International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section

For immediate release
October 22, 2024

USIBWC Colorado River Citizens Forum in El Centro, Calif., on October 30

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Colorado River Citizens Forum board will host an in-person and virtual public meeting on **Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. PDT.**

Meghan Thiemann, Civil Engineer/Project Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will provide a system status update for the Lower Colorado River Basin for water year 2025 and discuss hydrology, operations and projections, and drought response actions.

Robert Cardenas, Assistant Area Operations Manager, USIBWC Yuma Field Office, will speak about the Mexicali Sanitation Binational Technical Committee (BTC), including the status of active and pending projects.

The public meeting will be held in person at:
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243

The public meeting will also be held virtually. Click here to join the meeting. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the "Join" link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: Call-in number +1 915-320-4718,,480159132## Phone conference ID: 480 159 132#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the USIBWC Citizens Forum page at https://www.ibwc.gov/meetings/list/ and look for the links for the Colorado River Citizen Forum meeting.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Frankie Pinon at frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4716 by noon on October 28th, 2024.

News Media Contact:

Frankie Pinon
frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov
915-832-4716

COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. PST.

Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
And Via Teams

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – USIBWC Citizen Board Introductions
- **Lower Colorado River Basin Updates –** Meghan Thiemann, Civil Engineer/Project Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- **Mexicali Sanitation BTC Updates –** Robert Cardenas, Assistant Area Operations Manager, USIBWC Yuma Field Office.
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information call 915-832-4716 or email frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov

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Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: Click here to join the meeting.

