

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Form
May 25, 2016

Agenda Item

Law of the River Overview

Purpose

This overview of the various legal authorities that govern the Colorado River and operations of Glen Canyon Dam is designed to help facilitate discussion among AMWG members and assist them in making recommendations to the Secretary.

Action Requested

Information item only.

Presenter

Rod Smith, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Solicitor, Division of Water Resources, U.S.
Department of the Interior

Previous Action Taken

By AMWG:

During the February 2016 AMWG meeting, a presentation was made regarding the recently-completed Assessment Report. One recommendation from the report was that an orientation be provided for AMWG members, to ensure a minimum level of understanding on the many issues that the group addresses. That recommendation was generally agreed to by the group, and this overview is part of that orientation.

Relevant Science

N/A

Summary of Presentation and Background Information

This presentation will provide an overview of the various legal authorities that govern both the overall use of the Colorado River and the specific aspects of Colorado River activities associated with Glen Canyon Dam. More general topics will include use of the Colorado River between the United States and Mexico and use between the Upper Basin and Lower Basin. Topics specific to Glen Canyon Dam operations will include the role of the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956, the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968, and the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992.