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PRESS STATEMENT

6 States Meet Deadline With “Consensus-Based Modeling Alternative”

With the hope of achieving a system-wide plan to protect the Colorado River, six of the seven Basin States have together proposed to the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) a Consensus-Based Modeling Alternative that could provide a framework in which to negotiate long-term solutions. Reclamation had asked the states to present an alternative by January 31.

The states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming presented details of the modeling alternative in a letter dated today to Reclamation, requesting that the modeling be incorporated into its development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

The SEIS is expected to revise current Operating Guidelines ('07 Guidelines) for Glen Canyon Dam at Lake Powell and Hoover Dam at Lake Mead. Revisions to the '07 Guidelines are necessary to protect critical elevations and infrastructure at the two reservoirs.

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke, the State's designated representative on Colorado River matters, called the modeling proposal a “key step” forward in the effort to stabilize the system, which, according to the Bureau, will require conserving an additional 2-4 million acre-feet annually.

“This modeling proposal is a key step in the ongoing dialogue among the seven Basin States as we continue to seek a collaborative solution to stabilize the Colorado River system,” said Director Buschatzke.

The modeling alternative suggests a number of specific modifications to operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, protecting water delivery through 2025, when the '07 Guidelines expire.

“We must move on a path forward to lay the groundwork for finding durable long-term solutions,” said Central Arizona Project General Manager Brenda Burman. “We have a lot more to do and this is a critical next step.”

The letter outlining the Consensus-Based Modeling Alternative submitted to the Bureau by the six states can be found [here](#).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JANUARY 30, 2023