Meeting ID: 226 974 113 464
Passcode: jxUXFQ

Download Teams | Join on the web

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+1 915-320-4718,,480159132#

Phone conference ID: 480 159 132#

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

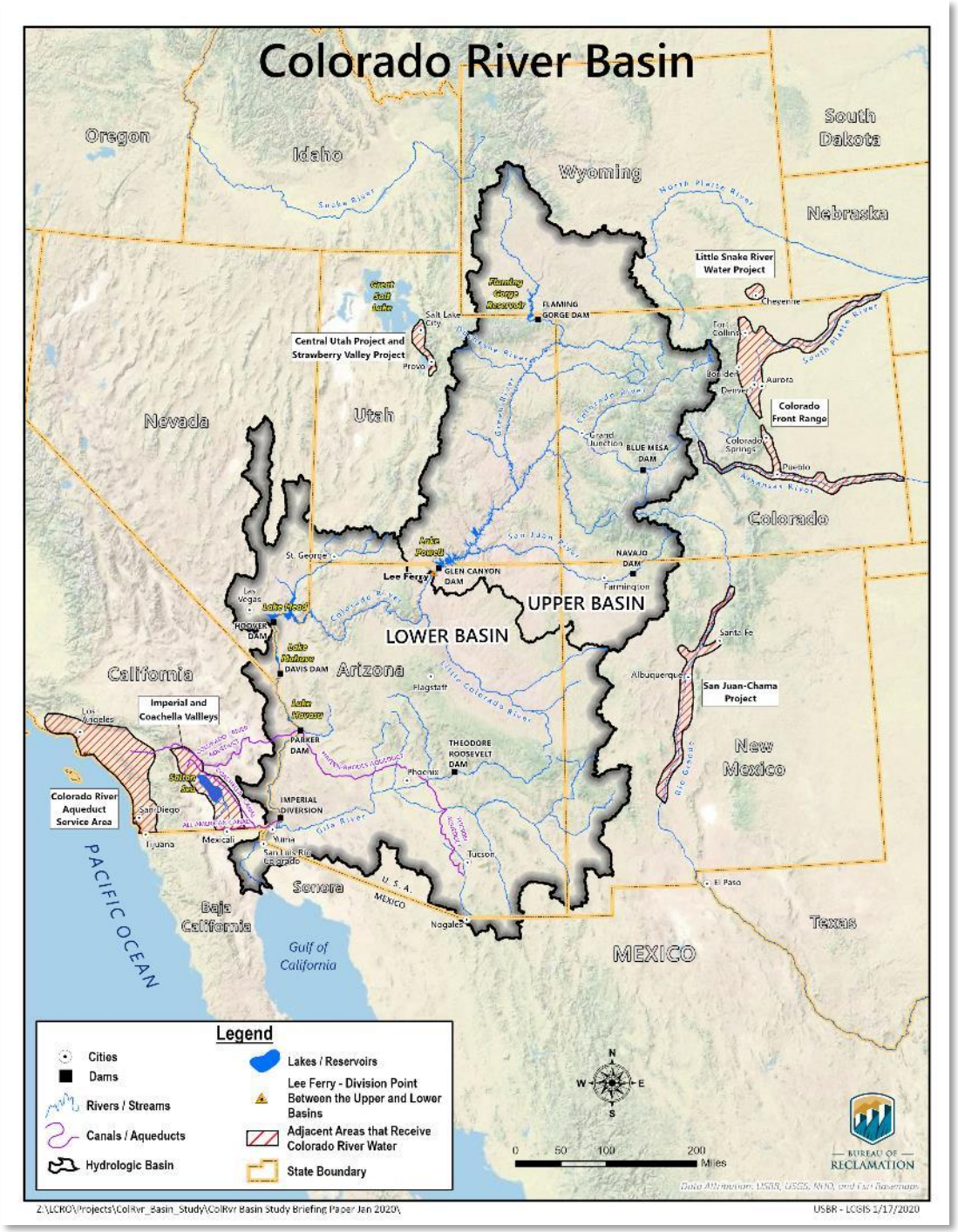
Colorado River Basin System Status

IBWC Colorado River Citizens Forum

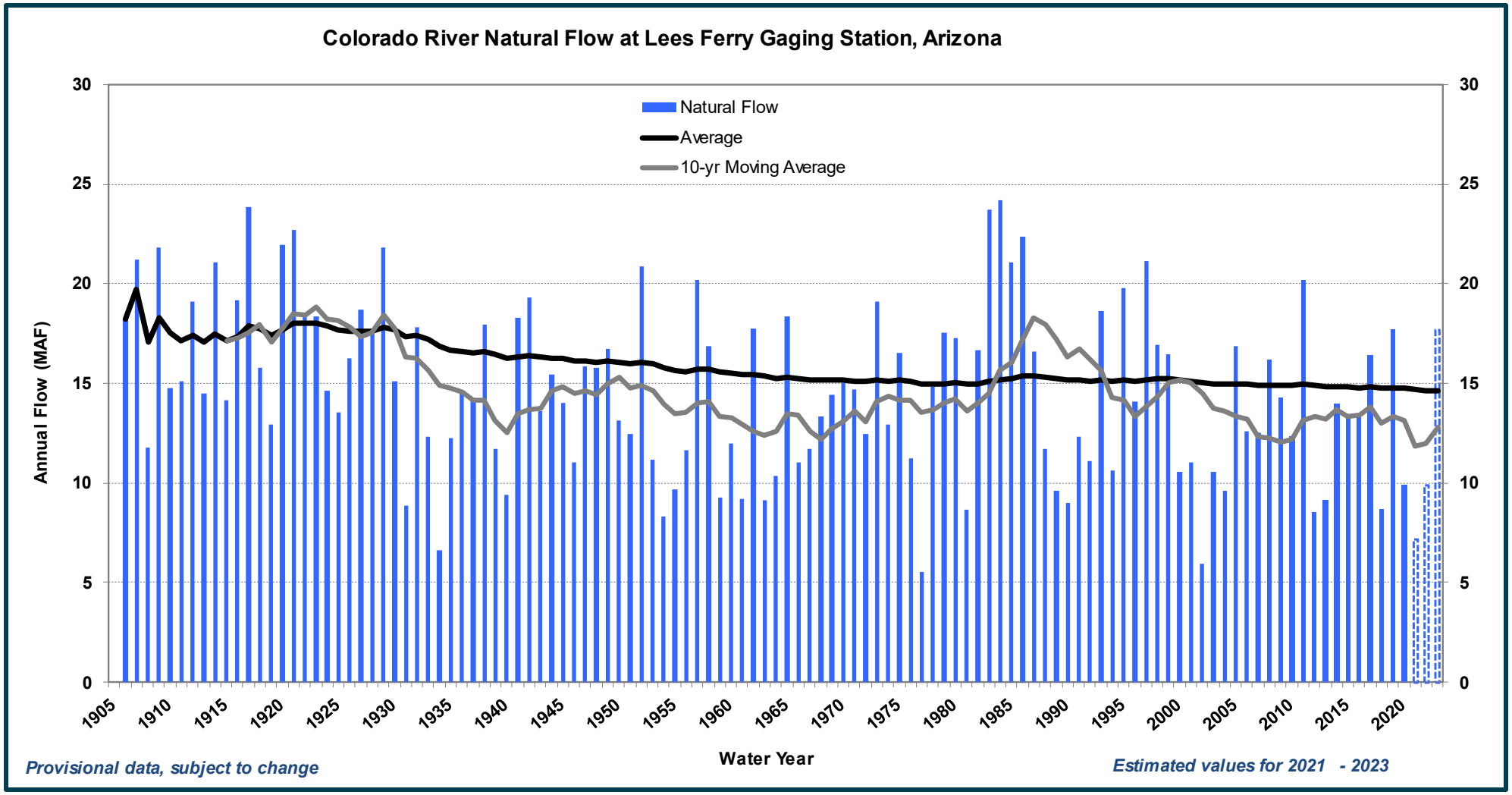
October 30, 2024

Colorado River Basin Hydrology

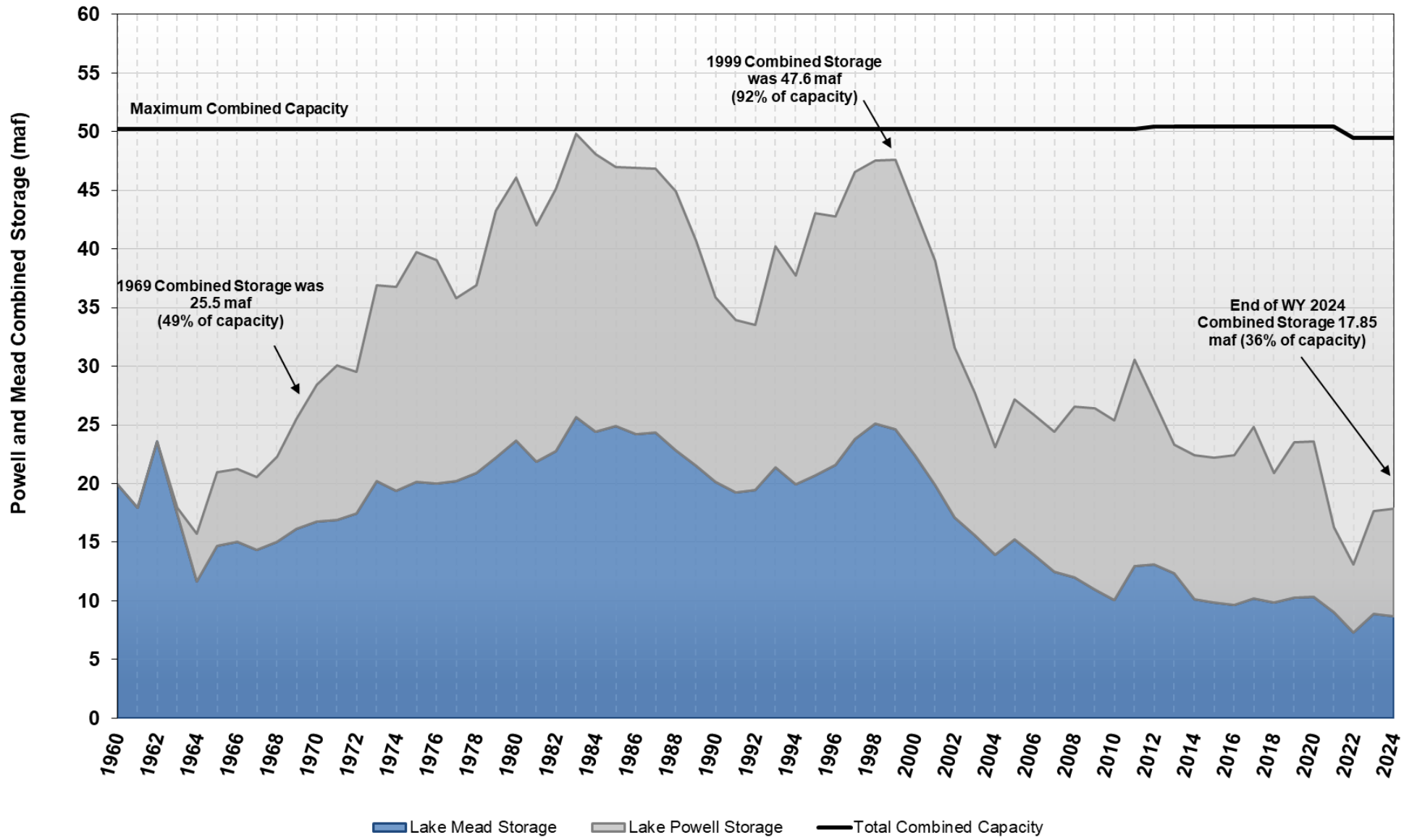
- 16.5 million acre-feet (maf) allocated annually
  - 7.5 maf each to Upper and Lower Basins
  - 1.5 maf to Mexico
- 16 maf average annual "natural flow" (from historical record)
  - 14.8 maf in the Upper Basin and 1.3 maf in the Lower Basin
- Inflows are highly variable year to year
- 60 maf of storage (about 4 times the annual average inflow)
- Operations and water deliveries governed by the "Law of the River"



Natural Flow
Colorado River at Lees Ferry Gaging Station, Arizona
Water Year 1906 to 2023

