

Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program – FAQs

Who is implementing the Program?

- The Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Basin Regional office.

What is the purpose of the Program?

- In response to prolonged drought and low runoff conditions accelerated by climate change, that have led to historically low water levels in the Basin, the Program's purpose is to provide additional system conservation and efficiency opportunities to address the unprecedented drought conditions.

Who is eligible?

- Colorado River water delivery contract or entitlement holders and Central Arizona Project water delivery contract or entitlement holders in the lower Colorado River basin.

What are the Program's components?

- 1.a.: System Conservation at a fixed price per acre-foot based on the term of the agreement:
 - One-year agreement: \$330/acre-ft
 - Two-year agreement: \$365/acre-ft
 - Three-year agreement: \$400/acre-ft
- 1.b.: System Conservation at a price per acre-foot as proposed by the water delivery contractor or entitlement holder
- 2.: Longer-term, durable system efficiency programs with multi-year conservation benefits

What proposals are being accepted now?

- Proposals under 1.a. and 1.b. of the Program are being accepted at this time.
- There will be separate notification letter for 2. proposals in early 2023.

What is the due date for 1.a. and 1.b. proposals?

- The due date is November 21, 2022.

What are the proposal requirements?

- As described in Enclosure 1, proposals under 1.a. must include the following information:
 - Plan description.
 - The amount of Colorado River System water to be conserved per year and over the life of the proposed plan.
 - System water conserved shall be based on a history of use (not entitlement); this criterion will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
 - Methodology for estimated consumptive use reduction and supporting information that documents the estimate.
 - Description of how the proponent will verify and document the consumptive use reduction on an annual or more frequent basis, as appropriate.
- As described in Enclosure 1, proposals under 1.b. must include the same information as 1.a., with the following additions:

- Estimated cost per acre-foot of conserved water (on either an annual basis or other proposed period of plan operation) and economic explanation of the proposed cost.
- Description of how the proposed plan will ensure that the amount of conserved water to remain in Lake Mead will not be ordered by other entitlement holder(s), for example, through third party consents or forbearance agreements.
- Any additional information deemed helpful to explain and aid understanding of the proposal.

What if I do not hold a Colorado River water delivery contract or entitlement or a Central Arizona Project water delivery contract or entitlement, can I participate in the Program?

- Only Colorado River water delivery contract or entitlement holders and Central Arizona Project water delivery contract or entitlement holders in the lower Colorado River basin are eligible to participate in the Program.

Will there be another opportunity to submit a proposal if I am unable to make the deadline of November 21, 2022?

- There will be announcement for proposals under 2. of the Program in early 2023. We will be able to provide more information at that time.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

- Please contact Daniel Bunk, Chief, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, as dbunk@usbr.gov.