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Maricopa County

The Honorable Debra Haaland
US Department of the Interior

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US Department of the Interior

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1849 C. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

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Washington, DC 20240

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The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
US Bureau of Reclamation

1849 C. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Lisa A. Atkins
Maricopa County

Jennifer Brown
Maricopa County

Dear Secretary Haaland, Assistant Secretary Trujillo, and Commissioner Touton:

Karen Cesare
Pima County

The Colorado River, the primary source of water for the Central Arizona Project which we have been privileged to lead for the past 8 years, is in desperate crisis. We are disappointed with the lack of progress among the seven Colorado River Basin states to produce a plan in response to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton's challenge that we agree on a way to conserve an additional 2-4 million acre-feet annually above the DCP Tier reductions. We have no doubt that this scale of reduction is necessary to stabilize the system and prevent continuing declines in the reservoirs to dangerously low levels.

Benjamin W. Graff
Maricopa County

We are equally disappointed that Reclamation, having issued the challenge and set a deadline, was unwilling to impose Basin-wide reductions on all Colorado River water users after the states failed to produce a plan by the deadline. This outcome is inexplicable considering the urgency expressed in Commissioner Touton's June 14 testimony before the U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee and the continuing decline of lake levels in the Colorado system.

Jim Holway
Maricopa County

So far, the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and the State of Arizona have taken the vast majority of reductions to support the system, both mandatory and voluntary, going back to 2014. In 2022, we will forego 800,000-acre feet. In spite of having done so much, we came to the table willing to do more, if others were willing to join us.

Pat Jacobs
Pima County

Going forward, we wish to make it very clear that any plan that depends on voluntary reductions is unacceptable. We learned our lesson from the 500+ Plan where we performed, but our neighboring state partner has not. We hope it is clear that Arizona alone can't solve a problem of this magnitude. To be successful, the plan must include equitable participation from all water users across the Basin, provide some mechanism to ensure performance and to have the understanding that the United States is prepared to take unilateral action if voluntary efforts are insufficient.

Mark Lewis
Maricopa County

Even with Tier 2A reductions in 2023, Lake Powell and Lake Mead are projected to continue to decline. If Reclamation's optimistic projection of inflows from snowpack of 8 million acre-feet is not realized and the inflow is similar to the previous two years, the deficit in the Lakes could approach 3-million-acre feet. We need prompt resolution to stop this decline. At the very least, the Bureau must resolve the system losses of approximately 1.2-million-acre feet in the Lower Basin at once by proportionally allocating the losses among the three Lower Basin states and Mexico.

Heather A. Macre
Maricopa County

There is no time to waste, as Commissioner Touton and Assistant Secretary Trujillo have made abundantly clear. We urgently request you convene all parties back together to work toward an

Jennifer Martin
Maricopa County

Stephen Miller
Pinal County

Marie Pearthree
Pima County

April Pinger-Tornquist
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equitable solution with participation of all states. We additionally urge the Bureau to bring high priority agriculture to the table and facilitate their engagement in a meaningful way. CAP stands ready to do more, but every other Colorado River water user must participate. And, if the states are unwilling or unable to come to agreement, the Department, as the undisputed Water Master, must impose a water reduction plan.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Terry Goddard in blue ink.

Terry Goddard

President, CAWCD Board of Directors
2021-present

Handwritten signature of Lisa A. Atkins in black ink.

Lisa A. Atkins

Immediate Past President, CAWCD Board of Directors
2015-2021