



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470



IN REPLY REFER TO:

LCB-4225
2.2.4.23

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

James M. Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236-1058

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Colorado River Water Order – Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Dear James M. Barrett:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received CVWD's CY 2023 Colorado River water consumptive use estimate in which CVWD requests approval to consumptively use up to 404,000 acre-feet (AF) in CY 2023. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides CVWD with notice of my determination regarding CVWD's proposed consumptive use of Colorado River water for CY 2023.

The Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement (CRWDA) quantifies certain Colorado River water entitlements within the state of California, including CVWD's water entitlement. CVWD's CY 2023 consumptive use estimate incorporates CVWD's request to have 15,000 AF of Colorado River water, available to CVWD pursuant to the 1989 Approval Agreement, as amended, delivered to CVWD via the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). This requested delivery is made in accordance with Letter Agreement No. 21-XX-30-W0710 between Reclamation and CVWD dated May 7, 2021 (Letter Agreement) and Section 13 of the *Second Amendment to Delivery and Exchange Agreement Between Metropolitan and Coachella For 35,000 Acre-Feet* dated December 11, 2019 (Second Amended Exchange Agreement). In accordance with the Letter Agreement and the Second Amended Exchange Agreement, the actual deliveries to CVWD via the CRA will be determined by MWD.

On August 16, 2022, Reclamation released its Colorado River Basin August 2022 24-Month Study, which projects Lake Mead's January 1, 2023, operating determination elevation to be 1,047.61 feet.¹ In its letter dated September 14, 2022, Reclamation announced that, in accordance with the

¹ The CY 2023 operating determination elevation of 1,047.61 feet was calculated by taking Lake Mead's projected end of CY 2022 physical elevation of 1,040.78 feet, as reported in the August 2022 24-Month Study, and adding 480,000 AF of water held back in Lake Powell to Lake Mead's capacity to maintain operational neutrality. Additional information is available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/24mo/>.

2007 Interim Guidelines,² Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River will operate in a Tier 2 Shortage Condition in CY 2023.³ In addition, the 2019 *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* will also govern the operation of Lake Mead for CY 2023. The CY 2023 lower Colorado River Shortage Condition will not reduce the volume of Colorado River water available to the state of California in CY 2023. Additionally, no Drought Contingency Plan Contributions are required by California in CY 2023.

Based upon the Shortage Condition determination, a review of the CY 2023 consumptive use estimate provided by CVWD, the terms of the CRWDA and the Letter Agreement, and the information gathered during Reclamation's Part 417 consultation, I approve CVWD to consumptively use up to 404,000 AF in CY 2023. Of this amount, up to 389,000 AF will be delivered to CVWD via Imperial Dam and an estimated 15,000 AF will be delivered to CVWD by MWD via the CRA. The table below provides the factors used to develop CVWD's approved consumptive use for CY 2023.

Water Budget Factor	Amount (AF)
Priority 3a Consumptive Use Cap	330,000
Coachella Canal Lining Project (CCLP) Conserved Water	(30,850)
Present Perfected Right Holders and Others ⁴	(3,000)
CCLP Conserved Water for Mitigation ⁵	4,850
Intra-Priority Transfer to CVWD from Imperial Irrigation District (IID) (IID-CVWD Acquisition Agreement)	88,000
MWD/CVWD State Water Project Water Exchange	0
Total Approved Consumptive Use for Delivery via Imperial Dam	389,000
1988 IID/MWD Conservation Agreement/1989 Approval Agreement – Delivered by MWD via the CRA ⁶	15,000
Total Approved Consumptive Use	404,000

Reclamation would like to highlight that, in accordance with the *Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy*,⁷ **accumulations of inadvertent overruns are not permitted in CY 2023 and are suspended as long as a Shortage Condition is in effect.** To assist entitlement holders in monitoring their Colorado River water use to ensure they remain within available quantities, Reclamation will project CY 2023 diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water and will make these projections available daily on Reclamation's website⁸ beginning January 2023.

² Referring to *Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead* dated December 13, 2007.

³ The projected operation determination elevation of 1,047.61 feet is within the Drought Contingency Plan elevation band of 1,045 and 1,050 feet and reflects what is commonly referred to a "Tier 2a" Shortage Condition.

⁴ Value shown is subject to change based on final accounting.

⁵ Value shown is subject to change based on CVWD's final mitigation water use report.

⁶ Deliveries made pursuant to the terms of the Letter Agreement and the Second Amended Exchange Agreement. Actual delivery amount will be determined by MWD.

⁷ Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/IOPP.pdf>.

⁸ Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast.pdf>.

Reclamation encourages Colorado River water entitlement holders to use the projections to adjust diversions to remain within their Reclamation-approved annual Colorado River water order.

Thank you for submitting CVWD's consumptive use estimate for CY 2023. Should you have questions, please contact Jeremy Dodds, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at (702) 293-8164 or jdodds@usbr.gov. Individuals in the United States, who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunication relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

Sincerely,

**JACKLYNN
GOULD**  Digitally signed by
JACKLYNN GOULD
Date: 2022.12.13
14:26:47 -08'00'

Jacklynn L. Gould, P.E.
Regional Director

cc: Christopher S. Harris
Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203

Thomas Buschatzke
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 36020
Phoenix, AZ 85067-6020

Eric P. Witkoski
Executive Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada
555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 3100
Las Vegas, NV 89101

John Entsminger
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
1001 South Valley View Boulevard, MS 480
Las Vegas, NV 89153

William Hasencamp
Manager, Colorado River Resources
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Tina Anderholt Shields, P.E.
Water Department Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Robert Cheng
Assistant General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236-1058