



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 Fallowing Program  
Metropolitan Administration  
Federal Payments

Palo Verde  
Irrigation District

Use Capacity in Existing Fallowing Program  
Supplemental Fallowing 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

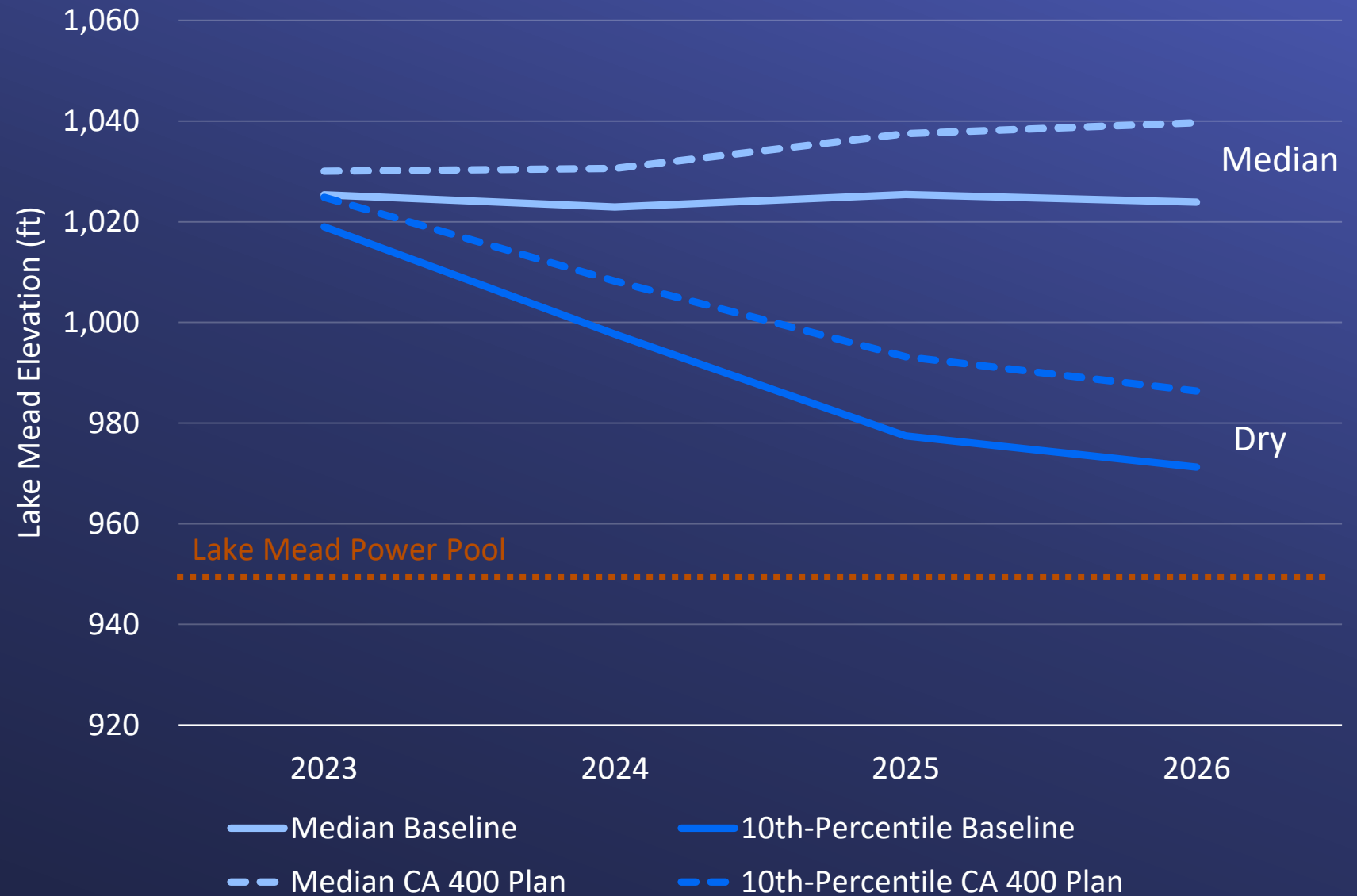
**Goal:** Avoid/Minimize Delivery of Intentionally Created Surplus

