir in the entire world. A lot of the boating economy in Utah is based off of Lake Powell. I have many friends and family members who would not own boats if it wasn't for Lake Powell if it wasn't there the multi billion dollar watersports economy would suffer. It is of vital importance that we support the Blue Ribbon Coalition Path To 3588 and keep our reservoirs at higher levels. Lake Powell holds a very special place in my heart and in the hearts of millions of others. We need to do the things necessary to keep it healthy for centuries to come

Sincerely,
Zach Smoot

Letter #: 20388

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19603: Isaac Lindstrom

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public Comment - Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for the Colorado River

Hello,

My name is Isaac Lindstrom and I live in Salt Lake City Utah and I want to submit my public comment for the post 2026 operational guidelines and strategies for the Colorado River EIS process. My comment is as follows:

The future of the Colorado river is in the decline and the best way to support it is the decommissioning of the glen, canyon dam, and the restoration of Glen Canyon feeling that lake mead makes sense as there is less evaporation and no water loss due to the sandstone. Bureau of reclamation needs to focus on actually reclaiming the land and returning Glen Canyon to the former glory. Please drain like Lake Powell , and return the river to a river ! DRAIN LAKE POWELL, FILL LAKE MEAD!

Isaac

Letter #: 20426

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18920: Blake Bench

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Please consider recreation as you make decisions of lake powell. I support the Blue Ribbon Coalition's goal to promote a goal of 3588 elevation.

Sincerely,
Blake Bench

Letter #: 20457

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 15098: Gared Schneider

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Hello,

I have been visiting Lake Powell for a family reunion for the last 33 years.
It means a lot to me that I will be able to bring my own kids to the lake a share the same experience with them.

I know future winters will provide water for the lake to continue to rise but we will only keep heading towards high water line if water does not exit the damn at high rates. Please please please fill lake Powell.

Sincerely,
Gared Schneider

Letter #: 20475

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19482:

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Protecting Glen Canyon

Hello,

I am writing to implore the Bureau of Reclamation to protect the precious resources of Glen Canyon.

In the years since Lake Powell reservoir has declined, we have seen an amazing reemergence of wonders like Cathedral in the Desert, Gregory Natural Bridge, as well as lush riparian ecosystems, and priceless archeological sites. The place known as 'America's lost National Park' is coming back to life, and the public is taking notice. Media outlets from around the world have flocked to witness Glen Canyon's miraculous reemergence, sparking the imaginations of millions. When the dam was commissioned in 1956, there were no environmental laws to assess its impacts. Now that Glen Canyon has begun to reveal itself, the immense value of its resources needs to be accounted for as decision makers choose where to store water.

Please consider the importance of Glen Canyon and avoid building harmful dams that divert water away from these natural resources.

Thank you,
Jacob

Letter #: 20479

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 10901: Jessa TeWalt

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glen Canyon

Fill Mead first-restore Glen Canyon-which is a National Treasure— and one of a kind.
Thank you,
Jessa TeWalt

Letter #: 20483

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19152: Chad Nelson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment regarding glen Canyon

The changing environment has provided an opportunity to redress some of the mistakes we have made in the past. Please consider a full bypass of the Glenn Canyon Dam so that there is flexibility to manage the river in a way that allows Americans to enjoy and explore a canyon that could have been made a national park while also allowing water to flow freely to Mead should water levels fall below the minimum power pool.

Chad Nelson

Letter #: 20487

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18809: chuck Parker

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public Comment from Feliz Nunez of the Salton Sea Coalition

Reclamation Staff,

I, as a concerned citizen, am hoping your organization is committed to serving the common good and solving our local area.

The health crisis we are facing, especially in the areas around the Salton Sea, are being ignored. The Salton Sea relies on Colorado River water completely, and cutbacks in available river water will destroy the Salton Sea. This will make our health problems much worse!

Importing Ocean water to fill up the drying lake is the immediate solution to stop the toxic dust that is being spread for miles.

Importing Ocean water is about saving human lives because the majority of fish and birds died a while back.

Importing ocean water from El Mar de Cortez is the most economical and practical choice to limit the increasing health issues.

Importing ocean water will solve the present health problems; the future logical follow up is desalination and cleaning up the pollution.

Look forward to a positive response and action.

Felicitas Nunez, Retired RN, CA Dept. of Corrections

August 14, 2023

To the Bureau of Reclamation,

I am a journalist and author who is gravely concerned about the future of the Colorado River, my home waters. The Colorado River is the source of the water I have been drinking since birth, hundreds of miles away from the river in Southern California. Over 60% of our bodies are made of water, and my cells are comprised of a lifetime drinking from the Colorado. Perhaps that is why I have been pulled as an adult to live alongside the river and its tributaries—the Escalante, Animas, San Juan, and Dolores, both in traditional houses and in my tent. I have walked and boated thousands of miles exploring the waterways and landscapes connected to the Colorado River, including Grand Canyon and especially Glen Canyon which is the focus of my most recent book and journalism.

Both my experiences on the wild reaches of the Colorado River and as a suburban citizen drinking its water from a tap have informed my deep care for this river and my outlook for its future management. Please find my public comments for the Post-2026 EIS, based upon my research, observations, and experiences from the Colorado River and surrounding basin.

The EIS should acknowledge the extensive resources that have emerged in Glen Canyon.

For four years I explored the Glen Canyon region guided by 100-year-old expedition journals and photos. This allowed me to understand how much the landscape has changed because of human impacts. It also helped me contextualize the re-emergence of Glen Canyon as the water in the reservoir declined. In total, I examined and documented dozens of Glen Canyon Tributaries and hundreds of miles of its mainstem. Many of these I returned to frequently to examine the incremental exposure of what was once lost beneath Lake Powell.

In-depth interviews and hikes with archaeologists, local Tribal members, water managers, and scientists helped me understand what I have witnessed: cultural sites of deep significance to local tribes (Diné, Hopi, Paiute, Ute, and Zuni), historic routes like the Hole-in-the-Rock built by Mormon pioneers who settled in the area, and detritus from the Glen Canyon gold rush in the 1890s. Among the geologic wonders I witnessed were Cathedral in the Desert and Gregory Natural Bridge, and unnamed waterfalls that are now once again inundated by the reservoir.

While the reservoir has taken a toll on the once pristine Glen Canyon corridor, especially in the form of sediments or “Dominy Formation,” the rate of incremental recovery I witnessed through these years of drought-induced low water helped me understand that if given a chance, Glen Canyon could recover its majesty. This especially holds true with the riparian plants and freshwater springs reestablishing in Glen Canyon. During the period of low water, I assisted a team of ecologists surveying tributary canyons and reported on it for bioGraphic, the California Academy of Sciences website (here). Their study found that within 1-5 years native plants reappear within the canyons, and given twenty years, these side canyons can recover their pre-dam characteristics. This also reestablishes habitat for native wildlife that were adversely

affected by the reservoir. In recovering canyons, I have witnessed playful otters in freshwater streams, sizeable beaver dams, and Big Horn Sheep reclaiming former underwater terrain.

The EIS should analyze a "Fill Mead First" model. By prioritizing water storage in Mead before Powell, many of the culturally, historically, and scientifically significant areas remerging in Glen Canyon's tributaries can be preserved. This would be further ensured with the policy of "don't fill past 3,550" at Lake Powell reservoir.

The EIS should be based on actual Colorado River flows and scientific projections based on drought and climate change.

When planning the future management of the Colorado River there are two realities that must be addressed first and foremost: ensuring that clean drinking water is available to all Americans and that the source of that water, and the landscapes that carry it, are protected and cared for. The Colorado River Basin is on a long-term trajectory to do neither.

It doesn't help that we started out in the red. When the Colorado River Compact was drawn up in 1922 it overallocated Colorado River Water based on inflated flow levels from an abnormally wet period. Drought years were not taken into consideration, despite concurrent studies of tree rings from the southwest that warned of stretches of extreme drought throughout the region over the course of thousands of years. The compact at the time did not include the upper basin, nor did it factor water for tribes and Mexico who relied on and resided along the river's course.

Over 100 years later, the same law of the river is being applied to a river that has shrunk by 20% during the recent 23-year drought and with a population that continues to grow exponentially. This basic accounting problem is pushing toward bankruptcy.

The lower Colorado River Basin, and in particular California, continues to overdraft more water than the Colorado River contains. All the while, the states are also utilizing tribal water that has yet to be legally allocated, as is the case for instance with the Navajo Nation's share of the Colorado River in Arizona. The Navajo Nation is the largest Native American tribe in the nation, and over 40% of its enrolled tribal members still do not have access to running water. I reported on the ways drought and current management adversely impact the Navajo Nation and other tribes for Sierra Magazine (here and here).

While the winter of 2023 has brought relief to the Colorado River Basin and bolstered its reservoirs, the latest scientific models show that it would take 4-5 abnormally wet winters for Powell and Mead to fully recover. And that still does not consider the evaporative effects of climate change and increasingly warm temperatures that exacerbate evaporation. As I write this, global summer temperatures are the highest ever recorded.

There is no way of knowing what the next few winters will be like. What we do know with great certainty, is that drought is a consistent and constant threat across the Colorado River Basin. A management plan for the Colorado River post-2026 needs to take into account the actual quantity of water in the Colorado River as well as the scientific models which suggest a continued reduction in the Colorado River's flow because of factors related to climate change (here).

A drastic cut in state water usage to align with the actual and projected forecast of Colorado River water in times of drought must be implemented at all times. The water from an above average winter should create a surplus in and stabilize one major reservoir, Lake Mead, as is the case in a “Fill Mead First” plan.

The EIS should analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam.

In 2022 Lake Powell and Lake Mead both fell to dangerously low water levels in the last few years, threatening the electrical grids that rely on the power they produce for millions of people. More disconcerting is the threat this poses to each dam’s ability to release water downstream at all. Why strain the entire Colorado River system to hang on by a thread to limp both reservoirs along? It is well known that Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell were created to retain sediment to protect Lake Mead. Glen Canyon Dam was built with a finite timeline and an understanding that the goal was to essentially “Fill Mead First” or more realistically, fill Mead longest. It is evident that the expiration date for both reservoirs is encroaching much faster than initially projected. (See study released in June 2023 here.)

If Lake Powell were to fall below the dead pool threshold 3,370 it would cut off all but a trickle of flowing water to the Grand Canyon. This would destroy a National Park, a natural wonder, a sacred homeland, and the sensitive ecosystem that supports wildlife and ecology found nowhere else in the world, as is the case with the endemic humpback chub. I investigated the ramifications of drought in the Grand Canyon on the humpback chub and the cultural perspectives of the Zuni tribe for Sierra Magazine (here).

Dead pool at Lake Powell would also mean hardly any new water would flow into Lake Mead, putting that reservoir in jeopardy. If Mead hits dead pool, it will cut off millions of people in the lower Colorado River Basin from their water. What type of civilization drags their feet with this doomed scenario in front of them? Great nations have fallen to their knees because of water in a tale as old as time.

Caring for the water and the land is not a separate issue from providing safe clean water to its citizens. Because of these short and long-term realities. A full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam will help restore and protect two unique ecosystems, Glen and Grand Canyon, that are unlike any other in the world. It will also ensure water can continue to pass through to Lake Mead, and steadily bolster its levels to protect the human animals that rely on this water.

The reasons to bypass Glen Canyon Dam, to protect the water that all life in the Colorado River basin relies on, far outweigh the electricity the dam generates. Hydropower can be replaced by wind and solar. Life-sustaining water and the wonderous ecosystem it flows from are irreplaceable.

The Post-2026 EIS must consider the last 20 years of drought, the worst in the last 1,200 years, and the realities of climate change in its long-term management of the Colorado River. Like efforts to reduce carbon emissions to slow climate change, adapting to the current conditions will take time and an alteration of our current systems. These things take time, and we do not have

more time to waste. The wheels must be set in motion, not to protect old modes of “progress” and the hydropower they produce, but to implement a water management plan that utilizes the water actually available. Protecting the Colorado River also protects the lives of 40 million people, Indigenous homelands, flora, and fauna. The living Colorado River shaped the Western landscape as we know it over the course of millions of years. It is our responsibility to ensure it continues to flow.

Morgan Sjogren
Author/Journalist
Colorado River Basin

Letter #: 20516

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19277: Colin Chupik

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: EIS Public Comment: consider the fill Mead first plan

Hi all,

Thank you for taking the time and effort to compile the opinions coming from the public regarding the Colorado River 2026 management plan.

I ask that you consider the 'fill Lake Mead first model as we continue to adapt to an ever changing climate. The plan will not only strengthen the delivery of water to water users, but will also restore the now emerging environmental resource that is Glen Canyon. Reverting back to filling lake Powell for recreation after a large snow-year is a step in the wrong direction and goes against Reclamations mission of managing, developing and protecting water in an environmentally and economically sound manner

I am a Reclamation employee and the thoughts from this comment are my own and I am not affiliated with this project.

Thanks for your time and effort,

Colin

Letter #: 20576

Date Received: 8/16/2023

Sender Names: 8: John Coffee

Emails: 8: mydogs2003@icloud.com

Organizations:

Subject: Fw: Colorado River public input - Fw: Fwd: final draft

Amanda Erath (she/her)
Post-2026 Colorado River Operations
Program Coordinator
(720) 948-7108
aerath@usbr.gov

_____

Making sure this gets into the scoping comments. It was sent through CGB Region.

Peter Soeth | Office of Communications | 303-910-7473

_____

From: Helms, Michelle R
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 5:00:47 PM
To: Jerla, Carly
Cc: Friar, Linda C ; Soeth, Peter D
Subject: RE: Colorado River public input - Fw: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: final draft

+Peter

Michelle Helms

Public Affairs Officer

Bureau of Reclamation | Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Basin

Office: 702-293-8189 | Mobile: 702-726-1921 | mhelms@usbr.gov

From: Helms, Michelle R
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 3:59 PM
To: Jerla, Carly

Cc: Friar, Linda C
Subject: FW: Colorado River public input - Fw: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: final draft

Carly,

This came to us via the Public Affairs office in CGB

Michelle

Michelle Helms

Public Affairs Officer

Bureau of Reclamation | Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Basin

Office: 702-293-8189 | Mobile: 702-726-1921 | mhelms@usbr.gov

Hi Michelle,

This individual called requesting that this input was received in the appropriate office today, as today is the last day for public comments.

Thank you,

Lisa

Lisa Navarro

Public Affairs Specialist

Bureau of Reclamation

Interior Region 10: California-Great Basin

916-978-5111

lnavarro@usbr.gov

_____

From: John Coffee >
Date: August 14, 2023 at 6:21:53 PM PDT
To:
Subject: John Coffee, UFCW Local 135, BOR Public Input

There have been nearly 260 articles written about the Colorado River running dry since the beginning of last April in the Western Press. If Hoover Dam and/or Glen Canyon Dam ever hit dead-pool status, the hydroelectric power and drinking water of 40 million Americans will be threatened, including Los Angeles. 70% of the water taken from the Colorado River each year by the Bureau of Reclamation goes to farming worthless cash crops like alfalfa, cotton, and sugar.

California's Imperial Valley uses about half the water from the Colorado River that is allocated in the Lower Basis States of the Colorado Rive of California, Arizona, and Nevada. President Joe Biden agreed to equal percentage water cuts to California, Arizona, and Nevada's allocations of Colorado River water. This was the SEIS recommendation number 3 by the Bureau of Reclamation; number 2 was what was agreed to with a consensus agreement by the Colorado River's Lower Basin States of California, Arizona, and Nevada. It entailed how the Arizona farmers will save the most water by amount. The United States Department of the Interior has the Federal power and the previous thumbs up by the White House to reverse the Lower Basin State's agreement in favor of SEIS Agreement 3.

This would be in order to legally save what the Bureau of Reclamation last Summer called a safe amount of water to be saved from the Colorado River. This safe amount is between 2-4 million acre-feet per year to be saved in total water allocation by the Bureau of Reclamation each year from the Colorado River. The current Lower Basin State's deal saved 3 million acre-feet of water from the Colorado River over the course of the next three years.

- I suggest that all the water that was once earmarked for California's farmers of the Imperial Irrigation District to fallow their land be used for cloud seeding. This should be the case if the United States Federal government and/or the United States Department of the Interior do not force the California farmers into

fallowing their land. The Upper Basin States seldom use all their water on irrigation. Nonetheless, they are receiving Federal money to fallow their land. Why not earmark the remaining excess to cloud seeding? $2.4 million has already been allocated by the United States Federal government for the Colorado River Basin States to cloud seed. Utah already has allocated over $10 to cloud seeding in Utah. Why not have the Department of the Interior allocate all remaining funds from fighting drought and dead-pool status for either the Hoover Dam or the Glen Canyon Dam to be used to cloud seed in all major parts of the Colorado River Basin that feed the Colorado River, a monetary amount in the billions?

Cloud seeding is a proven science that once caused a flood in the Middle East during a drought and cloud seeding has been known to fill a stadium with snow. Cloud seeding is the best answer if the Federal government does not enforce Bureau of Reclamation SEIS option 3.

Letter #: 20594

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18835: James 'Q' Martin

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: please remove glen canyon

To Whom it may Concern,

Please remove Glen Canyon and fill Lake Mead first!

additionally take the propria steps to ensure that the result of removing Glen Canyon does not require tons of reparation work and actually works in favor of the environment.

Kindly,

James Q Martin - US Citizen abs voter who cares about the enviroment

Sent via two thumbs from the trail

Letter #: 20596

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19051: Steve Cole

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Scoping - Colorado River Post 2026 Operations

I have been visiting Glen Canyon NRA since the early 1990s and I've probably been there a couple hundred times. I did 23 week-long backcountry volunteer projects over a period of 18 years to clear invasive Russian Olive trees from the Escalante River corridor.

