



The Southwestern Water Conservation District
The West Building, 841 E Second Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR **SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S** Regular Board Meeting

Location

SWCD Office & Via Zoom
841 E 2nd Avenue, Durango, CO, 81301

Date and Time

8/26/2026 9:30 AM - 4:40 PM

Remote Connection

[Click here to join via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 874 8378 5496

Passcode: 388748

Phone Number: (253) 205 – 0468

To be recognized by the chair, please raise your hand. To raise your hand by phone, dial*9. To mute and unmute by phone, dial *6.

Other Details

Posted and Noticed August 25th, 2026

Please email Josh Brooks @ jbrooks@swgcd.org or call (970) 880-0803 if you have difficulty attending the meeting.

Except the time indicated for when the meeting is scheduled to begin, the times noted for each agenda item are estimates and subject to change. The Board may address and act on agenda items in any order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the audience. Agenda items can also be added during the meeting at the consensus of the Board.

Agenda items may be placed on the Consent Agenda when the recommended action is non-controversial. The Consent Agenda may be voted on without reading or discussing individual items. Any Board member may request clarification about items on the Consent Agenda. The Board may remove items from the Consent Agenda at their discretion for further discussion.



The Southwestern Water Conservation District
The West Building, 841 East Second Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

SWCD Regular Board Meeting Agenda

August 26, 2026

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Call to Order – Roll Call, Verification of Quorum | 9:30 AM |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2 | Review and Approve Agenda | 9:32 AM |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3 | Approve and/or Remove Consent Agenda Items | 9:34 AM |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4 | Consent Agenda | 9:36 AM |
| | 4.1 Summary and Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports | |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5 | Recognition of Service to SWCD | 9:40 AM |
| | 5.1 Steve Wolff, SWCD General Manager | |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6 | Legislative Affairs | 9:45 AM |
| | 6.1 Federal Affairs Update – Christine Arbogast | |
| | 6.2 State Legislative Update – Garin Vorthmann | |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7 | General Counsel Legal Report | 10:10 AM |
| | 7.1 Proposed tax increment financing agreement between SWCD and the Durango Renewal Partnership for the Durango Crossings Project | |
-

8 Staff Reports

10:15 AM

- 8.1 SWCD B2E Grant & Water Conservation and Infrastructure Partnership Update – Josh Brooks & Carrie Padgett
 - 8.2 Update on Submittal of SWCD Domestic Water Supply Grant Application – Carrie Padgett
 - 8.3 Update on SWCD's Florida River SWSP - Andrew Straub-Heidke
 - 8.4 Update on 2027 Budget Process & Appointment of SWCD Budget Officer for 2027 Budget – Andrew Straub-Heidke & Josh Brooks
Budget Workshop: September 10, 2026 at 2:00PM
 - 8.5 Proposed Changes to 2027 Grant Guidelines – Josh Brooks
 - 8.6 Update on Programs Coordinator Hiring Process – Andrew Straub-Heidke
 - 8.7 SWCD Branded Merchandise Policy Update – Josh Brooks
 - 8.8 SWCD CEBT Reaffirmation – Josh Brooks
-

9 Grant Requests

11:40 PM

- 9.1 Emergency Grant Request - Bess Girl Ditch (\$1,860) – Carrie Padgett
 - 9.2 CWCB Technical Assistance Grant Request – Carrie Padgett
-

10 Questions and Comments from the Public

11:50 PM

Lunch

12:00 PM

11 Contractor and Partner Updates

1:00 PM

- 11.1 CWCB Funding Update – Laura Spann
 - 11.2 Harris Water Engineering Update – Carrie Padgett
 - 11.3 Wright Water Engineering Update (June Water Resume Update) – Peter Foster
-

12 Colorado River Matters, Hydrology & Related Updates

1:25 PM

- 12.1 Hydrologic and Other Updates for Divisions 4 and 7 from Division Engineers - Bob Hurford and Rob Genualdi
- 12.2 Colorado River Hydrologic Conditions – Andrew Straub-Heidke
- 12.3 Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) – Andrew Straub-Heidke

- 12.4 Potential Creation of Upper Division States Contribution Program –
Andrew Straub-Heidke

13 Questions and Comments from the Public 2:25 PM

14 Director's Updates and Concerns 2:35 PM

- 14.1 Scheduling October Board Tour in Silverton
-

BREAK 2:50 PM

15 Executive Session 3:00 PM

- 15.1 FAMLII Participant Status Discussion
15.2 Durango Renewal Partnership's proposed tax increment financing
agreement for the Durango Crossings Project
15.3 Colorado River Interstate and Intrastate matters, including Post-2026
Negotiations, Final EIS and potential creation of Upper Division States
Contribution Program
15.4 B2E Grant Contracting Process and other Related Matters
-

16 Summary and Action Items from Executive Session 4:30 PM

17 Upcoming Meetings and Announcements 4:35 PM

- 17.1 September 10 – Budget Workshop
17.2 October 14 & 15, 2026 – October Board Meeting & Tour
-

18 Adjournment 4:40 PM

Three or more board members may meet for dinner at 6:00 PM.



2026 Treasurers Report

Southwestern Water Conservation District

January-June 2026 Report

Presented by Joshua Brooks

Prepared on August 11th, 2026

Agenda Item 4.1

Table of Contents

Financial Notes	3
2026 Budget Comparison	5
Balance Sheet	8
2026 Check Detail Report	12

Financial Notes

Budget Comparison – Variances Over Budget

<i>Account</i>	Description	Budget	Actual	Variance
2.4.4	Water Leaders Program Scholarship	\$4,750	\$10,150	\$5,400
2.4.7	Watershed Education Program	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$6,000
2.6.2.7	Recruitment	\$0	\$6,975	\$6,975
2.6.3.8	Insurance – General Liability	\$11,000	\$11,471	\$471
2.6.3.10	Cost Basis Adjustments	\$0	\$17.46	\$17.46
2.6.3.11	Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investments	\$0	\$31,560	\$31,560
51112	HFWA – General Manager	\$0	\$4,869	\$4,869
51114	HFWA Acct & Grants Coord	\$0	\$2,414	\$2,414

Variance Explanations

- **2.4.4 Water Leaders Program Scholarship**
 - This variance in this line item is due to two factors, 1. The cost of an individual scholarship increased from \$4,750 to \$5,075, and 2. The budget was anticipating one qualified applicant based on historical precedent, however in this FY there were two that qualified for funding.
- **2.4.7 Watershed Education Program**
 - Our budget considered a single year of funding (\$6,000) for the Telluride Institute's Watershed Education Program, however FY25's contribution was pushed to this year, thus the \$6,000 variance.
- **2.6.2.7 Recruitment**
 - Thought to be a redundant line item, no funding was budgeted for FY26 Recruiting.
- **2.6.3.8 Insurance – General Liability**
 - General rate increase resulted in this overage.
- **2.6.3.10, 2.6.3.11 Cost Basis Adjustments & Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investments**
 - These line items reflect accounting adjustments associated with the valuation of District investments. The amounts represent unrealized gains or losses and do not constitute actual cash expenditures or liabilities to the District. In accordance with District policy, these adjustments do not carry forward as an operating loss for the District.

- **51112, 51114 HFWA General Manager & Acct and Grants Coord**
 - o As advised by the District's auditors, these line items are included to appropriately reflect the potential liability associated with employees' unexpended leave balances. While the amounts may appear as budget overages, they provide a more complete representation of the District's outstanding leave liability.
-

Balance Sheet Notes

Investment Accounts:

- Accounts 104.126 and 104.121 have been zeroed out and closed due to the sale of relevant CDs.
-

Check Detail

No notable entries requiring additional commentary at this time.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Budget vs. Actuals

January - June 2026

INCOME

1 SWCD REVENUE	Actual	Budget	Total Under Budget	% Used
1.1 Property Tax	\$ 1,803,875.38	\$ 1,903,093.00	\$ 99,217.62	94.79%
1.2 Tax Increment Financing Area	\$ (92.41)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,292.41	-7.70%
1.3 Specific Ownership Tax	\$ 74,882.86	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 65,117.14	53.49%
1.4 Interest, PILT & Other Taxes	\$ 20,507.03	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 14,492.97	58.59%
1.5 Other Revenue				
1.5.1 Interest Earned	\$ 91,057.71	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 83,942.29	52.03%
1.5.4 SWCD Event Registration	\$ 9,362.88	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 3,137.12	74.90%
1.5.7 Stream Gaging Reimbursement	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 53,754.00	\$ 48,754.00	9.30%
1.5.8 Water Info Program				
1.5.8.01 WIP Partner Contributions	\$ 37,435.00	\$ 39,885.00	\$ 2,450.00	93.86%
1.5.8.02 WIP SWCD Matching Contribution	\$ 37,435.00	\$ 39,885.00	\$ 2,450.00	93.86%
1.5.8.03 WIP Workshop Registrations	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	0.00%
1.5.8.05 WIP Account Interest	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	0.00%
Total 1.5.8 Water Info Program	\$ 74,870.00	\$ 85,520.00	\$ 10,650.00	87.55%
Total 1.5 Other Revenue	\$ 142,855.59	\$ 326,774.00	\$ 183,918.41	43.72%
1.6 County Treasurer Fees	\$ (53,412.60)	\$ (62,379.00)	\$ (8,966.40)	85.63%
Total 1 SWCD REVENUE	\$ 1,988,615.85	\$ 2,343,688.00	\$ 355,072.15	84.85%
Sales (Stream Gaging Passthrough)	\$ 51,009.36	\$ -	\$ (51,009.36)	
Total Income	\$ 2,039,625.21	\$ 2,343,688.00	\$ 304,062.79	87.03%
Gross Profit	\$ 2,039,625.21	\$ 2,343,688.00	\$ 304,062.79	87.03%

