



February 27, 2026

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: BCOO-1000  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006

Submitted via email: [crbpost2026@usbr.gov](mailto:crbpost2026@usbr.gov)

**U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (January 2026) (EPA EIS No. 20250184)**

***Comments of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and its Municipal Subdistrict***

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) and its Municipal Subdistrict appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, released by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in January 2026.

Northern Water is a governmental entity and quasi-municipal corporation organized under Colorado law in 1937 that provides water for agricultural, municipal, domestic, and industrial uses to lands and people within the district, which encompasses approximately 1.6 million acres and over 1.1 million residents in northeastern Colorado. Northern Water provides water to its constituents primarily through its partnership with Reclamation to operate the Colorado–Big Thompson (C-BT) Project, a transmountain diversion project that delivers an average of over 200,000 acre-feet of water per year from the Colorado River Basin to the Eastern Slope of the Continental Divide for supplemental use within Northern Water’s boundaries.

The Municipal Subdistrict was created in 1970 to construct and operate the Windy Gap Project, a transmountain project that diverts water from the Colorado River near the Town of Granby for delivery through C-BT Project facilities to municipalities and other water users within the Northern Water district. With completion of construction of Chimney Hollow Reservoir in 2025, the Municipal Subdistrict expects that the firm annual yield of water for Windy Gap Project participants will equal approximately 30,000 acre-feet per year.

Northern Water and the Municipal Subdistrict recognize that the Colorado River Basin is experiencing severe drought conditions, and that these conditions require a sustained commitment across the Basin to using Colorado River water supplies in a manner that conserves and protects this critically important resource. Northern Water and the Municipal Subdistrict commonly do not receive the full amount of the water rights decreed for their respective projects in a given year because of limits to the physical and legal availability of water under Colorado's strict prior appropriation system. Given the variability of water availability and the fact that Colorado is a headwaters state without the benefit of large upstream reservoirs, Northern Water and the Municipal Subdistrict carefully manage their water supplies to provide water to users within the district, but also to strategically store portions of their available Colorado River supplies to provide system resiliency and protect against future drought conditions. Northern Water also has a robust water use efficiency program aimed at continually improving conservation practices by the cities, towns, and special districts that use C-BT Project and Windy Gap Project water. Its agricultural users likewise recapture and reuse C-BT Project supplies multiple times, resulting in extremely high district-wide water use efficiency and conservation of Colorado River water.

Northern Water and the Municipal Subdistrict will be directly impacted by Reclamation's proposed action that is the subject of the DEIS. Each has a substantial interest in ensuring Reclamation's ultimate agency action is the result of informed decision-making based on an Environmental Impact Statement that discloses a reasonable range of alternatives and a realistic portrayal of the environmental impacts of the proposed action in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

For these reasons, Northern Water and the Municipal Subdistrict endorse and adopt the comments submitted by the State of Colorado and by the Front Range Water Council, and incorporate those comments into this comment letter by this reference.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact me if you have questions or would like further information regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bradley D. Wind", is written over a horizontal line.

Bradley D. Wind, P.E.

General Manager, Northern Water