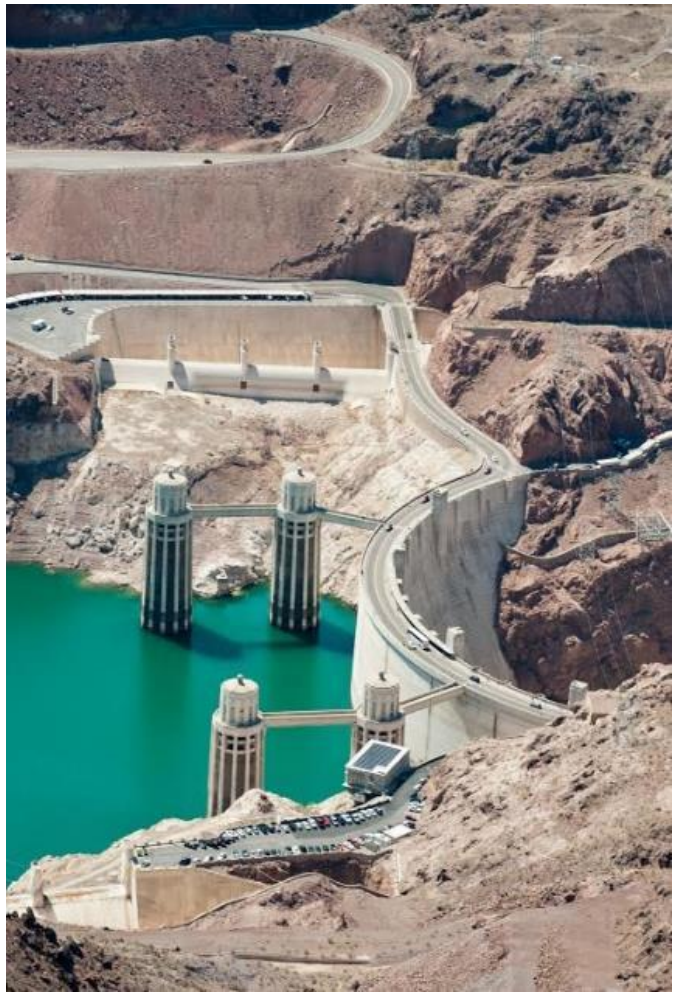


Lake Powell and Lake Mead End of Water Year Storage



Colorado River – Current Conditions
(as of October 28, 2024)

Lake Powell near Glen Canyon Dam



Lake Mead near Hoover Dam

- Lake Powell current elevation is 3,577 feet at 39% of capacity
- Lake Mead current elevation is 1,062 feet at 33% of capacity
- Total system storage currently 42% of capacity

Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Diagrams from the 2007 Interim Guidelines[1]

Lake Powell

Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)[1]
3,700	**Equalization Tier** Equalize, avoid spills, or release 8.23 maf	24.3
3,636-3,666 (2008-2026)		15.5-19.3 (2008-2026)
	Upper Elevation Balancing Tier[3] Release 8.23 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,075 feet, balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf	
3,575		9.5
	Mid-Elevation Release Tier Release 7.48 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,025 feet, release 8.23 maf	
3,525		5.9
3,490	**Lower Elevation Balancing Tier** Balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.5 maf	4.0
3,370		0

Lake Mead

Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)[1]
1,220	**Flood Control Surplus or Quantified Surplus Condition** Deliver > 7.5 maf	25.9
1,200 (approx.)[2]		22.9 (approx.)[2]
	Domestic Surplus or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver > 7.5 maf	
1,145		15.9
	Normal or ICS Surplus Condition Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf	
1,075		9.4
	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.167[4] maf	
1,050		7.5
	Shortage Condition Deliver 7.083[5] maf	
1,025		5.8
1,000	**Shortage Condition** Deliver 7.0[6] maf Further measures may be undertaken[7]	4.3
895		0

[1] The blue shaded region indicates the operating tier for the 2024 and 2025 operating years for Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

2007 Interim Guidelines, Minute 323, Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan, and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan

Total Volumes (kaf)

Lake Mead Elevation (feet msl)	2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages		Minute 323 Delivery Reductions	Total Combined Reductions	DCP Water Savings Contributions			Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings	Combined Volumes by Country *US: (2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages + DCP Contributions)* *Mexico: (Minute 323 Delivery Reductions + Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings)*					Total Combined Volumes
	AZ	NV	Mexico	***Lower Basin States + Mexico***	AZ	NV	CA	Mexico	*AZ Total*	*NV Total*	*CA Total*	*Lower Basin States Total*	*Mexico Total*	***Lower Basin States + Mexico***
1,090 - 1,075	0	0	0	*0*	192	8	0	41	192	8	0	*200*	*41*	*241*
1,075 - 1050	**320**	**13**	**50**	***383***	**192**	**8**	**0**	**30**	**512**	**21**	**0**	***533***	***80***	***613***
1,050 - 1,045	400	17	70	487	192	8	0	34	592	25	0	617	104	*721*
1,045 - 1,040	400	17	70	*487*	240	10	200	76	640	27	200	*867*	*146*	*1,013*
1,040 - 1,035	400	17	70	*487*	240	10	250	84	640	27	250	*917*	*154*	*1,071*
1,035 - 1,030	400	17	70	*487*	240	10	300	92	640	27	300	*967*	*162*	*1,129*
1,030 - 1,025	400	17	70	*487*	240	10	350	101	640	27	350	*1,017*	*171*	*1,188*
<1,025	480	20	125	*625*	240	10	350	150	720	30	350	*1,100*	*275*	*1,375*

