



ARIZONA RECONSULTATION COMMITTEE


Dear Arizona Reconsultation Committee Delegate,

On June 15, 2023, the Department of the Interior officially [announced](#) that it has directed the Bureau of Reclamation to develop post-2026 Colorado River reservoir operational guidelines and strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The new guidelines will replace the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, which are set to expire at the end of 2026. The Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was filed in the Federal Register (*see attached*). It includes a notice to solicit comments and hold public scoping meetings. The Bureau of Reclamation is requesting that the public submit comments concerning the scope of specific operational guidelines, strategies, and any other issues that should be considered on or before August 15, 2023. Reclamation will host three virtual public meetings/webinars to provide summary information and receive oral comments:

- Monday, July 17, 2023, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MDT)
- Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (MDT)
- Monday, July 24, 2023, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (MDT)

Importantly, the process announced on June 15, 2023, is separate from the recently announced efforts to protect the Colorado River Basin through the end of 2026. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to revise the December 2007 Record of Decision will set interim guidelines through the end of 2026. The process announced on June 15, 2023, will develop guidelines for when the current interim guidelines expire in 2026.

Sincerely,


Tom Buschatzke
ARC co-chair


Brenda Burman
ARC co-chair