

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient. On the right side, there are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, some overlapping, creating a sense of depth and texture. The droplets are rendered with soft shadows and highlights, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

GIVING CONTEXT TO THE COLORADO RIVER CONUNDRUM

WENDY BOWDEN CROWTHER

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL





THE DOCTRINE OF PRIOR APPROPRIATION

- TWO PRIMARY TENANTS
 - FIRST IN TIME IS FIRST IN RIGHT
 - USE IT OR LOSE IT





COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

These are members of the Colorado River Commission. Left to right: Delph Carpenter, Colorado; W.S. Norviel, Arizona; Clarence Stetson, executive secretary of the commission; Herbert Hoover, US Secretary of Commerce; James Scrugham, Nevada; R.E. Caldwell, California; W.F. McClure, CA; Stephen B. Davis, Jr., NM; and Frank C. Emerson, Wyoming.



COLORADO RIVER COMPACT

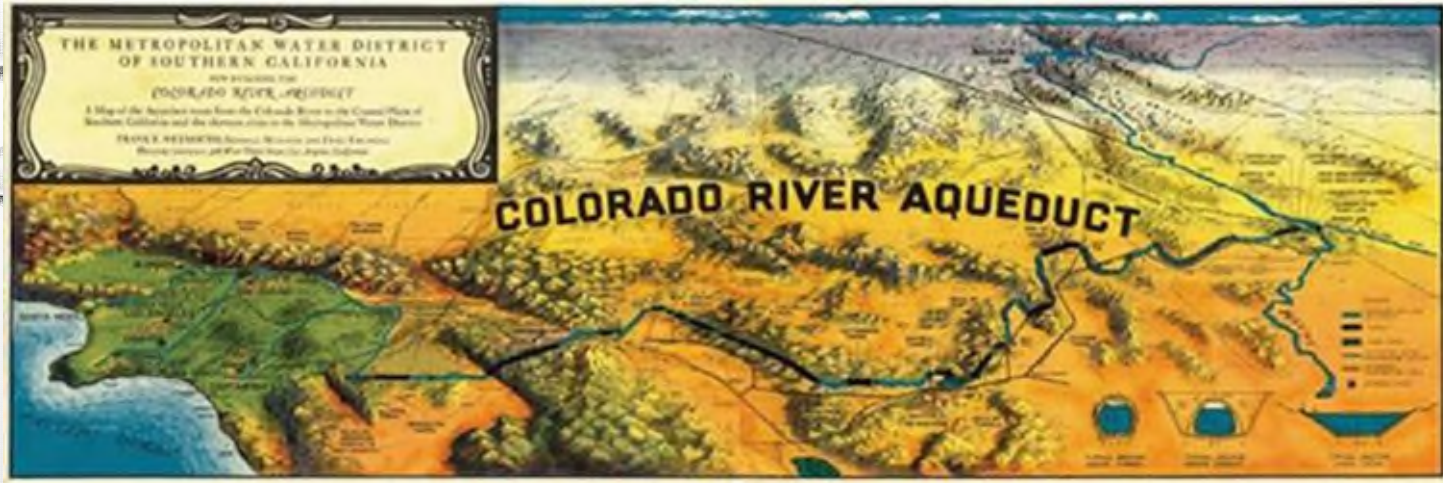
- DIVIDED INTO AN UPPER BASIN AND LOWER BASIN
- UPPER: COLORADO, UTAH, NEW MEXICO, WYOMING
- LOWER: CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEVADA
- DIVIDING LINE LEE FERRY



COLORADO RIVER COMPACT

ARTICLE III

- APPORTIONED TO UPPER BASIN AND LOWER BASIN EXCLUSIVE BENEFICIAL CONSUMPTIVE USE OF 7.5 MAF PER ANNUM
- IN ADDITION LOWER BASIN GIVEN THE RIGHT TO INCREASES ITS BENEFICIAL CONSUMPTIVE USE BY 1 MAF PER ANNUM
- WATER REQUIRED UNDER TREATY TO MEXICO SUPPLIED FIRST FROM SURPLUS OVER THE WATERS APPORTIONED - ANY RECOGNIZED DEFICIENCY BORNE EQUALLY BY UPPER BASIN AND LOWER BASIN
- THE STATES OF THE UPPER DIVISION WILL NOT CAUSE THE FLOW AT LEE FERRY TO BE DEPLETED BELOW AN AGGREGATE OF 75 MAF OVER ANY 10 YEAR PERIOD





