



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

cc: Christopher S. Harris
Executive Director
Colorado River Board of
California
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Thomas Buschatzke
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Yuma, AZ 85364

Continued on next page.

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

cc: Continued from previous page.

William Hasencamp
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The Metropolitan Water District
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Nick Bahr
General Manager
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(w/ encl to each)

John Entsminger
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
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Las Vegas, NV 89153



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Western Regional Office
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Phoenix, Arizona 85004

In Reply Refer to
Division of Natural Resources

NOV 22 2023

Honorable Timothy Williams
Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, California 92363

Dear Chairman Williams:

On November 7, 2023, a meeting attended by Wes Davis, Jon DeOcampo, and Cecil Collier of the Fort Mojave Tribal Utilities Authority; Andrew Harter (General Manger, Avi Kwa Ame Farms); Jonathan Cody (Irrigation Engineer, Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA]); and representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation was held. The purpose of the meeting was to engage in a 43 CFR, Part 417 (Part 417) consultation with the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe (Tribe). During this consultation meeting the Tribe's 2024 Colorado River water usage requirements and plans were discussed.

With consideration given to discussion held during the aforementioned consultation meeting and in fulfillment of responsibilities described in Part 417, the Regional Director, Western Regional Office, BIA has formally determined the Tribe's 2024 Colorado River water order. This water order is provided in the table below. The water order figures are equivalent to the estimated diversions for agriculture previously provided by Mr. Harter, with municipal diversion estimates for Arizona and Nevada added in. Municipal diversion estimates for Arizona and Nevada (3,500 acre-feet and 1,600 acre-feet respectively) were provided by Jon DeOcampo (Operations Manager, For Mojave Tribal Utilities Authority). A copy of the Tribe's completed consultation questionnaire is enclosed.

The Tribe's 2024 water order is (all quantities in acre-feet):

Month	Arizona	California	Nevada
JAN	4,692	650	71
FEB	5,735	1,000	282
MAR	7,299	1,350	423
APR	9,384	1,700	705
MAY	9,384	2,000	705
JUN	9,906	2,000	705
JUL	9,384	2,000	705
AUG	8,341	2,000	705
SEP	7,299	1,500	635
OCT	6,256	1,200	353
NOV	4,171	1,000	140
DEC	3,649	320	71
TOTAL	85,500	16,720	5,500
ENTITLEMENT	103,535	16,720	12,534

This water order is being submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for Colorado River water regulation and accounting purposes.

Please direct any questions to Mr. Jonathan Cody, Irrigation Engineer at (480) 235-3848, or jonathan.cody@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessie Durham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessie Durham
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Andrew Harter, General Manager
Avi Kwa Ame Farms
P.O. Box 5229
Mohave Valley, AZ 86446

Jon DeOcampo, Operations Manger
Fort Mojave Tribal Utilities Authority
8780 S. Highway 95
Mohave Valley, AZ 86440

Regional Director
Lower Colorado Regional Office
Bureau of Reclamation

Chief, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
Bureau of Reclamation

Superintendent
Colorado River Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs