



Moving Forward after the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

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Basin States' Commitments to Future Actions Following Release of the Basin Study



Governor's Representatives on Colorado River Operations States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

The Seven Basin States' Commitments to Future Actions Following Release of the Basin Study

Background

The Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study (Basin Study) is the most recent example of the Seven Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) working together to address Colorado River water supply and demand issues. The possibility of future water supply and demand imbalances has been identified since the 1960's. For example over 30 years ago, the study, *The Westside Study Report on Critical Water Problems Facing the Eleven Western States (Reclamation 1975)*, concluded that in spite of conservation, the Basin faces future water shortages unless its natural flows are augmented by more than 2.5 million acre-feet/year, or water-dependent Basin development is limited. With this knowledge, the Basin States and Reclamation have taken several actions to begin to address the potential for imbalance between future supplies and demands.

The Basin Study is the most comprehensive effort to date to quantify and address future supply and demand imbalances in the Colorado River Basin. The Basin Study evaluates system reliability and also outlines potential options and strategies to meet or reduce imbalances that are consistent with the existing legal framework governing the use and operation of the Colorado River. A range of future water demands are quantified in six different demand scenarios that include varied assumptions about future economic conditions, population growth, and water needs for agricultural, municipal and industrial, energy, minerals, and fish, wildlife, and recreation purposes.



Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study

Basin States confirmed their commitment to future actions

- Highlighted the potential for additional conservation and reuse and recognized the constraints
- Focus on regional solutions – banking, weather modification
- Desalination and importation – longer term

Feds recognize the primacy of the states in water – States recognize the need to be inclusive of local water providers and non-governmental organizations

First large-scale Basin Study to move forward – opportunity to be a role model for other basins



Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study

Opportunity for continued partnership with BOR

- Inclusion of other groups
 - Non-Governmental Organizations
 - Academic institutions
 - Trade organizations
 - Individual water users

“Moving Forward” kickoff May 28, 2013

July 16, 2013 Congressional oversight hearing

Phase 1 Work Plan completed in February 2014 – led to detailed Scopes of Work for each workgroup



Work Groups

Municipal and Industrial Conservation/Reuse Workgroup

- Co-Chairs – Denver, MWD, Arizona Municipal Water Users
- Quantify Existing Conservation and Reuse
- Categorize Savings by Types of Use
- Highlight successful programs and identify future opportunities
- Quantify Potential Additional Savings
- Evaluate Additional Reuse Technologies
- Challenges – Not One Size Fits All



Work Groups

Agricultural Conservation, Productivity and Transfers Workgroup

- Co-Chairs – Colorado State University, IID, BOR
- Quantify existing conservation and transfers and identify additional opportunities
- Document impacts of conservation and transfers
- Challenges – concern about preservation of agricultural productivity



Work Groups

Environmental and Recreational Flows Workgroup

- Co-Chairs – Colorado, the Nature Conservancy, BOR
- Identify focus reaches in Upper and Lower Basin to emphasize local benefits
- Explored existing programs to enhance environmental and recreational flows and identify additional opportunities
- Identify hydropower benefits and impacts – importance as a non-consumptive use
- Challenges – new territory

Report on Phase 1 released soon

Working on strategies for Phase 2

Phase 1 Report