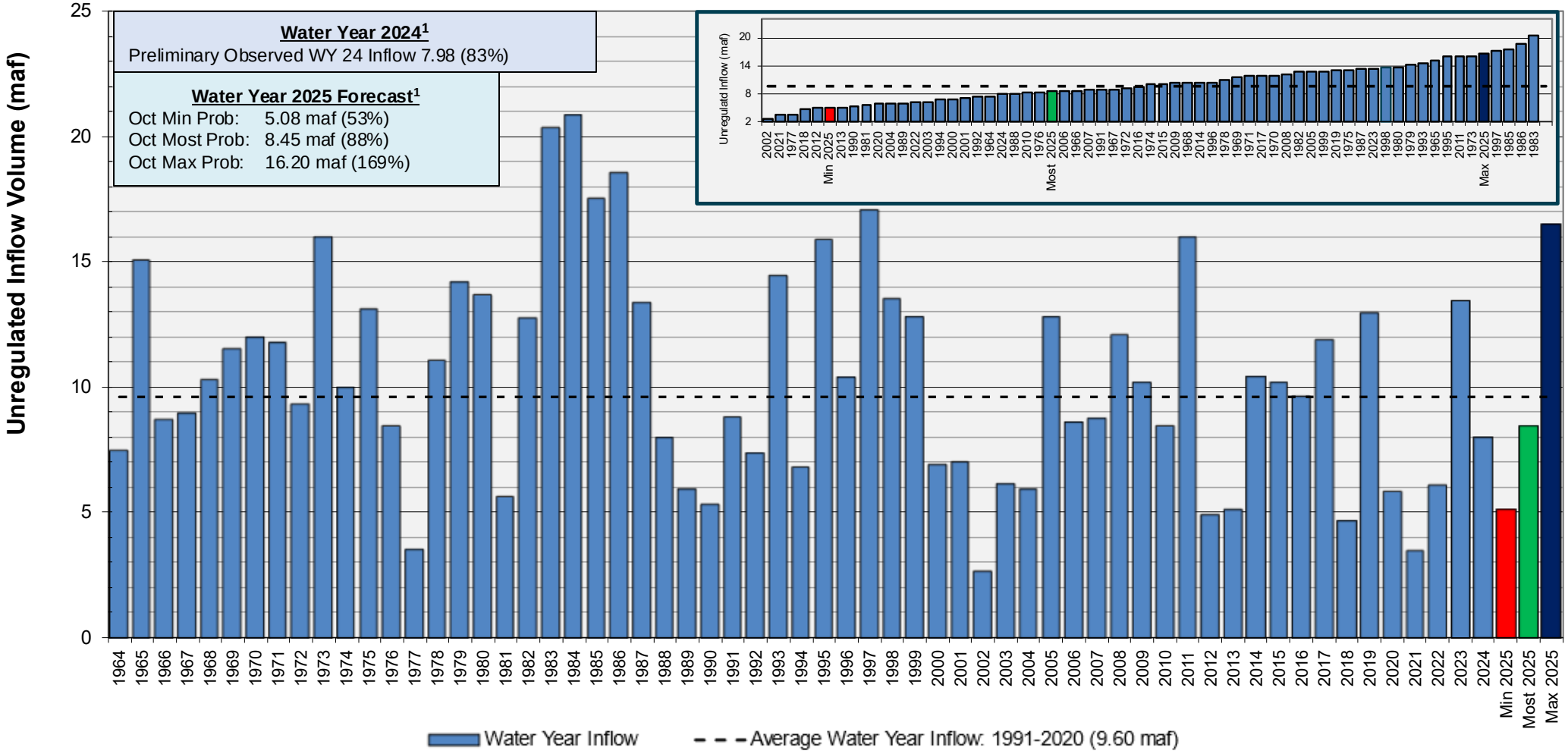
Lake Mead Operations (2024 & 2025) →

The Secretary of the Interior will take affirmative actions to implement programs designed to create or conserve 100,000 acre-ft per annum or more of Colorado River System water to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs in the lower basin. All actions taken by the United States shall be subject to applicable law, including availability of appropriations.

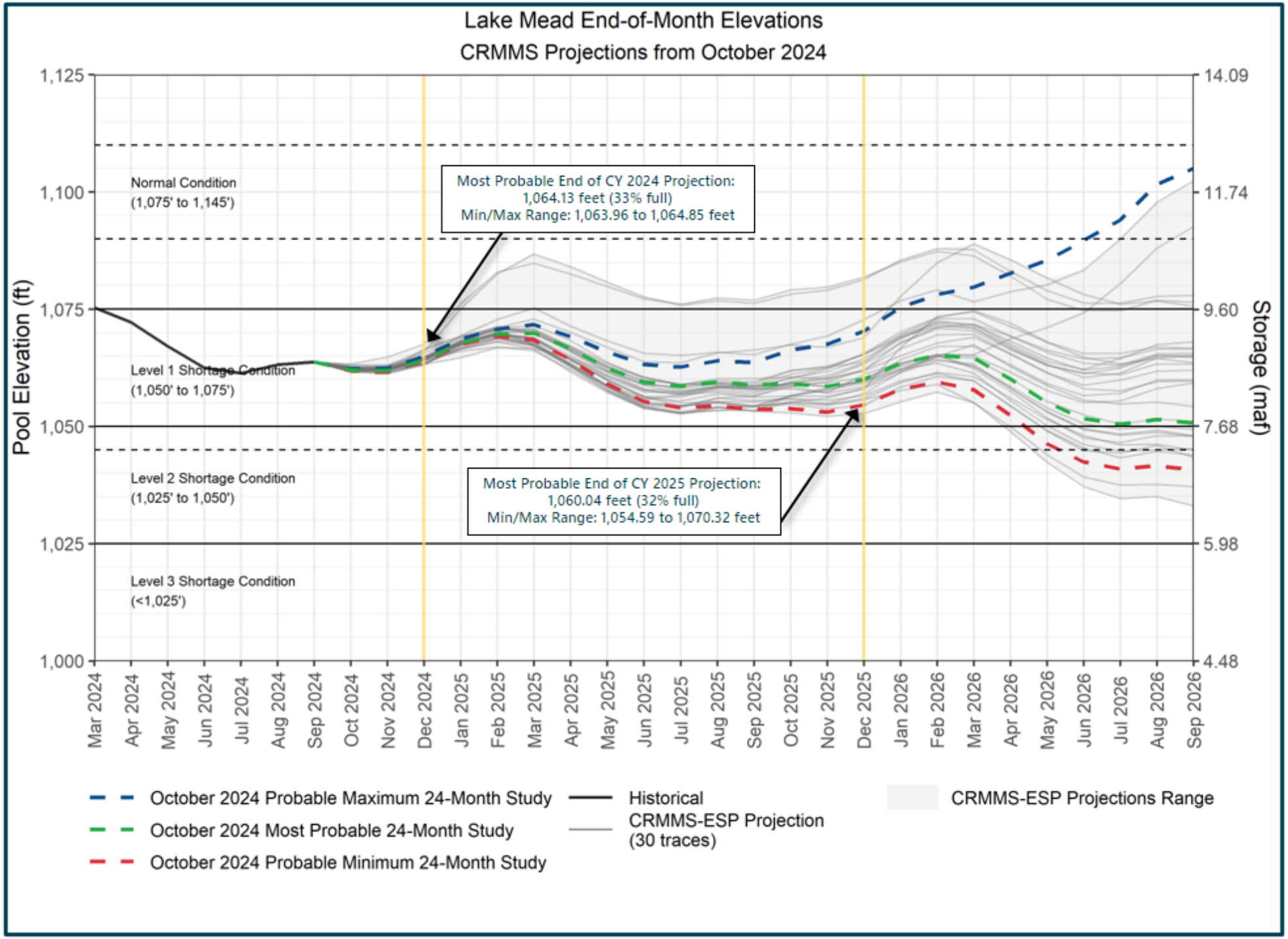
Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of October 1, 2024

