

## Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

### Draft EIS Available for Review and Comment

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) acting on behalf of the Secretary of Interior is announcing availability of the Draft environmental impact statement (Draft EIS) on the proposed adoption of specific Colorado River interim guidelines for Lower Basin shortages and operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, particularly under drought and low reservoir conditions. The Draft EIS presents four possible action alternatives for implementation, plus a "No Action Alternative." The action alternatives reflect input received from Reclamation staff, the cooperating agencies, stakeholders, and other interested parties.

The Draft EIS is available for viewing and copying at Reclamation's project website at: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies.html>. Printed versions are available at various public facilities (see list on reverse). Parties interested in receiving a compact disc or hard copy can send a written request to the address below. Please use the same address to submit any comments on the Draft EIS. Comments must be submitted no later than April 30, 2007.

### Direct Draft EIS comments or inquiries to:

*Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region,  
Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: BCOO-1000,  
P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89006-  
1470; faxogram at (702) 293-8156; or e-mail at  
[strategies@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:strategies@lc.usbr.gov).*

### Public Hearing Dates and Locations

Reclamation has scheduled three hearings to receive public comments on the Draft EIS. Comments will be considered in the selection of the preferred alternative and will be addressed in the Final EIS.

*Meetings are from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

#### **Tuesday, April 3, 2007**

Henderson Convention Center  
Sierra Room  
200 South Water Street  
Henderson, Nevada

#### **Wednesday, April 4, 2007**

Phoenix Airport Marriott  
Buckhorn Room  
1101 North 44th Street  
Phoenix, Arizona

#### **Thursday, April 5, 2007**

Hilton Salt Lake City Center  
Canyon Room A & B  
255 South West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah

To request special assistance, please contact Nan Yoder at (702) 293-8495 or e-mail at [strategies@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:strategies@lc.usbr.gov).

*The public review period for the Draft EIS commenced on February 28, 2007 and will extend until April 30, 2007.*

## Project Need and Purpose

During the period from 2000-2006, the Colorado River has experienced the worst drought in approximately one hundred years of record keeping. During this period, storage in Colorado River reservoirs has dropped from nearly full to less than 60 percent of capacity at the end of 2006. Currently, the Department of the Interior (Department) does not have specific operational guidelines in place to address the operation of Lake Mead and Lake Powell during drought and low reservoir conditions. Accordingly, the Department proposes the adoption of specific interim guidelines for Lower Basin shortages and coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

The purpose of the proposed federal action is to: 1) improve Reclamation's management of the Colorado River by considering the tradeoffs between the frequency and magnitude of reductions of water deliveries, and considering the effects on water storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, water supply, power production, recreation, and other environmental resources; 2) provide mainstream U.S. users of Colorado River water, particularly those in the Lower Division states, a greater degree of predictability with respect to the amount of annual water deliveries in future years, particularly under drought and low reservoir conditions; and, 3) provide additional mechanisms for the storage and delivery of water supplies in Lake Mead.

## For Further Project Information

Please contact Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D., at (702) 293-8500 or e-mail at [strategies@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:strategies@lc.usbr.gov); and/or Randall Peterson at (801) 524-3633. You can also visit the project web site at: [www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies.html](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies.html).

### Hard copies of the Draft EIS are available at the following locations:

#### Department of the Interior

Natural Resources Library  
1849 C St NW, Washington, D.C.

#### Yuma County Library

185 South Main St, Yuma, AZ

#### Palo Verde Valley Library

125 West Chanslor Wy, Blythe, CA

#### Mohave County Library

1170 Hancock Rd, Bullhead City, AZ

#### Laughlin Library

2840 So Needles Highway, Laughlin, NV

#### Las Vegas Clark County Library

833 Las Vegas Blvd N, Las Vegas, NV

#### James I. Gibson Library

280 Water St, Henderson, NV

### Bureau of Reclamation offices:

#### Lower Colorado Regional Office

400 Railroad Ave, Boulder City, NV

#### Upper Colorado Regional Office

125 South State St, Rm 7220  
Salt Lake City, UT

#### Phoenix Area Office

6150 West Thunderbird Rd, Glendale, AZ

#### Yuma Area Office

7301 Calle Agua Salada, Yuma, AZ

#### Denver Federal Center Library

6th Avenue and Kipling, Building 67,  
Rm 167, Denver, CO

## Project Schedule

Publish Scoping Report

Publish Draft Alternatives

Issue Draft EIS for public review and comment

Issue Final EIS

Sign Record of Decision

FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY

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