EXPENSES

2 SWCD EXPENDITURES				
2.1 WATER SUPPLY - QUANTITY QUALITY				
2.1.1 SJRBRIIP Water User Committee	\$ 48,460.00	\$ 48,460.00	\$ -	100.00%
2.1.2 Weather Modification	\$ 75,500.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	94.38%
2.1.3 Public Forums, Data Collection				
2.1.3.1 Bonita Peak CAG	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%
2.1.3.2 Center for Snow & Avalanche	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	100.00%
2.1.3.3 Stream Gaging - Federal	\$ 41,929.50	\$ 116,894.00	\$ 74,964.50	35.87%
2.1.3.4 Stream Gaging - Colorado	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 240.00	90.91%
2.1.3.5 Water Quality Studies	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	100.00%
Total 2.1.3 Public Forums, Data Collection	\$ 58,329.50	\$ 138,534.00	\$ 80,204.50	42.10%
2.1.4 Local Financial Support	\$ 212,663.00	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 337,337.00	38.67%
2.1.5 Previously Committed Support	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	0.00%
Total 2.1 WATER SUPPLY - QUANTITY QUALITY	\$ 394,952.50	\$ 846,994.00	\$ 452,041.50	46.63%
2.2 WATER POLICY & LEGISLATION				
2.2.1 Federal Policy/Legislation				
2.2.1.1 Federal Lobbying Fees	\$ 37,731.20	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 12,268.80	75.46%
2.2.1.2 Federal Lobbying Expenses	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	0.00%
Total 2.2.1 Federal Policy/Legislation	\$ 37,731.20	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 17,768.80	67.98%
2.2.2 State Policy/Legislation				
2.2.2.1 State Lobbying Fees	\$ 15,298.24	\$ 22,950.00	\$ 7,651.76	66.66%
2.2.2.2 State Lobbying Expenses	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	0.00%
Total 2.2.2 State Policy/Legislation	\$ 15,298.24	\$ 25,950.00	\$ 10,651.76	58.95%

2.2.3 Dues & Memberships		13,183.50		13,550.00		366.50		97.30%
Total 2.2 WATER POLICY & LEGISLATION	\$	66,212.94	\$	95,000.00		28,787.06		69.70%
2.3 Professional Support								
2.3.1 Legal								
2.3.1.1 Attorney Fees - General Counsel	\$	90,062.50	\$	225,000.00	\$	134,937.50		40.03%
2.3.1.2 Travel Exps - General Counsel	\$	6,616.83	\$	20,000.00	\$	13,383.17		33.08%
2.3.1.3 Litigation - General Counsel	\$	11,481.77	\$	50,000.00	\$	38,518.23		22.96%
2.3.1.5 Attorney Fees - Special Counsel	\$	7,898.00	\$	50,000.00	\$	42,102.00		15.80%
2.3.1.6 Attorney Exps - Special Counsel	\$	-	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00		0.00%
Total 2.3.1 Legal	\$	116,059.10	\$	350,000.00		233,940.90		33.16%
2.3.2 Engineering-Technical Services								
2.3.2.1 Engineering - General	\$	32,845.29	\$	200,000.00	\$	167,154.71		16.42%
2.3.2.3 Engineering - Modeling	\$	1,130.75	\$	50,000.00	\$	48,869.25		2.26%
Total 2.3.2 Engineering-Technical Services	\$	33,976.04	\$	250,000.00		216,023.96		13.59%
2.3.3 Other Technical Services								
2.3.3.1 Technical Support	\$	23,597.09	\$	50,000.00	\$	26,402.91		47.19%
2.3.3.2 CWCB Local Capacity Grant	\$	16,497.15	\$	60,000.00	\$	43,502.85		27.50%
2.3.3.3 CWCB Technical Assistance Grant Match	\$	-	\$	50,000.00	\$	50,000.00		0.00%
Total 2.3.3 Other Technical Services	\$	40,094.24	\$	160,000.00		119,905.76		25.06%
Total 2.3 Professional Support	\$	190,129.38	\$	760,000.00		569,870.62		25.02%
2.4 WATER EDUCATION & OUTREACH								
2.4.1 Event Sponsorships	\$	-	\$	7,500.00	\$	7,500.00		0.00%
2.4.2 SWCD Children's Water Festival	\$	6,933.72	\$	10,000.00	\$	3,066.28		69.34%
2.4.3 SWCD Seminar	\$	29,482.97	\$	37,000.00	\$	7,517.03		79.68%
2.4.4 Water Leaders Pgm Scholarship	\$	10,150.00	\$	4,750.00	\$	(5,400.00)		213.68%
2.4.5 Water Connections Event	\$	-	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00		0.00%
2.4.6 Water Education Colorado	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	-		100.00%
2.4.7 Watershed Education Program	\$	12,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	(6,000.00)		200.00%
5.4.8 Demo CSU Farm/Water Efficiency	\$	-	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00		0.00%
Total 2.4 WATER EDUCATION & OUTREACH	\$	68,566.69	\$	87,750.00		19,183.31		78.14%
2.5 Water Info Program								
Total 2.5 Water Info Program	\$	46,695.36	\$	84,900.00		38,204.64		55.00%
2.6 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION								
2.6.1 Board of Directors								
2.6.1.1 Director Fees	\$	12,300.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	2,700.00		82.00%
2.6.1.2 Director Travel	\$	8,404.10	\$	15,000.00	\$	6,595.90		56.03%
Total 2.6.1 Board of Directors	\$	20,704.10	\$	30,000.00		9,295.90		69.01%
2.6.2 Staffing								
2.6.2.1 Wages - General Manager	\$	85,493.99	\$	149,350.00	\$	63,856.01		57.24%
2.6.2.2 Wages - Programs Manager	\$	5,749.35	\$	72,040.00	\$	66,290.65		7.98%
2.6.2.3 Wages - Overtime, Pgm Coord.	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
2.6.2.4 Wages - Payroll Taxes	\$	10,504.54	\$	25,951.00	\$	15,446.46		40.48%
2.6.2.5 Wages - Retirement Benefit	\$	4,497.90	\$	14,417.00	\$	9,919.10		31.20%
2.6.2.6 Wages - Health & Life Insurance	\$	15,424.98	\$	26,352.00	\$	10,927.02		58.53%
2.6.2.7 Recruitment	\$	6,975.00	\$	-	\$	(6,975.00)		
2.6.2.8 Wages - Acct & Grants Coordinator	\$	42,572.24	\$	66,950.00	\$	24,377.76		63.59%
Total 2.6.2 Staffing	\$	171,218.00	\$	355,060.00		183,842.00		48.22%
2.6.3 Administrative Expenses								
2.6.3.1 Accounting	\$	3,175.81	\$	5,000.00	\$	1,824.19		63.52%
2.6.3.3 Audit	\$	15,000.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	-		100.00%

2.6.3.4 Capital Outlay	\$	-	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00	0.00%
2.6.3.6 SDA Membership	\$	1,237.50	\$	1,650.00	\$	412.50	75.00%
2.6.3.8 Insurance - General Liability	\$	11,471.00	\$	11,000.00	\$	(471.00)	104.28%
2.6.3.9 Legal Notices	\$	-	\$	520.00	\$	520.00	0.00%
2.6.3.91 Meeting Expenses	\$	559.22	\$	5,000.00	\$	4,440.78	11.18%
2.6.3.92 Miscellaneous	\$	130.00	\$	500.00	\$	370.00	26.00%
2.6.3.93 Office Exps	\$	2,138.05	\$	7,000.00	\$	4,861.95	30.54%
2.6.3.95 Postage	\$	338.05	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,161.95	22.54%
2.6.3.97 Registration Fees	\$	-	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00	0.00%
2.6.3.98 Telecommunication	\$	4,794.74	\$	10,000.00	\$	5,205.26	47.95%
2.6.3.99 Staff Training/Development	\$	-	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00	0.00%
Total 2.6.3 Administrative Expenses	\$	38,844.37	\$	74,670.00	\$	35,825.63	52.02%
2.6.3.2 Payroll Department Expenses	\$	1,869.66	\$	3,000.00	\$	1,130.34	62.32%
2.6.4 Staff Travel	\$	5,908.73	\$	25,000.00	\$	19,091.27	23.63%
2.6.5 Rent	\$	22,180.02	\$	35,500.00	\$	13,319.98	62.48%
2.6.6 Digitization Expenses	\$	-	\$	60,000.00	\$	60,000.00	0.00%
Total 2.6 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	\$	260,724.88	\$	583,230.00	\$	322,505.12	44.70%
5.5 TABOR Reserve	\$	-	\$	75,608.00	\$	75,608.00	0.00%
Total 2 SWCD EXPENDITURES	\$	1,027,281.75	\$	2,533,482.00	\$	1,506,200.25	40.55%
2.6.3.10 Cost Basis Adjustments	\$	17.46	\$	-	\$	(17.46)	
2.6.3.11 Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investments	\$	31,560.66	\$	-	\$	(31,560.66)	
51112 HFWA - General Manager	\$	4,869.74	\$	-	\$	(4,869.74)	
51114 HFWA - Acct & Grants Coord	\$	2,414.06	\$	-	\$	(2,414.06)	
Total Expenses	\$	1,027,281.75	\$	2,533,482.00	\$	1,506,200.25	40.55%
Net Operating Income	\$	973,481.54	\$	(189,794.00)	\$	(1,163,275.54)	-512.91%
Net Income	\$	973,481.54	\$	(189,794.00)	\$	(1,163,275.54)	-512.91%

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Balance Sheet
As of Jun 30, 2026

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 SWCD Checking	
100 Bank of Colorado (0.38%)	2,274,641.74
101 First Southwest Bank	5,000.00
Total for 1000 SWCD Checking	\$2,279,641.74
1001 SWCD Certificates of Deposit	\$0.00
10012 First SW Bank - 24 m	252,503.40
10013 First SW Bank - 12 m	252,503.26
104 LPL Financial, Peaks Investment	\$1,899.00
104.106 Peaks Cash Equivalent	68,128.25
104.122 Morgan Stanley Feb 27 4.45%	245,700.94
104.125 Fed HOME Loan Bond 4.09%	492,807.00
104.127 Wells Fargo Aug 26 4.00%	239,975.04
104.128 Fed HOME Loan Bond Sep 28 4.00%	496,019.50
104.129 Fed Natl Mtg Note Oct 29 4.00%	394,693.60
104.130 Fed HOME Loan Bond Feb 31 4.00%	539,794.20
104.131 Morgan Stanley Feb 28 3.85	243,916.12
104.140 Northeast Bank Nov 26 3.60%	242,626.50
104.142 American Coml B&T Nov 27 3.55%	243,294.80
Total for 104 LPL Financial, Peaks Investment	\$3,208,854.95
Total for 1001 SWCD Certificates of Deposit	\$3,713,861.61
1002 Investments	
105 COLOTRUST Plus (4.3% Daily)	1,195,589.63
Total for 1002 Investments	\$1,195,589.63
1004 Water Info Program Checking	134,398.31
102 First SW Bank - 24m	7,502.00
103 First SW Bank - 12m	7,502.00
Total for Bank Accounts	\$7,338,495.29
Accounts Receivable	
11000 Accounts Receivable	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	
108 Cash W/County Treasurer	0.00
110 Prepaid Expenses	0.00
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00
125 Due From WIP	-190.00
126 Accounts Rec.-Stream Gaging	0.00
128 Water Information Receivable	-500.00
130 Account's Receivable - Other	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	-\$690.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Balance Sheet
As of Jun 30, 2026

