



Imported Water Committee

Report on California Proposal to Conserve Water for Lake Mead

Item 6e

November 7, 2022

California Voluntarily Offered to Reduce Colorado River Water by up to 400,000 Acre-Feet



October 5, 2022

Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton

Dear Deputy Secretary Beaudreau, Assistant Secretary Trujillo, and Commissioner Touton:

Thank you for your leadership and collaboration as we work together to stabilize the Colorado River Basin amidst an unprecedented, climate change-driven drought stretching over two decades. Given dire drought conditions across the region and dangerously low reservoir levels, we firmly believe that all water users within the Basin must take immediate voluntary actions to stabilize water supplies in the Basin's major reservoirs.

California water agencies that utilize Colorado River water supplies propose to conserve up to an additional 400,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead each year, beginning in 2023 and running through 2026. This water, which would otherwise be used by California's communities and farms, will meaningfully contribute to stabilizing the Colorado River reservoir system.

We have identified a collection of proposed water conservation and water use reduction opportunities that would yield approximately 400,000 acre-feet of System Conservation water supplies that could be retained in Lake Mead each year through 2026. California's Colorado River water agencies are also prepared to create and store additional quantities of Intentionally Created Surplus water supplies in Lake Mead pursuant to the 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines, under future favorable hydrologic and water supply conditions.

USBR Seeking Conservation Proposals

Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Steps for Drought Mitigation Funding from Inflation Reduction Act

New program will increase water conservation and water efficiency within the Colorado River Basin

Immediate
Need



Durable
Long-term
Solutions

Lower Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program

Program 1a

Proposals Due: November 21, 2022

Process: Application

Price: \$330/AF – one-year
\$365/AF – two-years
\$400/AF – three-years

Program 1b

Proposals Due: November 21, 2022

Process: Request for Proposals

Price: By Proposer

California Agricultural Agencies are Developing Proposals

Proposals to create
system water are due
November 21

Imperial Irrigation
District

Proposal under development

Coachella Valley
Water District

Proposal under development

Bard Water District

Existing Seasonal Following Program
Metropolitan Administration
Federal Payments

Palo Verde
Irrigation District

Use Capacity in Existing Following Program
Supplemental Following with Flexible Start
Federal Payments

PVID Concept Proposal

- MWD avoids making additional fallowing calls through 2026
- Supplemental fallowing funded under Federal program 1a., potentially exceeding existing cap
- Supplemental fallowing subject to same terms and conditions as existing fallowing program
- Fallowing does not count against MWD maximum fallowing call limitations
- MWD land may be fallowed at same level as offered to other landowners
- New water savings stays in Lake Mead

CA 400
Proposal
Metropolitan
Colorado
River Supply
Management

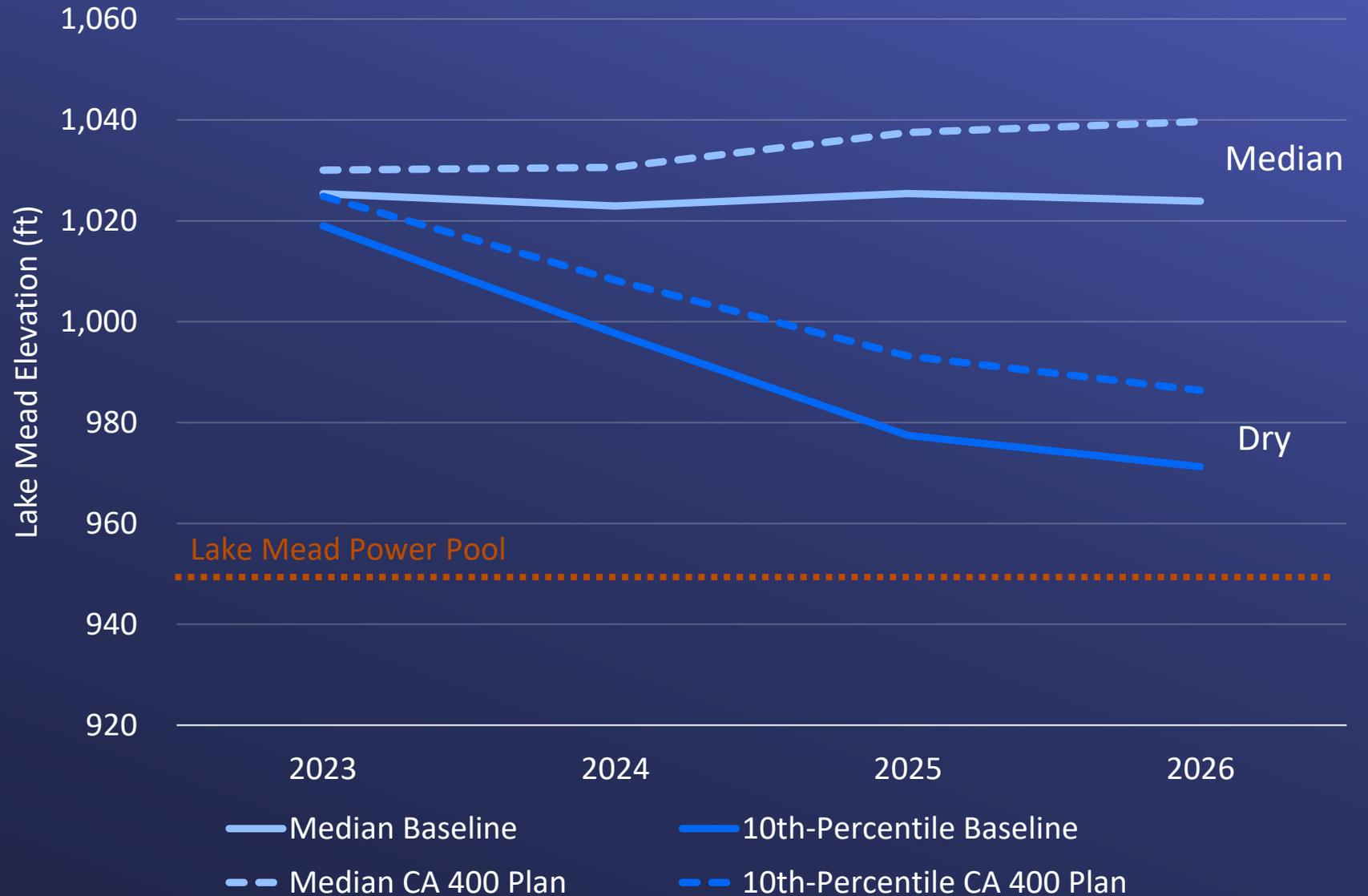
Goal: Avoid/Minimize Delivery of Intentionally Created Surplus

