



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC

DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT, NEVADA

February 27, 2026

Scott Cameron
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: BCOO-1000
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006

Dear Acting Commissioner Cameron,

I am writing to urge the Bureau of Reclamation to collaborate with the seven Colorado River Basin states, Basin Tribes, and Mexico on post-2026 operations of the Glen Canyon Dam and the Hoover Dam. In order to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the Colorado River, any final agreement must recognize the need for meaningful conservation from all Basin States, including those in the Upper Basin.

Water is the cornerstone of our lives and livelihoods in Southern Nevada, and 90 percent of our water supply comes from the Colorado River. About 25 million people rely on water from Lake Mead. Water also provides a vital renewable energy source for many folks in the Western United States, as the Hoover Dam in my District generates enough hydroelectric power to serve 1.3 million people each year.

I am therefore deeply concerned that we are on the precipice of a water crisis. Recent analysis from the Bureau of Reclamation projects that Lake Mead will reach record lows by November 2027. The Basin is already experiencing increased aridity and long-term drought, and runoff conditions will only worsen as we continue to feel the impacts of climate change.

Southern Nevadans understand the need to be good stewards of this precious resource and have led the way on water conservation for decades. Southern Nevada has reduced per-capita water use by 55 percent between 2002 and 2024 while accommodating rapid population growth. We were able to achieve this milestone through local initiatives to replace grass with desert landscaping, make homes more water efficient, and equip pools with covers that minimize evaporation.

Today, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is still leading the way in Western water conservation. In 2023, recognizing how an influx in data centers in the region would impact long-term water conservation, SNWA banned evaporative cooling for new businesses. It also launched a Septic Conversion Program to incentivize property owners to complete septic conversions by helping offset the cost of those conversions. The new municipal sewers allow water used indoors to be captured, treated, and returned to the Colorado River system through the Las Vegas Wash. In fact, Southern Nevada is unique in that it recycles nearly all indoor water on a community-wide scale.

Our conservation efforts, however, can only do so much to stave off declining water supplies in the Colorado River. Consider that Nevada only receive about 1.8 percent of total apportionments from the Colorado River. And despite having 73 percent of the Silver State's population, Southern Nevada uses less than 5 percent of Nevada's water allocation. We cannot solve the water crisis on our own; the math simply does not add up. Our partners in other states, particularly in the Upper Basin, will need to make meaningful reductions in their water consumption for us to safeguard this precious resource for future generations.

In 2021, when water levels at Lake Mead were approaching historic lows, the Secretary of Interior made the first-ever shortage declaration on the Colorado River, reducing the amount of water available for Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico. We can see too clearly the bathtub rings around Lake Mead. We need to take lessons learned from that experience and, together, become better stewards of this precious resource.

In 2021, Colorado River Basin communities got a lifeline from the federal government with historic investments in water infrastructure and conservation, but this funding may soon run dry. I was proud to work with my colleagues in Congress to enact the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in 2021, legislation that invested \$50 billion in water infrastructure upgrades, the largest such investment in American history. This watershed legislation included \$8.3 billion in dedicated funding for Western water infrastructure and conservation.

Across the Colorado River Basin, those funds are repairing aging water infrastructure, making water storage and water recycling and reuse projects feasible, and supporting drought contingency plans. For example, in September 2024, SNWA received \$20 million in federal funding through the BIL to filter water flowing down the Las Vegas Wash to Lake Mead while controlling erosion. BIL water programs are slated to expire at the end of FY2026 and, under a Republican-controlled Congress, their reauthorization is uncertain.

I have consistently called on negotiators from the seven Colorado River Basin states to reach a state-led solution. In order to ensure long-term sustainability of the Colorado River Basin, everyone will need to do their fair share to reduce consumptive water use. As the Department of Interior moves forward with the environmental review process, I urge you to prioritize a state-led solution. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dina Titus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Dina Titus

Member of Congress