	Total
Total for Current Assets	\$7,337,805.29
Fixed Assets	
137 Land - Red Mountain SNOTEL Site	62,000.00
140 Equipment (Office Contents)	36,365.75
142 Office Improvements	14,905.00
145 Accumulated Depreciation	-47,922.10
Total for Fixed Assets	\$65,348.65
Other Assets	
134 Property Tax Receivable	1,474,015.95
150 Right of Use Asset	124,859.00
155 Accumulated Amortization - ROU	-51,092.00
Total for Other Assets	\$1,547,782.95
Total for Assets	\$8,950,936.89
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 *Accounts Payable	248,173.74
Total for Accounts Payable	\$248,173.74
Credit Cards	
109 SWCD Bank of Colorado Wolff	0.00
1091 Bill.com Credit Card	-1,568.42
Total for Credit Cards	-\$1,568.42
Other Current Liabilities	
200 Accounts Payable	87,048.05
202 Accounts Payable/WIP	-1,759.11
204 Accrued Liabilities SJRBRIP	0.00
205 Accrued Wages	733.00
208 WIP - Due to SWCD	0.00
209 Due To WIP	0.00
211 Deferred Property Tax	1,474,015.95
212 Due To - Other	0.00
215 FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	605.14
216 State W/H Tax Payable	0.00
217 State Unemployment Tax	62.00
220 Accrued Payroll Liability	0.00
221 457 Withholding	414.87
223 Compensated Absences	11,340.27
Payroll Liabilities	\$0.00
Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	0.01
Total for Payroll Liabilities	\$0.01
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$1,572,460.18

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Balance Sheet
As of Jun 30, 2026

	Total
Total for Current Liabilities	\$1,819,065.50
Long-term Liabilities	
222 Accrued PTO to Date	4,428.70
250 Right of Use Liability	50,048.00
251 Right of Use Liability - ST	25,148.00
Total for Long-term Liabilities	\$79,624.70
Total for Liabilities	\$1,898,690.20
Equity	
3000 Nonspendable	
305 Prepays	0.00
Total for 3000 Nonspendable	\$0.00
30000 Opening Bal Equity	0.00
3010 Restricted for Emergencies	
1.7.1 Emergency - TABOR	42,400.00
Total for 3010 Restricted for Emergencies	\$42,400.00
3020 Committed	
340 Grants to be Paid	30,000.00
Total for 3020 Committed	\$30,000.00
3030 Assigned	
350 SWCD Water Defense	3,339,688.00
351 SWCD Water Development	2,226,458.00
352 Water Information Program	145,242.00
Total for 3030 Assigned	\$5,711,388.00
3040 Unassigned	
300 Unassigned	-1,175,110.25
Total for 3040 Unassigned	-\$1,175,110.25
3050 Net Position - Reconciliation	
330 Investment in Fixed Assets	120,520.75
335 Accumulated Depr-Contra eq.	-45,310.10
353 Long-term Liabilities	-13,406.54
Total for 3050 Net Position - Reconciliation	\$61,804.11
315 Fund Balance - Designated	0.00
320 Retained Earnings	1,657,944.67
Net Income	723,820.16
Total for Equity	\$7,052,246.69
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$8,950,936.89

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
100 Bank of Colorado (0.38%)						
01/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1202	CO Employer Benefit Trust	Staff Health Insurance - January 2026	Reconciled	-2,037.54
01/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1202	CO Employer Benefit Trust			-2,037.54
01/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1201	Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2025 November Opposition	Reconciled	-5,558.25
01/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1201	Wright Water Engineers			-5,558.25
01/02/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	2026 February Bill.com Payment	Reconciled	-1,558.49
01/02/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	2026 February Bill.com Payment	Uncleared	-1,558.49
01/07/2026	Expense		Bill.com	January 2026 Bill.com Billing	Reconciled	-342.83
01/07/2026	Expense		Bill.com	January 2026 Bill.com Billing		342.83
01/08/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1203	Colorado Legislative Strategies	January 2026 - Vorthmann	Reconciled	-1,912.28
01/08/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1203	Colorado Legislative Strategies			-1,912.28
01/08/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2025/26 Payroll - Payroll Processing	Reconciled	-278.10
01/08/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2025/26 Payroll - Payroll Processing	Uncleared	-278.10
01/08/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2025/26 Payroll - Direct Deposit	Reconciled	-5,073.31
01/08/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2025/26 Payroll - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,073.31
01/08/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2025/26 Payroll - Taxes	Reconciled	-2,389.70
01/08/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2025/26 Payroll - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,389.70
01/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		ImageNet Consulting	Machine Service Invoice - Q4 2025	Reconciled	-707.81
01/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		ImageNet Consulting			-707.81
01/13/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2025/26 Payroll 457b Payment	Reconciled	-1,442.31
01/13/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2025/26 Payroll 457b Payment	Uncleared	-1,030.10
01/13/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2025/26 Payroll 457b Payment	Uncleared	-412.21
01/21/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Van Vurst Law, LLC	Van Vurst Legal Services - December 2025	Reconciled	- 11,731.50
01/21/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Van Vurst Law, LLC			- 11,731.50
01/22/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Harris Water Engineering, Inc	Harris Water Engineering Services - December 2025	Reconciled	-3,630.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
01/22/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Harris Water Engineering, Inc			-3,630.00
01/22/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 1 - Taxes	Reconciled	-3,089.94
01/22/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 1 - Taxes	Uncleared	-3,089.94
01/22/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 1 - Direct Deposits	Reconciled	-7,298.10
01/22/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 1 - Direct Deposits	Uncleared	-7,298.10
01/22/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 1 - Payroll Processing	Reconciled	-88.93
01/22/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 1 - Payroll Processing	Uncleared	-88.93
01/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Colorado Water Congress	Water Congress 2026 and Supplemental Recovery Program Funding	Reconciled	-2,050.00
01/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Colorado Water Congress			-2,050.00
01/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Colorado Water Congress	Water Congress 2026 Dues	Reconciled	-6,126.00
01/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Colorado Water Congress			-6,126.00
01/26/2026	Expense			2026 Payroll 1 457b Payment	Reconciled	-1,703.85
01/26/2026	Expense			2026 Payroll 1 457b Payment	Uncleared	-1,160.87
01/26/2026	Expense			2026 Payroll 1 457b Payment		542.98
01/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	Verizon January 2026 Payment	Reconciled	-142.92
01/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	Verizon January 2026 Payment		142.92
01/28/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Western Weather Consultants	Cloud Seeding 2 and 3 (2025)	Reconciled	-44,547.00
01/28/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Western Weather Consultants			-44,547.00
01/29/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Hydros Consulting, Inc.	Colorado River System Investigations - December 2025	Reconciled	-267.63
01/29/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Hydros Consulting, Inc.			-267.63
02/02/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum Feb 2026	Reconciled	-200.00
02/02/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum Feb 2026		200.00
02/02/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	2026 March Bill.com Payment	Reconciled	-5,358.83
02/02/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	2026 March Bill.com Payment	Uncleared	-5,358.83
02/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		CO Employer Benefit Trust		Reconciled	-2,037.54
02/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		CO Employer Benefit Trust			-2,037.54

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
02/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		The West Building		Reconciled	-2,825.04
02/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		The West Building			-2,825.04
02/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Steve Wolff - V	Jan-26 Wolff Travel Reimbursements	Reconciled	-1,588.49
02/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Steve Wolff - V			-1,588.49
02/05/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2025 December Opposition	Reconciled	-4,035.75
02/05/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Wright Water Engineers			-4,035.75
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Direct Deposit A	Reconciled	-4,153.71
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Direct Deposit A	Uncleared	-4,153.71
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Direct Deposit B	Reconciled	-3,144.41
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Direct Deposit A	Uncleared	-3,144.41
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Taxes A	Reconciled	-1,342.55
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Taxes A	Uncleared	-1,342.55
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Taxes B	Reconciled	-1,747.35
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Taxes B	Uncleared	-1,747.35
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Payroll Processing	Reconciled	-97.18
02/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 2 - Payroll Processing	Uncleared	-97.18
02/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1205	Center for Snow & Avalanche Studies	2026 CODOS Program Support	Reconciled	-7,000.00
02/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1205	Center for Snow & Avalanche Studies			-7,000.00
02/09/2026	Expense		Bill.com	February 2026 Bill.com Billing	Reconciled	-398.26
02/09/2026	Expense		Bill.com	February 2026 Bill.com Billing		398.26
02/10/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 2 457b Payment	Reconciled	-1,703.85
02/10/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 2 457b Payment	Uncleared	-1,160.87
02/10/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 2 457b Payment		542.98
02/17/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1206	Four Corners Mapping & GIS	Maps for San Juan Basin Flooding Meeting	Reconciled	-548.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
02/17/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1206	Four Corners Mapping & GIS			-548.00
02/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 3 - Direct Deposit	Reconciled	-6,811.67
02/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 3 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-6,811.67
02/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 3 - Taxes	Reconciled	-2,445.54
02/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 3 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,445.54
02/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 3 - Payroll Processing	Reconciled	-315.43
02/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 3 - Payroll Processing	Uncleared	-315.43
02/19/2026	Expense		Intuit	Intuit Credit Card Processing Fee - Covered by payment from George Gavrielides	Reconciled	-9.38
02/19/2026	Expense		Intuit	Intuit Credit Card Processing Fee - Covered by payment from George Gavrielides		-9.38
02/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1208	Colorado Legislative Strategies	February 2026 - Vorthmann	Reconciled	-1,912.28
02/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1208	Colorado Legislative Strategies			-1,912.28
02/24/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 3 457b Payments	Reconciled	-1,583.47
02/24/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 3 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,160.87
02/24/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 3 457b Payments		422.60
02/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1211	Christopher Treese	SWCD GM Recruitment	Reconciled	-1,050.00
02/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1211	Christopher Treese			-1,050.00
02/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1210	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	Harris Water Engineering Services - January 2026	Reconciled	-3,965.00
02/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1210	Harris Water Engineering, Inc			-3,965.00
02/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1209	Van Vurst Law, LLC	Van Vurst Legal Services - January 2025	Reconciled	-
02/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1209	Van Vurst Law, LLC			18,219.27
02/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	March 2026 Verizon Payment	Reconciled	-384.07
02/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	March 2026 Verizon Payment		384.07
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1216	David Guilliams	SWCD Director Eligible Expenses Reimbursement	Reconciled	-307.30
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1216	David Guilliams			-307.30

