



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

Nick Bahr
General Manager
Bard Water District
1473 Ross Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Colorado River Water Diversion – Bard Water District (BWD)

Dear Mr. Bahr:

The Bureau of Reclamation received BWD's CY 2025 Colorado River water diversion estimate in which BWD requests approval to divert up to 46,800 acre-feet (AF) in CY 2025. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides BWD with notice of my determination regarding BWD's proposed diversion and beneficial use of Colorado River water for CY 2025.

Water rights for lands within BWD are based on water right certificates that provide for delivery of the quantity of water which can be beneficially used for irrigation of individual lands covered by the separate water right certificates.

On August 15, 2024, Reclamation released its Colorado River Basin August 2024 24-Month Study,¹ which projects Lake Mead's most probable elevation on January 1, 2025, to be 1,062.32 feet. In its letter dated August 26, 2024, 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 2025. In addition, the 2019 *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* (LB DCP Agreement) will also govern the operation of Lake Mead for CY 2025. The CY 2025 lower Colorado River Shortage Condition will not reduce the volume of Colorado River water available to the state of California in CY 2025. Additionally, no Drought Contingency Plan Contributions are required by California in CY 2025.

Based upon the Shortage Condition determination, a review of the CY 2025 diversion estimate provided by BWD, and the information gathered during Reclamation's Part 417 consultation, I

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.

approve the diversion of up to 46,800 AF of Colorado River water during CY 2025 for use in BWD's service area. This approved diversion results in an estimated consumptive use of 22,023 AF.

Reclamation notes that BWD's diversion estimate does not incorporate any System Conservation Water creation. Reclamation anticipates that, in accordance with Section 7.4 of System Conservation Implementation Agreement No. 23-XX-30-W0773 (SCIA),³ BWD will submit a revised CY 2025 water order to account for the land fallowing performed and System Conservation Water to be created pursuant to the SCIA.

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 2025 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 2025 diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during CY 2025 and will make these projections available daily on Reclamation's website⁵ beginning in January 2025. 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 BWD's diversion estimate for CY 2025. Should you have questions, please contact Jeremy Dodds, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at (702) 293-8164 or jdodds@usbr.gov. Individuals 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 L. Gould, P.E.
Regional Director

cc: Jessica Neuwerth
Acting Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
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³ Referring to *System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA) Among the United States Bureau of Reclamation, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Bard Water District to Implement the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program (LC Conservation Program)*.

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: Continued from previous page.

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