Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

# Tribal Partnerships along the Colorado River

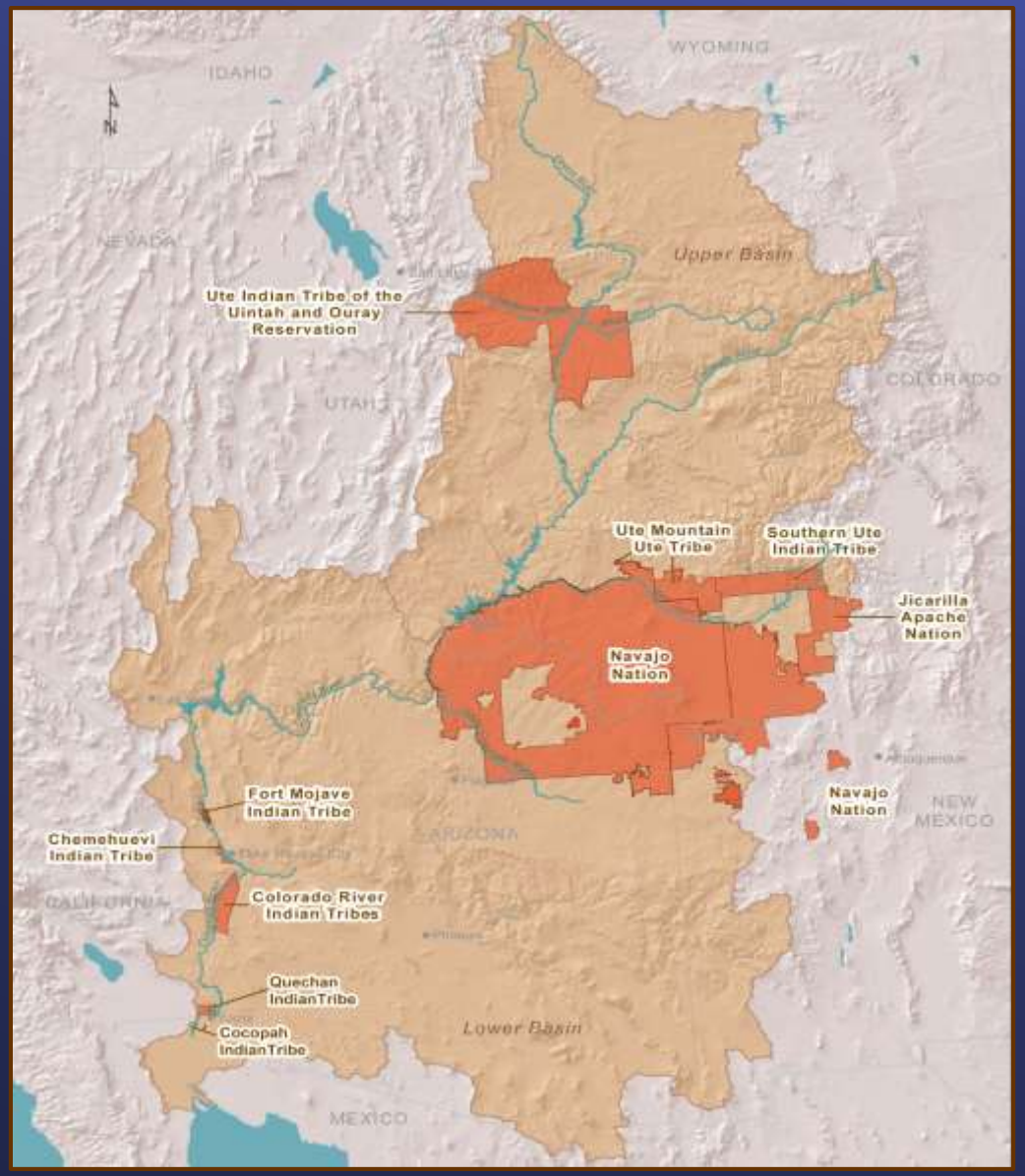
Item 6b

May 9, 2022

# In memory of our Ancestors

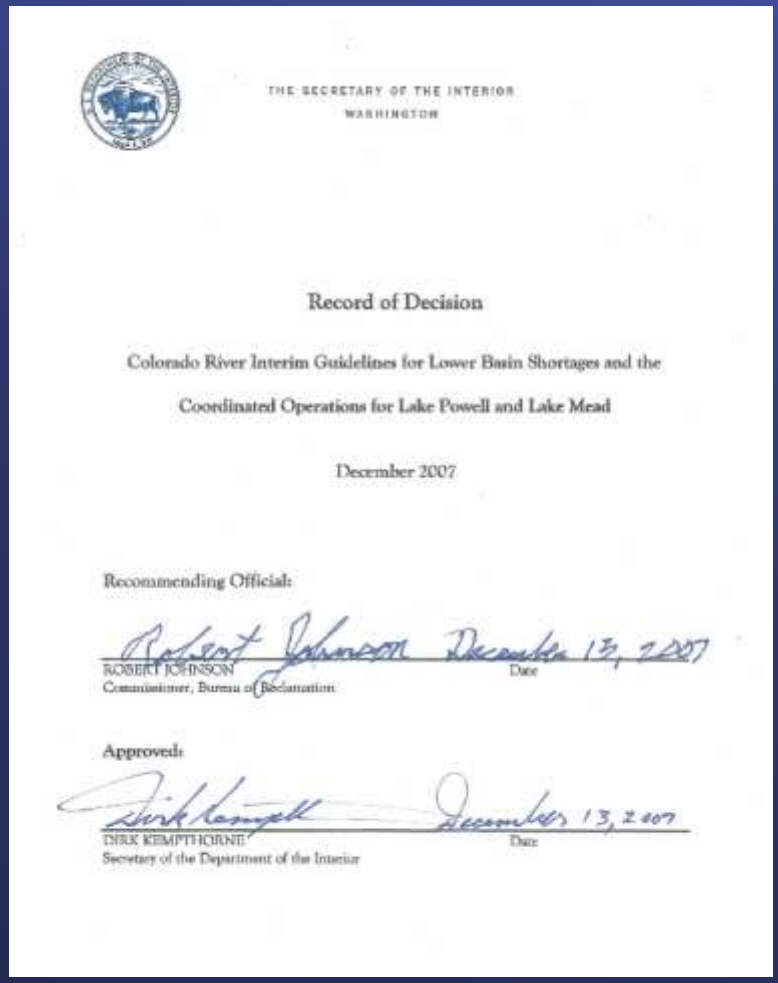


# Reclamation Map of Tribes Along the Colorado River



# 2007 Interim Guidelines

- Effective through 2026
- Key Guidelines Provisions
  - Established Lower Basin Surplus and Shortage Triggers
  - Coordinated Reservoir Operations
  - Developed Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)