**Assume:** No additional following calls for Metropolitan use

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

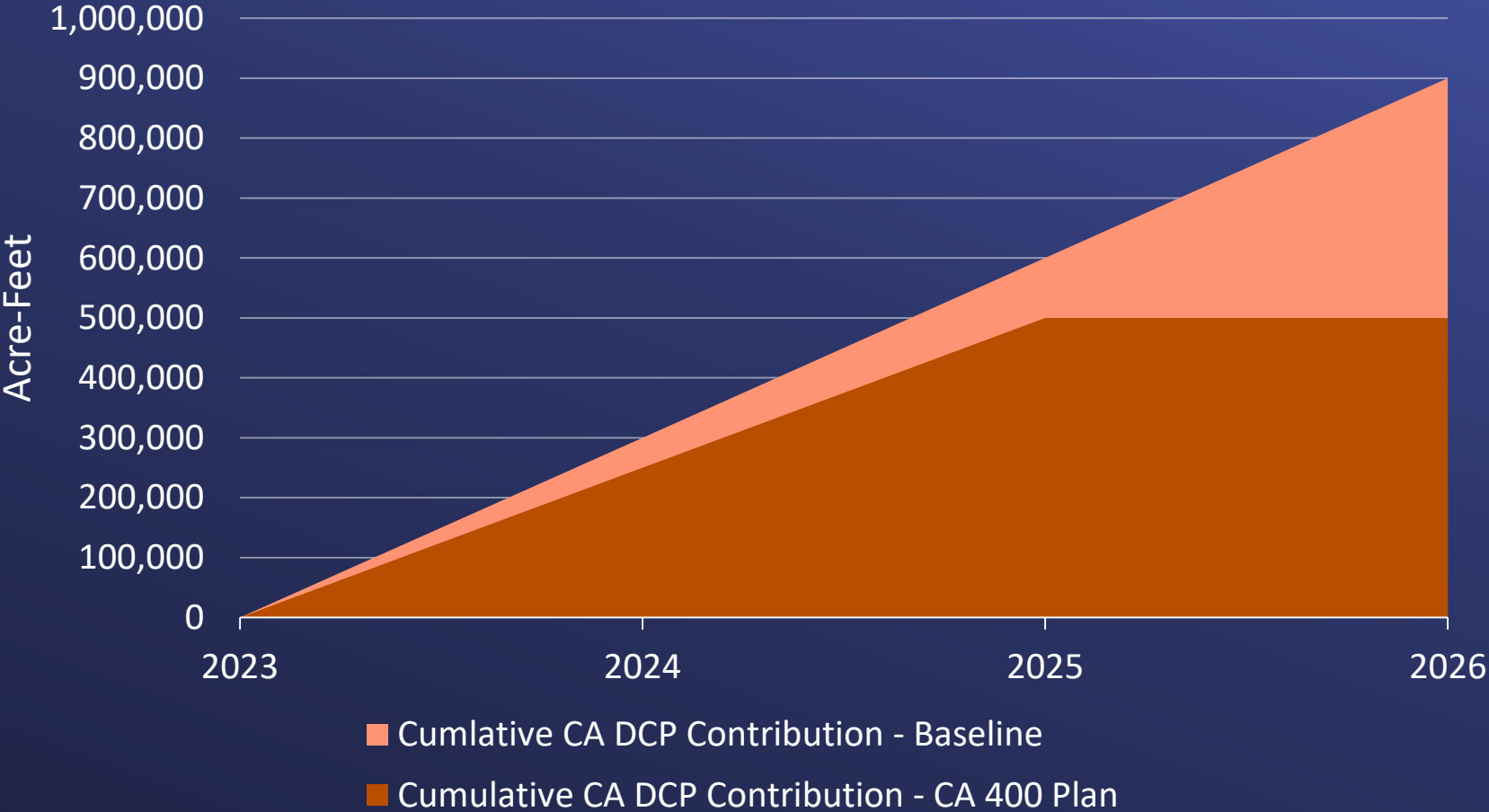
ICS available for unanticipated changes in supply

# 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

