



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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February 27, 2026

Via electronic mail only to: crbpost2026@usbr.gov

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Attn: BCOO-1000

P.O. Box 61470

Boulder City, NV 89006

RE: Comments on Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead –
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Acting Commissioner Cameron:

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Summit, State of Colorado (“Summit County”), provides its comments on the January 2026 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (the “BOR” “DEIS”).

Summit County is located immediately west of the Continental Divide at elevations ranging between 7,947 feet at Green Mountain Reservoir and 14,270 feet at Gray’s Peak, and includes portions of the Gore Range, the Tenmile Range, and the Front Range mountains. Included within Summit County are six municipalities, four major ski resorts, significant national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands, and two congressionally designated wilderness areas.

Summit County also contains the headwaters of the Blue River and its primary tributaries, the Snake River and Tenmile Creek, with the Blue River joining the Colorado River shortly downstream of Summit County. Summit County and its neighboring headwaters counties give rise to the Colorado River as it makes its way downstream some 1,450 miles to the Gulf of California. The water resources and natural amenities in Summit County, and downstream on the Colorado River, are critical to County residents and make Summit County a popular recreational destination.

It is within that context that Summit County supports the comments presented by the Colorado River Water Conservation District (“CRWCD”) as well as the CRCWD recommendations. Summit County strongly believes that the CRCWD comments and recommendations should be analyzed and implemented during the development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and are necessary considerations in the BOR’s Record of Decision.

Summit County also agrees with the CRCWD that the 2007 Interim Operating Guidelines and subsequent emergency actions under which the Colorado River system has been managed have perpetuated imbalances and overuse rather than stability. Summit County, like other headwater locations, relies on operational guidelines that provide durable and reliable security for economic, environmental, and

recreational decision-making.

While Summit County contains headwater tributaries to the Colorado River, the water from those tributaries is limited and will likely be further limited in the future due to climactic changes and declining flows. It is not reasonable, or rational, for communities in the Upper Basin of the Colorado River to disproportionately bear the consequences of hydrologic variability due to being located at the source of the Colorado River system. The economy of Summit County and well-being of its residents and visitors depend on legally consistent and hydrologically realistic guidelines and operations.

In short, we support and agree with the CRCWD comments and recommendations, and strongly ask that you incorporate their suggestions for further analysis and revisions during the development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

The Summit County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Waters", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nina Waters
Chair