



UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

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October 29, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Lower Division States' Letter re: the Memorandum of Understanding between the Upper Division States, acting through the Upper Colorado River Commission, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regarding provisional accounting for Upper Basin water conservation and demonstration programs

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The Upper Division States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming (Upper Division States), through the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC), received the September 24, 2024, letter from the Lower Division States of Arizona, California, and Nevada (Lower Division States) to you regarding the above-referenced memorandum of understanding (MOU). The contemplated MOU outlines a process and methodologies to provisionally account for potential water savings associated with conservation and demonstration projects to be implemented in 2025 and 2026.

The Upper Division States understand the Lower Division States' interest in the MOU. That is why we provided a draft of the MOU to the Lower Division States on September 24, 2024 before considering it for adoption. The Lower Division States' letter specifically requests that Reclamation and the Upper Division States consult with the Lower Division States, seeking consensus, prior to any agreement or commitment regarding potential credit for conservation in Lake Powell. As stated in the MOU itself, we write to confirm that is our intent.

We appreciate Reclamation's continued collaboration with the Upper Division States through the UCRC and look forward to finalizing the MOU.

Sincerely,

UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION



Charles R. Cullom
Executive Director

Cc: David Palumbo, Bureau of Reclamation – Deputy Commissioner, Operations
Rebecca Mitchell, Colorado Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission
Estevan Lopez, New Mexico Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission
Gene Shawcroft, Utah Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission
Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming Commissioner, Upper Colorado River Commission
Tom Buschatzke, State of Arizona
J.B. Hamby, State of California
John J. Entsminger, State of Nevada