



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

JR Echard
General Manager
Palo Verde Irrigation District
180 West 14th Avenue
Blythe, CA 92225

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Colorado River Water Diversion – Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)

Dear JR Echard:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received PVID's CY 2023 Colorado River water diversion estimate in which PVID requests approval to divert up to 862,000 acre-feet (AF) and to consumptively use up to 423,836 AF in CY 2023. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides PVID with my determination regarding PVID's proposed diversion and beneficial use of Colorado River water for CY 2023.

Water rights for lands located within PVID are based on the California Seven-Party Agreement of 1931 and PVID's 1933 Colorado River Water Delivery Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, which establish a priority system for delivery of Colorado River water to California water districts. PVID has a Priority 1 right to sufficient water to irrigate up to 104,500 acres of land located in the Palo Verde Valley and a Priority 3(b) right to irrigate up to 16,000 acres of land on the Palo Verde Mesa.

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*

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.

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 diversion estimate provided by PVID, and the information gathered during Reclamation's Part 417 consultation, I approve the diversion of up to 862,000 AF of Colorado River water during CY 2023 for use in PVID's service area. This approved diversion results in an estimated consumptive use of 423,836 AF.

Reclamation would like to highlight that, in accordance with the *Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy*,⁴ **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 diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during CY 2023 and will make these projections available daily on Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Water Accounting website⁵ 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 PVID'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
14:23:13 -08'00'

Jacklynn L. Gould, P.E.
Regional Director

cc: See next page.

⁴ Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/IOPP.pdf>.

⁵ Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast.pdf>.

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

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

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 S. Valley View Boulevard, MS 480
Las Vegas, NV 89153

Bert Bell
Water Master
Palo Verde Irrigation District
180 West 14th Avenue
Blythe, CA 92225