



March 2, 2026

Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: BCOO-1000
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
crbpost2026@usbr.gov

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Colorado River Post 2026 Operations
- Comments

Dear Commissioner Cameron,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead* ("DEIS" or "Draft") published by the Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") on January 16, 2026. Washington County Water Conservancy District appreciates the opportunity to comment and we support the implementation of robust and adaptive guidelines for the Post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

The Washington County Water Conservancy District (district) is a political subdivision of the State of Utah. The district is charged with conserving, developing, managing, and stabilizing water supplies for the citizens of Washington County.

Washington County is one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation. The county's population is projected to more than double by 2050.¹ Washington County is Utah's hottest, driest region. All major population centers are currently dependent on a single water source, the Virgin River Basin, which is reaching its full development capacity.

Washington County has already reduced its per capita water use more than 30% since 2000—the greatest reduction in water use in Utah—and is planning for an additional 24% reduction by 2070. The district's 20-year water supply plan includes

¹ *Utah Long-Term Planning Projection Summary*, (2022, January 31). Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/LongTermProj-Jan2022.pdf?x71849&x71849>

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additional conservation, regional reuse, local supply development, groundwater optimization, and agricultural conversion.²

Because the Virgin River is a tributary of the Colorado River located within the Colorado River Basin, Washington County's water supply is directly affected by Colorado River operations in both the near and long-term. The district hereby endorses and incorporates the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and the State of Utah's Colorado River Commissioner comments on the Revised Draft SEIS.

Respectfully,



Zachary Renstrom
General Manager
Zach@wcwcd.org

² *20-Year Plan to Secure New Water Supplies for Washington County, Utah*, (2023 July). Washington County Water Conservancy District. <https://www.wcwcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/20-Year-Plan-071023.pdf>