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1213	Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2025 January Compact Modeling Review	Reconciled	-467.00
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1213	Wright Water Engineers			-467.00
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1214	Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2025 January Opposition	Reconciled	-5,814.75
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1214	Wright Water Engineers			-5,814.75
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1215	Moxiecran Media	WIP 2025 Educational Video Development	Reconciled	-130.00
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1215	Moxiecran Media			-130.00
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1212	CO Employer Benefit Trust	Staff Health Insurance - March 2026	Reconciled	-2,037.54
03/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1212	CO Employer Benefit Trust			-2,037.54
03/02/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWAL Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWALLET - DIVVYP	Reconciled	-3,137.44
03/02/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWAL Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWALLET - DIVVYP	Uncleared	-3,137.44
03/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1217	The West Building	Rent - March 2026	Reconciled	-2,760.77
03/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1217	The West Building			-2,760.77
03/03/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum Mar 2026	Reconciled	-200.00
03/03/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum Mar 2026		200.00
03/05/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1218	J R Ford	February Director Fees - Ford	Reconciled	-200.00
03/05/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1218	J R Ford			-200.00
03/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 4 - Taxes	Reconciled	-2,413.33
03/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 4 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.33
03/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 4 - Direct Deposit	Reconciled	-5,528.87
03/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 4 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.87
03/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 4 - Payroll Expenses	Reconciled	-100.10
03/05/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 4 - Payroll Expenses	Uncleared	-100.10
03/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1219	Colorado Legislative Strategies	March 2026 - Vorthmann	Reconciled	-1,912.28
03/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1219	Colorado Legislative Strategies			-1,912.28

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
03/09/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 4 457b Payments	Reconciled	-1,442.31
03/09/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 4 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
03/09/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 4 457b Payments		412.21
03/09/2026	Expense		Bill.com	2026 March Bill.com Payment	Reconciled	-400.25
03/09/2026	Expense		Bill.com	2026 March Bill.com Payment		400.25
03/12/2026	Check		Registrations	Refund for overpayment on event registration	Reconciled	-13.60
03/12/2026	Check		Registrations	Refund for overpayment on event registration		-13.60
03/16/2026	Check		Registrations	Refund for overpayment on event registration	Reconciled	-4.22
03/16/2026	Check		Registrations	Refund for overpayment on event registration		-4.22
03/17/2026	Expense		San Juan County	San Juan February 2026 Mill	Reconciled	-350.71
03/17/2026	Expense		San Juan County	San Juan February 2026 Mill		-350.71
03/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 5 - Direct Deposit	Reconciled	-5,528.86
03/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 5 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.86
03/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 5 - Taxes	Reconciled	-2,413.35
03/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 5 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.35
03/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 5 - Payroll Expenses	Reconciled	-91.42
03/19/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 5 - Payroll Expenses	Uncleared	-91.42
03/20/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1221	Charles Smith	2026 Jan-Feb Meeting and Travel Director Fees - Smith	Reconciled	-1,690.29
03/20/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1221	Charles Smith			-1,690.29
03/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Mary Laurie Lundquist Collins		Reconciled	-
03/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Mary Laurie Lundquist Collins			10,000.00
03/24/2026	Check		Registrations	Snowball Ditch Grant Disbursement	Reconciled	-4,465.00
03/24/2026	Check		Registrations	Snowball Ditch Grant Disbursement		4,465.00
03/24/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 5 457b Payments	Reconciled	-1,442.31
03/24/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 5 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
03/24/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 5 457b Payments		412.21
03/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1222	Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.	Christine Arbogast First Quarter 2026	Reconciled	-
						12,500.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
03/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1222	Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.			-
						12,500.00
03/25/2026	Check		Registrations	Refund for overcharge for SWCD Seminar	Reconciled	-8.16
03/25/2026	Check		Registrations	Refund for overcharge for SWCD Seminar		-8.16
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1226	Russell Hinger	SWCD Director Eligible Expenses Reimbursement	Reconciled	-700.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1226	Russell Hinger			-700.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1225	Hydros Consulting, Inc.	Colorado River System Investigations - Jan-Feb 2026	Reconciled	-663.75
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1225	Hydros Consulting, Inc.			-663.75
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1227	Russell Hinger	SWCD Director Eligible Expenses Reimbursement - Hinger March	Reconciled	-100.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1227	Russell Hinger			-100.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1224	Amy Novak Huff	SWCD Director Eligible Expenses Reimbursement - Huff March	Reconciled	-400.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1224	Amy Novak Huff			-400.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1223	Abraham Davis Ditch Company	2026 Grant Disbursement - ADDC	Reconciled	-
						50,000.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1223	Abraham Davis Ditch Company			-
						50,000.00
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1228	Steve Wolff - V	Mar-26 Wolff Travel Reimbursements	Reconciled	-468.28
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1228	Steve Wolff - V			-468.28
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1229	The West Building	Rent - April 2026	Reconciled	-2,813.38
03/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1229	The West Building			-2,813.38
03/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	Verizon April 2026	Reconciled	-179.87
03/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	Verizon April 2026		179.87
03/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1230	CO Employer Benefit Trust	Staff Health Insurance - April 2026	Reconciled	-2,037.54
03/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1230	CO Employer Benefit Trust			-2,037.54
03/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1231	David Guilliams	SWCD Director Eligible Expenses Reimbursement - Guilliams Jan-Mar	Reconciled	-200.00
03/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1231	David Guilliams			-200.00
03/31/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum April 2026	Reconciled	-200.00
03/31/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum April 2026		200.00
04/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1234	Mountain Studies Institute	MSI 2026 Grant Disbursement	Cleared	-
						10,000.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
04/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1234	Mountain Studies Institute			- 10,000.00
04/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1233	Piedra Falls Ditch Company	Piedra Falls Ditch Co 2026 Grant Disbursement	Cleared	- 50,000.00
04/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1233	Piedra Falls Ditch Company			- 50,000.00
04/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1232	Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2026 February Opposition	Cleared	-4,401.00
04/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1232	Wright Water Engineers			-4,401.00
04/01/2026	Expense			SWCD 2026 Seminar Baird Refund	Cleared	-62.72
04/01/2026	Expense			SWCD 2026 Seminar Baird Refund		-62.72
04/01/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWAL Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWALLET - DIVVYP	Cleared	-241.79
04/01/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWAL Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWALLET - DIVVYP	Uncleared	-241.79
04/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1235	Mary Laurie Lundquist Collins	2026 Grant Disbursement - Telluride Institute (25)	Cleared	-6,000.00
04/02/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1235	Mary Laurie Lundquist Collins			-6,000.00
04/02/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 6 - Taxes	Cleared	-2,413.33
04/02/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 6 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.33
04/02/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 6 - Direct Deposit	Cleared	-5,528.86
04/02/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 6 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.86
04/02/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 6 - Payroll Expenses	Cleared	-172.57
04/02/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 6 - Payroll Expenses	Uncleared	-172.57
04/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1237	ImageNet Consulting	Machine Usage Invoice - Q1 2026	Cleared	-635.18
04/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1237	ImageNet Consulting			-635.18
04/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1236	San Juan River Ranch	2026 Grant Disbursement - SJRR	Cleared	- 18,635.00
04/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1236	San Juan River Ranch			- 18,635.00
04/06/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 6 457b Payments	Cleared	-1,442.31
04/06/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 6 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
04/06/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 6 457b Payments		412.21

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
04/07/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1239	Van Vurst Law, LLC	Van Vurst Legal Services - February 2026	Cleared	- 17,977.00
04/07/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1239	Van Vurst Law, LLC			- 17,977.00
04/07/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1240	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.	RWO Attorney Fees March 2026	Cleared	-511.00
04/07/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1240	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.			-511.00
04/07/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1238	Heather Hansman	Keynote Speaker Expenses - SWCD Water Seminar 2026	Cleared	-500.00
04/07/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1238	Heather Hansman			-500.00
04/07/2026	Expense		Bill.com	2026 April Bill.com Payment	Cleared	-402.02
04/07/2026	Expense		Bill.com	2026 April Bill.com Payment		402.02
04/08/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1241	Paul Steven Garchar	Director Reimbursements March 2025-2026	Cleared	-1,305.00
04/08/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1241	Paul Steven Garchar			-1,305.00
04/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1243	Gerald Koppenhafer	Director Reimbursements June 2025 to March 2026	Cleared	-1,236.18
04/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1243	Gerald Koppenhafer			-1,236.18
04/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1242	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	Harris Water Engineering Services - February 2026	Cleared	-3,217.50
04/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1242	Harris Water Engineering, Inc			-3,217.50
04/10/2026	Check	1156	Mesa Ditch Company	Mesa Ditch Company 2026 Grant Disbursement	Cleared	-1,315.00
04/10/2026	Check	1156	Mesa Ditch Company	Mesa Ditch Company 2026 Grant Disbursement		1,315.00
04/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1163	Express Employment	Temp Services - Water Seminar	Cleared	-157.75
04/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1163	Express Employment			-157.75
04/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1164	Sky Ute Casino Resort	SWCD Seminar Hotel and Room Fee	Cleared	- 26,324.80
04/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1164	Sky Ute Casino Resort			- 26,324.80
04/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1157	Christopher Treese	SWCD GM Recruitment - March	Cleared	-1,800.00
04/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1157	Christopher Treese			-1,800.00
04/15/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Jeff Derry		Cleared	-102.23
04/15/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Jeff Derry			-102.23
04/15/2026	Expense		US Geological Survey	USGS Stream Gaging Q1 Payment	Cleared	- 27,276.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
04/15/2026	Expense		US Geological Survey	USGS Stream Gaging Q1 Payment		27,276.00
04/16/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 7 - Direct Deposit	Cleared	-5,528.88
04/16/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 7 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.88
04/16/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 7 - Taxes	Cleared	-2,413.31
04/16/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 7 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.31
04/16/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 7 - Payroll Processing	Cleared	-91.42
04/16/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 7 - Payroll Processing	Uncleared	-91.42
04/20/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 7 457b Payments	Cleared	-1,442.31
04/20/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 7 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
04/20/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 7 457b Payments		412.21
04/21/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1171	Fresh off the Press, LLC	Printing Services - SWCD Water Seminar 2026	Cleared	-18.00
04/21/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1171	Fresh off the Press, LLC			-18.00
04/21/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1172	Fresh off the Press, LLC	Printing Services - SWCD Water Seminar 2026	Cleared	-1,209.69
04/21/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1172	Fresh off the Press, LLC			-1,209.69
04/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1184	Colorado Legislative Strategies	April 2026 - Vorthmann	Cleared	-1,912.28
04/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1184	Colorado Legislative Strategies			-1,912.28
04/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1170	Eagle Sound	Sound Production Inv 1 - Southwestern Water Seminar 2026	Cleared	-587.50
04/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1170	Eagle Sound			-587.50
04/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Colorado Legislative Strategies		Cleared	-1,912.28
04/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Colorado Legislative Strategies			-1,912.28
04/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	Verizon May 2026	Cleared	-179.19
04/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	Verizon May 2026		179.19
04/29/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1169	Christopher Treese	SWCD GM Recruitment - February	Cleared	-1,050.00
04/29/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1169	Christopher Treese			-1,050.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
04/30/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1174	J R Ford	GM Interview Reimbursement - Ford	Cleared	-200.00
04/30/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1174	J R Ford			-200.00
04/30/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1175	Kenny Heldman	4/10/25, 6/18/25, and 8/28/25 Board Meeting Eligible Expenses - Heldman	Cleared	-1,401.50
04/30/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1175	Kenny Heldman			-1,401.50
04/30/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 8 - Direct Deposit	Cleared	-5,528.87
04/30/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 8 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.87
04/30/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 8 - Taxes	Cleared	-2,413.33
04/30/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 8 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.33
04/30/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 8 - Payroll Fees	Cleared	-104.62
04/30/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 8 - Payroll Fees	Uncleared	-104.62
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		CO Employer Benefit Trust		Cleared	-2,037.54
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		CO Employer Benefit Trust			-2,037.54
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1177	Russell Hinger	Q1 2026 Director Reimbursement - Hinger	Cleared	-600.00
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1177	Russell Hinger			-600.00
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1176	Paul Steven Garchar	Q1 Director Reimbursement - Garchar	Cleared	-839.93
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1176	Paul Steven Garchar			-839.93
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1173	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	CWCB Partnership 2025 Q4	Cleared	-6,165.90
05/01/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1173	Harris Water Engineering, Inc			-6,165.90
05/01/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum May 2026	Cleared	-200.00
05/01/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	Spectrum May 2026		200.00
05/01/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWAL Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWALLET - DIVVYP	Cleared	-2,163.98
05/01/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWAL Divvy Cred EWALLET - DIVVYP EWALLET - DIVVYP	Uncleared	-2,163.98
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1178	The West Building	Rent - May 2026	Cleared	-2,744.43
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1178	The West Building			-2,744.43

