



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470



IN REPLY REFER TO:

LCB-4220
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) 2025 Tribal Colorado River Water Diversions

Dear Ms. Durham:

The Bureau of Reclamation received BIA's memorandum dated November 21, 2024, through which BIA provided its formal determination of CY 2025 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 memorandum 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, 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 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 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,

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 2025 diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during CY 2025 and will make these projections available daily on Reclamation's website⁴ 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.

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
GOULD**  Digitally signed by
JACKLYNN GOULD
Date: 2024.12.23
13:01:59 -08'00'

Jacklynn L. Gould, P.E.
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Jessica Neuwerth
Acting Executive Director
Colorado River Board of
California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203

Thomas Buschatzke
Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources
1802 W. Jackson Street, Box 79
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Eric P. Witkoski
Executive Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada
555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 3100
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Catherine Wilson
Supervisory Water Rights Specialist
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Regional Office
Division of Natural Resources, MS-460
2600 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Davetta Ameelyenah
Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Colorado River Agency
12124 1st Avenue
Parker, AZ 85344

Maureen Brown
Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fort Yuma Agency
256 South 2nd Avenue, Suite D
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
Manager, Colorado River Resources
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

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

John Entsminger
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
1001 South Valley View Boulevard, MS 480
Las Vegas, NV 89153
(w/ encl to each)

Table 1. Approved Colorado River Water Diversions, Calendar Year 2025.

	Tribe	CY 2025 Approved Diversion (Acre-Feet)	Annual Diversion Entitlement (Acre-Feet)
Arizona	Fort Mojave	96,000	103,535
	Colorado River	662,402	662,402
	Cocopah	2,818 ¹	11,518 ²
	Fort Yuma (Quechan)	4,802	6,350
California	Fort Mojave	16,720	16,720
	Colorado River	7,258	56,846
	Chemehuevi	11,340	11,340
	Fort Yuma (Quechan)	51,616	71,616 ³
Nevada	Fort Mojave	6,300	12,534

¹ Includes surface water diverted from Imperial Dam via the All-American Canal, as well as an estimated groundwater pumping volume of 2,582 acre-feet.

² The Cocopah Indian Tribe's diversion entitlement shown above includes an estimated entitlement for use on the Cocopah Indian Tribe's Fee land parcel located within a portion of the area described in Present Perfected Right No. 7. The amount of this entitlement is currently under review.

³ The Consolidated Decree entered March 27, 2006, in *Arizona v. California et al* (547 U.S. 150 (2006)) allocates 71,616 acre-feet for lands within the boundaries of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation in the State of California. In accordance with the settlement agreement executed on February 24, 2005 among the Quechan Indian Tribe (Tribe), the United States, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), the Coachella Valley Water District, and the State of California: (1) only 64,616 acre-feet are immediately available to the Tribe; (2) the full 71,616 acre-feet will become available to the Tribe in Year 2035; and (3) 13,000 acre-feet immediately available to the Tribe are available for diversion by MWD through Year 2035 contingent upon conditions set for the in the 2005 settlement agreement and a forbearance agreement between the parties. Pursuant to SCIA No. 23-30-W0783, the Tribe and MWD agree that the 13,000 acre-feet of water previously forborne by the Tribe and made available for diversion by MWD through the February 14, 2005 settlement agreement will instead remain in Lake Mead as System Conservation Water.