



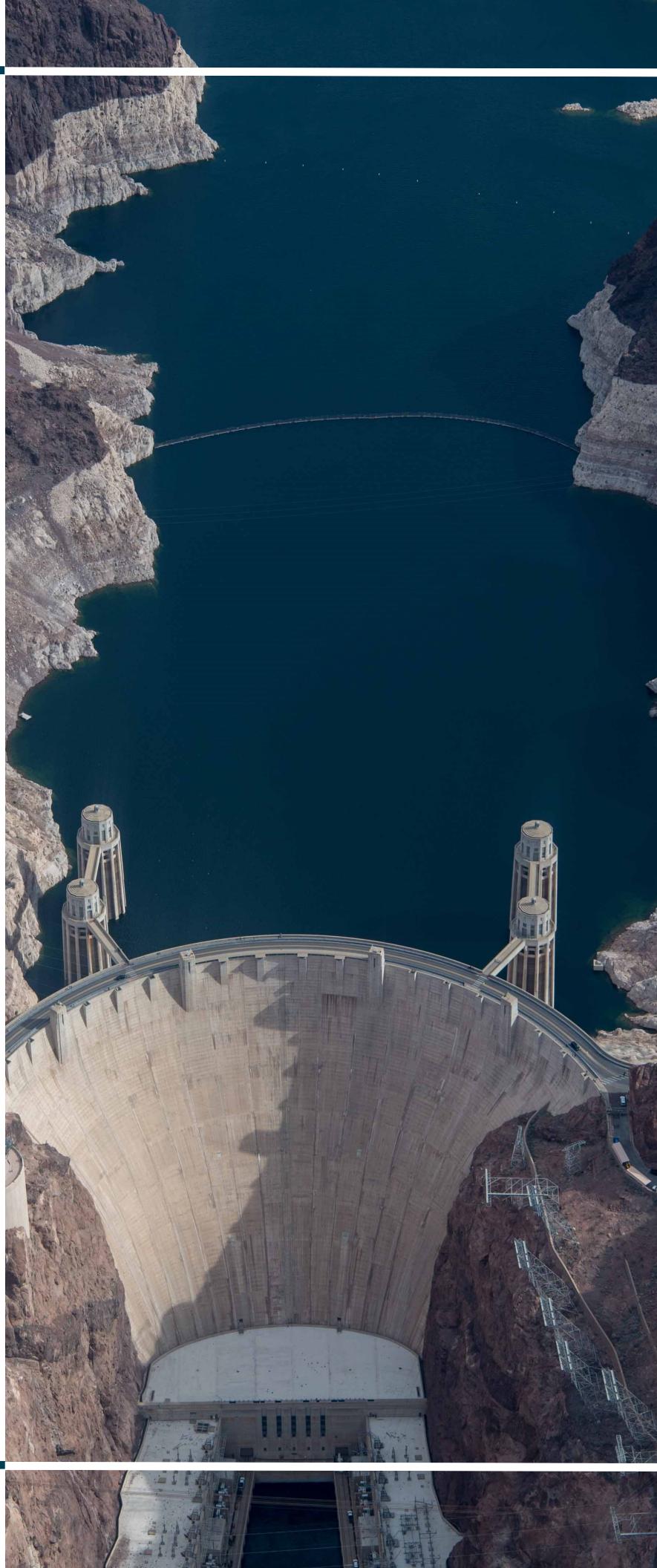
— BUREAU OF —  
**RECLAMATION**

***Draft***  
Environmental Impact  
Statement

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

**Volume I**

January 2026  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper and Lower Colorado Basins  
Interior Regions 7 and 8





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## Mission Statements

The **Department of the Interior** protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

The mission of the **Bureau of Reclamation** is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Photo by Reclamation, unknown date

# **Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

## **Lead Agency:**

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper and Lower Colorado Regions

## **Cooperating Agencies:**

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
National Park Service  
Western Area Power Administration  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission

## **Abstract:**

The Secretary of the Department of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, proposes the adoption of new guidelines and coordinated management strategies to address Lake Powell and Lake Mead through their full operating range to take effect when the current agreements expire in 2026. Management strategies will primarily focus on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam, but may include actions upstream and downstream of these facilities to protect critical reservoir elevations. This Draft EIS has been prepared to inform the Secretary's timely adoption of a new set of guidelines that would be sufficiently robust and provide improved predictability to all water users and managers in the Colorado River Basin.

