



Colorado River Basin Supply & Demand Study Press Release Quote Sheet

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Sandy Fabritz-Whitney: "The Study confirms that Arizona must continue to do what it has successfully done throughout its history - plan and invest in its water resources. While Arizonans are leading the country in water conservation, augmentation and reuse efforts, it is important that we keep our commitment into the future to the efficient use of all water supplies. The Basin Study includes commitments made by the Seven Colorado River Basin States to work together to address future imbalances and provides opportunities to develop new partnerships to augment, protect and sustain the Colorado River so it can reliably meet current and future water needs while preserving a healthy river system."

Central Arizona Project General Manager David Modeer: "The study confirms what we have long understood - the Colorado River and the communities that rely on it will be increasingly vulnerable to water supply shortages unless we augment our water supply and find additional ways to conserve existing supplies. CAP has unique risks due to our junior priority. We have spent the past 5 years developing pilot desalination and augmentation projects, and water efficiency facilities. Based on the results of the study, we are committed to working with our partners to bring these and other programs to full-scale to protect our current and future customers from the potential risks identified in the study."

Colorado River Board of California Director Tanya Trujillo: "The Basin Study was the result of years of collaborative effort. It's technical analysis has identified opportunities that can add a number of new tools to potentially better manage the scarce water resources in the southern California region. Only through collaboration can we begin to address the uncertainties that lie ahead."

Colorado River Water Conservation District General Manager Eric Kuhn: "The study confirms what we already understand: The Colorado River is already fully used. In the very near future, the demand for the river's resources will far exceed the available supply. In order to meet the needs of people and aquatic-dependent species and habitats, new ways of thinking and doing business will be essential. Planners should be cautious in using the study as a risk-analysis tool without further examination. While many in the Upper Basin may believe that water remains to be developed, the reality may be that new development simply threatens existing supplies or that new development may only be available during increasingly rare wet cycles."

Colorado Water Conservation Board Jennifer Gimbel: “This Study reaffirms the concept under which Colorado water agencies such as the CWCB and Interbasin Compact Committee have been operating: There is no silver bullet, or easy answer to the supply and demand imbalances on the Colorado River. The way forward is through cooperation with our neighbors, holistic management of the River, and a varied portfolio of strategies.”

Denver Water CEO/Manager and chair of Front Range Water Council Jim Lochhead: "The water utilities of the Colorado Front Range serve 80 percent of the state’s population. Although we use only about 6 percent of the state’s water supply for municipal and industrial uses, a large portion of our supply comes from the Colorado River. As a result, we have a big stake in the future of the River and how we will meet the challenges of increasing population, long-term drought and climate change. We have been involved in Colorado River negotiations over the past few decades, and have closely followed Reclamation’s study process. We appreciate the resources invested by the Bureau of Reclamation and the basin states to study the Colorado River Basin. Overall, the study shows we have time to be thoughtful about the approaches we take to address future water shortages. Although the report projects potentially significant shortages for the Colorado River Basin as a whole, it is important to understand more specifically when, where and to what extent those shortages may occur. This will require detailed analysis of the study results and the implementation of a variety of responses. While this is a critical issue for Colorado, we have time to approach solutions thoughtfully. We don’t need to pursue drastic solutions in the short term. Instead, we believe the best approach is to work together as a community of seven states that share the vital resource of the Colorado River to discuss the right mix of measures to meet the challenges as they arise. We also believe Reclamation and the basin states can work within the framework of existing law and institutions to achieve solutions to secure the future of our water supply and future development of water for Colorado."

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger: “California has made significant investments to reduce its reliance on the Colorado River water, lowering the state’s river diversions by more than 500,000 acre-feet per year since 2003. Existing programs and agreements, for example, enhance conservation, increase agricultural efficiency and allow districts like Metropolitan to store conserved water supplies in Lake Mead. Eventually, additional projects and programs will be needed for all the Basin states to adapt to an uncertain future that includes climate change impacts. This study lays out a roadmap showing how Basin states can work with Reclamation to meet future water supply needs throughout this vital watershed that provides water to 30 million people and 4 million acres of some of the nation’s most valuable farmland."

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan Lopez: “The Colorado River Basin Study is probably the most comprehensive and sophisticated water planning study ever conducted. The study details and quantifies the potential water supply shortages facing the basin in coming decades and provides a path forward on how to begin to rectify the problem. I look forward to continuing to work with the Bureau of Reclamation and the other basin states on long-term solutions to ensure a viable water supply for the basin.”

Utah Division of Water Director Dennis Strong: "The Basin Study is a well thought summary of water supply and water need in the Colorado River Basin. It is a call to action. It tells us there are opportunities to enhance and stretch the river's supply but that ultimately the solution to our growing water need is bigger than the Colorado River. The take home message is to meet future water demands we need to conserve and use the river wisely and we need to find sources of water outside the basin to augment our current water supplies."

Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager Pat Mulroy: "We welcome the study and its findings, and believe it will serve as a foundation for renewed cooperation and flexibility among Basin states in addressing current and future water shortages on the Colorado River," said Pat Mulroy, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. "If implemented, the solutions outlined in this document could go a long way toward ensuring a viable water future for the entire Basin."

Wyoming State Engineer Patrick T. Tyrrell: "The Basin States have a history of crafting solutions fitting within the bounds of the 'Law of the River.' Ongoing efforts to address water supply deficits have focused on improving efficiency of operations, increasing conservation, municipal use efficiency and storage, implementing voluntary water transfers and conjunctively using surface water and groundwater. More of these sorts of projects will be needed – along with commitment on the part of the Basin States and Federal Government to work together - to meet our Basin's water supply demands over the Basin Study's 50-year planning horizon."

Ten Tribes Partnership & 2012 CRWUA President George Arthur : The Colorado River Basin Study required a significant amount of discussion between the Bureau of Reclamation, the Seven Basin States and other stakeholders within the Basin. The discussions, analysis and options to address foreseeable demands resulted in a better understanding of the Colorado River system. The Study has brought to surface the need for additional studies to better understand the water allocated to tribes and the need for resolution of claims.

Due to the time and funding constraints, Reclamation, in coordination with the Ten Tribes Partnership was able to incorporate a Statement on Tribal Water in the Study to help alleviate some of the concerns of tribes regarding the limits of the Study and plans for future studies.

Reclamation has committed to work with the tribes on potential future studies and dialogue has begun to identify funding mechanisms. The Ten Tribes Partnership and its individual members appreciate Reclamation and others who made a significant effort to work with the tribes.