



# 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

Jamie Asbury  
General Manager  
Imperial Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Subject: Approval of Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Colorado River Water Order – Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Dear Ms. Asbury:

The Bureau of Reclamation has received IID's CY 2026 Colorado River water order. In accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations Part 417 (Part 417), this letter provides IID with notice of my determination regarding IID's proposed diversion and beneficial use of Colorado River water for CY 2026.

On August 15, 2025, Reclamation released its Colorado River Basin August 2025 24-Month Study,<sup>1</sup> which projects Lake Mead's most probable elevation on January 1, 2026, to be 1,055.88 feet. In its letter dated August 21, 2025, Reclamation announced that, in accordance with the 2007 Interim Guidelines,<sup>2</sup> Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River will operate in a Tier 1 Shortage Condition in CY 2026. In addition, the 2019 *Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Agreement* will also govern the operation of Lake Mead for CY 2026. The CY 2026 lower Colorado River Shortage Condition will not reduce the volume of Colorado River water available to the state of California in CY 2026. Additionally, no Drought Contingency Plan Contributions are required by California in CY 2026.

On August 26, 2024, IID and Reclamation executed System Conservation Implementation Agreement No. 24-XX-30-W0825 (SCIA),<sup>3</sup> in which IID agreed to create up to 300,000 AF of System Conservation Water in each of CYs 2024, 2025, and 2026 for a cumulative total for those years not to exceed 700,000 AF of System Conservation Water, which will remain in Lake Mead to benefit system storage. While this water order approval is predicated upon IID's creation of up to 192,360 AF of System Conservation Water in CY 2026, Reclamation recognizes that the actual

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/24mo/>.

<sup>2</sup> Referring to *Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead* dated December 13, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Referring to the *System Conservation Implementation Agreement Between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District to Implement the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program (LC Conservation Program)*.

volume of System Conservation Water created by IID in CY 2026 is subject to change. Reclamation will coordinate with IID during CY 2026 to ensure the appropriate accounting for System Conservation Water.

The 2003 *Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement* (CRWDA) quantifies certain Colorado River water entitlements within the state of California, including IID’s water entitlement. Based upon a review of IID’s CY 2026 water order, the information gathered during Reclamation’s Part 417 consultation, the terms of the CRWDA, and other pertinent information, I approve IID to consumptively use up to 2,420,440 AF during CY 2026 for use in IID’s service area, of which up to 10,000 AF will be supplied by the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (LCWSP). This approval results in an estimated diversion of Colorado River water at Imperial Dam of 2,538,426 AF. The table below provides the factors used to develop IID’s water order approval amount for CY 2026.

<b>Water Budget Factor</b>	<b>Amount (AF)</b>
Priority 3 Consumptive Use Cap	3,100,000
Present Perfected Right Holders and Others <sup>4</sup>	(11,500)
1988 IID/Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Conservation Agreement/1989 Approval Agreement	(105,000)
IID Transfer to the San Diego County Water Authority	(200,000)
All-American Canal (AAC) Lining Project Conserved Water	(67,700)
Intra-Priority Transfer to the Coachella Valley Water District	(103,000)
Additional Conserved Water System Conservation Water – SCIA No. 24-XX-30-W0825 <sup>4</sup>	up to (192,360)
<b>Total Approved Consumptive Use</b>	<b>2,420,440</b>
IID Consumptive Use supplied by the LCWSP <sup>4</sup>	(10,000)
<b>Total Approved Consumptive Use at Imperial Dam</b>	<b>2,410,440</b>
Estimated AAC Returns <sup>4</sup>	127,986
<b>Total Approved Diversion at Imperial Dam</b>	<b>2,538,426</b>

Reclamation notes that IID’s CY 2026 water order identifies other potential uses for IID’s “Additional Conserved Water” including, but not limited to, the creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (EC ICS) for storage in IID’s Lake Mead ICS Account or credited to another contractor pursuant to Section XI.G.3.B.8 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Pursuant to Section 3 of the *California Agreement for the Creation and Delivery of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus*, as amended (California ICS Agreement), the actual amount of EC ICS IID may store in IID’s Lake Mead ICS Account during CY 2026 will be limited such that the end-of-year balance does not exceed 50,000 AF.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, should IID elect to use Additional Conserved Water to create and credit EC ICS to the ICS Account of another contractor in the state of California through application of Section XI.G.3.B. 8 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, IID must first obtain written agreement of the contractor.

<sup>4</sup> The amount shown is subject to change based on final accounting records.

<sup>5</sup> Reclamation notes that, based on accounting records as of the end of CY 2024, IID has reached this limit.

Reclamation would like to highlight that, in accordance with the *Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy*,<sup>6</sup> **accumulations of inadvertent overruns are not permitted in CY 2026 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 2026 diversions and consumptive use of Colorado River water during CY 2026 and will make these projections available daily on Reclamation's website<sup>7</sup> beginning in January 2026. 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 IID's water order for CY 2026. Should you have questions, please contact Kerim Dickson, Team Lead, Water Accounting and Verification Group, at (725) 232-6443 or [kdickson@usbr.gov](mailto:kdickson@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,

Genevieve R. Johnson  
Acting Regional Director

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

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

Thomas Buschatzke  
Director  
Arizona Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 36020  
Phoenix, AZ 85067-6020

John Entsminger  
General Manager  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
1001 South Valley View Boulevard, MS 480  
Las Vegas, NV 89153

Tina Shields, P.E.  
Water Department Manager  
Imperial Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Dylan Mohamed  
Water Conservation Analyst  
Imperial Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/IOPP.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Available at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast.pdf>.