In 2005 I rappelled into Cathedral in the Desert, all the way to the bottom of the waterfall. Last year I backpacked down Fiftymile Gulch and saw Gregory Natural Bridge exposed for the first time in many, many years. This past spring I returned to Cathedral in the Desert via the overland route involving multiple rappels. Over the past two decades I have hiked to Lake Powell via Coyote Gulch, Willow Gulch, Fiftymile Gulch, Davis Gulch, Clear Creek and Llewellyn Gulch. In each case, the canyons became deeper and deeper and more and more spectacular the further downstream I went. In each case I wished I could go further to see what was around the next bend.

I would like to see the EIS include consideration of these side canyons and their recovering riparian systems. These canyons that have been "drowned" by Lake Powell are National Park quality terrain in their own right. The lower Lake Powell gets, the better and more spectacular canyons emerge. The EIS should consider a scenario where Lake Powell remains at a low level and the side canyons are permanently exposed and allowed to recover.

Steve Cole

Letter #: 20599

Date Received: 8/16/2023

Sender Names: 18901: David Larson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I have been camping at “Leave No Trace” camping at Lake Powell for almost 50 years. I have learned more about God, nature, family and friends at Lake Powell than any other single place I’ve been. I am now taking my grandchildren to the experience this magical place. 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.

Please maintain enough water (the levels are well known) in the reservoir to maintain the recreation interests year round. Please also consider a higher degree of regulation of the use of the lake including, boat size and the future—use of fossil fuel engines to help maintain the integrity of the natural environment and the quality of recreation for all who use the reservoir.

I support the Path to 3588 plan developed by BlueRibbon Coalition. 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.

As the Bureau of Reclamation creates alternatives, BOR needs to strongly consider the needs of recreational users and use this platform as a way to encourage the development of cleaner alternative fuel uses for marine motors, such as natural gas and hydrogen.

I know you can balance forward thinking with the interests of recreation and water needs.

Sincerely,
David Larson

August 15, 2023

Seth Arens
Research scientist, Western Water Assessment
Principal, Western Climate Services
1070 S Windsor St
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

<u>Comments on 88 FR 39455</u>: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice to Solicit Comments and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Amanda Erath
US Bureau of Reclamation
Colorado River Post-2026 Program Coordinator

Dear Ms. Erath,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice to Solicit Comments and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead*. This letter provides information about ecological resources in the Lake Powell region below 3700 feet (3700') based on preliminary research from 2019-2023. The perspectives I offer are based on work done as a research scientist for Western Water Assessment and as an ecologist working as the principal owner of Western Climate Services. The information and views I offer do not necessarily reflect the perspectives of Western Water Assessment as an organization. The primary goal of my comments is to provide information about an issue in Colorado River management that has not yet been considered: ecological resources *above* Glen Canyon Dam.

Background

I became personally aware of rapid changes to landscapes, hydrology and riparian ecosystems in the Lake Powell region below 3,700' during a personal river trip down Cataract Canyon of the Colorado River in 2018. In October 2019, I organized a research trip down Cataract Canyon for the University of Utah's Global Change and Sustainability Center. The trip brought together researchers from various disciplines at the University of Utah, along with individuals from the USGS, Utah Geologic Survey, Canyonlands N.P., American Rivers and the Returning Rapids Project to begin to study changes occurring in Cataract Canyon. My primary research goals in lower Cataract Canyon were to survey plants and ecosystems re-establishing on landscapes previously inundated by Lake Powell, to compare re-establishing ecosystems to those not impacted by Lake Powell and to understand how these systems change over time.

In October 2019, I established vegetation survey sites in two tributaries of lower Cataract Canyon (Gypsum and Clearwater Canyons) that had been previously inundated by Lake Powell. In 2020, I re-surveyed sites from 2019 and established sites in a third tributary canyon (Dark Canyon). By 2021, I collected a three-year record on plant survey information from sites above

(4) and below (4) 3700' and a two-year record of plant survey information from an additional 3 sites. I am currently working on a manuscript describing the results from ecological research in Lower Cataract Canyon from 2019-2021 and seek to publish this research by late 2023.

Last year, I began a four-year project (2022-2025) that builds and expands on previous research in lower Cataract Canyon of the Colorado River. The new project, *Ecological Transformation in the Lake Powell Region During Megadrought,* will address the following research questions:

- What types of ecosystems and plants are re-establishing on landscapes previously inundated by Lake Powell?
- How do re-establishing ecosystems change over time?
- What happens to re-establishing ecosystems after they are inundated and subsequently re-emerge?

In 2022 and 2023, 91 plant survey sites at 20 locations (tributary canyons, bays or river corridors) were established in Glen Canyon; 58 plant survey sites were established at locations below 3700 feet that were inundated by Lake Powell 2-23 years ago. Site locations ranged from Ticaboo Canyon to Reflection Canyon and up the Escalante River corridor to Cow Canyon. Sites will be re-surveyed in 2024 and 2025. The second survey of sites in the Lake Powell region will give a two-year window of change to help evaluate some of the above research questions. The research focuses on sites in tributary canyons with intermittently and perennially flowing water. However, some sites were established in drying bays along the mainstem of Lake Powell and the Escalante River. In all tributary canyons or other locations, sites were randomly selected within specific elevation ranges (3550'-3600', 3600'-3650', 3650'-3700') in order to control for the length of time a landscape has been exposed and to provide meaningful information for reservoir management relative to Lake Powell elevations.

As a research scientist for Western Water Assessment, my primary goal is always to provide usable science for management and planning contexts. The primary goal of the Cataract Canyon project and the current project, *Ecological Transformation in the Lake Powell Region During Megadrought*, is to provide land managers and the stakeholders of the Colorado River basin with usable information about ecological resources in landscapes that were once inundated by Lake Powell and how these systems change over time.

Preliminary Results

After four years of ecological monitoring in the Lake Powell region, the most striking result is that ecosystems are re-establishing very quickly and most locations in tributary canyons with flowing water have rich ecosystems dominated by native plant species. While the commonly held paradigm of slow-growing desert ecosystems is true in some landscapes, such as dry bays or dry tributary canyons, rapid re-establishment of ecosystems in locations with flowing water is occurring throughout the Lake Powell region. The geography of the Lake Powell region and the inundation and subsequent drying of landscapes between 3532-3700' creates a natural laboratory for studying ecologic succession. While this is interesting from a scientific standpoint, it is also relevant from a management perspective. Tributary canyons to Lake Powell that experience the same disturbance (flooding from the Lake) at the same time are isolated from each other. Therefore, each tributary canyon may provide a slightly different version of how succession

proceeds and what assemblage of native and non-native plants are present. Most tributary canyons I have visited and surveyed are strongly dominated by native plant species in locations that have been exposed for more than 5 years.

Native plants are typically outcompeting non-native plants. In the first several years that a landscape emerges from under Lake Powell, invasive plant species are common and there is often a mix of non-native and native plants species. In most locations exposed for at least 5 years, ecosystems are dominated by native plant species. Willow and similar native species (*Salix exigua, S. goodingii, Baccharis salicina, B. salicifolia*) typically form periodic stands in locations exposed for longer than 3 years and often form continuous stands in locations exposed for longer than 11 years. Many species of native bunchgrasses and wildflowers are also common. Cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) are re-establishing in most tributary canyons within 5-10 years of emergence from Lake Powell; cottonwoods up to 50 feet tall were observed on landscapes that have been exposed for 20 years. The plant survey work done in the Lake Powell region is not designed to identify every plant species, but to obtain a representative sample of ecosystem composition and plant coverage. Within that sampling context, approximately 50 native plant species have been identified in the Lake Powell region at sites below 3700'. One of the most unique and ecologically diverse ecosystems of the Lake Powell region is hanging gardens. Hanging gardens are also re-establishing in many tributary canyons to Lake Powell. Newly established hanging gardens were observed in landscapes that have been exposed for 11 and 21 years.

While I have not published research findings to present in this brief comment, published research on ecological research in Cataract Canyon will be available in early 2023. Preliminary results from the three years of field work in tributary canyons to Cataract Canyon can be found in the poster presentation "Ecological Succession in Emerging Tributaries to Cataract Canyon" (https://wwa.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/2023-06/CataractCanyonPoster_051123.pdf), which was presented at the 2023 University of Colorado Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Science Rendezvous. My current project, *Ecological Transformation in the Lake Powell Region During Megadrought*, will not be completed until late 2025, but I plan to publish the results of the first two years of plant survey field work in early 2024. In early 2026, I will publish research findings related to changes to ecosystems first visited in 2022-2023. I am also very open to working with interested Colorado River basin stakeholders throughout the research project in order to make information available as it is collected and analyzed.

Comments on the NOI to Prepare an EIS for Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

One goal of the 2007 Interim Guidelines was to:

> improve Reclamation's management of the Colorado River by considering the trade-offs between the frequency and magnitude of reductions of water deliveries, and considering the effects on water storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and on water supply, power production, recreation, and other environmental resources. (88FR39456)

In the 16 years since the 2007 Interim Guidelines were established, climate and environmental conditions have changed and consequently the environmental resources impacted by Colorado

River management have also changed. The most notable environmental resource not considered in the 2007 Interim Guidelines is the ecological resources above Glen Canyon Dam that have established below full-pool Lake Powell elevation since 1999. At Lake Powell's all-time low elevation in April 2023, over 100,000 acres of previously-inundated land was exposed and terrestrial ecosystems were re-establishing. Exposed areas of land include large relatively flat bays, rocky talus slopes and tributary canyons, both with and without perennial streams. Since 1999, ecosystems have established on landscapes that were once inundated by the reservoir. Many ecosystems, especially those near perennially flowing creeks or those that emerged more than 5-10 years ago, are comprised of mostly native plant species.

When the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2007 Interim Guidelines was developed, terrestrial ecological resources in the Lake Powell region were still developing and riparian ecosystems were in early stages of succession. As the EIS for Post-2026 Colorado River Operations is being considered, ecological resources in the Lake Powell region are now well-established in many locations. Landscapes in the Lake Powell region above 3,661 feet have had 22-25 years to undergo spontaneous ecological succession, locations above 3,636 feet have been exposed to terrestrial ecological succession since 2011 and locations above the 2023 high-water elevation of 3,585 feet have been exposed to successional processes for at least three years. The EIS for the 2007 Interim Guidelines did not consider emerging ecological resources in the Lake Powell region because they were not yet established. The upcoming EIS for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead must consider the impact of water storage in Lake Powell on ecological resources in the Lake Powell region that have established since 1999.

The Draft Supplemental EIS for Near-term Colorado River Operations that was withdrawn in June 2023 gives some insight into how the Bureau of Reclamation plans to consider ecological resources in the Lake Powell region. To my knowledge, there is no published research (peer-reviewed or agency reports) about the ecological resources that are present in the Lake Powell region below 3,700 feet. The EIS for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead should include an effort to survey and evaluate ecological resources in the Lake Powell region. Landscapes previously inundated by Lake Powell have developed rich, thriving and diverse native ecosystems over the last 23 years of drought in the Colorado River Basin. Many of these landscapes are hot-spots of biodiversity in the arid landscape of the Colorado Plateau.

The Draft Supplemental EIS for Near-term Colorado River Operations (DSEIS) describes the vegetation present in the Lake Powell region that would be affected by fluctuations in reservoir level, but acknowledges that no vegetation monitoring or studies have been conducted in the riparian habitat along the lakeshore (or in riparian ecosystems along the rivers or their tributaries). The description of vegetation in the lakeshore environment and riparian ecosystems of river corridors and tributaries is incomplete, misleading or absent. The DSEIS lists the dominant vegetation of riparian ecosystems in side canyons as Fremont cottonwood, tamarisk and cattail. While these species are present, none are the dominant species in these environments except Fremont cottonwood at some locations above 3,661 feet. The abundance of tamarisk along riparian corridors of most tributary canyons is relatively low compared to native willow (*Salix exigua* and *S.* goodingii) and baccharis (*Baccharis salicina* and *B. salicifolia)* species.

Native shrub species appear to be effectively out-competing the non-native tamarisk at most locations in tributary canyons below 3,700 feet. Cattail is present and abundant in some locations, but many other native species of wetland grasses, rushes and sedges are very common. Overall, riparian ecosystems are much more diverse than the limited information provided in description of Lake Powell vegetation in the DSEIS. Much more study is necessary in order to properly consider the impact of reservoir operations on the vegetation in the Lake Powell region. Russian thistle (*Salsola* spp.) is an extremely common non-native plant along recently exposed areas of Lake Powell shoreline and in tributary canyons. However, Russian thistle is abundant only in locations that were recently exposed (less than two years) and appears to be an early successional species that is typically replaced by other native plant species, even in drier locations, after 2-5 years.

Considering basin water consumption, current climate and future climate projections, it is unlikely that Lake Powell and Lake Mead will again refill. Given this likely scenario, there are management decisions that could be made to maintain some of the ecosystems that have re-established in the Lake Powell region. However, the ecological resources in the Lake Powell region below 3,700 feet must first be acknowledged, surveyed and studied in order to make responsible management decisions regarding environmental impacts to these systems. I sincerely hope that the Bureau thoroughly considers the impacts to the ecosystems that have re-established since 1999 in the Lake Powell region in the EIS for Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The last 23 years of drought have caused tremendous disruption and uncertainty to water supply in the Colorado River Basin. The re-establishment of rich and diverse native ecosystems in previously inundated portions of Glen Canyon is one of the few positive impacts of the megadrought and I have optimism that effective planning and management by the Bureau of Reclamation can help maintain these vibrant ecosystems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,
Seth Arens

Letter #: 20618

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19449: Erin Dewsnup

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I hope you are receiving thousands of emails with the similar message to please support a water level of 3588’ as proposed by Blue Ribbon Coalition.

I’ve been surprised at the amount of water being released from Lake Powell this year. As we all are aware, we’ve had an exceptionally good water year, and the states downriver of Lake Powell and Lake Mead have as well. Many reservoirs in Norther Utah have barely dropped in elevation due to water conservation efforts and that simply it’s been a wet year and the water has not been needed. I fell that this is a similar case with Lake Powell in that the water is not needed and the guidelines for water release from Lake Powell should be revisited to maintain 3588’ for both recreational purposes as well as a storage for future dry years.

Sincerely,
Erin Dewsnup

Letter #: 20619

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19211: Paula Dean

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comments

Thanks to everyone working on this issue.

The first consideration should be the health of the river itself, with minimum flows established the total length of the river.

Tribes should be actively involved in the decision, their long term perspective is very valuable.

Conservation measures must be imposed (higher fees will help.)

Letter #: 20624

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18993: Steve Munsell

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post 2026 EIS Pre scoping comments

Thanks for the good work you will do. You know that prolonged drought is too soft a term for the conditions we experience in the Colorado River System. The whole math was built on basically poor water data. So use science and truth to come up with real numbers. Evaporation losses in the system must be considered as a real consumptive use of water in the system. To ignore these losses is to sacrifice any real world credibility in your work. They must be shared equally across the user community. Come up with some BOLD concepts and not 1000 pages of boilerplate goobelity gook language that perpetuates the myth of the river. The water was never there so why perpetuate math that creates an unsustainable future for the 40 million resident users in and adjacent to the Colorado River (infrastructure). Listen to the GCRG - The river guides. Their comments are well considered and reasoned. Western water law needs to be re-visioned. California has too much power based solely on the good fortune of geography that allowed them to become 1st in time, 1st in right. It's not right if you are Colorado or Wyoming or other more junior lessor 'users'. These are basin states not users!
Make realistic cuts in expectation for water deliveries. 20% is a reality we all must face.
Start somewhere and make a difference. Use more dramatic terms than "Long term drought". Regional drying from climate change is a physical reality. Language matters.
If you're not facing political retribution from the strength of your recommended actions then your actions are not dramatic enough to make a real difference in the climate we all face.
Thanks for all you do.

Steven Munsell

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Take Our Virtual Tour
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fyouvis.it%2FmVj8zv&data=05%7C01%7Cbor-sha-crbpost2026%40usbr.gov%7C1b30bef8ce504701f36708db9e1a364f%7C0693b5ba4b184d7b9341f32f400a5494%7C0%7C0%7C638277607648051336%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=68cFlg%2Fosilg9BXODiseEuaU7KDn1TAGkvtAgLmbdp0%3D&reserved=0>

Letter #: 20644

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18850: Chris Peterson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I agree with the form letter the blue ribbon coalition drafted. Furthermore, I believe the federal government should have someone besides the NPS manage the recreation area. It makes no sense to have an agency who is obviously against the existence of Lake Powell manage it. There has been a complete dereliction of duty from the NPS in taking care of a precious resource. Both the environment and the safety of the NRA users are jeopardized by their irresponsibility.

Sincerely,
Chris Peterson

Letter #: 20670

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19050: Greg Daly

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Please keep our public lands for the public use. Lake Powell and Glen Canyon NRA are enjoyed by millions of people every year from a variety of backgrounds and physical abilities. If Lake Powell is ever drained, very few people would be able to access and enjoy those beautiful parts or our country. Glen Canyon would turn into a reserve for a small group of elite, desert back country and canyoneering groups because they would be the only ones capable of accessing those remote areas. Our public lands are to be enjoyed by the public. Please keep Lake Powell above the 3588 mark in order to ensure optimal public access and enjoyment.

