



Of immediate concern is the Overton Beach Marina on Lake Mead. A minimum Lake Mead elevation of 1120' is needed to maintain marina operations at its present location. This level is achievable with the most recent 24-month projection. Failure to maintain this elevation could result in termination of services, impacting 180 slip renters and the financial viability of the marina operation, as well as create a multi-million dollar financial liability for the federal government.

If we are able to maintain the 1120' lake level through March 2006, the National Park Service is working to bundle certain concession contracts on the Overton Arm of Lake Mead. This would provide a single operation the flexibility of providing services from more than one location as floating facilities could be moved between the bundled concession locations. It is anticipated this bundling process will take approximately one year to complete.

A major unknown in this request is the pending review of the Glen Canyon Dam operations. We understand a meeting will be held later this month to review the operations of the Glen Canyon Dam to see if a reduction in releases is appropriate. If it is decided to reduce the 2005 releases from the Glen Canyon Dam below the scheduled 8.23 million acre-feet there will be a corresponding affect on Lake Mead lake level projections. If Lake Mead's elevation were to drop below 1120' during the next 12 months, it would most likely result in the closure of the Overton Beach Marina operation and substantial costs to the local economy, the concessioner and the federal government. Maintaining an 1120 elevation for the next 12 months could avoid such impacts.

With this letter, we are seeking the assistance of the Bureau of Reclamation in the AOP discussions to include consideration of recreation and tourism lake level needs and more specifically, a Lake Mead water level of 1120' through March 2006.

Thank you for your support and the assistance of your staff.

Sincerely,



William K. Dickinson  
Superintendent

cc:

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