

San Diego County
Water Authority
And Its 24
Member Agencies

Colorado River Update

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San Diego IRWM RAC

Alexi Schnell
Colorado River Program Manager

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Current Efforts on the River – Near-Term

- In June 2022, Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton called for additional conservation on the river – 2 to 4 million acre-feet annually through 2026
- Southern California water agencies developed the California Plan to conserve up to 1.6 million acre-feet over four years
- With no Basin-wide plan, Reclamation began a study to revise the current set of guidelines managing the river, the 2007 Interim Guidelines
- Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) looked at alternatives to include reductions





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Lower Basin States Develop Consensus Proposal



- Lower Basin states (AZ, CA, NV) reached agreement on a consensus-based, conservation-focused proposal for near-term actions through 2026
- Submitted to Reclamation May 22, 2023, as a proposed alternative for Draft SEIS
 - Includes voluntary conservation of 3 MAF by the end of CY 2026
 - At least 1.5 MAF of that by end of CY 2024
 - CA contributes 1.2 MAF in total 2024-2026
 - 2.3 MAF to be funded through Inflation Reduction Act
- Reclamation incorporating the Lower Basin Plan into updated Draft SEIS as an alternative

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Long-Term Planning for the River Underway

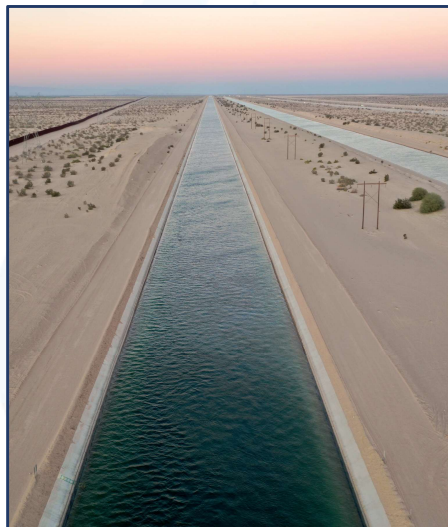


- Reclamation has begun long-term planning effort to develop the post-2026 guidelines for river operations
- Public comment letters on developing the new guidelines were submitted this summer
- Both the Lower Basin states and entire Basin submitted consensus-based letters
 - Focus of letters on having a transparent process and to allow for flexibility
- Water Authority is engaging on development of the Post-26 Guidelines in a collaborative effort through the Colorado River Board of California
- Reclamation is expected to release Draft EIS by end of 2024

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Why All of This Matters to the San Diego Region

- Over half of the region's water comes from Colorado River supplies under landmark 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement
- The QSA assures the San Diego region a highly reliable supply while protecting agriculture
- QSA supplies include:
 - 200,000 AF annually under nation's largest ag-to-urban water transfer
 - 77,700 AF annually through lining portions of two canals that move river water into California
- Supplies tied to high priority rights under the Law of the River



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Why the QSA Matters To The River



- Primary goal of the QSA was to reduce state's overdependence on surplus river supplies
- Since 2003, state has lived within its 4.4 million-acre-foot apportionment
- The QSA is built on the nation's largest ag-to-urban water transfer
- Provides funding for Imperial Valley to implement conservation in a way that protects agriculture and addresses the environment
- In that way, the QSA serves as a model for voluntary conservation

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