Assume: No additional following calls for Metropolitan use

Colorado River Aqueduct Supply Range:
900,000 – 1,000,000 Acre-feet

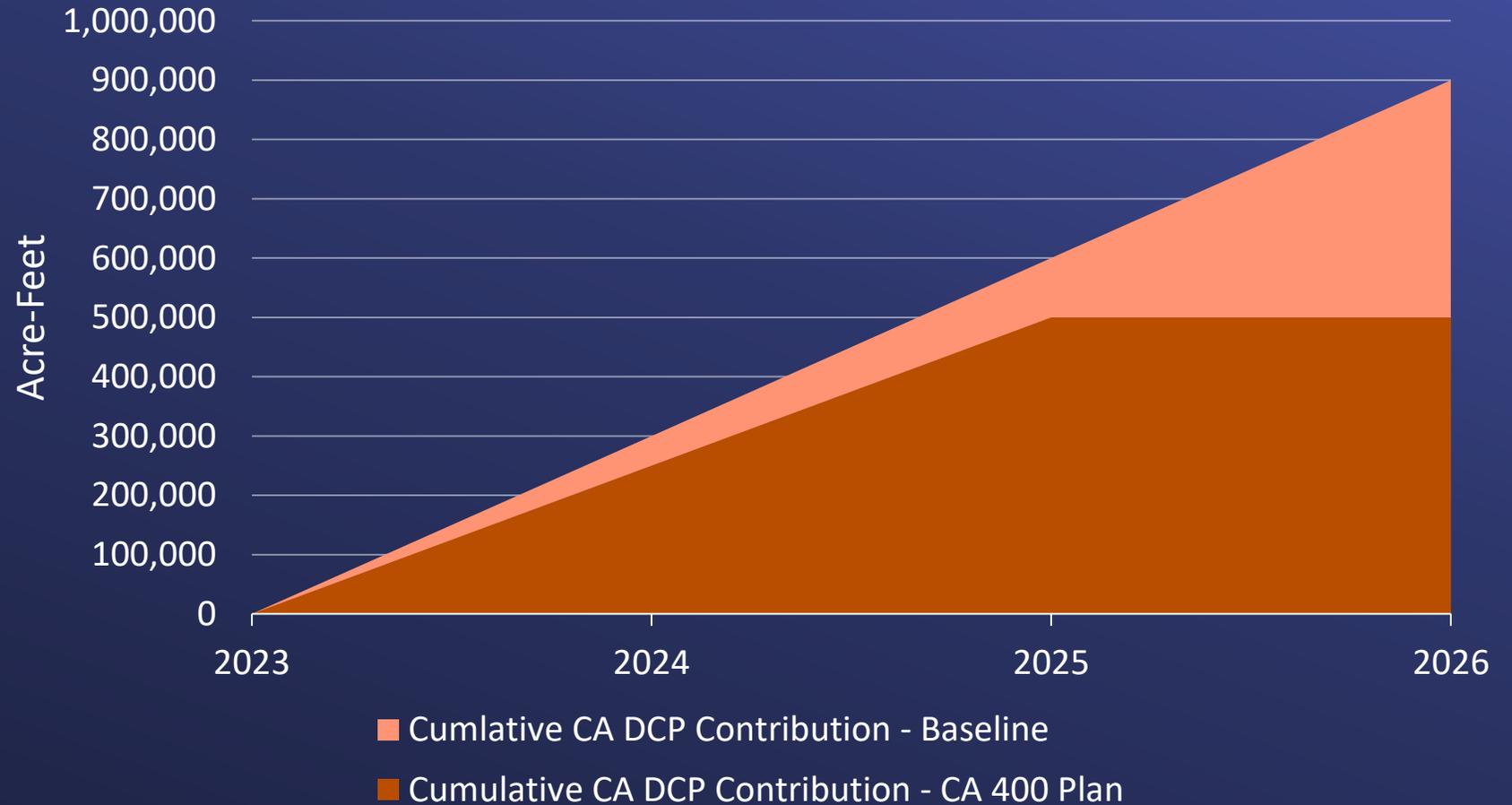
ICS available for unanticipated changes in supply

CA 400 Proposal Increases Lake Mead Elevations



CA 400 Proposal Decreases CA's Expected DCP Contributions

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Baseline	0	300,000	300,000	300,000
CA 400 Plan	0	250,000	250,000	0



Next Steps

1. Work with our partners to submit proposals by November 21

2. If approved by USBR, develop implementing agreements

3. Seek Board authorization in early 2023

4. Begin conservation activities through 2026