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1182	Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2026 March Opposition	Cleared	-1,840.50
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1182	Wright Water Engineers			-1,840.50
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1179	David Guilliams	Q1 2026 Director Reimbursements - Guilliams	Cleared	-400.00
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1179	David Guilliams			-400.00
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1180	Jenny Russell	Q1 2026 Director Reimbursements - Russell	Cleared	-700.00
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1180	Jenny Russell			-700.00
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1181	Mary Laurie Lundquist Collins	2026 Grant Disbursement - Telluride Institute (26)	Cleared	-6,000.00
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1181	Mary Laurie Lundquist Collins			-6,000.00
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1183	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.	RWO Attorney Fees April 2026	Cleared	-839.50
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1183	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.			-839.50
05/06/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 8 457b Payments	Cleared	-1,442.31
05/06/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 8 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
05/06/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 8 457b Payments		412.21
05/07/2026	Expense		Bill.com	BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01 BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01B5SUIAXF15G4W STMT 260	Cleared	-413.37
05/07/2026	Expense		Bill.com	BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01 BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01B5SUIAXF15G4W STMT 260		413.37
05/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1185	Christopher Treese	April GM Search Assistance	Cleared	-2,175.00
05/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1185	Christopher Treese			-2,175.00
05/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1186	DARCA	2026 Dues	Cleared	-500.00
05/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1186	DARCA			-500.00
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1194	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	Harris Water Engineering Services - March 2026	Cleared	-1,580.29
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1194	Harris Water Engineering, Inc			-1,580.29
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1192	Van Vurst Law, LLC	Van Vurst Legal Services - March 2026	Cleared	- 11,659.37
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1192	Van Vurst Law, LLC			- 11,659.37

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1190	Gerald Koppenhafer	2026 Q1 Koppenhafer Reimbursement	Cleared	-500.00
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1190	Gerald Koppenhafer			-500.00
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1188	Mountain Graphics	Children's Water Fest Signs 2026	Cleared	-708.00
05/12/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1188	Mountain Graphics			-708.00
05/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1193	Wright-Ingraham Institute	2026 Grant Reimbursement - WII	Cleared	- 13,027.00
05/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1193	Wright-Ingraham Institute			- 13,027.00
05/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1189	Elaine Chick Consulting	WIP FtF Reimbursement	Cleared	-639.41
05/13/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1189	Elaine Chick Consulting			-639.41
05/14/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 9 - Taxes	Cleared	-2,413.35
05/14/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 9 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.35
05/14/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 9 - Direct Deposit	Cleared	-5,528.86
05/14/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 9 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.86
05/14/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 9 - Payroll Fees	Cleared	-91.42
05/14/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 9 - Payroll Fees	Uncleared	-91.42
05/15/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1187	Charles Smith	Q1 2026 Director Reimbursement - Smith	Cleared	-1,215.18
05/15/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1187	Charles Smith			-1,215.18
05/19/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1195	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	Harris Water Engineering Services - April 2026	Cleared	-2,795.00
05/19/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1195	Harris Water Engineering, Inc			-2,795.00
05/19/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 9 457b Payments	Cleared	-1,442.31
05/19/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 9 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
05/19/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 9 457b Payments		412.21
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Four Mile Ditch Association		Cleared	- 15,775.00
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Four Mile Ditch Association			- 15,775.00

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1198	Water Education Colorado	2026 Water Leaders Tuition Fees	Cleared	- 10,150.00
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1198	Water Education Colorado			- 10,150.00
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1196	Fresh Ideas	Catering for 2026 Children's Water Fest	Cleared	-1,264.45
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1196	Fresh Ideas			-1,264.45
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1197	Fresh Ideas	Catering for 2026 Children's Water Fest	Cleared	-693.70
05/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1197	Fresh Ideas			-693.70
05/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230 VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230034700001	Cleared	-379.34
05/27/2026	Expense		Verizon	VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230 VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230034700001		379.34
05/28/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 10 - Payroll Fees	Cleared	-91.42
05/28/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 10 - Payroll Fees	Uncleared	-91.42
05/28/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 10 - Direct Deposit	Cleared	-5,528.86
05/28/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 10 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.86
05/28/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 10 - Taxes	Cleared	-2,413.35
05/28/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 10 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.35
05/28/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 10 457b Payments	Cleared	-1,442.31
05/28/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 10 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
05/28/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 10 457b Payments		412.21
06/01/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	EWALLET - DIVVYP Divvy Cred ES4C EWALLET - DIVVYP Divvy Cred ES4CUBX9CN0ZOM6	Cleared	-4,346.27
06/01/2026	Credit Card Payment		Bill.com	EWALLET - DIVVYP Divvy Cred ES4C EWALLET - DIVVYP Divvy Cred ES4CUBX9CN0ZOM6	Uncleared	-4,346.27
06/02/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	SPECTRUM SPECTRUM 2362080	Cleared	-200.00
06/02/2026	Expense		Charter Spectrum	SPECTRUM SPECTRUM 2362080		200.00
06/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1199	The West Building	Rent - June 2026	Cleared	-2,802.79
06/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1199	The West Building			-2,802.79
06/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1200	Colorado Legislative Strategies	June 2026 - Vorthmann	Cleared	-1,912.28

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
06/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1200	Colorado Legislative Strategies			-1,912.28
06/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1202	Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.	Christine Arbogast Q3 2026	Cleared	- 12,731.20
06/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1202	Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.			- 12,731.20
06/05/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1201	Van Vurst Law, LLC	Van Vurst Legal Services - April2026	Cleared	- 17,270.00
06/05/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1201	Van Vurst Law, LLC			- 17,270.00
06/09/2026	Expense		Bill.com	BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01 BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01B5QQVYUB15U73 STMT 260	Cleared	-283.74
06/09/2026	Expense		Bill.com	BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01 BILLING BILL.COM LLC BILL.COM 01B5QQVYUB15U73 STMT 260		283.74
06/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1204	Water Education Colorado	2026 WECO Annual Sponsorship	Cleared	- 10,000.00
06/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1204	Water Education Colorado			- 10,000.00
06/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1203	Preston Benson Videography	SWCD 2026 Seminar Videography	Cleared	-2,275.00
06/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1203	Preston Benson Videography			-2,275.00
06/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1205	Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2026 April Opposition	Cleared	-2,722.50
06/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1205	Wright Water Engineers			-2,722.50
06/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1207	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.	RWO Attorney Fees May 2026	Cleared	-2,044.00
06/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1207	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.			-2,044.00
06/11/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 11 - Taxes	Cleared	-2,413.31
06/11/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 11 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,413.31
06/11/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 11 - Direct Deposit	Cleared	-5,528.88
06/11/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 11 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-5,528.88
06/11/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 11 - Payroll Fees	Cleared	-100.22
06/11/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 11 - Payroll Fees	Uncleared	-100.22
06/15/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1208	CO Employer Benefit Trust	Staff Health Insurance - June 2026	Cleared	-2,018.30
06/15/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1208	CO Employer Benefit Trust			-2,018.30

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
06/16/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 11 457b Payments	Cleared	-1,442.31
06/16/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 11 457b Payments	Uncleared	-1,030.10
06/16/2026	Expense		Lincoln Financial Group	2026 Payroll 11 457b Payments		412.21
06/18/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1209	Van Vurst Law, LLC	Van Vurst Legal Services - May 2026	Cleared	-
						16,995.00
06/18/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1209	Van Vurst Law, LLC			-
						16,995.00
06/22/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1211	Haynie & Company	2025 Auditing Fees	Cleared	-
						11,250.00
06/22/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1211	Haynie & Company			-
						11,250.00
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1214	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	Harris Water Engineering Services - May 2026	Cleared	-2,535.00
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1214	Harris Water Engineering, Inc			-2,535.00
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1213	CO Employer Benefit Trust	Staff Health Insurance - July 2026	Cleared	-2,027.92
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1213	CO Employer Benefit Trust			-2,027.92
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1216	Wright Water Engineers	WWE 2026 May Opposition	Cleared	-1,547.25
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1216	Wright Water Engineers			-1,547.25
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1212	ImageNet Consulting	Machine Usage Invoice - Q2 2026	Cleared	-649.88
06/25/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1212	ImageNet Consulting			-649.88
06/25/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 12 - Direct Deposit	Cleared	-6,407.96
06/25/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 12 - Direct Deposit	Uncleared	-6,407.96
06/25/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 12 - Taxes	Cleared	-2,560.89
06/25/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 12 - Taxes	Uncleared	-2,560.89
06/25/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 12 - Payroll Fees	Cleared	-92.95
06/25/2026	Expense		The Payroll Department, Inc	2026 Payroll 12 - Payroll Fees	Uncleared	-92.95
06/29/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1217	The West Building	Rent - July 2026	Cleared	-2,737.81
06/29/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	1217	The West Building			-2,737.81