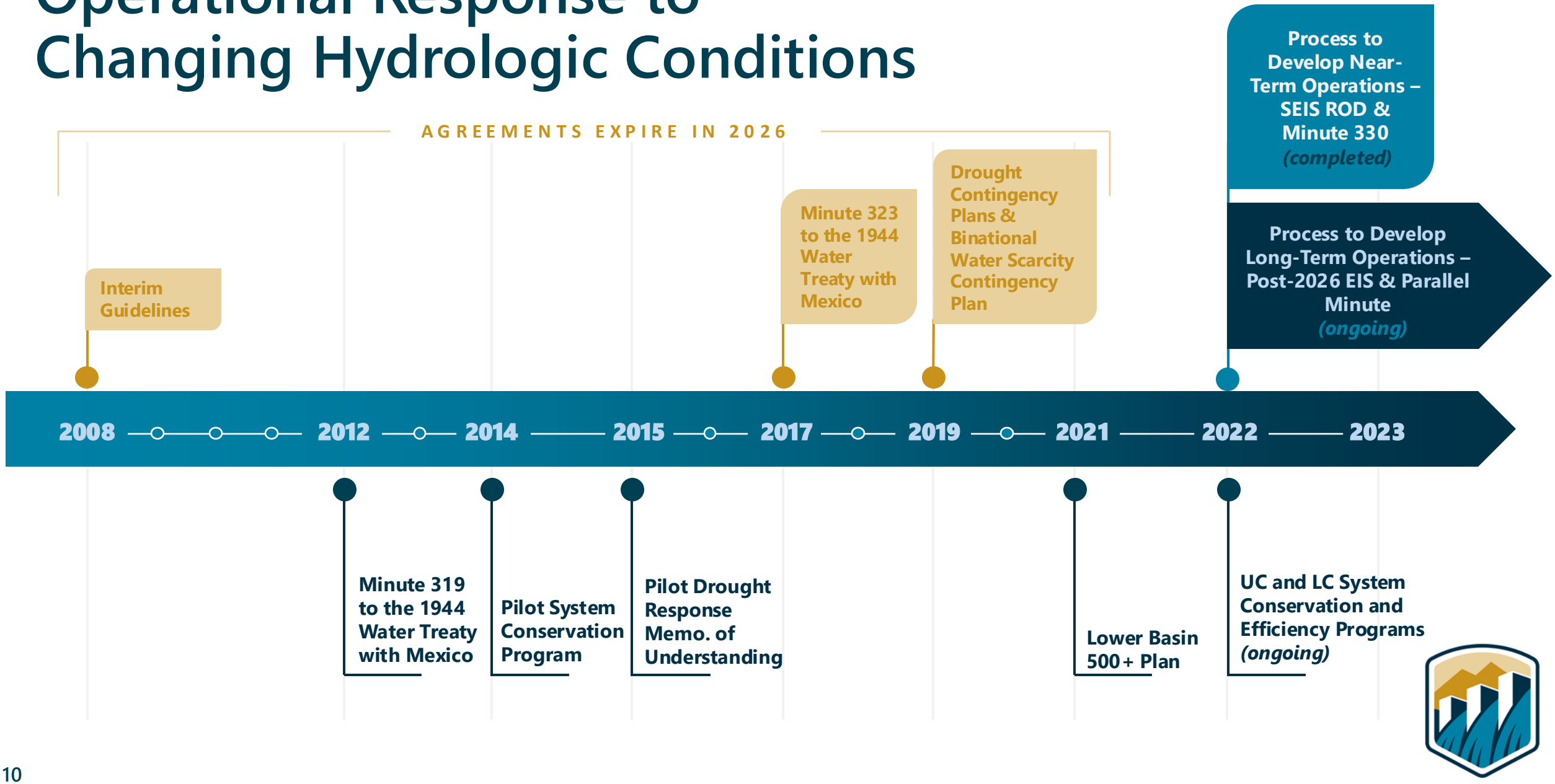
Comparison with History



[1]*Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.*


Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations
CRMMS Projections from October 2024
Pool Elevation (ft)
Storage (maf)
1,125
1,100
1,075
1,050
1,025
1,000
14.09
11.74
9.60
7.68
5.98
4.48
Normal Condition
(1,075' to 1,145')
Level 1 Shortage Condition
(1,050' to 1,075')
Level 2 Shortage Condition
(1,025' to 1,050')
Level 3 Shortage Condition
(<1,025')
Most Probable End of CY 2024 Projection:
1,064.13 feet (33% full)
Min/Max Range: 1,063.96 to 1,064.85 feet
Most Probable End of CY 2025 Projection:
1,060.04 feet (32% full)
Min/Max Range: 1,054.59 to 1,070.32 feet
Mar 2024
Apr 2024
May 2024
Jun 2024
Jul 2024
Aug 2024
Sep 2024
Oct 2024
Nov 2024
Dec 2024
Jan 2025
Feb 2025
Mar 2025
Apr 2025
May 2025
Jun 2025
Jul 2025
Aug 2025
Sep 2025
Oct 2025
Nov 2025
Dec 2025
Jan 2026
Feb 2026
Mar 2026
Apr 2026
May 2026
Jun 2026
Jul 2026
Aug 2026
Sep 2026
October 2024 Probable Maximum 24-Month Study
October 2024 Most Probable 24-Month Study
October 2024 Probable Minimum 24-Month Study
Historical
CRMMS-ESP Projection
(30 traces)
CRMMS-ESP Projections Range