Sincerely,
Greg Daly

Letter #: 20673

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19081: Mace Sorenson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

We need to make it so if Lake powell gets no water they let no water out

Sincerely,
Mace Sorenson

Letter #: 20733

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19413: Jake Schoppe

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I have been recreating on Lake Powell my entire life. I consider the reservoir and the surrounding area part of my culture and heritage as I have grown up and now raised my family in Utah and on this water-body. I am ashamed of my federal governments management of this waterbody. The dam, power structures, and water are a national resource that need to be managed to sustain the recreation, the power generation, and the tourism that is supported by this. Its time to recognize that farming in a desert is not sustainable and that the original agreements on water shares are inappropriate allocation for the west. Drought and climate change need to be factored into the future management TO sustain the reservoir for the american public and the infrastructure that was built to provide critical power, and recreation.

My family has a lifetime of history at this NRA. 3 generations now have been impacted in the positive because of this magnificent masterpiece created to enhance the are, the power grid, and allow for storage of water for drought.

Its time to recognize and re-allocate water to provide for sustainability in the reservoir. The industry that has been created to support the recreation, the city (page), and Big water, matter. They matter more than a few crops down river and the financial impact is greater to this industry than the agriculture that would be lost. You need to consider this.

Please consider the impact to wildlife and fisheries as well when developing alternative to improve water retention in the reservoir.

Please keep me informed with all future meetings and pubic comment periods. Sincerely.

Sincerely,
Jake Schoppe

Let the Free Market Allocate Colorado River Water

The current approach to allocating Lower Colorado River water to customers in California, Arizona, and Nevada is environmentally unsound in large part because it does not use any kind of pricing mechanism to ensure that the water is devoted to its highest value uses, and is used as efficiently as possible. The Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 allocates 7.5 million acre-feet of Lower Colorado River water to California, Arizona, and Nevada, and if the Secretary of the Interior determines, in a given year, that that quantity of water is available, then California, Arizona and Nevada are respectively entitled to 4.4 million acre-feet, 2.8 million acre-feet, and 300,000 acre-feet of that water during that year.[1] The discussion below suggests that if the Department of the Interior were to sell this water on the open market, the market-clearing price might be approximately $1,000 per acre-foot, yielding approximately $7.5 billion in annual revenue. Unfortunately, these massive quantities of water are not allocated in this way. Instead, most of the water is distributed to agricultural irrigation districts and other similar entities whose entitlements are based on the Law of the River, rather than on any type of rational pricing mechanism. This approach predictably leads to economically irrational results. Thus, for example, as a recent Washington Post article points out, the 400 farms served by the Imperial Irrigation District in southern California currently use more Colorado River water each year than the States of Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and New Mexico combined.[2]

A 1931 Agreement governs the division of California's 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water among seven entities: the Imperial Irrigation District, the Palo Verde District, and the Coachella Valley Water District; the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC); the Cities of Los Angeles and San Diego; and the County of San Diego. It provides that the three irrigation districts are entitled to receive 3.85 million acre-feet of Colorado River water each year, and that Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Diego County are together entitled to receive only the remaining 515,000 acre-feet of water.[3] As a consequence, in calendar 2022, the Imperial, Palo Verde, and Coachella Valley Districts respectively consumed 2,577,164 acre-feet; 333,157 acre-feet; and 330,387 acre-feet of Colorado River water; that is, a total of 1.056 trillion gallons.[4] By contrast, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California – which secures water from a variety of sources and serves nineteen million people in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Diego County – consumed 1,127,137 acre-feet (367 billion gallons) of Colorado River water.[5] Because the 1931 Agreement only entitles the MWDSC entities to 515,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year, they must secure the additional amounts they need each year – such as 612,137 acre-feet of water in calendar 2022 – from one or more of the three irrigation

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[1] *Arizona v. California*, 547 U.S. 150, 155 (2006). In 1963, the Supreme Court determined that the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928, 43 U.S.C. 617 *et seq*., required this allocation of Lower Colorado River water to California, Arizona, and Nevada. *Arizona v. California*, 373 U.S. 546, 564-565 (1963).

[2] Amid Colorado River crisis, these California farmers may face water cuts - The Washington Post (April 16, 2023).

[3] *Water: California: Seven Party Water Agreement* (August 18, 1931) (1931 Agreement), *available at* HDDocs_1948_Appendix_1003_Seven_Party_Agreement_CA_1931.pdf (coloradoriverscience.org) .

[4] Bureau of Reclamation: *2022 Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report (usbr.gov): Arizona, California and Nevada: Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Basin* (May 15, 2023), at 22-23. One acre-foot of water equals 326,000 gallons of water.

[5] *Id*. at 22-23.

districts. Thus, for example, in 2021, the San Diego County Water Authority paid the Imperial Irrigation District almost $147 million for 205,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water; that is, approximately $717 per acre-foot.[6] In 2021, the Imperial Irrigation District also transferred 105,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.[7] It is not clear how much the MWDSC actually paid for this water, but if we assume that it paid approximately the same amount per acre-foot – either directly, or by financing capital improvements within the Imperial Irrigation District, or in some other way – that yields a total payment of approximately $75 million in 2021.

The tremendous disparities in water usage between these three agricultural irrigation districts and the municipal water systems arise in large part from the prices that each entity pays for Colorado River water, and from the uses to which each type of consumer devotes its water allocation. Thus, for example, the farms in the Imperial Irrigation District pay the District $20 per acre-foot for the Colorado River water they use,[8] and the farms in the Coachella Valley Water District pay that District $37 per acre-foot.[9] By contrast, as noted above, the San Diego County Water Authority pays $717 per acre-foot for water from the Imperial Irrigation District, and in turn charges San Diego County farmers $1,295 per acre-foot, and municipal and industrial users $1,769 per acre-foot.[10]

The most environmentally sound way to allocate Lower Colorado River water – so that it is devoted to its highest-value uses and is used as efficiently as possible – would be to rely on the free market to determine its price; that is, for the Department of the Interior to auction long-term contracts for the water to the highest bidders. The foregoing discussion suggests that $1,000 per acre-foot might be the market-clearing price for the water, and as noted above, the sale of all 7.5 million acre-feet of Lower Colorado River water at that price – while adhering to the interstate division required by the Boulder Canyon Water Project Act – would yield $7.5 billion in federal revenue each year. The allocations of California water prescribed by the 1931 Agreement of course constitute an obstacle to this approach, and the Department in the past has adhered to those allocations; however, it is not required to do so. The 1931 agreement does not bind the federal government; by its terms it simply requests that the Department follow the allocation prescribed by the agreement – when it executes delivery contracts for Colorado River water to California users – "if agreeable to the United States."[11] The Department could therefore notify the parties to the 1931 Agreement that it intends to rescind its approval as part of its effort to reorganize the distribution of Colorado River water in 2026. Similarly, while a 2006 Supreme Court decree requires the Department to recognize the "present priority rights" to Lower Colorado water (under the Law of the River) held by a long list of California, Arizona, and

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[6] *Imperial Irrigation District Water & QSA Implementation Report 2021* (IID Report) at 67,80, *available at* 638030680614770000 (iid.com).
[7] IID Report at 67.
[8] IID Report at 54.
[9] These Imperial Valley Farmers Want to Pay More for Their Colorado River Water | Voice of San Diego.
[10] New Agricultural Water Rate Program Benefits San Diego County Growers - San Diego County Water Authority (sdcwa.org)
[11] 1931 Agreement at 2.

Nevada entities, it does not require the Department to allocate particular amounts of water to the three irrigation districts – the Imperial Irrigation District and the Palo Verde Irrigation District in California and the Valley Division of the Yuma Project in Arizona – which together use by far the largest amounts of Lower Colorado River water for agricultural purposes. Instead, the decree simply requires the Department to allocate to these three districts the *lesser* of the amount specified in the decree or "the quantity of mainstream water necessary to supply the consumptive use required for irrigation of [a specified number of acres] and for the satisfaction of related uses . . ." Thus, for example, the decree provides that the Imperial Irrigation District should receive

> annual quantities not to exceed (i) 2,600,000 acre-feet of diversions from the mainstream *or (ii) the quantity of mainstream water necessary to supply the consumptive use required for irrigation of 424,145 acres and for the satisfaction of related uses, whichever of (i) or (ii) is less,* with a priority date of 1901.[12]

Similarly, the Palo Verde Irrigation District is entitled to the lesser of 219,780 acre-feet *or "the quantity of mainstream water necessary to supply the consumptive use required for irrigation of 33,604 acres and for the satisfaction of related uses . . . ."*[13] And the Valley Division of the Yuma Project is entitled to the lesser of 254,200 acre-feet or *"the quantity of mainstream water necessary to supply the consumptive use required for irrigation of 43,562 acres and for the satisfaction of related uses . . . ."*[14]

As the Supreme Court decree establishes, the Department can therefore determine, for example, that one acre-foot per acre per year is "the quantity of mainstream water necessary to supply the consumptive use required for irrigation;" that the three irrigation districts together are therefore entitled to a total of 501,311 acre-feet for their 501,311 acres; and that long-term contracts for the remaining 2.6 million acre-feet should be auctioned to the highest bidders. If we assume that $1,000 per acre-foot is the market-clearing price for Lower Colorado River water, this approach would produce more than $2.6 billion in federal revenue each year.

In short, the most environmentally sound and efficient way to allocate Lower Colorado River water – given that the annual amounts respectively allocated to California, Nevada and Arizona cannot be changed – would be for the Department of the Interior to rescind its approval of the 1931 agreement, and any comparable agreements distributing the water currently allocated to Arizona and Nevada, and auction off the rights to as much Colorado River water as possible to the highest bidders, with the proceeds going to American taxpayers. Introducing the free market into the water allocation system, however, may need to be deferred until 2026. In the short run, the Department apparently has agreed to pay California, Arizona, and Nevada approximately $1.2 billion from now through 2025, in exchange for their agreement to reduce their collective deliveries of Colorado River water over that period by 3 million acre-feet. The States will in turn pay farmers, Native American tribes, cities and others "who voluntarily forgo their supplies" of a

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[12] *Arizona v. California*, 547 U.S. 150, 175 (2006) (Appendix to the Decree) (emphasis added).
[13] *Id*. at 174-175 (emphasis added).
[14] *Id*. at 170 (emphasis added).

total of 3 million acre-feet during that period, or approximately $400 per acre-foot.[15] This counterintuitive approach to water conservation should not, however, be repeated. When the entire Colorado River water system is reorganized in 2026, the Department of the Interior should auction off as much Colorado River water as possible to the highest bidders, in order to ensure that the water is devoted to its highest value uses, and is used as efficiently and environmentally sensibly as possible.

[15] What to know about the Colorado River deal and water cuts - The Washington Post (May 23, 2023).

Letter #: 20745

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19297: George Lilly

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glen Canyon EIS Comment

To whom it may concern,
I am avid user of the Escalante, Colorado, and San Juan River Basins. I care deeply about Glen Canyon and I want to preserve it's wonders for generations to come. The following are my comments on the Environmental Impact Statement:

The EIS should analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam to preserve the option to operate the dam during persistent droughts.

The EIS should acknowledge the extensive resources that have re-emerged in Glen Canyon. Glen Canyon is home to countless archaeological, geological, and ecological wonders. These priceless resources need to be considered when deciding where to store water. If it wasn't for the Glen Canyon Dam, I truly believe Glen Canyon would be a National Park.

The EIS should analyze a 'Fill Mead First model, prioritizing water storage in Mead before Powell, including a 'don fill past 3,550 policy at Lake Powell reservoir.

Thank you,
George Lilly

Letter #: 20751

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19365: Gunnar Biggerstaff

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern about the current water levels in Lake Powell and to emphasize the significance of taking immediate action to ensure its proper replenishment for the numerous societal benefits it provides.

Lake Powell, a reservoir formed by the Glen Canyon Dam, stands as a critical source of water and a place of recreation that greatly enriches the lives of countless individuals. Its importance goes beyond economic and environmental considerations, encompassing a range of societal advantages that are invaluable to the communities it serves.

1. **Recreation and Tourism:** Lake Powell attracts millions of visitors each year, offering them opportunities for relaxation, adventure, and family bonding. The recreational activities available, such as fishing, boating, water skiing, and camping, foster a sense of unity among families and friends, creating cherished memories that last a lifetime.

2. **Economic Growth:** The thriving tourism industry around Lake Powell significantly contributes to the economic growth of surrounding regions. Local businesses, from hotels and restaurants to outfitters and guides, depend on the influx of visitors drawn to the reservoir's recreational offerings. By maintaining adequate water levels, we can ensure a sustained flow of economic benefits to these communities.

3. **Educational Value:** Lake Powell serves as a living classroom, offering educational opportunities for schools and organizations. It provides a firsthand experience of geology, ecology, and the importance of responsible water management, helping to raise awareness about environmental conservation among both local residents and visitors.

4. **Cultural Significance:** Lake Powell holds cultural significance for many Native American tribes and local communities. It is part of the region's history and heritage, and its preservation is vital to maintaining a connection to the past while embracing the future.

5. **Mental and Emotional Well-being:** The serene beauty of Lake Powell has a profound impact on the mental and emotional well-being of individuals. Spending time near the water has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, contributing to improved overall quality of life.

Given these societal benefits, it is imperative that we prioritize the refilling of Lake Powell. The current decline in water levels not only threatens the reservoir's recreational potential but also jeopardizes the emotional

and economic well-being of the communities that cherish and rely on it.

I respectfully urge you to consider the broader impact of Lake Powell on society as you plan and execute measures to address the water shortage. Collaborative efforts that encompass water conservation, sustainable recreation management, and community engagement will help secure the reservoir's role as a source of joy, inspiration, and prosperity for generations to come.

Thank you for your dedication to addressing this important matter. I am eager to learn about the strategies and initiatives that the Bureau of Reclamation intends to implement to safeguard the societal benefits provided by Lake Powell.

Sincerely,
Gunnar Biggerstaff

Letter #: 20767

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19548: Sirovy, Tyler

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glen Canyon Post-2026 EIS

Hi,

My name is Tyler Sirovy. I study climate change and its cultural, political, and ecological afterlives at the University of Kansas. The sum of my thoughts on the CRB Post-26 EIS are below, courtesy of the Glen Canyon Institute:

"In the years since Lake Powell reservoir has declined, we have seen an amazing reemergence of wonders like Cathedral in the Desert, Gregory Natural Bridge, as well as lush riparian ecosystems, and priceless archeological sites. The place known as 'America□ lost National Park□s coming back to life, and the public is taking notice. Media outlets from around the world have flocked to witness Glen Canyon□ miraculous reemergence, sparking the imaginations of millions. When the dam was commissioned in 1956, there were no environmental laws to assess its impacts. Now that Glen Canyon has begun to reveal itself, the immense value of its resources needs to be accounted for as decision makers choose where to store water."

My best,

Tyler Sirovy

Letter #: 20792

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18784: Craig Forbus

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I would like to see higher sustained water levels in Lake Mead please.

Sincerely,
Craig Forbus

Letter #: 20857

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19155: Scott Schmidt

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

I would like to see the lake stay at higher levels and see the output move to a inflow moving average (say 10-20 year average).
Let's fix the problem of using bad data to calculate water allocation and reduce the usage forever.
By using an average we should be able to better manage our resources, keep the lake for recreation, power and for the extreme drought years without risk of losing the ramps and power.

Sincerely,
Scott Schmidt

Letter #: 20894

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19378: CheyAnne Myers

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

My husband's family has been going to lake Powell since it was filled being from Northern Arizona. I grew up in Eastern Oregon where I met my husband. The first time he took me to Lake Powell was for a family trip for a week on a house boat. We beached in Warm Creek. It was one of the most spectacular trips we've been on. On that trip I fell in love with Lake Powell. So much so that my husband and I got married there over looking the lake with all of our friends and family. Every summer since we have gone back to the lake for an anniversary or family trip! And every time we go we find some where or something new. This latest trip was the last week of July of this year. We cruised into Labyrinth Canyon for the morning and came across the best spot! There was an over hang that offered shade by 10:30 in the morning. The softest sand to beach on and a perfect ledge to deeper water to swim off of.
These experiences that husband and I have at lake Powell are the same that his parents had and ones that we would love our kids to have.
I ask that you take this into consideration when evaluating the guidelines for the coming years with the Colorado river. I don't ask that you keep the lake full but to an elevation that everyone can enjoy the lake safely.

Sincerely,
CheyAnne Myers

Submitted Via Email
crbpost2026@usbr.gov

August 15, 2023

Attn: Post-2026 (Mail Stop 8455000)
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

The following comments are provided on the proposed preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Purpose of EIS

The purpose of the EIS should be more broadly defined than previously described in the development of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2007 Interim Guidelines). The purpose should reflect the future stability of the Colorado River system taking into account existing laws and regulations and the priorities of the river's water users. Less emphasis should be placed on maintaining minimum reservoir elevations for power production than was done in the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

Reasonable Range of Alternatives

The EIS should include a reasonable range of alternatives in conformance with 40 CFR § 1502.14 and 40 CFR § 1508.1. In addition, all alternatives considered, including consensus based alternatives, must comply with existing laws governing the use of Colorado River water. Principal among these laws is the Colorado River Compact of 1922, which provides:

> *The States of the Upper Division will not cause the flow of the river at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet for any period of ten consecutive years reckoned in continuing progressive series beginning with the first day of October next succeeding the ratification of this compact.*

In addition, the 1922 Compact requires that the Upper Basin bear half the burden of supplying water to Mexico, which represents an additional 0.75 million acre-foot annual commitment under normal operations. Among the laws comprising the "Law of the River" including the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928, the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956, and the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968, the 1922 Compact is superordinate.

