



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

Henry Martinez
General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Colorado River Water Order – Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Dear Henry Martinez:

The Bureau of Reclamation received IID's CY 2023 Colorado River water order in which IID requests approval to consumptively use up to 2,627,800 acre-feet (AF) in CY 2023. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides IID with notice of my determination regarding IID's proposed diversion and beneficial use of Colorado River water for CY 2023.

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 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.

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/>.

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.

The 2003 *Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement* (CRWDA) quantifies certain Colorado River water entitlements within the state of California, including IID’s water entitlement. Based upon a review of IID’s CY 2023 water order, the information gathered during Reclamation’s Part 417 consultation, the terms of the CRWDA, and other pertinent information, I approve IID to consumptively use up to 2,627,800 AF during CY 2023 for use in IID’s service area, of which up to 10,000 AF will be supplied by the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (LCWSP). This approval results in an estimated diversion of Colorado River water at Imperial Dam of 2,767,270 AF.

The table below provides the factors used to develop IID’s water order approval amount for CY 2023.

Water Budget Factor	Amount (AF)
Priority 3 Consumptive Use Cap	3,100,000
Present Perfected Right Holders and Others ⁴	(11,500)
1988 IID/Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Conservation Agreement/1989 Approval Agreement	(105,000)
IID Transfer to the San Diego County Water Authority	(200,000)
All-American Canal (AAC) Lining Project Conserved Water	(67,700)
Intra-Priority Transfer to the Coachella Valley Water District	(88,000)
Total Approved Consumptive Use	2,627,800
IID Consumptive Use supplied by the LCWSP ⁴	(10,000)
Total Approved Consumptive Use at Imperial Dam	2,617,800
Estimated AAC Returns ⁴	149,470
Total Approved Diversion at Imperial Dam	2,767,270

Reclamation notes that IID’s CY 2023 water order includes an “Estimate of Additional Conserved Water” amount of up to 62,000 AF and that IID intends to use the Additional Conserved Water for purposes including, but not limited to: the creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (EC ICS) for storage in IID’s Lake Mead ICS Account or credited to another contractor pursuant to Section XI.G.3.B.8 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines; and the creation of excess conservation for storage with MWD pursuant to the terms of the IID-MWD *Settlement and Release Agreement* dated September 16, 2021. Pursuant to Section 3 of the *California Agreement for the Creation and Delivery of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus*, as amended (California ICS Agreement), the actual amount of EC ICS IID may store in IID’s Lake Mead ICS Account during CY 2023 will be limited such that the end-of-year balance does not exceed 50,000 AF.⁵ Additionally, should IID elect to use Additional Conserved Water to create and credit EC ICS to the ICS Account of another contractor in the state of California through application of Section XI.G.3.B. 8 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, IID must first obtain written agreement of the contractor. The disposition of any Additional Conserved Water by IID will be based on final accounting.


⁴ The amount shown is subject to change based on final accounting records.

⁵ Reclamation notes that, based on accounting records as of the end of CY 2021, IID has reached this limit.

Reclamation would like to highlight that, in accordance with the *Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy*,⁶ **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 during CY 2023 and will make these projections available daily on Reclamation's website⁷ beginning in January 2023. 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 IID's diversion 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
14:25:05 -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

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

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

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

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

⁶ Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/IOPP.pdf>.

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