

STATE OF NEVADA

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**COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION
OF NEVADA**

September 30, 2022

Jacklynn Gould, Regional Director
Attention: LC-4200
United States Department of the Interior
Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Basin
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

RE: Estimate of the State of Nevada's Colorado River Diversions – Calendar Year 2023

Dear Ms. Gould:

In accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (37 *Federal Register* 18076, Sept. 7, 1972) and in response to letter dated September 16, 2022, the State of Nevada submits this estimate of Colorado River diversions for calendar year 2023. The enclosed estimate of diversions recognizes the Tier 2a Shortage Condition during 2023 resulting in a 17,000 acre-feet (AF) reduction in Nevada's available Colorado River water supply and an 8,000 AF Drought Contingency Plan contribution during 2023.

Colorado River Apportionment

During 2023 Nevada anticipates a consumptive use of 283,000 AF, Nevada's basic apportionment reduced by a Tier 2a shortage of 17,000 AF. Table 1 attached contains the 2023 diversion schedule and estimated Nevada diversion of 522,000 AF reflecting Nevada return flow credits of 239,000 AF, based on the range of historical values.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) diversions may increase above the anticipated volumes, pursuant to SNWA's right to take delivery of unused Nevada Colorado River basic apportionment under contract 2-07-30-W0266 dated March 2, 1992, as amended, between the United States and SNWA, provided that the total Nevada Colorado River consumptive use does not exceed 283,000 AF during calendar year 2023.

Intentionally Created Surplus

On July 14, 2022, the SNWA transmitted to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) its calendar year 2023 Plans of Creation (Plans) for Extraordinary Conservation and Tributary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) for the Muddy and Virgin Rivers in Nevada in accordance with the 2007 *Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead* (2007 Interim Guidelines). The SNWA anticipates creating up to 44,000 AF of Tributary Conservation ICS and up to 100,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation ICS in calendar year 2023. Pending approval of those Plans by Reclamation and appropriately accounting for the applicable 10 percent system assessment, Nevada currently anticipates storing up to 129,600

AF of ICS credits during calendar year 2023. The above volumes may be modified during the year in accordance with Sections XI.G.3.B.1, XI.G.3.B.9, and XI.G.3.C.9 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

While SNWA and Colorado River Commission of Nevada (CRCNV) do not anticipate a need for additional resources during 2023, SNWA and CRCNV will consult with Reclamation regarding the delivery of ICS if necessary, to meet demands during 2023.

Drought Contingency Plan Contribution

Nevada recognizes the 2019 *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* (LB DCP Agreement) will be applied in governing Colorado River operations during calendar year 2023, including the provisions incorporated in Exhibit 1 to the LB DCP Agreement, *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations* (LBOps), which requires DCP Contributions from Nevada, Arizona, and California based on Lake Mead elevation.

The most probable August 2022 24-Month Study projected Lake Mead's operating determination elevation to be 1,047.61 feet on January 1, 2023. In accordance with Section III.B.2.a of LBOps, this condition requires Nevada to make a DCP Contribution of 8,000 AF during calendar year 2023. The CRCNV and SNWA have discussed Nevada's required calendar year 2023 DCP Contribution. SNWA agrees to make Nevada's calendar year 2023 DCP Contribution using one or more of the methods defined in Section II of LBOps. In accordance with Section III.D.1 of LBOps, CRCNV and SNWA will meet and confer at least quarterly with Reclamation regarding the status of Nevada's DCP Contribution and the source of the calendar year 2023 DCP Contribution.

Unforeseen conditions make it difficult to estimate monthly water use a year in advance. With this in mind, please note that this request may be amended during calendar year 2023 as additional information becomes available, and that Nevada may submit a revised water order to reflect modifications.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Warren Turkett at (702) 486-2679.

Sincerely,



Eric Witkoski
Executive Director

Enclosures – 2

cc:

Jeremy Dodds jdodds@usbr.gov
Basic Water Company
City of Boulder City
Comprehensive Planning, City of Las Vegas
Dept. of Public Works, City of North Las Vegas
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

National Park Service
Nellis Air Force Base
Nevada Department of Wildlife
PABCO
Southern Nevada Water Authority
Utility Services Division, City of Henderson
Water Operations, Big Bend Water District

| Table 1. 2023 Diversion Schedule | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| State Of Nevada | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | TOTAL |
| Above Hoover | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Nevada Water System | 31,418 | 26,835 | 37,764 | 43,590 | 49,523 | 54,296 | 55,278 | 54,802 | 46,441 | 39,181 | 31,056 | 31,688 | 501,872 |
| Basic Water Company City of Henderson ¹ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Basic Water Company ¹ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pabco | 73 | 72 | 84 | 75 | 89 | 87 | 88 | 94 | 74 | 60 | 66 | 66 | 928 |
| Nevada Division of Wildlife ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National Recreation Area (Lake Mead) | 111 | 102 | 107 | 115 | 115 | 133 | 139 | 146 | 142 | 124 | 133 | 133 | 1,500 |
| Boulder City | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Boulder Canyon Project | 15 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 22 | 22 | 29 | 300 |
| Total Above Hoover | 31,617 | 27,031 | 37,977 | 43,803 | 49,756 | 54,545 | 55,534 | 55,071 | 46,686 | 39,387 | 31,277 | 31,916 | 504,600 |
| Below Hoover | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Big Bend Water District | 635 | 685 | 774 | 825 | 926 | 1,009 | 958 | 987 | 923 | 825 | 755 | 698 | 10,000 |
| National Recreation Area (Lake Mohave - Cottonwood) | 44 | 44 | 49 | 47 | 44 | 40 | 40 | 39 | 36 | 39 | 42 | 36 | 500 |
| Fort Mojave Indian Reservation ³ | 200 | 500 | 600 | 700 | 900 | 900 | 800 | 800 | 700 | 400 | 200 | 200 | 6,900 |
| Total Below Hoover | 879 | 1,229 | 1,423 | 1,572 | 1,870 | 1,949 | 1,798 | 1,826 | 1,659 | 1,264 | 997 | 934 | 17,400 |
| Total Nevada Diversions | 32,496 | 28,260 | 39,400 | 45,375 | 51,626 | 56,494 | 57,332 | 56,897 | 48,345 | 40,651 | 32,274 | 32,850 | 522,000 |

Footnotes:

1. Basic Water Company ceased operating their system in July 2022 with no known date for operation to resume.
2. Nevada Division of Wildlife diversions ceased in January 2022, and no diversions are anticipated until the planned water supply connection to SNWS is completed.
3. Fort Mohave Indian Reservation diversions are based on their approved water order for calendar year 2022.