The EIS should be devoid of politicization unlike the Bureau of Reclamation's recent April 11, 2023, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Near-term Colorado River Operations. The SEIS included two action alternatives: One based on the "concept of priority" and another "not based exclusively on the concept of priority," the legal basis for the later

alternative being dubious. The inclusion of the later alternative was viewed as a means of forcing the basin states to work collaboratively in developing a compromise agreement for near-term operations. Presumably, this was done so that the bureau could avoid the inevitable criticism that would be levied against it by one or more parties if it unilaterally enforced existing law.

Baseline for Considering Environmental Effects

The EIS should provide a reasonable assessment of environmental trends including climate change effects. As part of this assessment, it is critical that the accuracy of historical natural river flow estimates be properly described. Historical natural flow numbers reported at Lee Ferry are *estimated* using a variety of means as opposed to being *actual flow measurements*. The quality of these estimates depends on measurement precision and bias, and the collective impact of these factors on total natural flow estimates should be described in the EIS. This is particularly critical to the extent that future flow predictions or scenarios are based on historical natural flow estimates.

Glen Canyon Dam Operation

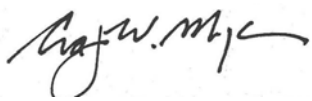
It is clear that the operations at Glen Canyon Dam largely dictated reservoir operations in the prior 2007 Interim Guidelines. Yet, under the Colorado River Compact of 1922, municipal and agricultural use have preference. The 1922 Compact states that "water of the Colorado River System may be impounded and used for the generation of electrical power, but such impounding and use shall be subservient to the use and consumption of such water for agricultural and domestic purposes and shall not interfere with or prevent use for such dominant purposes."

Past proposals by environmental groups to decommission Glen Canyon Dam or to operate the reservoir without power production as a primary goal can no longer be ignored and must be seriously considered in the EIS. The evaporative losses occurring in Lake Powell are significant given the demands on the Colorado River system and must be taken into account. At a minimum, the dam should be operated to allow for the passage of 75,000,000 acre-feet for any period of ten consecutive years and one half the supply provided to Mexico as required under the 1922 Compact. The EIS should consider the need to retrofit the dam to adhere to this requirement.

Imperial Valley Water Rights

Any alternative considered in the EIS should respect Imperial Valley's senior water rights.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Craig Morgan, P.E.
Avalex
Minden, Nevada

Mike Abatti
Mike Abatti Farms LLC
El Centro, California

James Abatti
MADJAC Farms Inc.
El Centro, California

August 15, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Post-2026 (Mail Stop 84055000)
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 90225

RE: Comments for Environmental Impact Statement for Colorado River Post-2026 Operations

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment on the scope of specific operational guidelines, strategies, and related issues that should be considered in the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement for Colorado River Post-2026 Operations.

For context, I led water, climate, and related environmental policy for the past decade for former Los Angeles City Councilmember and former Metropolitan Water District Director Paul Koretz, who termed out of political office this past December. Together, we were significantly involved in creating significant water and environmental policy, including relating to the Colorado River, for Southern California, with a goal of creating a safe, healthy, and equitable year 2100. If we, as a human society, are to be successful in reaching that goal, we must consider Colorado River solutions that achieve myriad benefits going forward for water, climate, food, and biodiversity.

The Colorado River watershed is one of the most important agricultural regions in the United States, providing water for irrigation to over 5 million acres of farmland. Agriculture uses approximately 80% of the Colorado River's water, using it to irrigate 15% of the nation's farmland, and produce 90% of the winter vegetables (feedingourselvesthirsty.ceres.org). As part of the scoping process for the post-2026 Colorado River operations, it is important to consider a "healthy soils approach" to the watershed's future management due to its substantial potential for water conservation and water quality benefits, as well as related co-benefits.

A summary of the overall benefits of a "healthy soils approach" (SOM) include:
"**Increase ecosystem water storage** - through enhancing soil structure and increasing soils' effective surface area, SOM increases the amount of water that can be retained in the soil for plant and downstream use, reducing evaporative and runoff issues." "**Purify drinking water** – the effects of SOM on water holding capacity and soil structure help to enhance soil's resilience to erosion. Soil organic matter also plays a role in reducing the bioavailability of pollutants. These functions contribute to SOM's strong role in purifying water for human uses." "**Enhance plant carbon sequestration** – by increasing nutrient and water availability, soils with high soil C and organic matter support increased growth of forests, rangelands, and wildlands, leading to increased uptake of atmospheric CO_2 ("Soil Carbon" by Erin Berryman, Jeffrey Hattan, et al, Sept. 2020).

Studies referenced by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS - soil health) of the United States Department of Agriculture have found that every 1% increase in soil organic matter can increase the water-holding capacity of soil by 27,000 gallons per acre and help mitigate drought (USDA - helps buffer drought impacts). This can lead to significant water savings, as farmers may be able to irrigate their crops less frequently. Healthy soils are more productive and promote the growth of deep-rooted plants. As a result, farmers may be able to produce the same amount of crops using less water.

Studies by the Nature Conservancy found that healthy soil practices, such as cover cropping, no-till farming, and rotational livestock grazing, could conserve up to 30% of water used for irrigation in the Colorado River watershed. This would free up more water for other uses, such as drinking water and environmental flows.

Specifically, healthy soils legislation has been approved in the Colorado River Compact states of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and California, as well as 24 other U.S. states. Healthy soils practices are, in fact, already being used to conserve water in the Colorado River watershed. In Colorado, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is working with farmers to adopt cover cropping, no-till farming, and other practices that improve soil health. These practices have helped to conserve millions of gallons of water in the state.

The following are some scoping questions that are relevant to the post-2026 Colorado River operations and the potential conservation benefits of healthy soils in the Colorado River watershed:

1) What are the potential impacts of different post-2026 Colorado River operations on healthy soils in the watershed?

2) What are the opportunities for conserving healthy soils in the Colorado River watershed, including through the application of compost on working lands?

3) What are the costs and benefits of different soil conservation strategies, including through the application of compost on working lands?

4) What are the potential trade-offs between soil conservation and other water management objectives?

5) What are the institutional and policy barriers to soil conservation in the Colorado River watershed?

6) How can we engage stakeholders in a dialogue about the future of soil conservation in the Colorado River watershed?

7) What are the specific definitions for what qualifies as saving water and what qualifies for receiving funding for saving water, and how can healthy soils be included as a goal?

8) For farmers, ranchers, tribal communities, and cities who receive water from the river, how can healthy soils be included as a requirement to help with water conservation, water quality, and carbon sequestration?

9) Can water quality be included as a requirement for consideration of valuing return credits? For example, if returned water is cleaner and of higher quality than received water, as by being filtrated through healthy soils, can that result in a higher price for return?

The 1922 Colorado River Compact guided the water allocations for most of the previous hundred years. Given the challenges facing the Southwestern United States, we must construct a new compact that is even more forward-thinking. A healthy soils approach and other natural solutions to water conservation, water quality, drought, wildfire mitigation, and climate change mitigation must be actively studied and included in negotiations that will impact the next century's water supply and quality. By incorporating healthy soils conservation measures into the post-2026 Colorado River operations, we can help to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Colorado River watershed and the overall health of the people who live there.

Sincerely,

Andy Shrader
andyshrader@gmail.com

Letter #: 20916

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19121: Travis Custer

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment: Post 2026 EIS Guidelines

To whom it may concern,

My name is Travis Custer. I am a conservationist, father, and lifelong resident of the southwest. Ive spent my career engaging with the landscape of the desert southwest, addressing water and soil issues, helping to preserve lands, and working to connect people to place. The Colorado River is near and dear to my heart and the desert runs through my veins. Ive had the honor and blessing to spend time in and around the region of Lake Powell, Cataract Canyon, and Escalante to name a few. Most recently Ive had the immense privilege to see landscapes and ecosystems, and natural treasures emerge from the depths of the lake as climate change across the basin has taken its toll on water levels. What I saw was a landscape recovering, ecological resilience, and beauty that is hard to describe. It is a place that deserves to return. A place we destroyed. But a place we have the choice to bring back.

The solution here is not one of either/or, but one of both/and. We can make choices, now, to allow Glen Canyon to return, and to protect water and ecological resources. We can fix our mistakes and emerge more resilient to a hotter and drier future. There is mounting evidence that the water levels we are seeing are not temporary in nature, but long-term trends. We are experiencing the aridification of the west. Accepting the science and observations can allow us the space to make better decisions.

There are a number of opportunities the new EIS and guidelines should address and support:

1. Analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon dam, allowing water and sediment to pass into the Grand Canyon and prevent the ongoing sedimentation of Glen Canyon under Lake Powell. This also gives the river, users, and water managers more flexibility in addressing the impacts and variability of climate change.

2. The EIS should promote the inclusion of Indigenous voices and tribal participation in the management decisions for both water rights and resources, but also for ecologically recovering areas and those that hold deep and sacred cultural significance.

3. The EIS should acknowledge, study, prioritize, and protect the returning ecological resources emerging in the canyon country of Glen Canyon and its tributaries. These places are immeasurably valuable culturally, and ecologically.

4. The EIS should explore and promote a fill Mead First model to continue to protect water resources for the basins while allowing ecological recovery of sensitive areas like Glen Canyon.

By incorporating these elements into the post 2026 plan we can better prepare the west for a new future; one that seeks to heal our relationship to this landscape, engage ecological recovery of some of the most critical places in the southwest, and build resilience to a hotter and drier future. There is no doubt about it, you have a hard process ahead. I hope to see outcomes that seek to explore creative solutions that benefit the land, plants, animals, and people who all depend on the health and resiliency of the Colorado River.

With dedication and gratitude,
Travis Custer

Letter #: 20926

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19091: Mary Ann Garner

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment on Colorado River EIS

The factors being considered for post 2026 Colorado River Stewardship are very complex and as you well know, contentious. The outcome impacts many critical facets of our lives so I understand a careful balance must be achieved. As you wrestle with all of the needs, I would like you to consider the following:

1. Our population is very divided and a significant portion of that population does not accept the fact of climate change. Without the will of the people to adapt/compromise in order to slow down global warming, the impacts will only become more dramatic. To encourage conservation, there needs to be both incentives and penalties for individuals, cities, counties, farmers, ranchers and businesses to conserve. It has to be quantified and verified.

2. The allocations made each year should be made proportionately, based on the actual use of water. The allocations should also use actual stored water and not projected stored water.

3. Thirty tribes have water rights but they have lacked the ability to enforce them. The priorities of these tribes should be an important part of the negotiations - they should have a seat at the table and their rights protected. As part of the discussion, the US government should invest in infrastructure projects (many which have been promised in the past but never completed). It is unconscionable that thousands of tribal members have to drive to water hauling stations every day because we have siphoned off their water to sustain big cities.

4. There are ways to improve agricultural practices to use water more efficiently. Farmers need further encouragement to change crops and/or invest in more efficient irrigation systems etc.

5. There can be harmful enviro

Thank you for accepting my comments.

Mary Ann Garner

Letter #: 20929

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19100: Greg Bolla

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 Public Comment - Proportional Apportionment

Hi --

Below is a comment on the Notice of Intent for post-2026 operational guidelines regarding the Colorado River Basin. If anything else is needed from me, please let me know.

Thank you,
Greg

--

The current fixed apportionment system is based on cherry-picked, 100-year old science, and doesn account for the non-stationary nature of the Colorado River. Proportional apportionment, where states, tribes, and Mexico receive a percentage of the most recent 10-year average (as an example), should be incorporated into negotiations of the post-2026 guidelines. There are many benefits to proportional apportionment - a main one being that human beings live within the constraints of nature, instead of within the constraints of legal structures built, in part, based on the whims of our species eccentricities.

Fixed apportionment stifles innovation in water management techniques as the structure implies an unchanging, stationary river, which is not the case. Proportional apportionment better aligns with the reality of changing circumstances of the river - and subsequently Western society - and encourages people to develop innovations that adapt to changing levels of apportionment.

This obviously represents a stark transformation in the structures set up to extract water out of the river, and it important to not throw the baby out with the bathwater if we pursue this course of action. An example of this is the present perfected rights that give tribes priority over other water users. To usher in a new era of American prosperity, we need to come to terms with historical wrongs perpetrated in pursuit of misguided nationalistic goals. There are few examples that illustrate this more than our relationship with tribal nations. Putting a thumb on the scale allowing tribes to further pursue self-sovereignty and prosperity is crucial to how humanity, regardless of nationality, gets out of this quandary together. Preserving senior water rights for tribes while adapting legal structures to be more in line with reality is one small step we can take to do this.

Letter #: 20933

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19100: Greg Bolla

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 Public Comment - Public access to CRSS and CRMMS modeling tools

Hi --

Below is a comment on the Notice of Intent for post-2026 operational guidelines regarding the Colorado River Basin. If anything else is needed from me, please let me know.

Thank you,
Greg

--

Like it or not, technology has had a profound effect on our lives, especially in the United States. Unfortunately, up to this point, algorithms have been primarily deployed to surveil and commoditize us, subtly nudging our behaviors in a certain direction. It doesnt need to be like this - these new fangled technological instruments could be unleashed to positive societal use. An example of this is the Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS) and its sibling model, Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System (CRMMS), crucial mechanisms for basinwide and project-specific water management decisions regarding the river.

Due to the importance that the output of this simulation system has on decision making processes, open sourcing the underlying code that comprises the CRSS and CRMMS, will achieve many important societal benefits.

Public access to how the sausage of CRSS and CRMMS is made will foster increased understanding about the dynamics of the river system, provide fertile ground for educational and career advancement opportunities, and quicken the feedback loop of our institutions to implement improvements in the underlying models. Ideally, it would provide a template for other industries to follow to achieve a greater understanding of the power and impact information and algorithms have had on our lives and society.

In his famous 1913 essay entitled 'What Publicity Can Do, Supreme Court justice Louis Brandeis advocated for increased transparency of institutions when he wrote 'Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman. [1] The digital machinery prevalent in our daily lives has insidiously impacted billions of people's lives, and gone unscrutinized for far too long. The CRSS and CRMSS could forge a path that ushers in a new era of transparency and understanding regarding these scientific and engineering tools.

[1] https://louisville.edu/law/library/special-collections/the-louis-d.-brandeis-collection/other-peoples-money-chapter-v

Letter #: 20935

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19100: Greg Bolla

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 Public Comment - Green-energy projects to tribes

Hi --

Below is a comment on the Notice of Intent for post-2026 operational guidelines regarding the Colorado River Basin. If anything else is needed from me, please let me know.

Thank you,
Greg

--

Earlier this year, the Gila River Indian Tribe entered into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to receive funding for a variety of water infrastructure projects, including solar panels installed above water canals - the first effort in the entire United States [1].

This is great news, and holds promise to solve multiple problems concurrently - solar panels above the canals reduce water loss via evaporation, produce locally-sourced electricity, and provide cutting edge science and technology to tribes, allowing accelerated development of their own lands in the way they see fit; a part of a mosaic that has the potential to heal historical wounds. More projects that encourage tribes to lead the spiritual transformation required in our relationship to the river - while allowing tribes to increase their sovereignty and self-determination - are foundational to the set of solutions that will allow the river and region to thrive in the upcoming decades.

The announcement of a project, however, is much different than the completion of it. History of federal/tribal relations are replete with broken promises on the part of the US government. While there is no reason to believe that the US government reached an agreement with the Gila River tribe deceitfully, there is legitimate reason for concern about whether the federal government has the technical and manufacturing capability to deliver on its promises.

Over the past couple decades, China gained a strategic advantage in terms of manufacturing green-energy technologies, including the solar panels like those promised to the Gila River Indian Tribe. A recent article from The Economist foreshadowed how proposed Chinese export controls could impact agreements such as the one with the Gila River Indian Tribe - 'Last year the [Chinese] commerce ministry proposed a ban on exports of ingot-casting technology used in making solar-panel wafers (ingots are chunks of silicon which are refined to make solar PV panels). If imposed, such a prohibition could hold back the development of indigenous solar-power technology in the West. [2]

The Department of Energy recently published statistics that illustrate our reliance on Chinese manufacturing for critical green-energy technologies - 'As of 2021, China possessed 72% of the worlds polysilicon manufacturing capacity, 98% of ingots, 97% of wafers, 81% of cells, and 77% of modules. [3]

Agreements to fund critical infrastructure projects that help tribes develop their lands and encourage the innovation required to successfully deal with the problem of the Colorado River are indeed a heartening step, but the true celebrations should be withheld until the projects are actually completed. One potential avenue to pursue is expanding domestic manufacturing capability of solar panels, perhaps by exploring cadmium telluride (CdTe) - for which the United States does have existing manufacturing capacity - in place of silicon.

Much discussion has revolved around the need for tribes to have a seat at the table when it comes to decision making. This step is so self-evidently needed that further elaboration would be redundant. The onus of developing the trust relationship between tribes and the federal government lies with the United States government; we need to prove that we have the required wherewithal to deliver on our commitments. Providing sums of money that include a bunch of zeroes is undoubtedly part of the answer, but I worry that we are conflating throwing money at a problem, with solving it.

[1] https://www.azmirror.com/2023/04/07/gila-river-indian-community-receives-233m-in-water-conservation-infrastructure-funding/

[2] https://www.economist.com/business/2023/07/23/china-hits-back-against-western-sanctions

[3] https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-photovoltaics-supply-chain-review-report

Letter #: 20937

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19381: Braxton A.