OPERATIONAL ISSUES

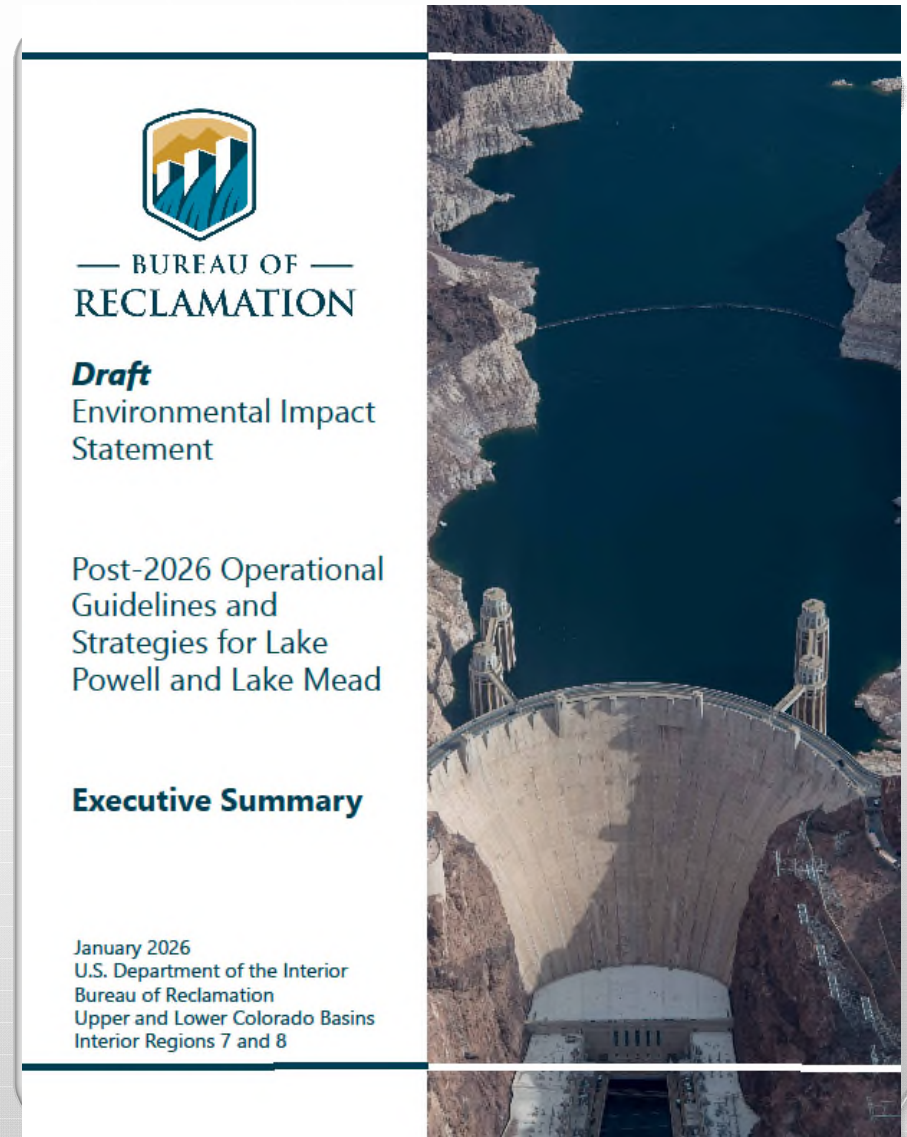


COLORADO RIVER NATURAL FLOW

- 1906-1929 (COMPACT 1922) 17.92 MAF
 - RUNNING AVERAGE (1906-2025) 14.26 MAF
 - 2000-2020 MILLENNIUM DROUGHT 12.3 MAF
 - TEN-YEAR RUNNING AVERAGE (2016-2025) 12.08 MAF
 - 2026 ESTIMATED 6.5 MAF
-
- ALLOCATION 17.5 MAF ANNUALLY

POST 2026 OPERATIONS FOR LAKE POWELL AND LAKE MEAD

NEPA PROCESS



QUESTIONS