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
06/29/2026	Expense		Verizon	VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230 VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230034700001	Cleared	-179.35
06/29/2026	Expense		Verizon	VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230 VERIZON WIRELESS PAYMENTS 054230034700001		179.35
1004 Water Info Program Checking						
01/05/2026	Expense		GOOGLE WORKSPACE	WIP Google Workspace December 2025	Reconciled	-16.80
01/05/2026	Expense		GOOGLE WORKSPACE	WIP Google Workspace December 2025	Uncleared	-16.80
01/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	WIP Contract Coordination - December 2025	Reconciled	-4,300.00
01/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-4,300.00
01/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Streamline	2026 Website Hosting Fee	Reconciled	-2,280.00
01/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Streamline			-2,280.00
02/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting		Reconciled	-1,492.85
02/03/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-1,492.85
02/05/2026	Expense		Google	February 2026 Google Workspace	Reconciled	-16.80
02/05/2026	Expense		Google	February 2026 Google Workspace		16.80
02/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	WIP Reimbursed Expenses - Jan 2026	Reconciled	-1,397.78
02/10/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-1,397.78
02/19/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	WIP Contract Coordination - Jan 2026	Reconciled	-6,700.00
02/19/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-6,700.00
03/05/2026	Expense		Google	March 2026 Google Workspace	Reconciled	-16.80
03/05/2026	Expense		Google	March 2026 Google Workspace		16.80
03/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	WIP Reimbursed Expenses - Feb 2026	Reconciled	-7,000.00
03/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-7,000.00
04/06/2026	Expense		Google	April 2026 WIP Google Workspace	Cleared	-16.80
04/06/2026	Expense		Google	April 2026 WIP Google Workspace		16.80
04/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	WIP Contract Coordination - March 2026	Cleared	-7,200.00
04/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-7,200.00
05/05/2026	Expense		Google	May 2026 WIP Google Workspace	Cleared	-16.80

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail Report
January-June, 2026

Transaction date	Transaction type	Num	Name	Description	Cleared	Amount
05/05/2026	Expense		Google	May 2026 WIP Google Workspace		16.80
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	WIP Contract Coordination - April 2026	Cleared	-6,700.00
05/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-6,700.00
06/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	May WIP Contract Coordination	Cleared	-6,700.00
06/04/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-6,700.00
06/05/2026	Expense		Google	GOOGLE PURCHASE US004C9PE6	Cleared	-16.80
06/05/2026	Expense		Google	GOOGLE PURCHASE US004C9PE6		16.80
06/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	2026 WIP Reimbursement - February	Cleared	-110.45
06/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-110.45
06/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	2026 WIP Reimbursement - March	Cleared	-397.63
06/09/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-397.63
06/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	2026 WIP Reimbursement - April	Cleared	-144.76
06/11/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-144.76
06/17/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	May Water Fest Reim	Cleared	-243.36
06/17/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-243.36
06/17/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting	F2F and May Reim	Cleared	-1,231.21
06/17/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		Elaine Chick Consulting			-1,231.21



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Steve Wolff faithfully served as General Manager for the Southwestern Water Conservation District for 5 years, and

Whereas, Mr. Wolff gave generously dedicated his time and expertise in addressing matters important to the District; and

Whereas, Mr. Wolff demonstrated exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to the performance of his professional responsibilities, consistently addressing complex challenges with integrity, sound judgment, and innovative problem-solving.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The Board of Directors of the Southwestern Water Conservation District at its August 2026 Regular Board meeting by this Resolution, expresses unanimous appreciation to Steve Wolff for his services as the Southwestern Water Conservation District General Manager.

CERTIFICATE

I, _____, President of the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Water Conservation District, do hereby certify that the above and forgoing action was taken by the Board of Directors at its August meeting on the 26th day of August, 2026.

President

2026 Legislative Report - August

General Session Review

The Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee (WRARC) met on June 25. This is the only meeting scheduled for the committee during the interim, due to all interim committees being cancelled this year.

The committee received updates on the following topics:

- Update on the Farm Bill
- Report on the Republican River Economic Study
- Future of Severance Tax Task Force Report
- Colorado's Interruptible Water Supply Statutes
- Lesser Prairie Chicken
- Perkins Canal Update
- Colorado River Update
- Colorado Drought Task Force Update
- Discussion on Water Conservation in Agriculture
- Large Load Data Center Water Use

Future of Severance Tax Task Force Report

The Future of Severance Tax Task Force report was released on July 15. The task force was created by the General Assembly to conduct a study on severance taxes and water funding and develop recommendations for ways to continue funding water needs and energy impact grants in the face of decreasing severance tax revenue.

The report presents alternative funding options ranging from changing the current severance tax structure to establishing new revenue streams. Stakeholders identified more than twenty potential approaches to funding water projects and protecting existing revenue, with eight concepts rising to the top of the list as potential funding options.

Revolving Loan Fund

- Dedicate a portion of existing large public state funds, such as those currently in relatively low-yield investments, to a revolving loan fund for water projects and local government.

School Finance Stabilization Rule

- Create a "budget stabilization rule" for severance tax, similar to what has been done for K-12 education funding. The rule would apply to severance tax distributions to provide a clear accounting of the amount of severance tax revenues swept away from water projects, and implement a repayment mechanism.

Incremental Severance Reforms

- Simplify severance tax revenue collections (i.e. reforming the ad valorem tax credit, protecting program funding from sweeps into the general fund, removing exemptions).

Constitutional Dedication / De-Brucing of Severance Revenue

- Run a ballot initiative exempting severance tax revenues from applying to the TABOR cap
- Run a ballot initiative to protect water project funding from severance tax in the state constitution

Optional Utility Bill Programs

- Provide an optional opt-in water utility bill program

New Taxes or Fees on Current Industries Related to Water

- Implement new taxes on industries/products that are tied to water (i.e. sod, bottled beverages) or expanding the gambling tax.

Fees on Emerging Sectors, such as Data Centers Conditional

- Establish fees on data centers and use the revenue to fund identifiable water-related impacts, such as water-demand planning, energy-water infrastructure coordination, drought resilience, permitting, or mitigation of local infrastructure burdens or impacts.

Renewable Energy Permanent Trust Conditional

- Create a “severance tax” on renewable energy (similar to the severance tax on oil, gas and other minerals).

The report does not direct the General Assembly to pursue any of these options. Individual legislators can choose to pursue one or more of the alternatives, taking into account the information provided in the report about pros/cons, political and legal considerations and historical context for each concept.

[Future of Severance Taxes and Water Funding Report](#)

CWCB Colorado River Water Conservation Program

The CWCB recently announced a “Near Term Conservation Program” as part of a broader effort with the Upper Basin State to support the long-term viability of the Colorado River. The purpose of the program is to compensate water users for voluntarily contributing water to be credited to the Upper Basin States. The Federal Government has committed \$100 million to the UCRC to fund conservation projects in 2027. The CWCB is currently developing a list of criteria that all projects applying to participate in the Contribution Program will be evaluated against. The CWCB Board will hold a vote on whether or not to approve the program at the September Board meeting.

The CWCB is hosting a workshop on the Conservation Program at the Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference on August 19. Additionally, interested stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on the Contribution Program and criteria being developed. Interested stakeholders can provide input in the following ways:

- Fill out a [Contribution Program Survey](#)
- Send comments to dnr_contributionprogram@state.co.us.

For more information go to: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/contributionprogram>

Important Dates:

- Quarterly State Budget Forecast – September 18, 2026
- General Election – November 3, 2026
- First Day of 2027 Legislative Session – January 11, 2027



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Josh Brooks

Subject: Agenda Item 08.01 SWCD B2E Grant & Water Conservation and Infrastructure Partnership Update

Date: August 14, 2025

This memo provides an update on the Southwestern Water Conservation District's (District) application to the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) B2E funding program.

In 2024, the District submitted an application requesting funding to complete 17 projects within its southwestern Colorado service area. The application was structured around third-party entities serving as Subawardees. A Subawardee is an organization or entity that receives a portion of federal grant funding through the District to carry out an approved project or scope of work under the grant.

Because of this structure and the grant's reimbursement-based funding mechanism, project-related expenses will generally be incurred by the Subawardees. The Subawardees will then submit reimbursement requests to the District, and the District will submit corresponding requests for reimbursement to the federal government.

The District will use the federal government's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system to submit the required supporting documentation and draw federal funds from the District's designated account. The District will then serve as a pass-through entity, using the federal funds to reimburse Subawardees for eligible and qualifying project expenses.

In addition to expenses incurred by Subawardees, the District may incur direct costs that are eligible for reimbursement under the grant. These costs may include employee compensation for staff administering the grant, legal fees, contractor fees, and applicable indirect costs.

The total federal funding request was, and remains, \$25,603,230. The original project budget also included matching funds contributed by both the Subawardees and the District, as reflected in Attachment A.

It is important to note that the District is responsible for internally tracking project expenditures and maintaining a clear accounting of the portion of costs funded with federal funds versus non-federal funds. This cost-share tracking will be necessary to demonstrate compliance with the grant requirements and to support reimbursement requests throughout the life of the program.

As the Board is likely aware, the District's application was selected to move forward in the BOR's B2E funding program. However, the program was subsequently placed on an indefinite hold. In May 2026, BOR officials contacted the District to determine whether we remained interested in pursuing the project.

After consulting with the Board and the District's Subawardees, the District responded affirmatively and began working with our Grants Officer to fulfill a request for updated documentation. The requested materials included previously submitted application documents requiring new signatures from the District's current General Manager, confirmations of project scopes of work, and policies governing the District's financial operations and grant administration procedures. Copies of the documents and policies provided to the Grants Officer are included as attachments for the Board's review.