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: EIS Post 2026

Hello,

I am an avid outdoors person from Colorado's western slope. I have come to love the Colorado Plateau more than any other landscape. The vaster and emptier the space the better in my eyes. This has drawn me to the greater Glen Canyon area on multiple occasions. Exploring the side canyons of Glen Canyon and seeing the water line from years ago towering far above is a wild experience. I feel I have a bit of a unique perspective, I like off-roading but I also like wilderness areas closed off to motor travel. I like fishing and respect hunting but I am a vegetarian, and so on. I often feel in the middle of two groups of people. When I look out over what's left of Lake Powell I see a blend of what two groups want. Some want the lake full, others want it completely empty. A story of our times really, all or nothing. It seems more and more these days this is how people behave, no compromise. Personally, I would like to see the lake completely drained and the gangly marinas gone with it. However, I believe a compromise could be struck. Create a new max height for the reservoir below 3500 ft. Any extra water can be sent down and held in Mead. I understand this will lower the hydroelectric potential for the Dam and thus profits. Yes, less money is bad for the suit's bottom line, but the benefits this will have are huge. Boaters, anglers, and vacationers will still have a lake in the desert to enjoy. Hikers, rafters, and wilderness lovers will have most of the divine side canyons. More importantly, the riparian ecosystem and oases in the deserts will be able to restore themselves.

Thank you for your time.

Letter #: 20939

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19651: Daniel Atkins

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment on the Post 2026 EIS

Hello,

As someone who lives within the Colorado River Basin, I have observed what the drought has done to the area. There has been significantly less moisture in the basin and some extremely dry summers. On top of the extreme heat from this summer the sustainability of lake Powell has become a concern of mine.

The Glen Canyon Dam, has become more of an issue than a solution to human infrastructure in the desert southwest from my point of view. The Dam now with lower water flows only hurts the annual flow down stream and millions of gallons of water evaporates every year in lake Powell.

I have explored the upper escalante Canyon and have learned of the valuable resource of the Desert Riparian Canyons. I don□t believe there□s a need for a dam for water storage and you can easily observe the forested canyons help hold water and keep temperatures low better than a giant man made pool.

Letter #: 20940

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18799: Ken Brenner

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Fwd: USBR

August 15, 2023

To: Bureau of reclamation, Dept. of interior
Attn: Post-2026 (mail stop 84555000)
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, and to solicit comments and hold public scoping meetings on the development of post-2026, Operational Guidelines and strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ken Brenner, third generation ranch family in Routt County, Northwest Colorado. I serve as a Director for the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District but I am not speaking on their behalf. I also serve as their representative to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable, where I chair two committees. I am also one of two BRT representatives to the InterBasin Compact Committee and a board member of the Colorado Water Congress. My comments are my own and do not necessarily reflect the organizations with which I am associated.

Water supply managers throughout the western United States understand that while we hope for winters like 2023, we must plan for the winters of 2021 and 2022.

We must immediately address the overuse of the Colorado River water supply by the lower basin states. As an example, during water years 2020 through 2022 the upper basin states averaged approximately 4 million acre-feet of water consumed annually while the lower basin consumed closer to 10 million acre feet of water. Also, the lower basin's consumptive use must always reflect the significant evaporative and transit losses that takes while place storing and delivering water from Lake Mead to the lower basin water users. These are not good examples of equitably sharing our collective water supply in the manner intended by the 1922 Colorado River Compact(CRC). We must hold fast to the foundational tenant of the CRC that uses Equitable Apportionment to share the water supply and not consider Prior Appropriation Doctrine as a means of using the Colorado River water supply in the future.

We should consider the over arcing theme for the post 2026 Operational Guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead to be 'Live Within Our Means'! Climate change is our new reality and we only need to look at the last 20+ years of hydrology to confirm that. I believe that one of the most important things the Bureau of Reclamation can do is invest in the use of technology for forecasting our water supply. Most of our water

comes from mountain winter snow pack and the use of LiDAR radar has greatly increased the accuracy of forecasting models. Additional data should be collected from throughout the upper basin states including actual soil moisture stations and increased stream gauging. This data will not only increase the accuracy of predicting our annual water supply, it will be very valuable in the future as we attempt to better understand the evolving challenge of climate change's influence on our water supply. It will also be important for the Bureau of Reclamation to lead the effort in coordinating agency databases, so that the data collected by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture will fit seamlessly into the forecasting models.

We must maintain minimum power generation levels of 3525 in Lake Powell and 1000 in Lake Mead to ensure that the power grid has a reliable base load. In surplus years like 2023 we must strive to not overuse a temporary abundance of water. I would suggest never using more than 20% per year of the volume in excess of the minimum power generation levels. This should provide us a comfortable buffer if we experience a series of very dry years.

Finally, conservation efforts by the upper basin state, such as the Conserved Consumptive Pilot Program and Demand Management must be administered and stored in Lake Powell as a separate bucket of water. I am not in support of using bureau of reclamation funds from the Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Acts to pay the lower basin to abide by the CRC language. Those funds would be much better spent collecting data for forecasting water supply and improving water storage and delivery infrastructure. Such payments fly in the face of the concept 'Live Within Our Means!'

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scope of Work necessary to fairly evaluate the environmental impact of different management strategies for the post-2026 operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead and thank you for your efforts to equitably manage the Colorado River. We look forward to the EIS process and future negotiations to ensure a secure water future for the Colorado River basin in an uncertain time.

Ken Brenner

Letter #: 20941

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18874: Jared Kellerer

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post 2026 EIS: Glen Canyon

To Whom it May Concern,

Regarding the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for the Colorado River, I urge you to consider the following:

- The EIS should recognize the natural resource which have emerged in Glen Canyon with the decline of water levels in Lake Powell reservoir
- The EIS should include an analysis of a complete bypass of Glen Canyon Dam
- The EIS should consider a "Fill Mead First" model (prioritizing filling Mead before Powell) which includes a "don't fill past 3,550" policy at Powell

Sincerely,

Jared Kellerer

Letter #: 20948

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19563: AMY ARNTZEN

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: A citizens comment on the EIS for Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm just a regular citizen with no ties to any organization so I'm speaking from my heart on this subject. When I first saw the Grand Canyon in 2010, I was completely awe-struck by it's beauty, as so many visitors to the canyon are. Since then, the Canyon has become what I call my "soul spot" - a place to go to reflect, to heal, to experience the real planet earth; not earth that's been covered in cement, apartment buildings, homes, strip malls, amusement parks, warehouses, restaurants, and ball parks, to name a few. This is sacred ground and this is our planet in it's finest, purest form.

I would urge you to reflect and focus on the words of the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 and use this as your guiding point in all decisions regarding the future use of this land: 'The Secretary shall operate Glen Canyon Dam in such a manner as to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established, including, but not limited to natural and cultural resources and visitor use.' (Section 1802, GCPA).

The low water levels are more than enough evidence that we are experiencing human caused global warming at a rapid rate, along with severe drought conditions. We must act responsibly for future generations NOW. We must protect this environment, to manage it responsibly, to make sure that all future uses of this land are focused on sustainability while protecting the lands for wildlife habitats, recreational use, and indigenous people's rights, to name a few. It's a big responsibility and your decisions will affect future generations for years to come. Please consider this as a basis for all decisions for the post-2026 operational guidelines and strategies.

Respectfully,

Amy Arntzen

Letter #: 20951

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19556: Cole Melanson

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comments on the Post-2026 EIS

Hello, My name is Cole Melanson.

I wanted to share some thoughts with you regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), concerning Glen Canyon. The analysis at hand presents a pivotal opportunity to reflect on our stewardship of this natural treasure and its implications for the years to come.

As we grapple with the effects of climate change, it becomes increasingly clear that we must take a close look at the viability of a full bypass for the Glen Canyon Dam. With the evolving crisis of climate change, the once-considered asset of the dam could be inadvertently obstructing vital downstream water movement. Delving into the potential of a complete bypass of the dam underscores what should be the Bureau of Reclamation's commitment to adaptability, understanding of the current and future climate, and desire to best manage our limited natural resources in the face of these changing times.

If a full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam is not prudent, the "Fill Mead First" model should be considered next. While contemplating the "Fill Mead First" model, which proposes prioritizing Lake Mead over Lake Powell and implementing a prudent cap on the latter's filling, we should consider the realities of the past several decades. The limited water availability in the Colorado River's watersheds and mainstem reservoirs challenges the logic of inundating Glen Canyon's pristine canyons if we're unable to adequately fill either reservoir. This prudent approach aligns with our commitment to making decisions grounded in sound judgment and long-term sustainability.

Equally noteworthy is the remarkable resurgence of nature within Glen Canyon. The years following the decline of the Lake Powell reservoir have borne witness to the reemergence of remarkable natural wonders, such as the Cathedral in the Desert and the Gregory Natural Bridge, each a testament to the power of restoration. Additionally, the return of vibrant riparian ecosystems and invaluable archaeological sites underscores the true wealth of resources beyond those of a dam that deserve due consideration as we chart our path forward in water storage decisions.

In closing, I urge you to consider the broader implications of these choices on our environment, communities, and future generations. The EIS process provides us an opportunity to balance our present needs with the responsibility of safeguarding our natural heritage. I trust that your insights and dedication will contribute to shaping an outcome that aligns with these important principles.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our shared environment.

Sincerely,

COLE MELANSON

Letter #: 20953

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19532: Jessica Shoeneman

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: THE FUTURE OF GLEN CANYON DAM

To whom it may concern,

Wouldn't it be incredible to be able to look back on a piece of history and be proud of it?

As we look forward into the future and consider what options are available for Glen Canyon Dam, it is imperative that we look at what is best for future generations, for the earth that sustains us, and not the wallets of capitalist greed.

The pressures of drought and population are straining the Colorado River, which is a lifeline to the human communities and natural ecosystems of the southwest United States. As stewards of nature, we should take our duty of preserving healthy ecosystems for future generations to be of the utmost importance.

Without these "miracle snowfall" years we've had here and there, it is likely that the Colorado River system of dams and reservoirs would already be defunct. Action must be taken to integrate a plan that will provide the most flexibility over time.

The plan of action that makes the most sense is the full decommission of the Glen Canyon Dam. Not only would this plan restore the incredibly diverse and beautiful ecosystems that were drowned as the reservoir filled behind Glen Canyon Dam, it would also provide more water to fill Lake Mead, which has been in steady decline for over 23 years. We cannot continue to treat this system as viable when it takes extraordinary conditions to maintain it.

Please consider decommissioning the Glen Canyon Dam. It is the best way to protect the land we live on, to provide for future generations, and to restore a once-beautiful natural landscape.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jess Granger

Letter #: 20954

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18798: Mark Aller

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Let Glen Canyon recover

Please let Glen Canyon recover like it is doing over the last dozen years.

I don't believe damming these rivers is the right way but they are built. Fill Lake Mead first and keep Powell no higher than 3,550 inches.
Thank you!

Mark Aller
Malkoe Design

Letter #: 20960

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19334: Olin Speare

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 EIS:

The priority should be to eliminate the Glen Canyon Dam and fill lake Mead. Lake Mead is the more important for reservoir so it should get priority. Glen Canyon Dam flooded Glen Canyon causing one of the biggest ecological disasters in US history, now we have a chance to right that wrong and bring Glen Canyon back to its former glory.

Letter #: 20961

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19622: Hank Peters

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glen Canyon EIS Comments

The Glen Canyon EIS should take into account the extensive resources re-emerging in glen canyon, both ecological, cultural, and recreational. In order to protect these resources for future generations, the EIS should consider the full bypass of the Glen Canyon Dam and a “fill lake Mead first” approach.
Thank you,
Hank Peters

Letter #: 20964

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19190: Kate Foley

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Fill Mead First!

Hello,
I'm writing to comment on post 2026 Guidelines for managing the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon area. With the undeniable effects of climate change, high heat and low levels of precipitation, there is no longer time to ponder how to change - we have to take action immediately. You have that opportunity right now to make drastic, positive changes in the management of one of the most precious and necessary sources of water in the U.S. We absolutely cannot rely on miracle snow years like the 22-23 season. We have to take responsibility. When there is not enough water to fill both Lake Powell and Lake Mead, we should consider prioritizing Lake Mead and allowing Glen Canyon to return to more of its natural state:

The EIS should analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam. As climate change continues to reduce flows on the river, the dam becomes more of a liability preventing water from flowing downstream. Analyzing the full bypass of the dam would give the river, its users, and its ecosystem the most flexibility and adaptability in a drier future.

I hope you will strongly consider the positive impact this plan could have on the ecosystem, water management and the future of peoples relying on the Colorado as a water source.

Thank you,
Kate Foley

Letter #: 20970

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19654: Jeanne Evenden

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public Comment re Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a longtime resident of the intermountain West - both in the lower and upper basin states - and have resided in Utah for the past 25 years. I enjoyed a 35-year career as a natural resource manager and have appreciation for the complexities associated with management of the Colorado River Basin, and the critical decisions that need to be made - sooner than later.

First and foremost, I support any and all efforts taken to conserve water and significantly reduce agricultural water uses in the Basin. Priority should be given to preserving agricultural lands that grow crops that are less water intensive and that provide essential domestic distribution of food for people first, animals second. As agricultural lands are fallowed, owners should be paid market value for their rights and provided opportunities for career transition (there must be models for this out of the Pacific Northwest after massive reductions in timber harvest a couple of decades ago). And finally, it will be critically important to have an implementable plan in place to mitigate the effects of fallowing which could easily create new environmental catastrophes by opening lands to invasive weeds and diminishing air quality with airborne - and in many cases, chemically contaminated - soils.

And secondly, every effort should be made to:

*protect, restore and enhance native fisheries, and target non-natives for reduction and/or elimination;
*raise Tribal priorities during future negotiations, protect Tribal water rights, and invest in sustainable Tribal water infrastructure;
*allocate future percentage of water shares based on existing use and currently - not projected - stored quantities of water.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your efforts.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Evenden

Letter #: 20971

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19526: Lee Moriarty

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Help Glen Canyon Comment

To whom it concerns,

Please consider analyzing the full bypass of the dam, the resources that have emerged from with the canyon as a result of lowering water levels (which are attracting national attention), and prioritizing filling Lake Mead before Lake Powell. It is becoming increasingly impossible to maintain high water levels in both, so why not focus on Mead and allow the resources that have emerged in Glen Canyon to remain. We are headed towards a drier future and should be prepared for when that emerges, rather than caught on our heels.

Best,
Lee

Letter #: 20980

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19170: Ryan Schuster

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment on the Post-2026 EIS

To whom it may concern,

I understand a public comment period is open regarding an EIS for the development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for the Colorado River.

I strongly urge the EIS to analyze the full bypass of the Glen Canyon Dam. As we've seen from previous years, when water levels reach critical levels, the dam actually becomes a liability that prevents water from flowing downstream. Aside from a historic snow year in 2022-2023, we need to recognize that we can't depend on precipitation to maintain the levels of Lake Powell. Even Floyd Dominy has recognized the issue with the dam and has sketched out a means of bypassing the dam.

With this, I support filling Lake Mead first. Knowing that we don't have enough water to fill both reservoirs, Mead should be prioritized to fill. Glen Canyon has the potential to be restored. Partially filling this lake is spreading our water resources thinner, and ultimately is resulting in two half-baked reservoirs. We can develop a win-win solution by filling Lake Mead and keeping Lake Powell enough 3550 in order to develop riparian ecosystems and access to numerous natural wonders within the canyon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan Schuster

Letter #: 20984

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 18809: chuck Parker

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public Comment to USBR by Chuck Parker of the Salton Sea Coalition

I am writing to urge you not to forget the Salton Sea in your planning for the uses of Colorado River water after 2026. I understand that the river has been over-allocated for many years, and that big cutbacks will be necessary to preserve Lake Mead and Lake Powell, and to insure that all the states, tribes and Mexico have their fair share of the water that is truly available.

However, the decline of the Salton Sea has been underway since 2003 when water was sold/transferred to San Diego and other urban areas from farming in the Imperial Valley. This is part of the historic over allocation of Colorado River water. Promises to restore the Salton Sea were never fulfilled and the current plans of the State of California will only continue the history of postponing action and making only token efforts. We must not forget the Salton Sea in this round of negotiations and planning for the future of water.

Our local communities have voted many times in support of importing ocean water to refill the Salton Sea to control the dust that is making our people sick. In addition if geothermal power is used to desalinate large quantities of water this can help provide a new source of freshwater and decouple the Salton Sea from the Colorado River.

Importing ocean water to the Salton Sea, and desalinating it can help reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from the exposed lakebed by restoring a healthy ecosystem at the Salton Sea. In this way we can begin to address the environmental damages caused by our past policies.

Thank you, Chuck Parker,

P.S. I am attaching my more detailed comments which I sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Public Comment on the Draft Long Range Plan for the Salton Sea

My name is Chuck Parker, and I was a member of both the Long Range Planning Committee and the Community Engagement Committee. I am also a member of the Salton Sea Coalition which is a group of volunteers that has fought for restoring the Salton Sea by using ocean water importation to refill the sea.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

I am very concerned that the Draft Long Range Plan has produced a plan which is so out of touch with the changed and changing world that we live in. With the Colorado River reduced by the worst drought in 1200 years, and with the entire Southwest region undergoing a warming and drying trend due to Climate Change (known as aridification,) **the long range plan produced by the Natural Resources Agency and the UC Santa Cruz Panel is recommending continued reliance on the Colorado River to sustain the Salton Sea!**

As a friend and former member of our coalition, Mark Johnson, summarized it recently,

"The UC Santa Cruz folks are not living reality. The Tortolita Alliance letter to USBR sums it up. There must be a permanent cut to Colorado River water users of 20% across the Board or 3.5 million acre-feet per year because the water does not exist." (attached.)

Mark Johnson is the retired former chief engineer of the Coachella Valley Water District. He used the established facts of historical Colorado River flow and use to arrive at his recommended 20% cuts.

