

One Water & Stewardship Committee

Report on Release of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Lower Basin Alternative for Colorado River Operations

Item 6a March 11, 2024

Subject

Report on Release of Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for near-term operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Item 6a

Report on Release of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Lower Basin Alternative for Colorado River Operations

Purpose

US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has selected the Lower Basin Plan as the preferred alternative and published the FSEIS for operation of the Colorado River System reservoirs through 2025.

Next Steps

The Preferred Alternative will be adopted through Record of Decision

Background

Spring/Summer 2022

USBR calls for 2-4 MAF of annual reductions in response to historic low reservoir elevations

October 2022

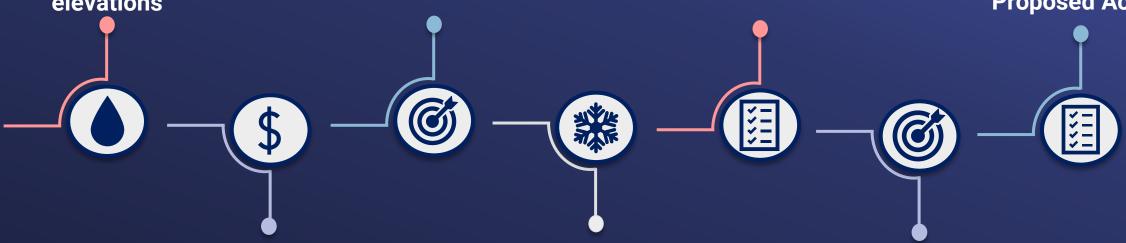
California submits proposal to cut 400 TAF each year from 2023-2026

April 2023

USBR publishes original
Draft Supplemental
Environmental Impact
Statement (SEIS)

October 2023

USBR publishes Revised
Draft SEIS; designates
Lower Basin Proposal as
the
"Proposed Action"



August 2022

\$4 billion for drought mitigation within Inflation Reduction Act

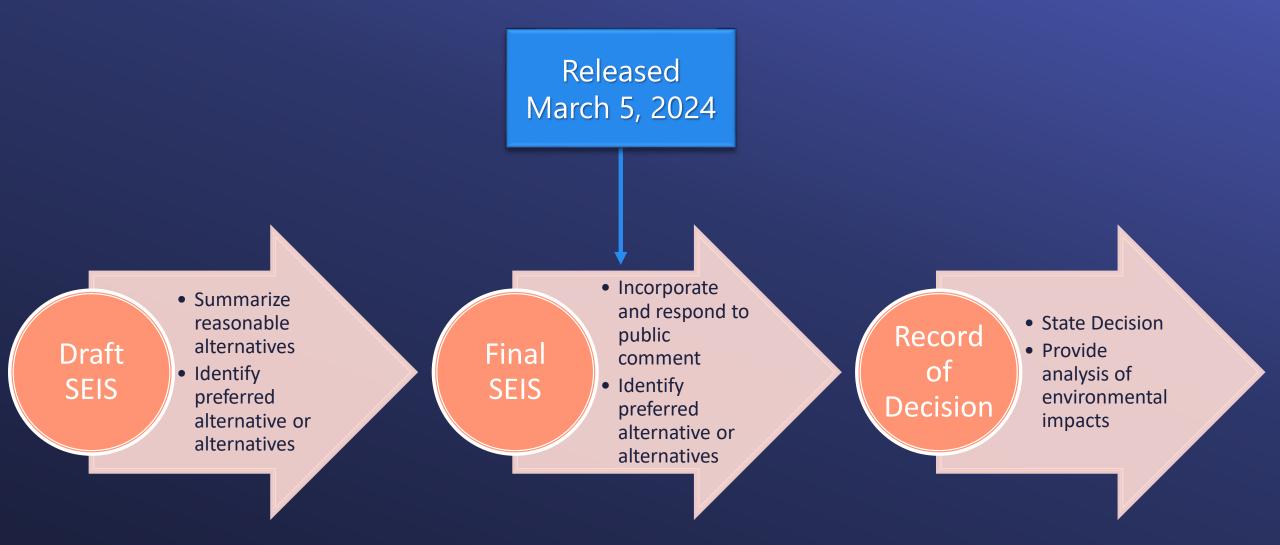
Winter 2023

Upper Colorado
River Basin receives
near-record
snowpack

May 2023

Lower Basin Plan proposes to conserve at least 3 MAF from 2023-2026

SEIS Process



Preferred Alternative Selection

Lower Basin Plan Selected as Preferred Alternative

Reminder: Lower Basin Proposal Contents







MINIMUM OF 3 MAF OF SYSTEM CONSERVATION IN 2023-2026

AT LEAST 1.5 MAF BY END OF 2024

UP TO 2.3 MAF
COMPENSATED UNDER IRA

2023 Progress on Alternative Conservation

	Preferred Alternative Assumptions	2023 Progress*
Lower Basin (Through 2024)	1.5 MAF	1.1 MAF
California (annual)	400 TAF	650 TAF
Metropolitan ICS Creation (Through 2026)	216 TAF	450 TAF

^{*}Subject to final verification in Reclamation's Water Accounting Report

Next Steps



Record of Decision to adopt Preferred Alternative



Continued implementation of system conservation projects in the Lower Basin