Following this submission, BOR identified several issues in the original application that must be corrected before the project can proceed to the contracting phase. The primary issues involved the project budget and compliance with federal cost principles. The necessary corrections are summarized below:

- **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs were originally calculated based on the total cost of each project. Under BOR requirements, indirect costs may only be calculated based on eligible direct costs and the first \$50,000 of each subaward. This significantly reduced the amount that could be allocated to indirect costs. Because the District had originally anticipated using this category for staff compensation, legal fees, and contracting expenses, these costs were instead separated into their respective direct-cost categories.
- **Contingency:** Contingency was originally calculated as a percentage of the total cost of each individual project. Under BOR requirements, contingency is calculated based on total construction costs. This calculation has been revised accordingly and is reflected in the updated budget.
- **Employee Compensation and Fringe Benefits:** Compensation for District employees responsible for grant administration did not originally include applicable fringe benefits. The budget has been revised to account for fringe benefits as well as anticipated salary increases for employees involved in administering the grant.
- **Project 3 – Yellowjacket Creek Stream Restoration:** Project 3 was determined to be ineligible because its designated Subawardee was a federal entity. After discussing this issue with Charlie, Project 3 was removed from the District's scope of work. The removal of this project does not reduce the District's federal award amount. It also reduces the

District's potential financial exposure in the event that a Subawardee is unable to secure its required matching funds.

- The objectives of Project 3 are similar to those of the nearby Project 4 – Dolores River Restoration Project. Accordingly, should the Board determine that it is appropriate, the District could revisit whether certain elements of the Yellowjacket Creek effort could be incorporated into Project 4.

All adjustments necessary to bring the application and budget into compliance with BOR requirements have been incorporated into the revised budget presented in Attachment A.

It is also important to note that, under the current budget, any resulting surpluses have been applied toward reducing the matching-fund requirements of the District's Subawardees. The District continues to confirm whether the Subawardees' originally committed matching funds remain available. Based on initial indications, it appears that these funds may still be available. If confirmed, the District may have an opportunity to direct some of these funds toward additional eligible project components, including potentially expanding the scope of Project 4 as described above.

All of the requested documentation and budget revisions have undergone an initial review by the District's Grants Officer and have been forwarded to BOR for secondary review.

Once the secondary review is complete and BOR determines that the application is in good order, BOR will issue the District a Notice of Award (NOA). A draft of the NOA is included as an attachment for the Board's review, note that it does not reflect the removal of Project 3. The NOA will establish the terms and conditions of the District's agreement with BOR. Acceptance of the award may occur through several means, including beginning work under the award, drawing down or requesting funds, or electronically accepting the award.

It is important to emphasize that, at this time, the District has not accepted the award or otherwise committed itself to the terms of the NOA. The District remains free to decline the award and withdraw from the process if the Board determines that doing so is in the District's best interest.

If the District elects to accept the terms of the NOA, we can proceed with the contracting process for the individual Subawardees. The current project schedule anticipates that contracts will be completed before the end of the calendar year and work on certain projects will begin as early as January 2027.

Additional Notes

During our discussions with BOR, several additional questions and clarifications arose that I believe are important to bring to the Board's attention.

- The current budget reflects an approximately 89% federal / 11% non-federal cost share. BOR has indicated that, because this cost-share percentage was proposed by the District, it may change over the course of the project and such a change would be acceptable. Importantly, federal law does not require a cost share for this particular program.
- BOR also clarified that the District is not required to use the full amount budgeted for indirect costs.
- A question was raised regarding the specific performance targets identified for several projects, such as restoring 250 acres or improving 2.3 miles of stream. Specifically, the question was whether these quantitative targets will serve as the primary benchmarks for determining whether a Subawardee has successfully completed its project and whether the overall grant will remain open until all projects are complete.

BOR confirmed that the quantitative performance targets identified for each project will serve as the primary benchmarks for evaluating whether the Subawardee has completed its approved scope of work. These targets are intended to ensure that each project achieves the outcomes described in the approved project narratives and milestones.

BOR further clarified that the grant will be considered complete once the approved project narratives and milestones have been satisfied.

An alternative scope of work was then submitted that framed the project elements as approximate amounts.

- The Board may also wish to understand what would occur if a Subawardee is unable to complete its project for any reason.

Generally, the process would involve the following:

Notification and Assessment:

The District would notify BOR's Governmental Oversight and Technical Representative (GOTR) as soon as it becomes apparent that a Subawardee cannot complete its project. The District and BOR would then assess:

- o The reason the project cannot be completed;
- o The portion of the approved scope that has been completed; and
- o The portion of expenditures that are allowable, properly documented, and attributable to completed work.

Determination of Whether Funds Must Be Returned:

Funds previously expended would generally not need to be returned if the completed work is consistent with the approved scope, the costs are allowable and properly documented, and the benefit to the project can be demonstrated.

Conversely, expenditures for work that was not performed, was not allowable, or fell outside the approved scope would need to be corrected. Depending on the circumstances, this could include repayment of funds or an adjustment during the grant closeout process.

Revision of the Scope of Work:

If a project cannot be completed as originally proposed, the District and BOR would work together to formally revise the award's scope of work and budget. Depending on the circumstances, this could include removing the project, replacing it with another eligible activity, or modifying the project's performance targets.

Any such change would require BOR's prior approval and would need to remain consistent with the statutory purpose and objectives of the B2E program.

- Finally, given the geographic proximity and similarity in objectives between Project 3 – Yellowjacket Creek Stream Restoration and Project 4 – Dolores River Restoration Project, staff asked whether elements of Project 3 could potentially be incorporated into Project 4.

Because Project 3 is being removed from the application due to the eligibility issue associated with its federal Subawardee, any work originally contemplated under Project 3 would need to be formally reconsidered and incorporated into Project 4's scope of work before the award is finalized, if feasible.

If the District determines that such a change is appropriate but the details cannot be resolved before the award is finalized, BOR indicated that any subsequent modification to the scope of work would need to follow the formal amendment process outlined in the NOA and its associated terms and conditions.

These items will be important considerations as the District moves toward a final decision on whether to accept the award and, if accepted, as we proceed into the Subawardee contracting and project implementation phases.

Staff is seeking any input from the Board and will otherwise proceed with coordinating with BOR and seeking approval from the Board President upon the issuance of the NOA.

Attachment A

Original Budget Submitted to BOR

	Sub-Awardee Costs	Sub-Awardee Contingency	SWCD Staff	Stakeholder Engagement	Contractors	Indirect Costs	Totals
Grant Funds	\$21,159,695	\$2,115,969				\$2,327,566	\$25,603,230
Local Match	\$3,096,138						\$3,096,138
SWCD			\$262,170	\$40,188	\$100,000		\$402,358
SWCD (In Kind)				\$56,500	\$156,706		\$213,206
	\$24,255,833	\$2,115,969	\$262,170	\$96,688	\$256,706	\$2,327,566	\$29,314,932

Current Budget Submitted to BOR

	Sub-Awardee Costs	Sub-Awardee Contingency	SWCD Staff	Stakeholder Engagement	Contractors	Legal Services	Indirect Costs	Totals
Grant Funds	\$21,942,617	\$1,852,916	\$600,509		\$369,363	\$557,000	\$280,825	\$25,603,230
Local Match	\$1,113,206							\$1,113,206
SWCD			\$262,170	\$40,188	\$100,000			\$402,358
SWCD (In Kind)				\$56,500	\$156,706			\$213,206
	\$23,055,823	\$1,852,916	\$862,679	\$96,688	\$626,069	\$557,000	\$280,825	\$27,332,000

Attachment A

17. VENDOR CODE			0071344355			18a. UEI SQ3NJJ57W5H2		18b. DUNS		19. CONG. DIST.		03	
LINE#	FINANCIAL ACCT	AMT OF FIN ASST	START DATE	END DATE	TAS ACCT	PO LINE DESCRIPTION							
1	0054019789-00010	\$25,603,230.00	08/01/2026	09/30/2031	0680	Drought Mitigation							

NOTICE OF AWARD (Continuation Sheet)

PAGE 2 of 2	DATE ISSUED Draft as of 07/31/2026
GRANT NO. R26AP00191-00	

Federal Financial Report Cycle			
Reporting Period Start Date	Reporting Period End Date	Reporting Type	Reporting Period Due Date
08/01/2026	09/30/2026	Semi-Annual	10/30/2026
10/01/2026	03/31/2027	Semi-Annual	04/30/2027
04/01/2027	09/30/2027	Semi-Annual	10/30/2027
10/01/2027	03/31/2028	Semi-Annual	04/30/2028
04/01/2028	09/30/2028	Semi-Annual	10/30/2028
10/01/2028	03/31/2029	Semi-Annual	04/30/2029
04/01/2029	09/30/2029	Semi-Annual	10/30/2029
10/01/2029	03/31/2030	Semi-Annual	04/30/2030
04/01/2030	09/30/2030	Semi-Annual	10/30/2030
10/01/2030	03/31/2031	Semi-Annual	04/30/2031
08/01/2026	09/30/2031	Project Final	01/28/2032

Performance Progress Report Cycle			
Reporting Period Start Date	Reporting Period End Date	Reporting Type	Reporting Period Due Date
08/01/2026	09/30/2026	Semi-Annual	10/30/2026
10/01/2026	03/31/2027	Semi-Annual	04/30/2027
04/01/2027	09/30/2027	Semi-Annual	10/30/2027
10/01/2027	03/31/2028	Semi-Annual	04/30/2028
04/01/2028	09/30/2028	Semi-Annual	10/30/2028
10/01/2028	03/31/2029	Semi-Annual	04/30/2029
04/01/2029	09/30/2029	Semi-Annual	10/30/2029
10/01/2029	03/31/2030	Semi-Annual	04/30/2030
04/01/2030	09/30/2030	Semi-Annual	10/30/2030
10/01/2030	03/31/2031	Semi-Annual	04/30/2031
08/01/2026	09/30/2031	Project Final	01/28/2032

AWARD ATTACHMENTS

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

R26AP00191-00

1. Agreement



Federal Financial Assistance Terms and Conditions of Award

Table of Contents

I. Award Administration and Overview	3
1. Authority	3
2. Public Purpose of Support.....	3
3. Background and Objectives	3
4. Financial Assistance Administrative Regulations.....	3
5. Regulatory Compliance.....	3
6. Acceptance	4
7. Amendments	4
II. Project Performance	5
1. Project Narrative and Milestones	5
2. Recipient Responsibilities	11
3. Reclamation Responsibilities.....	11
III. Financial Assistance	11
1. Available Funding	11
2. Approved Budget	11
3. Cost Sharing Requirement.....	12
4. Pre-Award Incurrence of Costs	12
5. Indirect Costs.....	12
6. Restricted Funds.....	13
6.1 Contingency Costs.....	13
IV. Payment Information	13
1. Payment Method	13
2. Payment	13
3. Return of Funds, Excess Cash, and Interest.....	13
3.1 Return of Funds or Excess Cash.....	13
3.2 Return of Interest.....	14
V. Reporting Requirements	15

1. Reclamation Required Reports and Submission.....	15
1.1 Financial Reporting Requirements	15
1.2 Performance Progress Reporting Requirements.....	15
2. Federal-wide Reports and Disclosures.....	16
2.1 System for Award Management.....	16
2.2 Subawards and Executive Compensation.....	16
2.3 Reporting Recipient Integrity and Performance.....	16
2.4 Conflicts of Interest.....	16
2.5 Trafficking Victims Protection	18
3. Remedies for Noncompliance.....	18
VI. Program or Project Specific Terms and Conditions	18
1. Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects	18
2. Intangible Property.....	22
3. Liability	22
VII. Reclamation Contacts.....	23
1. Grants Officer	23
2. Grants Management Specialist	23
3. Grants Officer’s Technical Representative.....	23
VIII. Department of Interior Standard Terms and Conditions	23

I. Award Administration and Overview

1. Authority

This Financial Assistance Agreement (Agreement) is entered into between the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Southwestern Water Conservation District (Recipient), pursuant to Public Law 117-169, Inflation Reduction Act, Section 50233, Drought Mitigation in the Reclamation States

2. Public Purpose of Support

Upper Colorado Basin Region Bucket 2 Ecosystem (B2E) financial assistance program provides funding for projects that provide environmental benefits and restoration of ecosystems and habitats impacted by drought.