"We offer the following observations:

- Period 1 (1953-1974)[1]- Average Colorado River flow = 13.1 mafy.
- Period 2 (2000-2021)[1] - Average Colorado River flow = 12.3 mafy.
- Average Colorado River flow for Periods 1 & 2 = 12.7 mafy.
- Colorado River Full Allocation = 16.5 mafy
- Historic Allocation Imbalance = 16.5 – 12.7 = 3.8 mafy.
- Experts[2] predict Average Colorado River flows to be even lower than 12.7 mafy in the future due to aridification.
- In 2012 USBR[3] predicted a future 3.2 mafy imbalance.
- Average Historic and Projected Imbalance = 3.5 mafy [(3.2 + 3.8)/2] "

Sadly, the history of overallocation of water from the reservoirs at Lake Mead and Lake Powell have led to the reservoirs falling near to "dead pool" levels where no more water can flow out. Water managers who should have known better, have continued to release more water from the reservoirs than was flowing in for the last twenty years! That has led to the current crisis. We cannot fall victim to the wishful thinking that "maybe it will rain more next year" even though this has been an unusually wet winter.

The second, and related concern that I have with the Draft Long Range Plan and the UC Santa Cruz Panel Report is that they combined to deny the feasibility of importing ocean water to restore the Salton Sea. This is the only way to decouple the future of the Salton Sea from the Colorado River. How could these agencies reach such wildly unrealistic, unscientific, head-in-the-sand conclusions? I will devote quite a few words to describing the secrecy, bias, lying, and fraud that both of these state sponsored bodies engaged in to sabotage the restoration of the Salton Sea that is mandated by California and United States law.

My third overriding concern is that the Draft Long Range Plan and the UC Santa Cruz Panel chose to overlook the major quantities of of carbon Dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide which the former Salton Sea will emit if those plans are followed, if the panel's recommendations are adopted, the sea will become a dry, dead source of pollution instead of a living ecosystem healthy to birds, fish and humans, as it once was. Following these plans contradicts California's stated goals to fight climate change and achieve carbon neutrality. I will talk more about this later as well.

In summary, the Draft Long Range Plan and the UC Santa Cruz reports fail to satisfy the requirements of the 2003 Salton Sea Restoration Act because none of the recommended projects can protect the long term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat, or the air and water quality. If the water supply from the Colorado declines as predicted the results of the expensive plans recommended by the Draft Long Range Plan and the UC Santa Cruz Panel reports embedded within it, will have the same results as doing nothing. You can't do any worse than that! So the only hope for the Salton Sea, and all of us to live near it, is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will set aside these disastrous and inadequate reports and do a serious, objective study of oceanwater importation. I would like to quote from researcher Jenny Ross who wrote the book on the US Santa Cruz Panel and singlehandedly showed up all the Brent Haddad's, Jean Debroux's, & their Tetra Tech and Kennedy Jenks highly paid partners in crime:

> " **All of the UCSC Panel's work must be set aside, and a full and objective feasibility study of water importation options must be performed. We suggest that the CNRA should immediately request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation or collaboration with appropriate agencies of the U.S. Department of the Interior, to conduct a comprehensive, detailed, and objective feasibility-level study of proposals for water importation to achieve long-term restoration of the Salton Sea."**
> *Jenny Ross, Comments on the UCSC Panel's Evaluation of Water Importation proposals to Restore the Salton Sea.*

My comments & history

In 2019, our Salton Sea Coalition successfully petitioned the nine city councils in the Coachella Valley, to pass resolutions in support of "a comprehensive analysis of oceanwater importation to restore the Salton Sea". At our request, in November, 2019,the general membership of the Torres Martinez Tribe also passed the resolution supporting ocean water

importation to restore the Salton Sea, which covers much of their ancestral homeland. In 2019 the Board of Trustees of College of the Desert also passed a resolution supporting ocean water importation. Here is an example resolution from 2019:

> "That the City of Rancho Mirage hereby supports a comprehensive analysis and review of all water import alternatives, including salt water as a long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea, and that an analysis of water import be incorporated into the State's SSMP Plan."

In 2021 seven of the city councils passed a second resolution requesting funding for the comparative analysis of water import proposals, for example:

> "The City of La Quinta requests that the Salton Sea Management Program allocate two million dollars of the $507.5 million unused and available funding for restoring the Salton Sea for an immediate comparative engineering review of the ocean water import proposals accepted by the state in 2018."

In 2022 seven cities also passed resolutions asking that the UCSC Independent Panel evaluate the "Potential Major Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Proposed Salton Sea Long-Range Plans," based on the January, 2022 report by Jenny Ross with the same title. Here is an example:

> "The City of Desert Hot Springs requests that the Ocean Water Importation Independent Review Panel consider potential carbon emissions when conducting the comprehensive analysis of ocean water import. This analysis must include emissions from a drying lakebed and proposed shallow water bodies as well as construction related emissions."

Both the Draft Long-Range Plan and the UC Santa Cruz Panel ignored the findings in Jenny Ross' groundbreaking study, and instead they chose methods which falsely claimed that ocean water importation would generate more greenhouse gases than their favored in-basin projects. The Panel did not measure greenhouse gas emissions at the Salton Sea, nor did they include an estimate based on studies at similar dry lakes in the scientific literature. They did not include the emissions that Jenny Ross' report predicted from the dry lakebed, shallow water ponds, or plowing for dust control. Instead they inflated costs from fuel for construction equipment and chose fossil fuel generated grid electricity instead of alternatively generated power like the submitted proposals did for pumping water through pipelines instead of using gravity flow canals for water conveyance. **They got it upside down and backwards.**

Despite our Coachella Valley by local government bodies going on record in support of water importation, neither Governor Newsom's office, nor the Secretary of CNRA, nor any employee of the SSMP ever responded to our emails and letters informing them of these expressions of broad community-wide support for an objective and thorough feasibility study of ocean water importation as part of the long term solution for the problems at the Salton Sea. Over the four year period that I participated in the Community Engagement Committee from 2019-2022, I

made repeated requests that one or more representatives of the nine Coachella Valley cities be appointed to serve on the Community Engagement Committee. Likewise the committee never appointed a member of the local Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Energy and Environment Committee which also supported ocean water import in their annual goals. Instead, they wanted to appoint the CVAG General Manager Tom Kirk who is an outspoken critic of ocean water importation. **At LRP planning committee meetings, I was allowed to speak, and listened to politely, and then ignored. This is one example of the way that both the Community Engagement Committee and the Long Range Committee conducted their meetings. Both were non-responsive.**

Another example of the prevailing bias against water importation among those with authority to make decisions about the Salton Sea was the outright opposition to our efforts to pass resolutions of support among local city governments, tribal governments, and schools. In 2019 Riverside County Supervisor Manuel Perez sent his staff member Pat Cooper to every city council that we addressed to voice his opposition to our proposals. In 2020, Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia told our group that many people viewed ocean water import as a distraction. He became very angry with one of our members, Art Gertz of Desert Shores, when he repeated this at a meeting of Salton Sea officials including the newly appointed Wade Crowfoot of the Natural Resources Agency. In addition, Congressman Raul Ruiz avoided ever meeting with our group in person and instead let us meet only with his staff people. Both Rep. Ruiz and Assemblyman Garcia organized private meetings where the public was not invited or notified to discuss the Salton Sea. Congressman Ruiz also arranged for VIP's from the federal government to visit and tour the Salton Sea without notifying the public. These included Ohio Rep. Marcie Kaptur of the House Appropriations Committee, and the current Energy Secretary, Jennifer Granholm. The most recent was a visit by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Director Camile Touton to tour the Coachella Valley's farms at the invitation of Coachella Valley Water District. (Three of the five directors of the CVWD are large farm owners.) **Maybe local advocates of ocean water importation were excluded to make sure these federal officials were only exposed to the outdated and unworkable restoration options favored within the bubble of Salton Sea insiders who oppose water importation. The fact that so many of these elected and appointed officials believe that the Salton Sea can be restored without importing water reminds me of the story, by Hans Christian Andersen, "The Emperor's New Clothes."**

In December, 2022 The Salton Sea Authority limits free speech at its press conference announcing the new "Imperial Streams, Salton Sea and Tributaries Feasibility Study" by the Army Corps of Engineers. This was another invite only event and for the first time only main stream credentialed press were allowed to ask questions of the Army Corps leaders who were there. (There were not questions.) However, a friend had tipped me off that the press conference was taking place and I attended and spoke to both General Antoinette Gant, and Colonel Balten about the community support for ocean water importation to refill the sea. I let them know that many people were very unhappy with the Draft Long Range Plan, and the UCSC Panel Report which denied the feasibility of ocean water import. I encourage everyone to write both Gen. Gant and Col. Balten at the Army Corps' Southern Pacific Region office. We need to pierce the bias bubble at the Salton Sea.

The majority of the members of the LRP Committee and the Community Engagement Committee were either employees of the CNRA, or its contractors, or officials of the local water districts and counties. Their methods were not transparent or inclusive. Documents were not made available to committee members in advance, meetings were not recorded, nor public comments addressed. The few members of the LRP planning committee who did represent community organizations, and environmental groups were also allowed to speak, and then they were ignored. Again non-responsive. In October several members of the Long Range Planning Committee requested to meet separately to formulate their concerns because there was not time after Tetra Tech had hogged the whole meeting. This was ok'd by the Chairman James Newcomb, but he stalled in responding to our request for a Doodle Poll to establish a meeting time, and the result was a delayed meeting. Again, polite stonewalling. (see attached Nov. 2, 2022 email from me to James Newcomb.)

The work of drawing up various possible projects for the Draft Long Range Plan was done by the contractor Tetra Tech, a firm which was sued by the U.S. Navy and the Justice Department in 2019 for falsifying data at a former Navy Base in Hunter's Point near San Francisco. Tetra Tech countersued and the issue is still unresolved. However two officials of Tetra Tech pled guilty in a separate trial and went to prison. Myself and several other members of the planning committee objected to delegating so much of the planning work to Tetra Tech because it is a conflict of interest. Tetra Tech has been the go-to contractor for the SSMP and the Salton Sea Authority for many years, and I wouldn't be surprised if they were awarded the contracts without bidding as is required by state law. Tetra Tech had done work on dust control projects at the dry Owens Lake which are similar to the SSMP's Ten Year Plan Projects. The projects at Owens Lake precede the studies which produced the concepts in the Ten Year Plan and are probably where they got the ideas at the Salton Sea. However Owens Lake is located east of the Sierra Mountains and far from any salt water that could be imported to refill the lake. Tetra Tech did the 2016 study funded by the Salton Sea Authority, and they stand to profit if they are chosen to build desalination plants they have requested to do. **It is clearly a conflict of interest for Tetra Tech to be leading the planning for the Salton Sea, and it should at least be taken seriously and investigated.** However at an October meeting of the LRP planning committee, the Chair, James Newcomb abruptly refused to allow any more discussion of the matter. More stonewalling, only not politely this time!

In the end, 10 of the plans that make up the Draft-Long Range Plan were chosen and ranked by Tetra Tech. They are all variations on the plans developed by Tetra Tech in the 2016 Salton Sea Authority funded study. None of these 10 plans rely on water importation. Instead they rely on agricultural runoff from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys which comes from the dwindling Colorado River. Plans 11, 12, and 13 in the Draft LRP are from the UCSC Panel's report. **The Draft Long Range Plan should actually be named the "Tetra Tech Dry Lake Perpetual Construction and Profit Plan." That would be a more accurate description** .

Tens of millions of dollars have been spent during the last 20 years yet there has never been a real, objective feasibility study of water importation. This is due to the pervasive bias on the

part of the employees and managers of the CNRA and SSMP, Salton Sea Authority, and state elected officials and their practice of granting lucrative contracts to insiders and friends who share the same biases. The most blatant example of both bias and favoritism controlling the outcome of studies is the seriously deficient study done by UC Santa Cruz led by Dr. Brent Haddad. In Dr. Haddad they found the right man for the job. He shared their bias against restoring the sea via water importation, and he was an insider that they knew they could rely on**. The results of the UC Santa Cruz study were reported to the Long Range Planning Committee on September 29, 2023 and were folded in to their Draft Long Range Plan currently open for public comment.**

UC Santa Cruz feasibility Report on Water Importation was based on lies, biases, secrecy, and favoritism that enabled fraud. When Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot announced that his agency was going to fund a feasibility study of water importation by an independent panel at a Salton Sea Summit at UC Riverside at Palm Desert in November 2019, I was worried that his intentions were not good, and that a dummy panel would be convened to discredit water import and find that it is not feasible. My worries were confirmed when I learned that Dr. Brent Haddad, a professor at UC Santa Cruz would be leading the panel. **Checking his published bibliography I found a damning article listed among his publications. "Drop Bid to Revive the Dying Salton Sea." This was Dr. Haddad's L.A. Times editorial from July, 2002. (attached.)**

This editorial was published in the middle of heated negotiations over the proposed QSA water transfer and intense debate in the Assembly over a bills that would eventually enable the agreement to be approved by Imperial Irrigation District. These two bills, SB277 and SB 654 would guarantee that the state would take responsibility for the restoration of the Salton Sea in a way that would protect fish and wildlife and protect air and water quality. They also relieved IID of any liability for paying for restoration projects. The board of Imperial Irrigation District (IID) would not have agreed to the QSA water transfer without the passage of these bills. When Haddad wrote in 2002 that, "Attempting to restore the Salton Sea would mean spending too much money on a wish," he was trying to influence the legislature not to pass these bills. It did not work. This was strange since Dr. Haddad supported the QSA water transfer, and passage of the bills enabled the QSA's passage. It illustrates Haddad's ignorance of the Imperial Valley and its agriculture industry, Imperial Irrigation District, and the state and federal water laws. Sept. 29, 2003, the legislature passed SB277 & SB654, and on October 10, 2003 the IID board voted 3-2 to approve the QSA. Haddad's recommended proposal, the Colorado River Voluntary Transfer (CRVT), demonstrates such an ignorance of the possibility of IID approving that Colorado river water be transferred directly into the Salton Sea that Tina Shields, water manager for IID called his plan "stupid" and "ridiculous."

When we found out about Dr. Haddad's bias, myself and two other community leaders, Kerry Morrison and Tom Sephton of Ecomedia Compass, objected to Dr. Haddad's appointment as Principal Investigator for the UCSC study in a conference call in 2021 with CNRA Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy Arturo Delgado. He tried to assure us that Dr. Haddad had since renounced his earlier views and biases. He also said that Haddad would not be leading the panel, but that someone else would be appointed as Panel Chairman. Later that year it was

announced that Dr. Rominder Suri of Temple University would lead the panel. **As it turned out neither of these assurances were true, but because the work of the UCSC Panel was cloaked in secrecy, no one knew it until months later**.

But I relaxed my guard, believing Delgado's lies and reassurances. I now feel guilty for being so naive. But this was not the first time that I believed lies put out as sincere intentions by various officials of CNRA, only to be embarrassed later when the truth came out. I should have kept digging to reveal the connections between Dr. Haddad and the other state elected and appointed officials opposed to water importation to restore the Salton Sea. I did not learn that Brent Haddad was in charge until his appearance in the Zoom presentation where he gave the results of the Screening Report in the April, 2022. All through the panel's short lifespan, it's methods were kept secret. The next big reveal came in June with the Fatal Flaw report.

The Fatal Flaws were not made known to the projects until late June when all of the projects were failed, and only given one week to make revisions. The public was also not informed that the UCSC Panel requested funds to create their own composite projects instead of doing a feasibility study of the three projects that survived the fatal flaw screening as their contract required. **In addition the UCSC Panel has refused to provide information to numerous public records requests made by Jenny Ross, and Ecomedia Compass members, and myself. More secrecy.**

I am grateful to researcher Jenny Ross for her detailed and thorough analysis of the UCSC Panel. It tells a story full of favoritism between long time collaborators, and shared biases about how to solve the degradation and destruction of the Salton Sea. Her analysis also exposes how the UCSC Panel broke state laws requiring competitive bidding requirements, laws which were designed to prevent such favoritism in the expenditure of taxpayer dollars for shoddy work. **This lack of competitive bidding, and failure to complete the feasibility studies required by the contract constitute fraud, and the $2.5 million should be refunded to the state and those responsible punished.**

The Public Comment by Jenny Ross includes important history of how Governor Jerry Brown was opposed to restoring the Salton Sea as soon as he was sworn in in January, 2011. Two days after his inauguration as Governor, Brown appointed John Laird as Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency. Laird had been an assemblyman from Santa Cruz from 2002-2008. Laird was a member of the Natural Resources committee and participated in the debate over the Salton Sea and the QSA water transfer. Under Laird's tenure Bruce Wilcox, formerly an ecologist for Imperial Irrigation District, was appointed to lead the Salton Sea Management Plan in 2017. Wilcox's bias against refilling the sea via water importation was well known. Instead he endorsed the Perimeter Lake Plan developed by Tetra Tech in 2006 which was endorsed by the Salton Sea Authority. As Wilcox jokingly described it, "You'll see an interior saline sink... some exposure of dry lakebed between that sink and the habitats we build. So it's like a donut, almost." Wilcox's bias in favor of the Perimeter Lake Plan echoed the views of Kevin Kelley who was then the General Manager of IID, and who coined the popular phrase, "a smaller

sustainable sea," the supposed goal of the Perimeter Lake. It became a catchphrase used to oppose refilling the sea with imported ocean water.

