



United States Department of the Interior

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:
LCB-4000
2.2.4.23

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Interested Parties

Subject: Request for Input for the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program

Greetings:

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on the Secretary's September 23, 2022, announcement of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program (LC Conservation Program). The Department of the Interior (Department) previously established a first phase of the program for short-term conservation contributions, via letter dated October 12, 2022, and the purpose of this letter is to request input on the next phase of our program to establish longer-term durable system efficiency improvements that result in water conservation benefitting the lower Colorado River System and its water users.

The LC Conservation Program is a part of the commitment made by the Department on August 16, 2022, to address the drought crisis with prompt and responsive actions and investments to ensure the entire Colorado River Basin can function and support all who rely on it. Prolonged drought and low runoff conditions accelerated by climate change have led to historically low water levels in Lakes Powell and Mead. Over the last two decades, Department leaders have engaged with Colorado River Basin partners on various drought response operations. Given that water levels continue to decline, additional action is needed to protect the Colorado River System and prevent the reservoirs from falling to critically low elevations threatening water deliveries and power production. The historic funding levels committed by the Biden Harris Administration in the Inflation Reduction Act provides \$4 billion specifically for water management and conservation efforts in the Colorado River Basin and other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought.

The Bureau of Reclamation is requesting input from Colorado River stakeholders to inform the development of the next phase of the program. The LC Conservation Program is intended to provide alternate paths to system efficiency that lead to additional conservation and longer-term durable solutions for the Colorado River System.

When the next phase is launched in the Lower Colorado River Basin, Reclamation will accept proposals from Colorado River water delivery contract or entitlement holders and Central Arizona Project water delivery contract or entitlement holders, including partnerships with such entities. Reclamation is specifically requesting input on the

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

types and nature of projects that should be eligible and evaluation criteria for suggested projects.

Reclamation is working to release the solicitation of LC Conservation Program projects in early spring of 2023 and appreciates your suggestions in order to help make the program a success. Comments will be accepted until Thursday, April 06, 2023 and can be sent via email to: LCBEfficiency@usbr.gov

Additional information from Reclamation will be forthcoming on Inflation Reduction Act programs in the Upper Colorado River Basin as well as other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought. For more information on the Inflation Reduction Act as well as the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law, please visit <https://www.usbr.gov/inflation-reduction-act/> and www.usbr.gov/bil, respectively.

**JACKLYNN
GOULD** Digitally signed by
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Jacklynn L. Gould, P.E.
Regional Director
Lower Colorado Basin Region