Operational Response to Changing Hydrologic Conditions

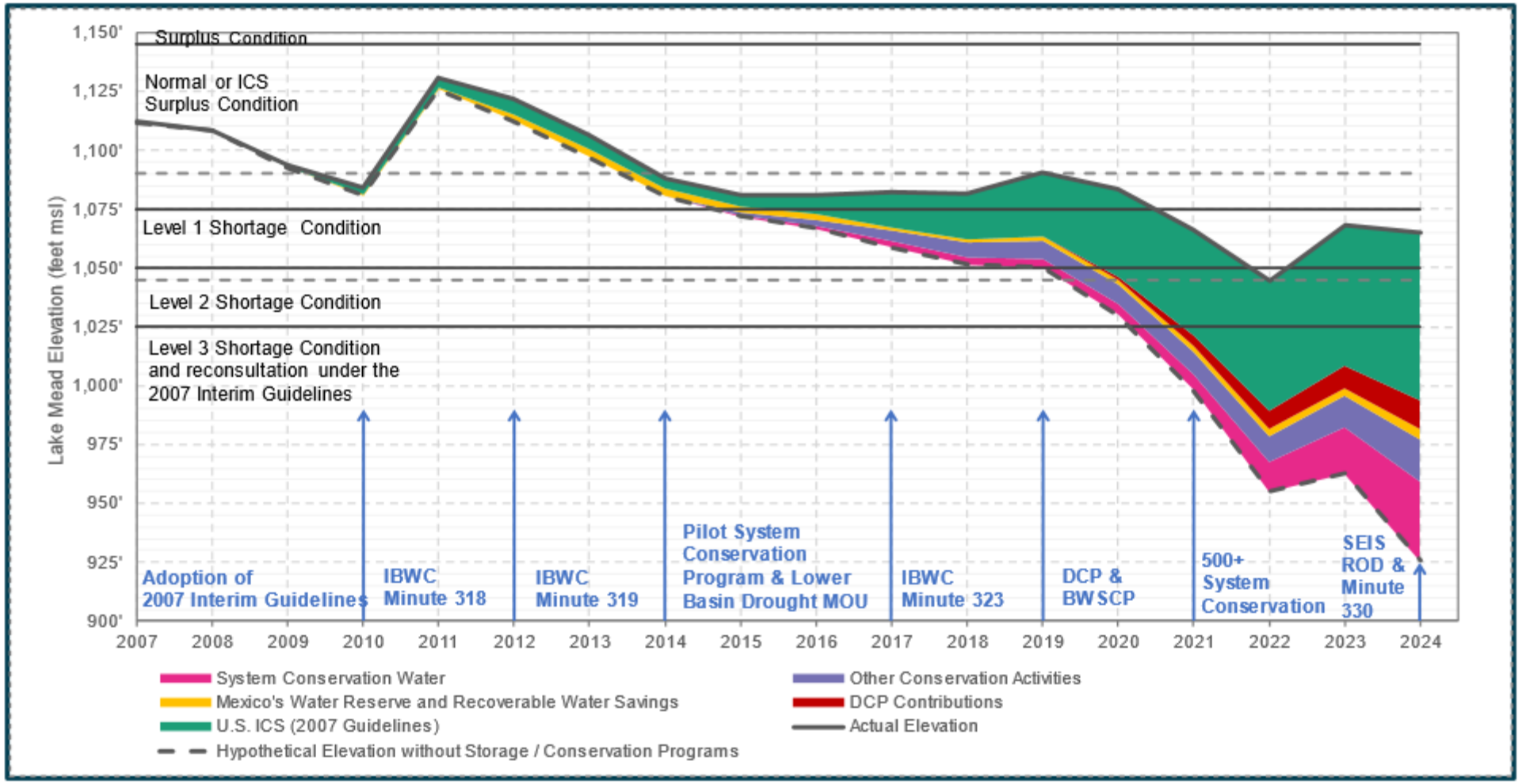


Additional Conservation Efforts
Supplemental EIS and IBWC Minute 330

- SEIS conservation by the U.S. Lower Basin
  - Record of Decision published in May 2024
  - Additional conserved water through System Conservation, Intentionally Created Surplus, and Other Conserved Water Left in Lake Mead
  - Cumulative volume of 3.2 maf or more through 2026
    - Incorporates 2.3 maf of system conservation water under the LC Conservation Program
- IBWC Minute 330 conservation by Mexico
  - Minute put into force in April 2024
  - Additional conserved water through System Conservation and Mexico's Water Reserve
  - Cumulative volume of 400,000 acre-feet through 2026
- Collectively add nearly 50 feet to Lake Mead's elevation

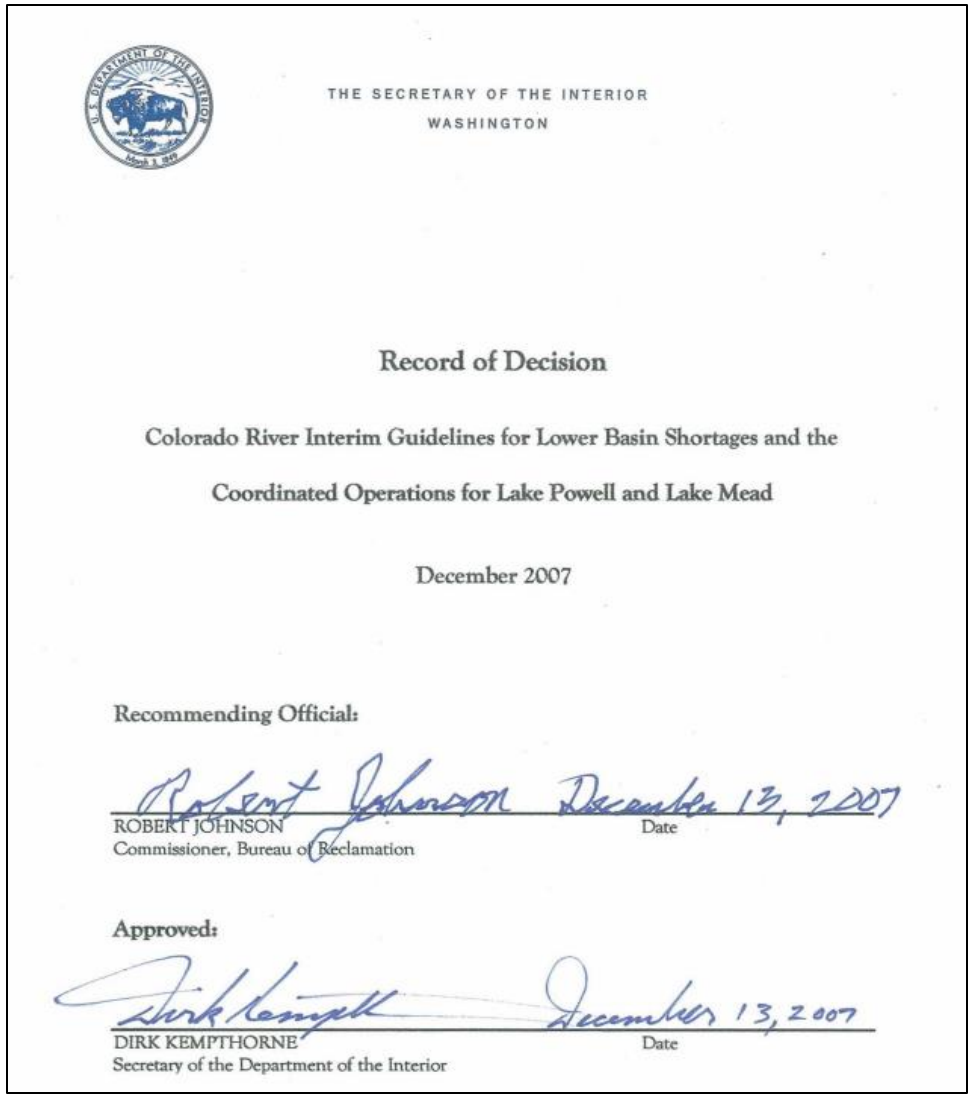
Lake Mead Storage and Conservation*

Lake Powell WY Release (maf)																
8.23	8.98	8.24	8.23	12.5	9.47	8.23	7.48	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.23	8.23	7.00	8.58



**End of calendar year 2024 balances of U.S. ICS and Mexico's Water Reserve, system conservation water, and other voluntary contributions to Lake Mead are provisional numbers and are subject to change.*

Colorado River Operating Agreements



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Record of Decision

Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the

Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

December 2007

Recommending Official:

ROBERT JOHNSON — Date
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

Approved:

DIRK KEMPTHORNE — Date
Secretary of the Department of the Interior

- Several agreements governing the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead expire at the end of 2026
  - 2007 Interim Guidelines (adopted in 2007, amended in 2024)
  - Minute 323 to the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico (adopted in 2017)
  - 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans (adopted in 2019)
- Agreements were adopted in sequence in response to changing hydrologic conditions
- The "Post-2026" process is intended to develop successor domestic agreements prior to preparation of the 2027 Annual Operating Plan (anticipated mid-2026)

Post-2026 Process

- June 2022: "Pre-Scoping" Federal Register Notice
- June 2023: Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS formally initiates the Post-2026 process and public scoping period
- October 2023: Scoping Summary Report and Federal Register Notice identifies Proposed Federal Action and Purpose & Need
- Spring 2024: Began Alternatives Development Phase
  - Overall process is currently in this phase
- December 2024: Release Range of Alternatives
- Record of Decision planned for mid-2026

Need More Information?