In 2010, the legislature had passed a bill that ordered the formation of a Salton Sea Restoration Council that was supposed to formulate a long range plan. Governor Brown did not appoint anyone to serve on this council, and by May 2011 he asked the legislature to abolish the body by not funding it. As the Legislative Analyst's Office said at the time, "the Governor's proposal affords the Legislature the opportunity to consider whether Salton Sea Restoration remains a ...priority. If considered not to be a priority, then the governor's proposal should be approved" By January, 2012 the legislature voted with the governor to abolish the council and restore complete power over the Salton Sea to Natural Resources and the Salton Sea Authority. **They voted for continuing to do nothing at the Salton Sea.**

After John Laird was replaced by Wade Crowfoot in 2019, he went to teach at UC Santa Cruz in the Environmental Studies Department led by Dr. Brent Haddad. John Laird was also appointed to a position as a "Fellow" in the Center for Integrated Water Research at UCSC which was established by Dr. Haddad. So the connections between Laird and Haddad were close and long-standing. Another fellow at Haddad's Water Research Center was Jean Debroux of the consulting firm Kennedy Jenks which got the lion's share of the $2.5 million that CNRA paid UCSC for the study of Water Importation. Kennedy Jenks was awarded the contract that got them almost a million dollars without a competitive bid. **This was a violation of state law and is fraud. In the same way that favoritism insured that Tetra Tech would do the technical work for the long range planning committee, Kennedy Jenks was the favored firm for the UCSC Panel.**

It is important to note here that Brent Haddad is not a scientist. As noted in Jenny Ross' Public Comment, he was not qualified to lead the feasibility study of water importation. As she puts it, "Dr. Haddad did not have the necessary qualifications to serve as the Principle Investigator and Project Manager for this project. Dr. Haddad is not an engineer, a geologist or geophysicist, a hydrologist, a climatologist, a biologist, an ecologist, a biochemist, or a limnologist." Jenny Ross goes on to list all the areas of knowledge in which he is not an expert, such as the air and water quality issues at the Salton Sea, the public health problems that occur near the sea, and greenhouse gas emissions. He also has a limited knowledge of the Imperial Valley and its agriculture industry, Imperial Irrigation District, the QSA, state and federal water law, the Colorado River and climate science. **Dr. Haddad's field is economics, and we will see that he used that expertise to juggle the numbers to both inflate the costs of water import projects and undervalue their benefits to justify his conclusion that water importation was economically not feasible. As Mark Twain wisely observed, "Liars can figure and figures can lie."**

The most significant way that the UC Santa Cruz Panel justified its finding that water import isn't feasible was by inflating the costs of water importation. All of the proposals that the panel was supposed to evaluate had their own cost estimates included. The cheapest project,

the Sea to Sea Canal Company estimated that it would cost $900,000 to build its canal and deliver over a million acre feet of sea water to the Salton Sea per year. The most expensive project by Global Premier Development, estimated that it would cost $15 billion to build tunnel with two pipelines to bring sea water from the Pacific Ocean off San Diego to the Salton Sea. The UCSC Panel did not do a feasibility study on any of the projects, and instead chose to create their own projects, two of which had an ocean water component. Their cost estimates were up to $70 billion dollars. One of their fantasy projects mimicked the route and conveyance method of a water import project (a dual pipeline) developed by the engineering firm Black and Veatch for the state of Arizona. They said they could bring desalinated sea water from a town on the Sonora Coast in Mexico to the Morelos Dam near Mexicali for $1.2 billion. **By some undisclosed method, Dr. Haddad said it would cost ten times as much to move half as much water along the same route using the same pipeline. We can't check his math because his calculations are secret.** Another way that Dr. Haddad inflated costs was to choose fossil fuel based energy sources instead of alternative energy to pump water and run desalination plants. This electric grid in Mexico does not have the capacity to power such a large desalination plant. (Thanks to the public comment by Tom Sephton of Ecomedia Compass.)

The other way that Dr. Haddad made water importation fail his cost/benefit analysis was by devaluing the benefits of water importation. One of the outstanding ways that Haddad devalued the benefits of water importation was by not giving any value to preventing huge emissions of Greenhouse gases by refilling the Salton Sea with imported ocean water. This was a violation of state and federal laws requiring that the costs of the estimated emissions of any project must be accounted for. Jenny Ross has estimated emissions of 26 million tons annually of carbon dioxide from the dry lakebed if no action is taken. This is more than all the emissions from California's gasoline refineries! **If the UCSC recommended plan called the Colorado River Voluntary Transfer (CVRT) is implemented, its emissions would be even more than a no-action scenario.** It would leave 160 square miles of exposed lakebed, and 35 square miles of hypersaline evaporation ponds for desalination brine which would create large amounts of methane in addition to carbon dioxide. In addition **the UCSC Panel completely avoids any estimate of the social costs of greenhouse gas emissions (SC-GHGs) including economic costs from decreased agricultural production, energy use, human health costs, and property damage**. These have been estimated by both the Pacific Institute's 2014 study, "The Cost of Inaction," and the 2017 study by the Palm Springs Tourism Board. UCSC ignored or discounted both studies.

The National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine illustrates the seriousness of these damages this way,

> **"Many of these damages from CO2 emissions today will affect economic outcomes through the next several centuries."**

Or as Jenny Ross summarizes it in her Public Comment on page 101,

> **"Cost-benefit analyses that do not include the SC-GHGs - such as the UCSC Panel's cost-benefit evaluation in its Feasibility Report and summary Report - implicitly assume that both the economic costs for society of greenhouse gas emissions and the benefits of reducing GHG emissions have a value of zero."**

The Desert Sun reported on March 15, 2023 that a $1.4 billion agreement had been signed between Controlled Thermal Resources and Fuji Industries to build up to six geothermal plants to extract large amounts of lithium for electric car batteries. California Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis said, "Today's announcement...is a huge step towards a clean energy future." Unfortunately this will not be true if the plans of the Draft Long Range Plan and the UCSC Panel are carried out because they will cause massive new emissions of greenhouse gases along with toxic dust storms that will come with the deterioration of the Salton Sea. It makes no sense for California to spent $37 billion on converting cars to electric, and making buildings more green, and other projects designed to achieve carbon neutrality, but stubbornly refuse to import ocean water to restore the Salton Sea Ecosystem to a natural carbon sink that will work in concert with these other technology based measures. The processing of lithium will require large amounts of pure water every year which will have to come from an over-allocated Colorado river unless ocean water is imported and desalinated to relieve the shortage.

In summary, the Draft Long Range Plan and the UC Santa Cruz reports fail to satisfy the requirements of the 2003 Salton Sea Restoration Act because none of the recommended projects can protect the long term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat, or the air and water quality. If the water supply from the Colorado declines as predicted the results of the expensive plans recommended by the Draft Long Range Plan, and the UC Santa Cruz Panel reports embedded within it will have the same results as doing nothing. You can't do any worse than that! So the only hope for the Salton Sea, and all of us to live near it, is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will set aside these disastrous and inadequate reports and do a serious, objective study of oceanwater importation. I would like to quote from researcher Jenny Ross who wrote the book on the US Santa Cruz Panel and singlehandedly showed up all the Brent Haddad's, Jean Deroux's, & their Tetra Tech and Kennedy Jenks highly paid partners in crime:

> " **All of the UCSC Panel's work must be set aside, and a full and objective feasibility study of water importation options must be performed. We suggest that the CNRA should immediately request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in consultation or collaboration with appropriate agencies of the U.S. Department of the Interior, to conduct a comprehensive, detailed, and objective feasibility-level study of proposals for water importation to achieve long-term restoration of the Salton Sea."**
> *Jenny Ross, Comments on the UCSC Panel's Evaluation of Water Importation proposals to Restore the Salton Sea.*

That concludes my comments. Thank you,
Chuck Parker
P.O. Box 10693
Palm Desert, Ca. 92255, pchuck48@gmail.com

Letter #: 21004

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 19203: Enga Lokey

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the Colorado River

Hello,
I am writing to add my voice to that of Grand Canyon River Guides. Their submission is well thought out and articulated and I could do no better by trying to say it myself. Please consider those comments carefully and adopt the recommendations proposed.
Thank you,
Enga Lokey
river guide

Letter #: 21013

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 19312: Heidi Obermeyer

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comments on the environmental impact statement

Hello,

I am writing to submit comments on the upcoming EIS for the Colorado River. As an avid recreator on America's public lands I believe that the flooding of Glen Canyon was an enormous environment tragedy that we now have the opportunity to make right through smart water management in the coming decades.

I ask you do the following:

*Analyze the full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam to account for increasing risk of complete flow stoppage in case of reduced river flows,
*Account for and acknowledge the vast, invaluable and unique natural resources and ecosystems that have been able to stage a recovery while water levels in Lake Powell reached record lows; and
*Conduct analysis on a "Fill Mead First" model including a 'don't fill past 3,550' policy at Lake Powell reservoir that would allow for the natural wonders of Glen Canyon to emerge permanently from the soupy, depressing storage tank where they are currently condemned.

Glen Canyon is a stunning part of the world and the truly immeasurable value of its natural beauty should be a key decision-making factor as you plan for the future of the river. I hope in my lifetime (as a 30-something) to see this environmental wrong righted and Glen Canyon brought back to life and protected like similarly wondrous natural areas in the desert Southwest. Please do the right thing.

Thank you for your time and effort on this project.

Best Regards,

Heidi Obermeyer

Letter #: 21023

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 18843: Jordan Koopmans

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: I Support Sustaining Reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Post 2026 Guidelines,

My family has been going to Lake Powell since I was a kid, every single year. It is a tradition of ours. I love Lake Powell and I hope that it can be saved and that the plans can prioritize both the practical aspects of the Lake and those who need it for their daily lives, but also prioritize the recreation and economic impact that recreation has on many.

Sincerely,
Jordan Koopmans

Letter #: 21035

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 19117: Rachel Kapelle

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Please protect the future of the Colorado River

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

The complexity of managing a river that so many different interests depend upon—including millions of acres of agricultural lands and 40 million people--is vast. And I understand that it is made even more complicated by the changing climate and a long-standing drought. I am writing to urge that the protection of water sources for crucial wildlife habitat is also taken into consideration. The Colorado Sun reports that “the banks of the Colorado River support about 65% of the species in the West, which include many endangered species.” This percentage includes 400 different bird species along the Lower Colorado River. More disruption to their habitat seriously threatens the biodiversity of this region.

In particular, I hope you will consider habitats in the Grand Canyon, the Lower Colorado River (Multi-Species Conservation Program), the Salton Sea, and wetlands in the Colorado River Delta. These areas are important migration stopovers that birds depend on in their annual travels. 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 live in them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dr Rachel Kapelle

Letter #: 21045

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 18862: Richard David Quartaroli

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

It is time to base the delivery of water from the Upper Colorado River Basin to the Lower Colorado River Basin on the amount of water from the previous water year, the real amount of water. Each basin should get 50%, with the Lower Basin not getting a fixed amount but a percentage of what is available. Of course, Mexico and the Native American tribes need to be taken into account.

I also urge you to consider the statements from the Grand Canyon River Guides organization.

Thank you.

Richard Quartaroli

Letter #: 21060

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 19143: Morgan Stanley

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Public Comment

I am writing to submit a comment on the Post-2026 Colorado River operational plan. Specifically I am writing to express support for restoring Glen Canyon and draining Lake Powell. It's become clear that using the canyon for storage is unnecessary with Mead also at such low levels downstream, and the recreational opportunities, natural environment, and conservation interests greatly outweigh the wasteful recreational uses of Lake Powell, which largely exacerbate the causes of climate change. There is no reason not to protect Glen Canyon as we have seen it flourish in the past few years.

Morgan H. Stanley

Letter #: 21064

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 18969: Bridget Dorsey

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Comment on EIS

Hello!
Thank you for the opportunity to submit a public comment!

1. Please, from the bottom of my heart, prioritize Tribal tribal water rights and infrastructure.
2. Please emphasize human food agricultural land preservation while fallowing agricultural lands that feed animals, in addition to caring for the livelihoods of farmers and the sustainability of their ecosystems.
3. Please determine annual water allocations based on current store water and use rather than projected stored water.

Thank you!

BD

Letter #: 21066

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 18795: Tiffany Mapel

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Plan for Colorado River Management

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity for the public to comment on the Post-2026 Colorado River Operations. I sincerely hope that some logical change comes from this process. The 1922 Compact is no longer effective. I'm guessing that the Compact had no mention of a drought contingency plan when it was written, so the Compact should become null and void in our current drought situation. Here is our chance to adapt to these changes and manage them for the best possible outcome for all users as we move into the future. One part that was not in the 1922 Compact was any consideration for recreation. That has since bloomed into a multi-million dollar industry.

There are a few groups who are very vocal and politically connected, and continually call for the removal of Glen Canyon Dam and the draining of Lake Powell. Their call for the re-engineering of Glen Canyon Dam so more water can be removed is one example. Please do NOT allow these groups to succeed. Do not allow for the decommissioning of Glen Canyon Dam in the future--it should never be a consideration. Lakes Powell and Mead are both needed. We cannot go back to the 1960s. Our current population that continues to grow will not allow for a reservoir to disappear. These anti-lake groups ignore the realities of water and power delivery, which are at the heart of USBR's mission.

In moving ahead to post-2026 operations, it makes sense to keep Powell and Mead at viable levels. That means that releases should probably match inflows. When we have a good winter, it makes sense to let Powell fill as much as possible, so releases to Mead can be done in a sustainable manner. In drought years, it makes sense for all Basin States to share the brunt of cuts. Yearly releases should be on a sliding scale depending on the previous winter's snowpack. So it's hard to give exact numbers without knowing those variables.

Here are some good reasons for keeping a sustainable water level in Lake Powell:

* The multi-million dollar recreation industry for Boating. A water level of 3600 is ideal for so many reasons: all marinas and launch ramps are open, and would allow for the crucial mid-lake marina to return. Many connections on the lake would also be open.

* Prevent any more non-native Smallmouth Bass from slipping from Powell through the Dam and entering the Grand Canyon. Water kept at a higher level will prevent this.

* Prevent Powell's water level from dropping too low, threatening the turbines and power generation.

* Wildly fluctuating water levels strains infrastructure on Lake Powell, as whole marinas need constant moving and re-adjusting, and launch ramps go in and out of service.

* Prevent Powell's level from dropping too low, putting it at risk for algae blooms.

I have been a Lake Powell boater since 1984, and hope to continue to enjoy Lake Powell access into the future. Throughout the years I have seen it from full at 3700 to the low this spring at 3519. I am hopeful that a compromise can be reached for all user groups that will benefit the regional economy, recreationists, the preservation of natural and cultural resources, and satisfy water delivery consistent with USBR's mission.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Mapel

Letter #: 21104

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 19497: Lily Bosworth

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 EIS Public Comment

Hello,

Below are my comments for the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice to Solicit Comments and Hold Public Scoping Meeting on the Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (Document Number 2023-12923,).

1. Raise Tribal priorities during re-negotiation, protect Tribal water rights, and invest in sustainable Tribal water infrastructure
2. Determine allocations for each year proportionally based on use, and based on current stored water, not projected stored water
3. Prioritize the preservation of agricultural lands that feed people, fallow agricultural lands that feed animals first, and with any fallowing include just compensation and/or just career transition opportunities for impacted producers, and a plan to mitigate harmful environmental impacts of fallowing
4. Balance preservation of natural systems (fisheries, public lands) with engineering needs (power pool elevations, water supply for agricultural use)

Thank you,

Constituent Lily Bosworth

Letter #: 21120

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 18977: Tiffany Boyd

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Input on CO lower basin usage

Hello,

Thank you for taking input on water issues in the lower basin.

I want to encourage you to prioritize REDUCING usage throughout the lower basin and to support recreation opportunities.

As is happening in other parts of the country, we are seeing an urgent need to preserve and protect our resources for future generations. We cannot kick the can down the road on making tough decisions about our water.

Here is a recent case settled in Montana .

Thanks for taking public comment during this difficult time where we must step up and respond to the climate crisis and the impact it is having on all of us.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Boyd

Letter #: 21132

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 19375: Magnus Tveit

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Post-2026 EIS

To whom it may concern,

I believe the future of Glen Canyon will affect everyone in the upper and lower Colorado River basin. This EIS is vital to it's future, so I want to thank the Bureau for this opportunity.

I believe that the best path forward for Lake Powell and the upper River basin is a full bypass of Glen Canyon Dam. Even after an unprecedented water year, Lake Powell sits at around 38% of capacity. With Lake Mead down river at around 33% of capacity, Lake Powell is not sustainable or needed in terms of water storage. If the Bureau would implement a full bypass of Glen Canyon right now, Lake Mead would be at around 77% of capacity (this is not including water loss). These numbers further show that Lake Powell is doing nothing in terms of water storage.

On top of this, the Glen Canyon dam has flooded what is know as "Americas lost National Park". Glen Canyon is known by this for a reason. When the lake was at around 20% of capacity it exposed the natural beauty of the desert that was lost almost 60 years ago. When the desert was exposed again it showed amazing signs of growth and regeneration, an almost complete restoration. This means that if a full bypass of Glen canyon damn was implemented, Glen Canyon could be almost fully restored and be a more sustainable source of recreation then the reservoir is now, not to mention far more inclusive.

Overall I believe that this EIS should both acknowledge the extensive resources buried under Lake Powell as well as analyze a full bypass of Glen Canyon dam to fill Mead first.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,

Magnus Tveit

Letter #: 21152

Date Received: 8/14/2023

Sender Names: 18932: Sterling and Jonny Stumf

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Glenn Canyon Future Plans

Dear Sirs:

I am against removing the Glenn Canyon Dam and dropping Lake Meade to a river system instead of a reservoir. My reason to take this stance is 1st, the resevour maybe was a bad decision, but it is there now, 2nd, Tthere is a whole lot of remaining river eco system on the Colorado River and Lake Powell is only a fraction of that. This year is a sign that the drought which the Glen Canyon Institute says is going to continue based on no fact other than the fictitious "Global Warming" or "Climate Change". This to me is a political bias to restore to pre dam era by a very liberal organization. Why spend an exorbitant amount of money on a pipeline, which I really don't understand the basis for, and is a ecological disruption in itself when we have a river system that is very capable. There is no reason to over react and give the ebb and flow cycles of snow pack and rainfall time to establish if it will return prior to making such a rash decision. Please hold off on making a quick decision and give nature a chance to recover.

