



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

Jessie Durham
Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Regional Office
2600 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Subject: Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Approval of Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Tribal Colorado River Water Diversions

Dear Ms. Durham:

The Bureau of Reclamation received BIA's memorandum dated November 22, 2023, through which BIA provided its formal determination of CY 2024 Colorado River water diversions for the Fort Mojave, Colorado River, Cocopah, Chemehuevi, and Fort Yuma (Quechan) Indian Tribes (Tribes). In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417, this letter provides BIA with notice that Reclamation has no comments or objections to BIA's determination. The diversion amounts for each tribe as approved per the determination made by BIA are reflected in the enclosed Table 1.

On August 15, 2023, Reclamation released its Colorado River Basin August 2024 24-Month Study,¹ which projects Lake Mead's most probable elevation on January 1, 2024 to be 1,065.27 feet. In its letter dated August 24, 2023, Reclamation announced that, in accordance with the 2007 Interim Guidelines,² Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River will operate in a Tier 1 Shortage Condition in CY 2024. In addition, the 2019 *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* (LB DCP Agreement) will also govern the operation of Lake Mead for CY 2024. The CY 2024 Shortage Condition and DCP Contributions required by the LB DCP Agreement do not impact the available Colorado River water supply for the Tribes.

Reclamation would like to highlight that, in accordance with the *Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy*,³ **accumulations of inadvertent overruns are not permitted in CY 2024 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,

¹ 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 Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/IOPP.pdf>.

Reclamation will project CY 2024 diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during CY 2024 and will make these projections available daily on Reclamation's website⁴ beginning in January 2024. 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.

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.

Sincerely,

**JACKLYNN
GOULD** Digitally signed by
JACKLYNN GOULD
Date: 2023.12.26
08:14:29 -08'00'

Jacklynn L. Gould, P.E.
Regional Director

Enclosure

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

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