



Executive Committee

Report on USBR's development of post-2026 Colorado River Guidelines – ~~Closed Session~~ Released

~~Confidential~~ Item 5b

February 27, 2024

Item # 5b

Subject

Report on USBR's development of post-2026 Colorado River Guidelines – Closed Session

Purpose


The Lower Basin States will be submitting a proposed alternative to Reclamation for the post-2026 Draft EIS in March. Metropolitan staff worked with other agencies in California and the Lower Basin to craft the alternative. This presentation will give the board a pre-view of what to expect when the alternative is made public in March.

Next Steps

Following release of the Lower Basin Proposal, Metropolitan staff will provide a more detailed overview of the proposal at the March One Water and Stewardship Committee.

2007 Interim Guidelines

Effective through
December 31, 2025



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Record of Decision

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

December 2007

Recommending Official:

Robert Johnson *December 13, 2007*
ROBERT JOHNSON Date
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

Approved:

Dirk Kempthorne *December 13, 2007*
DIRK KEMPTHORNE Date

MWD Benefited

Storage
Flexibility

Shortages Insufficient

Short-term Responses
Risks to System

Post-2026 Timeline



★ Expected Alternatives: (1) Lower Basin; (2) Upper Basin; (3) Alternatives from NGOs, Tribes

Lower Basin Alternative

Tenets of the Lower Basin Alternative

- Address supply-demand imbalance
- Powell release independent of LB uses
- Reductions based on total system contents
- Two reduction tiers:
 - Address structural deficit
 - Impacts from climate change
- Expands storage in Lake Mead; incentivizes conservation, augmentation

Addressing the Structural Deficit

REDACTED TO REMOVE CONFIDENTIAL
NEGOTIATION INFORMATION

	Reduction (AFY)	Reduction (%)
Arizona		
California		
Nevada		
Mexico		
Total		

Alternative
Still Under
Development



Items of Continuing Discussion

- Sharing of climate change impacts
- Contractor level reductions
- Rules for Storing and Recovering Water
- Protection of Health and Safety Supply
- Funding Options

California Benefits from Consensus & Compromise

Decreases Litigation Risks

Decreases Risk of Unsupported Legislative Action

Provides Needed Flexibility and Tools

Next Steps



Alternative Submitted Next Week



Continue Refining Alternative



Develop Intrastate Agreements



Outreach to Mexico



Keep Door Open for 7-State
Consensus Plan