Thanks so much and have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,

Sterling and Jonny Stumf

From:	Squarespace
To:	CR_POST2026_EIS
Subject:	Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2
Date:	Tuesday, August 15, 2023 5:28:13 PM

Sent via form submission from *Virtual Public Engagement*

Name: Dylan Mori

Email:

Organization:

Opt-in: Opt-in

Comment: Living in the Southwest, I'm often afraid of the future. Water is the basis of any society, and I live upstream of the Colorado River, but I know the threat of drought will come to me after it has impacted my neighbors and my loved ones in the states downstream. Although I've taken efforts to conserve water myself - setting up a rain barrel, killing my lawn - it's not enough without there's massive, national action. Water sustains all life, and clean water should be a right guaranteed to all.

I request the following:
1. Allow Indigenous people and Tribes within the basin to access and utilize their water rights now and in perpetuity.
2. Require the Lower Basin to limit water use to match the annual hydrology of the river.
3. Address the existing impacts and potential future impacts of climate change on the water supply in perpetuity.
4. Consider evaporation and seepage as factors in water loss, especially in the lower basis.
5. Assess the feasibility of the "Fill First" model, and to prioritize Lake Mead if there is not enough water to fill both lakes.

Letter #: 21156

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 661: Neil Fischnaller

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: I have previously submitted comment regarding post 2026.
I believe that your comment period ends today. I wanted to advise you that for persons who did not attend the webinars, it is very difficult to determine how to provide feedback for consideration. In May & June the news media ran stories about the subject, and referred to links in their websites for the public to provide comments - I could not find any such links, and received no response when I requested the links from the news channels. If you have not received the public comment which you desired, you may want to make another effort to have the news media distribute information about how the public can provide you with their comments.
Thanks for your consideration.

Letter #: 21157

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19716: Sam Carter

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: Regarding the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead and the care for the Colorado River.
The next EIS should look at bypassing Glen Canyon Dam and no longer using Lake Powell as a storage for water. And the EIS should look at the "Fill Mead First" option, putting as much water in Mead as possible and keeping Glen Canyon free of stored water and allow the Colorado River to flow free and wild through Glen Canyon. I have been through the Grand Canyon by boat many times most recently in summer 2022 and saw the impacts on the riparian and river system there resulting from the very controlled and now low flows through the Grand Canyon. I have been on Lake Powell at 26% of full and traveled up into the newly re-emerged side canyons and saw the new massive re-growth of the native species of plants in those canyons. I have been on river boats in Cataract Canyon down to Lake Powell and the now exposed massive sediment deposits in that 30 plus mile reach are a detriment and need to be managed; that sediment is needed by the Grand Canyon riparian reach and the river below. The current management of Glen Canyon as a storage container is detriment to the needed riparian corridor across Arizona and Utah and Lake Powell is not a riparian corridor. Lake Powell creates a void of riparian habitat. Lake Powell is not healthy for the land scape, the river scape, the flora and fauna of these regions. The side effect of the recreation community at Powell and its financial contribution to the region is noted; the economy is not more important the healthy and functioning eco system of the Colorado River; a revised econ plan for a returned Glen Canyon will mimic the the current rec economy.
Thank You
Sam Carter
Colorado Plateau

Letter #: 21158

Date Received: 8/15/2023

Sender Names: 19717: Kyle Aldridge

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: To whom it may concern regarding water management of the Colorado River Bason. This is not a list of recommendations. This is a list of encouragements.
Encouragements to manage the water of the CRB through the lense of humanitarianism. For example, the Supreme Court recently ruled against maintaining the water rights of Navajo Nation. Creating an unnecessary humanitarian crisis for a people who according to one of their own, has lost 60% of their population over the course of the past 400 years. Very few groups in all of human history have witnessed such devastation.
Now the Supreme Court has ruled to break yet another treaty with Native Americans and offers no remedies for the intergenerational injustices that so many groups of minorities have experienced in this country. You folks of water management have the opportunity to remedy that by offering a more humanistic, not capitalistic approaches to water distribution. Don't worry though, I did leave some room for you folks to still make some money while helping manage the climate emergency that is about to plague all of humanity.
Disclaimer: This list of encouragements' is based in Science, needs and is heavily influenced by my job as a Regenerative Gardner, which usually entails rebuilding ecosystems while simultaneously lowering water usage.
1st- Restore water rights to the Navajo Nation.
Agriculture
-Get rid of the "use or lose it" policy for farmers in California. There is no legitimate reason why 80% of all water in the CRB goes to unsustainable agriculture practices in California, while the Navajo Nation is denied water that flows through their land.
- Encourage farmers to use more sustainable agriculture practices including but not limited to
- no tilling - no pesticides or insecticides - no more monoculture practices. -Use cover crops
All of these practices have scientifically been shown to be unsustainable. Any farmer or corporation that refuses to switch to more sustainable practices should be charged 5 times the normal rate per gallon.
Grasses
- Any allocation of water to grasses grown in the desert should be abolished regardless of money offered. Including but not limited to:
-gulf courses - office spaces - Individual homeowner's lawns.
95% of all grasses grown in North America are not native plants to North America.
Encourage more ecosystem restoration projects.
Abolish the privatization of water. A recent study found 51% of all freshwater in the US has PFAS in it. Also known as "forever chemicals". How much of that is do to private companies not establishing more reliable and consistent filtration systems?
How many cities along the CRB are considered "sacrifice cities" like Flint, Michigan or Jackson, Mississippi where environmental racism is so imbedded that to this day, people are drinking water contaminated by lead and other harmful chemicals? Those people should be helped out first. Again, I must put an emphasis on intergenerational justices and Humanitarianism when it comes to water management along the CRB.
Thank you for your time.
Kyle Aldridge

Letter #: 21159

Date Received: 8/13/2023

Sender Names: 19718: Jack Dotzler

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

attention to issues concerning how we manage the natural biogeochemical cycles of the planet, staying silent isn't something that I and the people who actually do live there can afford to do. In the United States, water management practices are far from perfect, whether it be in the agricultural sector or in recreation (the golf and landscaping industry namely).

I am no expert on each local government's policy on limiting water to amenities such as lawns and recreation that use it in an unnecessary and excessive fashion, but I do believe there needs to be a uniform policy among them all about what we can and can't use water for.

For example, it is well-researched that the native flora is much better acclimated to growing in the drying region, and I'm sure there are policies in place to dissuade exotic plant use, but making sure this is uniformly enforced throughout the basin seems necessary. The use of of a diversity of native plants solves so many issues at once: it is something I am incredibly passionate about. This rings especially true in the industrial agricultural sector in the Lower River Basin, as it has been shown for years now that their practices are mostly responsible for the drying of the river basin: infrastructural reform in agriculture is necessary.

One final thought that I should include, as it relates to native plant management, is that priority must be put on the nations indigenous to the region. Sovereignty over food and water for them can be beneficial to the whole, as they have the most experience with the region, from its biogeochemical cycles to its native flora, which are all incredibly interconnected.

All of these things, in my opinion, are priorities when addressing an issue like this. The people who live there currently and those who have lived there do not deserve to suffer as a result of poor industrial practices.

Letter #: 21160

Date Received: 8/13/2023

Sender Names: 19719: Jennifer High

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: Save the Colorado. Help farmers convert to non flood irrigation. Close up golf courses in the impacted areas. Get big oil to pay for climate related relocations and infrastructure needs.

Letter #: 21161

Date Received: 8/13/2023

Sender Names: 19720: Stephanie Vaughn

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: My biggest concerns for the Colorado River basin are the designation of water rights based on a historically wet period. This has led to chronic overharvesting from the river. New designations need to me made to protect the entire watershed based on the lowest precipitation years, not the highest.
As an ecologist, one of my biggest interest is in protecting the river so that it can reach the ocean again. The Colorado River used to support a beautifully intricate wetland system in Mexico, which not only keeps the area cooler, but supports ecological habitat and diversity. We must consider the ecological impacts of drying up the Colorado River before it reaches Mexico, and focus on restoration projects.
California can and should invest in more desalination water treatment facilities to provide water. Transporting their water primarily from the Colorado River is wasteful, unsustainable, and unfair to states who do not have alternative sources of water. If major cities in Spain can support a large portion of their drinking water from desalination, California can achieve the same goal for their water usage.

Letter #: 21162

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 19717: Kyle Aldridge

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: To whom it may concern in regards to water management in the Colorado River Basin. This isn't a list of recommendations, but more an encouragement to approach water management through the lense of Humanitarianism. For example, recently the Supreme Court recently ruled against upholding water rights to the Navajo Nation. Making liars out of all of us while continuing the systemic of oppression of a people whom according one of their own, has lost 60% of their population over the course of the past 400 years. While the Supreme Court may no longer enforce the idea that we as a society should offer intergenerational justices, you folks have the opportunity to remedy that. The opportunity to send a message that not everyone in America follows the lead of a draconian Supreme Court and some of us are willing to uphold our word.
With that said, here is a list of my Humanitarian encouragements with a disclaimer.
Disclaimer: all of these encouragements are based in science, climate change data and is heavily influenced by my job in Regenerative Gardening/Agricultural. (One of the few tools we have to fight climate change). Usually consists of building and maintaining eco systems while reducing water usage.
*First would be to reinstate the water rights of the Navajo Nation.
*Encourage Farmers along the CRB to switch to more sustainable/ regenerative practices.
-No tilling. For those who continue to till charge more money for water and less money per gallon to those who farm sustainably. Tilling is one of the bigger contributions of Carbon into the carbon cycle.
- Encourage Farmers to use cover crops which help retain moisture and reduce the temperature of the ground.
-Encourage Farmers and agricultural companies to abandon the practice of Glyphosphates. (Pestcides and insecticides). By tripiling the price of water to the companies and farms that refuse to do so, citing the building and maintenance of filtration systems necessary to make sure those contaminated waters up and down the CRB don't destroy other eco systems.
*Abolish water usage for non-native grass. 95% of all grass we grow in North America isn't Native plant life to North America. If we want a fighting chance against climate change, we need to restore Native plant life and eco systems.
* Incentivise eco system restoration projects with the necessary amount of water to do so.
-including but not limited to community composting projects.
- Mass agricultural greenhouse projects that could help us grow more food with less water.
- Mass rain water capture, filtration and sustainable distribution projects.
* For those residing in parts of CRB in New Mexico and Arizona were the water has been cut off, offer to buy their property at a fair price to encourage them to move where the water is still flowing.
*In the next 5-10 years, Abolish the privatization of water. Private companies do not have the right to own and distribute a resource that is fundamental to all life on the planet. A recent study was published that found 51% of the U.S.'s water has PFAS in it. Also known as foreve chemicals. How much of that is the fault of private water companies?
These are just some of the encouragements that can help us fight climate change, provide water to every human being and still maintain a healthier agricultural system to the scale we need to maintain our population.
Thank you for your time.
Kyle Aldridge.

Letter #: 21163

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 19721: Madeline Cronin

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: 1. Acknowledge the possibility of Tribes within the basin utilizing the entirety of the water rights they are entitled to, regard ss of -urrent onpulation or development on tribally owned land. Any plan moving forwal 11 ea is to goal tee the ability for all federally recognized tribes within the basin to settle with the states for their water rights and to build the infrastructure in place to access them.
2. Require the Lower Basin to limit water use to match the annual hydrology of the river. If the Upper Basin can allocate to each state based upon a percentage of flows that are actually available that year then there is no reason the Lower Basin cannot follow suit.
3. Closely examine and address the existing impacts and potential future impacts of climate change on our water supply in the long term. It is well known that the region has gotten hotter and drier over the last century, and the Fourth National Climate Assessment indicates that our water resources could be diminishing even further in the next century. The post 2026 operational guidelines need to prioritize the kind of adaptability and flexibility that will be required to respond to our rapidly changing climate.
4. Consider the amount of water that is lost to evaporation and seepage, especially in the Lower Basin. It is well known that evaporation and seepage are responsible for approximately 1.5 million acre feet of water loss every year, this loss needs to be accounted for in the post 2026 operational guidelines.
5. Assess the feasibility of the "Fill Mead First" model. Simply put, if there is not enough water to fill both Lake Powell and Lake Mead it makes more sense to fill Lake Mead first. This option may not be an immediate possibility but the BOR should put in a reasonable effort to assess its feasibility for the future

Letter #: 21164

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 19722: Mike Schinis

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: I think whatever happens we need to be incentivizing the biggest users of water to reduce their water usage. It's absolutely insane and archaic that we have a system in place that currently rewards entities for using more water when they don't have to due to the asinine use it or lose policies that were put into place 100 years ago.
I also think we need to prioritize tribal rights to water and indigenous knowledge when it comes to water conservation.
We should be working on simple ways to reduce evaporation like placing solar panels over canals, only allowing watering at certain times of day, etc.
And we should absolutely not be allowing foreign entities to grow cash crops in our deserts. It's beyond the pale that this is allowed to happen.

Letter #: 21165

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 19723: Jessica Stone

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: Please examine and address the impacts climate change has on water supply.

Letter #: 21166

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 19724: Faith Morgan

Emails: 1

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: We need the most public-centric changes and guidelines. The citizens KNOW that the US is selling water to foreign entities. WTAF. Stop that! And do better!

Letter #: 21167

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 14523: Teal Lehto

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: As a lifelong resident of the Colorado River Basin and as a young person looking to build a life, family and career here in the region, it is imperative to me that the post 2026 guidelines usher in an era of sustainable water use in the region. I am relying on the BOR's decision making to ensure that the members of my generation (and the generations to come after) have a secure water future. The post 2026 guidelines are a critical opportunity for the BOR and the 7 states within the basin to acknowledge the changing environmental realities of this region and address long standing inequities within the basin.
I would like the upcoming EIS and the forthcoming operational guidelines to address the following concerns:
1. Acknowledge the possibility of Tribes within the basin utilizing the entirety of the water rights they are entitled to, regardless of current population or development on tribally owned land. Any plan moving forward needs to guarantee the ability for all federally recognized tribes within the basin to settle with the states for their water rights and to build the infrastructure in place to access them.
2. Require the Lower Basin to limit water use to match the annual hydrology of the river. If the Upper Basin can allocate to each state based upon a percentage of flows that are actually available that year then there is no reason the Lower Basin cannot follow suit.
3. Closely examine and address the existing impacts and potential future impacts of climate change on our water supply in the long term. It is well known that the region has gotten hotter and drier over the last century, and the Fourth National Climate Assessment indicates that our water resources could be diminishing even further in the next century. The post 2026 operational guidelines need to prioritize the kind of adaptability and flexibility that will be required to respond to our rapidly changing climate.
4. Consider the amount of water that is lost to evaporation and seepage, especially in the Lower Basin. It is well known that evaporation and seepage are responsible for approximately 1.5 million acre feet of water loss every year, this loss needs to be accounted for in the post 2026 operational guidelines.
5. Assess the feasibility of the "Fill Mead First" model. Simply put, if there is not enough water to fill both Lake Powell and Lake Mead it makes more sense to fill Lake Mead first. This option may not be an immediate possibility but the BOR should put in a reasonable effort to assess its feasibility for the future.

Letter #: 21168

Date Received: 8/12/2023

Sender Names: 19725: Steve Cole

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: Form Submission - Post-2026 Comment Form 2

Comment: I have been visiting Glen Canyon NRA since the early 1990s and I've probably been there a couple hundred times. I did 23 week-long backcountry volunteer projects over a period of 18 years to clear invasive Russian Olive trees from the Escalante River corridor.
In 2005 I rappelled into Cathedral in the Desert, all the way to the bottom of the waterfall. Last year I backpacked down Fiftymile Gulch and saw Gregory Natural Bridge exposed for the first time in many, many years. This past spring I returned to Cathedral in the Desert via the overland route involving multiple rappels. Over the past two decades I have hiked to Lake Powell via Coyote Gulch, Willow Gulch, Fiftymile Gulch, Davis Gulch, Clear Creek and Llewellyn Gulch. In each case, the canyons became deeper and deeper and more and more spectacular the further downstream I went. In each case I wished I could go further to see what was around the next bend.
I would like to see the EIS include consideration of these side canyons and their recovering riparian systems. These canyons that have been "drowned" by Lake Powell are National Park quality terrain in their own right. The lower Lake Powell gets, the better and more spectacular canyons emerge. The EIS should consider a scenario where Lake Powell remains at a low level and the side canyons are permanently exposed and allowed to recover.

Letter #: 21278

Date Received: 8/16/2023

Sender Names: 19785: Bob Dorsett

Emails:

Organizations:

Subject: public comment on Colorado River water

Dear Bureau of Reclamation,

Please include this in public comments on allocation of Colorado River water, particularly the EIS for Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

I live in the upper basin on the White River in Meeker, CO. I monitor that river regularly for the Colorado River Watch program. I have spent most of my life (70+ years) on the Western Slope of Colorado, and I have floated the Colorado and all its major tributaries many times. My main concerns are as follows:

Indigenous communities deserve priority in water allocation. They should receive their full allotments as guaranteed by treaty rights.

Mexico deserves to receive its full treaty allocation.

It is absurd to grow cotton and alfalfa in the desert, not to mention shipping those crops overseas. Stop those water allocations.

The cities of the Southwest need to realize the limits to growth, especially water scarcity, and either stop growing or find other sustainable sources of water.

Thank you for considering these matters.

Bob Dorsett, MD