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

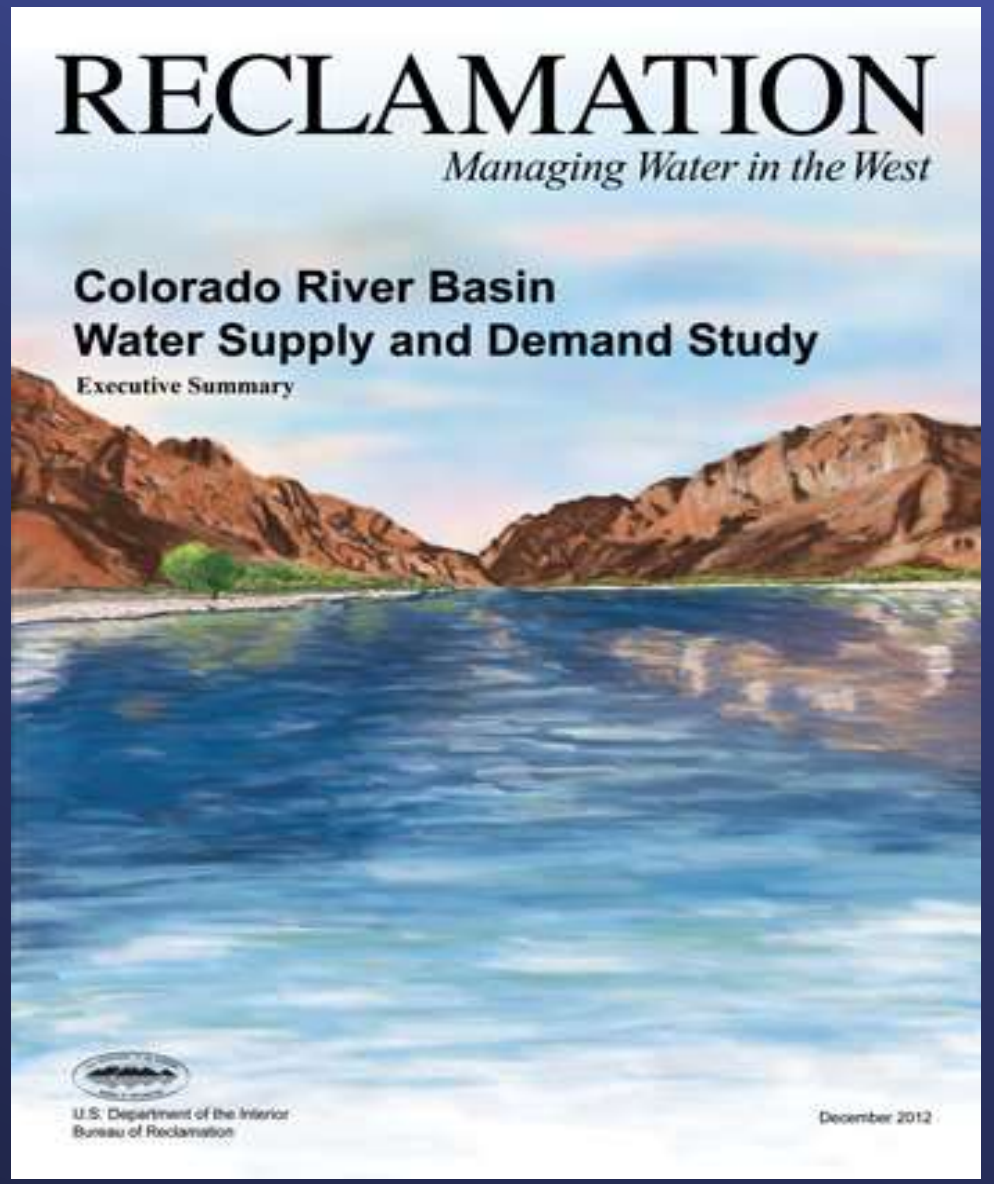
ROBERT JOHNSON
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Date

Approved:

Dirk Kempthorne December 13, 2007

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Secretary of the Department of the Interior
Date

# Reclamation Water Supply and Demand Study (2012)



# Ten Tribes Parternership Tribal Water Study (2018)



# 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan

- Key DCP Provisions
  - Established triggers for Lower Basin Lake Mead Contributions
  - Incentivized Storage
  - Provided flexibility for recovering storage, implementing exchanges



# Map of Arizona Indian Reservations



# Tribal water rights in the mainstream of the Colorado River

- Five tribes with federal Indian reserved water rights for direct mainstream diversions below Hoover Dam
- Present perfected rights or PPRs decreed in Arizona v. California:
  - Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
  - Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
  - Colorado River Indian Tribes
  - Quechan Indian Tribe
  - Cocopah Indian Tribe