- Post-2026 Project Website: https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/post2026/index.html
  - **Recordings & presentations from all public webinars**
  - **Recordings & presentations from Integrated Tech. Education Workgroup sessions**
  - **Pre-Scoping & Scoping Summary Reports**
  - **All Pre-Scoping & Scoping comments received by Reclamation**
  - **Link to the Operations Exploration Web Tool: *www.crbpost2026dmdu.org***
- Contacts:
  - Post-2026 Inbox – crbpost2026@usbr.gov

Thank you!

Meghan Thiemann
mthiemann@usbr.gov

BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

New River Update 2024

Presentations by:

Robert Cardenas

Assistant Area Office Manager, Yuma, AZ

Colorado River Citizens Forum

October 30th, 2024

New River Background

- New River originates South of Mexicali
- Initially Ag returns
- Flows North due to natural topography
- Through the center of Mexicali, BC Mexico
- Flows into the Salton Sea

IBWC Addressing Water Quality

- **<u>Minute 261</u> - October 2, 1979 -** Recommendations for the solution to the border sanitation problems
  - Provided definition and reiteration on the 1944 treaty for the preferential treatment of border sanitation.

- **<u>Minute 264</u> - December 4, 1980 -** Recommendations for solution of the New River border sanitation problem at Calexico, California/Mexicali, Baja Norte.
  - Established a water quality goal for the New River
  - Measures to improve infrastructure for treatment of industrial and domestic wastewater in Mexico

IBWC Addressing Water Quality

- **Minute 274 - May 13, 1987** - Joint Project for Improvement of the Quality of the Waters of the New River at Calexico, California/Mexicali, Baja California
  - Provided for a jointly funded project of $1.2 million
  - Standby pumps for 2 of the pumping plants
  - Sewer cleaning equipment

- **Minute 288 - November 24, 1992** - Conceptual Plan for the Long Term Solution to the Border Sanitation Problem of the New River at Calexico, California - Mexicali, Baja California
  - Quick Fixes
    - Rehabilitation, replacement, and installation of sewer lines
    - Acquisition of sewer maintenance equipment
    - Control of untreated discharges into the New River
    - Expansion of Zaragoza WWTP
    - Construction of a new treatment plant (Las Arenitas)

BINATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (BTC)

- **Minute 294 – January 6, 1996 -** Facilities Planning Program for the Solution of Border Sanitation Problems
  - Established IBWC Binational Technical Committee
  - Participating agencies:

U.S.	Mexico
IBWC	CILA
EPA	CESPM
CRWQCB	CONAGUA
IID	CEA
Imperial County PH	ConsulMex Calexico
City of Calexico	NADBank
NADBank	

BINATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (BTC)

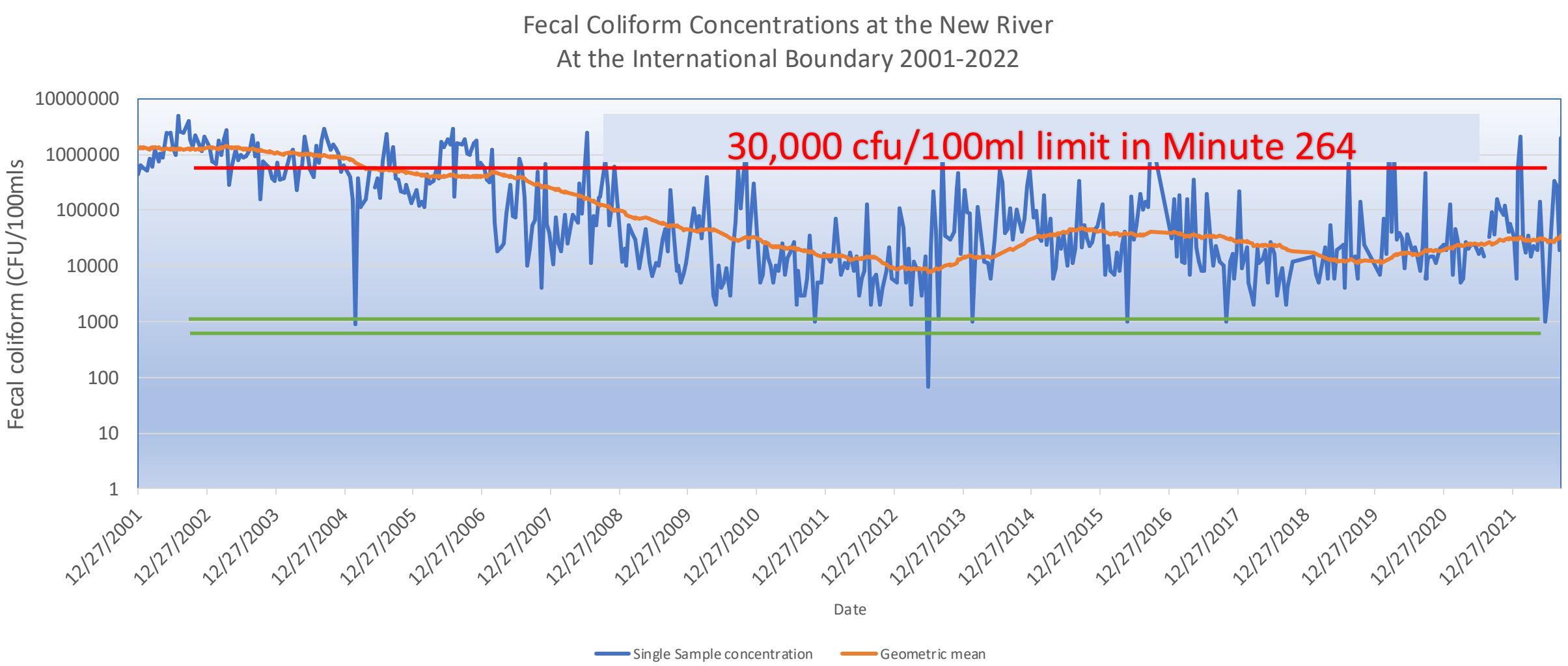
- Field observation and meeting held every other month (6 per year)
- Visit key sites of interest:
  - Discharges to New River and its tributaries
  - Pumping Plants
  - Small lift stations
  - Treatment plants
  - Infrastructure
- Infrastructure status (issues, planned projects, repairs etc.)
- Present current water quality results

BINATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (BTC)

STATION: **2024 NEW RIVER AT INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY**

Date of Sample	Time of Day	USGS* Flow cfs	Temperature Air C	Temperature Water C	Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	pH Units	Conductance Umhos	Fecal Coliform #/100 ml	(1) E-Coli MPN	Laboratory Analysis BOD mg/l	Laboratory Analysis COD mg/l	Inspector - samplers	Remarks
01/31/24	8:35 AM	118	14.0	15.7	4.78	7.45	3,754	39,000	43,520	n/a	n/a	GC/RC	
02/07/24	8:20 AM	85	11.0	15.0	4.04	7.45	3,724	90,000	111,990	n/a	n/a	RC/GC	rain event on 02/06/2024
02/21/24	10:45am	73	24.0	18.1	4.77	7.51	4,698	30,000	22,850	94.0	107	GC	
03/20/24	09:00am	76	20.0	19.0	3.36	7.27	5,234	19,000	29,900			RC/JM	
03/27/24	08:00am	67	18.0	18.3	4.00	7.38	5,153	18,000	14,830	8.0	67	GC/RC	
04/10/24	10:15am	79	24.0	18.3	4.90	7.59	4,843	25,000	17,850			GC/JM	
04/30/24	08:20am	76.6	27.0	24.0	3.35	7.52	5,388	14,000	7,430	14.0	81	RC/GC	
05/08/24	09:45am	71.2	29.0	23.3	4.35	7.71	5,300	29,000	44,200			GC/JM	
05/29/24	08:10am	60	31.0	25.6	3.65	7.49	5,301	17,000	3,590	25.0	151	GC/RC	
06/12/24	08:50am	64	34.0	28.6	3.93	7.63	5,351	13,000	4,110			RC/JM	
06/26/24	08:30am	58	35.0	31.0	2.97	7.55	5,471	10,000	2,940	26.0	97	RC/GC	
07/18/24	08:30am	50	36.0	31.0	2.80	N/A	5,664	38,000	53,550			RC/JM	YSI probe malfunctioning
07/31/24	08:20am	35	34.0	30.9	2.72	N/A	5,889	130,000	111,990	13.0	188	RC/JM	YSI probe malfunctioning
08/14/24	09:45am	42	40.0	31.2	N/A	N/A	5,695	600,000	523,100			GC/JM	YSI probe malfunctioning/PP#5 -rain bypass(8/12-13)
08/21/24	08:35am	34	32.0	31.4	2.51	N/A	5,408	116,000	105,250	8.0	114	GC/JM	YSI probe malfunctioning
09/11/24	09:10am	24	40.0	31.1	3.26	7.67	6,089	215,000	198,630			RC/IL	New YSI probe

BINATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (BTC)



BINATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (BTC)

New River Notification Protocol-

- A formal notification protocol was finalized in 2023.
- Notification protocol was created with public health in mind.
- The notification process consists of CESPM notifying the Mexican Section of the issue/incident.
- The information provided is then relayed to USIBWC via email. Upon receiving the notification, USIBWC sends an email notifying Headquarters, U.S. BTC members, Imperial County and other State, Local and Federal entities.
- As updates are received, the information is relayed to everyone until the issue is resolved.

Current Projects

Actions by Mexico – BEIF Projects (NADBank/CESPM 2022-2024)

Phase I WWC System and Lift Stations.

- Replacement of 10,506 meters of concrete sanitary sewer lines that fulfilled their useful life with more than 50 years -100% complete; and rehabilitation of 3 phase I wastewater pumping plants (PP#2, PP#4-complete & PP#5-complete) – 98.5% complete as of September 2024.
  - Cost $8.77 m USD (BEIF $4.37m; ConAgua/CESPM $4.40m)
  - mitigates 33.1 MGD untreated WW discharges into the New River
- Rehabilitation of 12 lift stations
  - 99.8% complete, as of September 2024
  - mitigates 8.7 mgd untreated WW discharges into the New River
  - Total cost $5.7 m (BEIF $2.7 m; Conagua/CESPM $3m)

Current Projects

- Main Lines Phase II Rehabilitation
  - Rehabilitation of 12,910 meters of WW collection system in 20 subdivisions.
  - Eliminates risk of 2.2 mgd untreated WW discharge into the New River
  - Total cost $4.96 M-USD (BEIF $2.42m; ConAgua $1.27m; CESPM $1.27 M)
  - 100% complete as of September 2024.

- Phase II Sewer Force Mains Rehabilitation
  - Cost $6.8 m-USD (BEIF $3.4m; ConAgua/CESPM $3.4 m)
  - Mitigates risk of 44.8 MGD untreated WW discharges into the New River
  - Project includes the rehabilitation of five forces mains of Lift Stations
  - PP#1,3, 4 (complete), 6, 7 (complete) – 57% complete as of September 2024

Current Projects

- WW Force Main to Collector Voluntad
  - Total estimated cost $4 M-USD
  - Construction of 5,117.4m of 18” Force Main PVC pipe towards Zaragoza treatment plant
  - Eliminates risk of 4.6 mgd transboundary flows
  - 69.8% complete as of September 2024

Current Projects

- Las Arenitas WWTP Phase I Expansion
  - Total estimated cost $40 M-USD
  - Increases 9.5 mgd capacity (actual treatment capacity 19.2 mgd, plant operating at an average 22 mgd. New scope of work for 29 mgd treatment capacity)
  - Mitigates risk of 28.8 MGD untreated WW discharges into the New River
  - Final design awaiting approval as of September 2024

- Zaragoza WWTP Improvements
  - Total estimated cost $40 M-USD
  - Mitigates risk of 29.7 mgd of untreated ww discharges into the New River
  - Application under review by NADBank (September 2024 update)

Zaragoza Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Became operational in 1969, current capacity is 1,300lps
- Aeration lagoons
- Effluent flows into the New River
- Effluent is sampled monthly in accordance with Min. 264.

Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Became operational in 2007, current capacity 840lps
- Effluent flows South into Rio Hardy
- Diverted untreated wastewater away from the New River, resulting in large water quality improvement after 2007
- Expansion of treatment capacity is currently under development, cost is estimated at $40M

Binational Water Quality Monitoring Study

- Comprehensive binational study
  - One year study will assess and characterize New River water quality
  - Multi-agency collaboration from both countries through the BTC
  - Sampling sites in Mexico and the US
  - Proposed parameters include: Metals, semi volatile organics, nutrients, bacteria
  - Sampling events starting November 13th 2024

The IBWC and the BTC will use the study to:

- Document the condition of the New River
- Evaluate water quality to validate recent improvements
- Create a baseline for planned improvements
- Identify pending issues
- Updated efforts in both U.S. and Mex.
- Utilize the information to discuss the water quality standards found in IBWC Minute 264
- Negotiate new Minute for water quality goals (would update Minute 264)

QUESTIONS?

www.ibwc.gov

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