This Draft EIS has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act to address the formulation and evaluation of specific interim criteria and to identify the potential environmental impacts of implementing such criteria.

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Filing Date: January 16, 2026

## **Comments Due:**

Comments on the Draft EIS must be submitted to the above email no later than Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

Full Phrase

1944 Water Treaty	United States-Mexico Treaty on Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande
2006 Flaming Gorge Dam ROD	2006 Record of Decision for the Operation of Flaming Gorge Dam Final Environmental Impact Statement
2007 Final EIS	2007 Interim Guidelines Final Environmental Impact Statement
2007 Interim Guidelines	Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead
2007 ROD	2007 Interim Guidelines Record of Decision
2012 Aspinall ROD	2012 Record of Decision for the Aspinall Unit Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement
µg/L	micrograms per liter
afy	acre-feet per year
AAC	All-American Canal
ADM	Alternative Distribution Model
AOP	Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs
APE	area of potential effects
Basin	Colorado River Basin
Basin Fund	Upper Colorado River Basin Fund
Basin States	Colorado River Basin States
BCPA	Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BO	Biological Opinion
BWSCP	Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan
°C	degrees Celsius
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAP	Central Arizona Project
CCS	Continued Current Strategies
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CO <sub>2e</sub>	carbon dioxide equivalent
Compact	Colorado River Compact of 1922
Consolidated Decree	Consolidated Decree entered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of <i>Arizona v. California</i> , 547 U.S. 150 (2006)
CRBPA	Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968

CRSP	Colorado River Storage Project
CRSPA	Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956
CRiSPPy	Colorado River Storage Project Python model
CRSS	Colorado River Simulation System
CY	calendar year
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
Dam Fund	Colorado River Dam Fund
DCP	Drought Contingency Plan
Decree	1964 United States Supreme Court Decree in <i>Arizona v. California</i>
Department	Department of the Interior
Development Fund	Colorado River Basin Development Fund
DMDU	decision making under deep uncertainty
Draft EIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DROA	Drought Response Operations Agreement
EIS	environmental impact statement
EOCY	end of calendar year
EOWY	end of water year
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973
GCNP	GCMRC
GDP	Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center
GIS	Grand Canyon National Park
GTMax	gross domestic product
	geographic information system
	Generation and Transmission Maximization
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutant
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System
HFE	High-Flow Experiment
ICS	intentionally created surplus
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
Indian	American Indians
ISG	Interim Surplus Guidelines
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
ITA	Indian trust asset
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
kaf	thousand acre-feet
kafy	thousand acre-feet per year
LB Priority	Lower Basin Priority
LB Pro Rata	Lower Basin Pro Rata
LCR MSCP	Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan
LROC	1968 Long-Range Operating Criteria

LTEMP	Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan
maf	million acre-feet
maf/y	million acre-feet per year
M&I	municipal and industrial
Mexico	United Mexican States
mg/L	milligrams per liter
msl	mean sea level
MW	megawatts
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
MWh	megawatt hours
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEI	National Emissions Inventory
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHA	National Heritage Area
NHL	National Historic Landmark
NHT	National Historic Trail
NIA	non-Indian agriculture
NIB	Northerly International Boundary
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPS	National Park Service
NRA	National Recreation Area
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
PFAS	per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PPR	present perfected right
PRPA	Paleontological Resource Protection Act
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PYFC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
RM	river mile
ROD	Record of Decision
SAM	Shortage Allocation Model
Secretary	Secretary of the Department of the Interior
SEIS	supplemental environment impact statement
Service	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIB	Southerly International Boundary
SIRA	Storage and Interstate Release Agreements

SNWA	Southern Nevada Water Authority
SSMP	Salton Sea Management Plan
TCP	traditional cultural property
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USIBWC	United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission
WAPA	Western Area Power Association
WY	water year