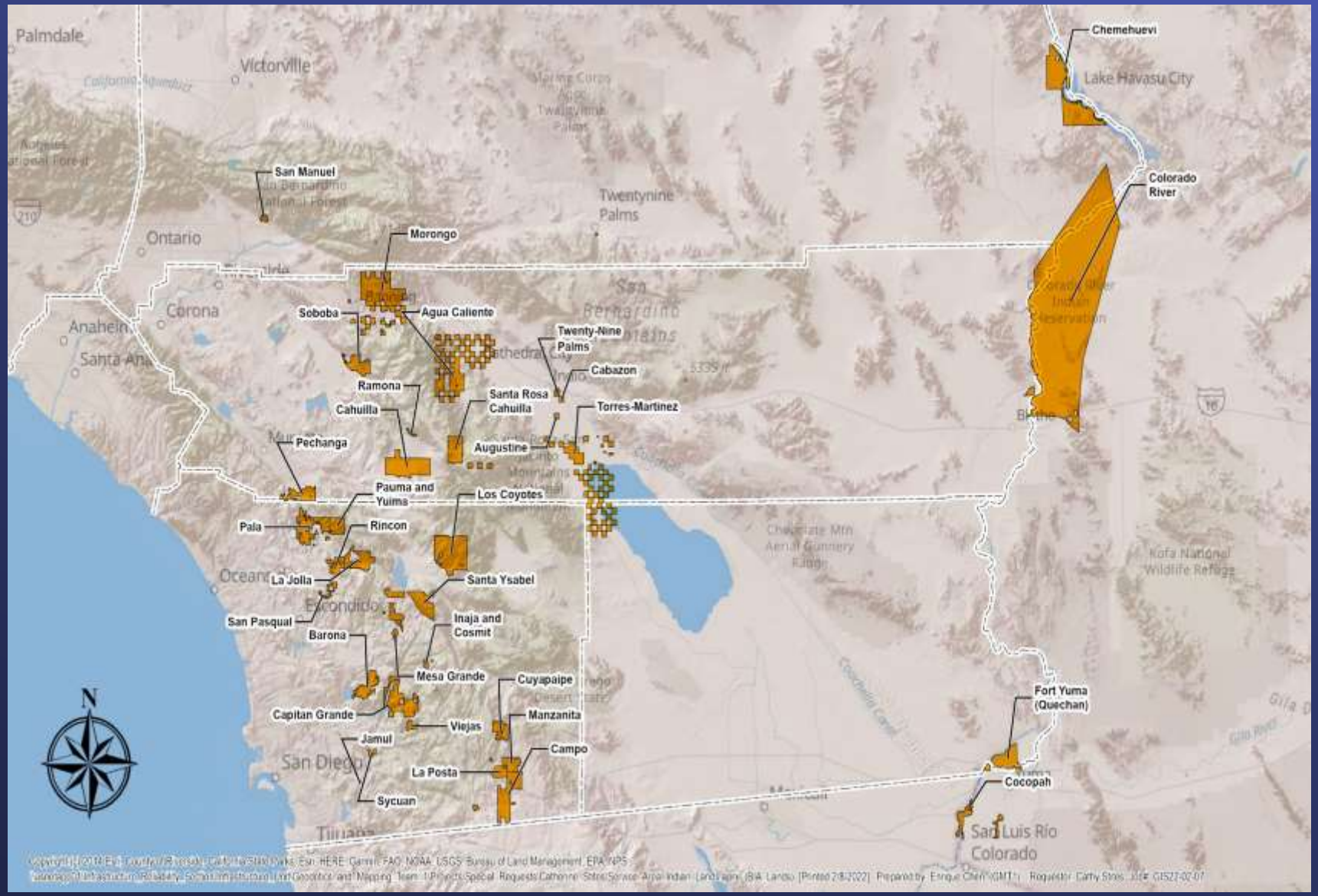
# Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program Signing Ceremony (2021)



# *Navajo Nation v. United States*

- Commenced in 2003 and still pending
- Fundamentally a claim to mainstream Colorado River water
- Metropolitan intervened in this action along with the State of Arizona, Coachella, and Imperial Irrigation District to protect their interests
- Parties considering appeal of Ninth Circuit decision to U.S. Supreme Court or remand to district court

# Federally recognized tribes in Southern CA



# Existing tribal partnerships

- Quechan (Kwatsáan) Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation (Quechan)
- San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (San Pasqual)
- San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians (San Luis Rey)
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Soboba)
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga)
- Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (Sycuan)

# Future tribal opportunities

- Many existing relationships
  - Including successful partnerships in-region
- Regular respect and protection of tribal cultural resources
- Several future opportunities
  - Colorado River Indian Tribes
  - Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians


THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928