3. Background and Objectives

This project integrates 17 multi-benefit projects designed to restore riverine and riparian ecosystems, improve water delivery infrastructure, reduce erosion, and enhance recreation opportunities, while protecting the resilience of municipal and agricultural water supplies. The projects will restore ecosystem function and natural water storage, rebuild and stabilize riparian wetland habitats, improve agricultural water delivery and protect working lands, enhance fish passage and aquatic habitat, support community recreation and municipal water supplies, and deliver broad watershed benefits across five subbasins. Collectively, the project will increase drought resiliency, support agriculture through improved water delivery and reduced erosion, protect municipal water supplies, and enhance recreation across the region.

4. Financial Assistance Administrative Regulations

All recipients are required to follow the applicable federal, Department of Interior, and Reclamation financial assistance regulations. The provisions of the "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Assistance" located at [Title 2 CFR Part 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200>, the Department of the Interior Federal Agency Regulations for Grants and Agreements at [Title 2 CFR Subtitle B, Part 1400-1499](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-1400) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-1400>, and the Financial Assistance Interior Regulations (or FAIR) at [Title 2 CFR Subtitle B, Parts 1402-1402.499](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-1402) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-1402>, are hereby incorporated by reference as though set forth in full text.

5. Regulatory Compliance

All recipients must comply, or assist Reclamation, with all regulatory compliance requirements and all applicable state, federal, and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource protection laws and regulations, as applicable to this Agreement. These may include, but are not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Department of the Interior regulations

implementing NEPA, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, consultation with potentially affected Tribes, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. If the Recipient begins project activities that require environmental or other regulatory compliance approval, prior to written notice from the GO that all such clearances have been obtained, Reclamation reserves the right to initiate remedies for non-compliance as defined by [2 CFR 200.339-340](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.339) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.339>, including termination of this Agreement.

6. Acceptance

Recipients of Reclamation financial assistance awards must comply with the applicable terms and conditions incorporated, either directly or by reference, in their Request for Application title Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation (B2E) program announcement and this Notice of Award. These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as part of the award application process through submission of the Standard Forms SF-424B Assurances for Non-Construction Programs, SF-424D Assurances for Construction Programs, and Certifications Regarding Lobbying (see <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family>), or through acceptance of certifications and representations in the System for Award Management (<https://sam.gov/content/home>).

Acceptance of a financial assistance award, including any amendments, from Reclamation carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Acceptance means starting work, drawing down or requesting funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Accepting the award constitutes a consent to fulfill and comply with all terms and conditions by the recipient.

7. Amendments

Any changes to this Agreement shall be made in writing by the Grants Officer (GO), unless determined by Reclamation to be administrative corrections which do not impact the terms and conditions of the Agreement. No statement made by any person, or in writing, other than the GO shall be allowed to amend, modify, or otherwise affect the Agreement.

All recipient requests for amendment of the Agreement, including prior approval requirements set forth in [2 CFR 200.308](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.308) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.308>, such as no-cost extensions and changes to key personnel, or the addition of previously agreed upon funding, are addressed to the GO and submitted in writing (including via email) and will include a full description of the reason for the request.

Amendment requests can be submitted to the Grants Management Specialist (GMS) or to the GO identified on the NOA page.

II. Project Performance

1. Project Narrative and Milestones

Under this agreement, the Recipient shall complete 17 projects bundled over three categories to address the most pressing issues the region is experiencing - ecosystem degradation by invasive species, river bank and system erosion, and fragmentation of habitat and ecosystems that are critical for watershed resilience.

1.1 Category 1 – Invasive Removal (Project 1-5)

- **Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Montezuma County)**

Priority invasive treatment shall occur on 250 acres over four years, and an estimated 3,750 native cottonwood and willow shall be placed in removal locations. Recipient shall identify specific project locations, coordinate with landowners, conduct pre-site assessments, develop treatment plans and establish post-work monitoring protocols. Recipient shall implement a phased approach to phreatophyte removal, hire qualified contractors for removal activities, treating 40-80 acres annually and mulch or chip biomass generated during removal and use material to stabilize disturbed areas along with native seed mixes. Recipient shall conduct replanting of appropriate native vegetation, including cottonwood and willow. Recipient shall conduct post-treatment monitoring by Mancos and High Desert Conservation Districts, and all treatment and monitoring data shall be entered into a GIS database for long-term tracking.

- **Invasive Phreatophyte Control (La Plata County)**

Removal of Russian olive and tamarisk from at least 80 acres per year, for a project minimum of 240 acres. Recipient shall conduct annual partner coordination meetings and lead landowner outreach to identify new participants and expand the geographic reach of treatments prioritizing sites that connect or extend continuous stretches of previously treated river reaches. Recipient shall create site-specific restoration plans for approximately 80 acres per year and implement phased Russian olive and tamarisk removal using qualified contractors or trained crews, conduct native species replanting, conduct repeat treatments as needed, and utilize site visits and monitoring data to determine annual treatment needs and treatment priorities. Recipient shall allow natural revegetation on most treated sites, while in areas with insufficient natural regeneration, supplement restoration with native willow and/or cottonwood pole plantings. Recipient shall perform post-treatment monitoring using repeat photo points with GIS mapping to track treatment progress, retreatments, and restoration outcomes to guide adaptive management and future planning, and document annual accomplishments and changes in vegetation condition.

- **Yellowjacket Creek Stream Restoration**

Work shall occur over a five-year period, with the first three years focused on Russian olive and tamarisk removal, followed by two years of LTPBR construction to raise the stream's water table and support new native plant growth. Recipient shall develop a comprehensive stream restoration plan for public and participating private lands along Yellowjacket Creek. The Bureau of Land Management shall conduct all NEPA reviews and secure required permits. The Recipient

shall hire qualified contractors to remove Russian olive and tamarisk along the reach. Removal activities shall be conducted to minimize disturbance, and disturbed areas shall be reestablished to prevent erosion or bank destabilization. Contractors shall build low-tech process-based river restoration (LTPBR) structures for installation approximately every 400 feet or 13 structures per mile within the project reach. Final placement and total number of structure shall be defined in the restoration plan and installation shall follow low-tech, hand-built, process-based methods to enhance groundwater connection and support native plant recruitment.

- **Dolores River Restoration Partnership**

A minimum of 60 acres (10 acres initial tamarisk and Russian olive treatment, 50 acres site maintenance treating re-sprouts and secondary weeds) of invasive phreatophyte removal and native riparian is expected, with up to 180 acres (30 primary, 150 maintenance) desired. Fifteen acres of revegetation per year is expected. Over five years, 40 acres will be treated by a heavy equipment contractor and 70 acres by a contracted forestry saw crew. Four partnership meetings and four community volunteer and outreach events will be conducted over the life of the grant. Recipient shall remove and treat tamarisk, Russian olive, and additional woody invasive species, conduct retreatment of resprouts and secondary herbaceous weed treatment through herbicide application, and masticate and chip biomass to prevent erosion or bank destabilization. Recipient shall conduct seeding and planting using local native species, stabilize disturbed soils to prevent erosion or bank destabilization, and implement revegetation methods tailored to site conditions and passive/native recruitment potential. Recipient shall install Zeedyk structures on tributaries to the Dolores River. Project Team shall monitor the Dolores River watershed through rapid vegetation assessments of native and non-native species and other ecological health indicators. Recipient shall conduct additional site assessments as needed, plan partnership meetings, volunteer events, and community outreach.

- **Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Ute Mountain Ute Reservation and Tribe)**

Invasive treatment will occur within priority units totaling 86.3 acres over four years. Recipient shall conduct pre-implementation assessments and wildlife surveys and conduct a phased approach for removal of tamarisk and Russian olive using the cut-stump method, utilize hand crews only to minimize soil disturbance and prevent conditions that favor invasion by noxious weeds, and stage biomass for piling, burning, or chipping and transported off-site, based on site accessibility. Recipient shall conduct instream Restoration by implementing LTPBR treatments and installing structural and process-based elements to enhance channel function and riparian recovery. Recipient shall follow-up with post-implementation vegetation surveys and identify areas that require retreatment. All work shall be implemented by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and treatment data shall be entered into the GIS database.

1.2 Category 2 – Erosion Control and Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (Project 6-13)

- **Animas Riverbank Stabilization**

The project will focus on bank stabilization for 2.3 miles of the Animas River. The Recipient shall provide full project coordination and management and engage with all landowners and

interested stakeholders through the Animas River Plan process. Recipient shall conduct site assessments and develop site-specific designs and advance all required permitting. Recipient shall complete hydraulic modeling, preliminary design, final design and manage construction, including preparing bid documents, overseeing contractor procurement, conducting construction observation and documentation, and performing project closeout. Recipient shall complete as-built surveys following construction.

- **Beaver Deceivers/Flow Devices in the Mancos Watershed**

Project involves constructing beaver exclusion fencing and/or flow devices at specific agricultural diversions and road culverts. Recipient shall determine locations suitable for device installations based on site characteristics and select appropriate device types based on water depth, site aspects, flow rate ranges and sensitivity of infrastructure. Recipient shall coordinate with landowners to design and construct flow devices and/or beaver exclusion fencing at four agricultural diversions or road culverts. Recipient shall develop site-specific designs tailored to ecological and operational needs. Recipient shall complete required permitting prior to construction. Recipient shall develop monitoring and maintenance plan collaboratively with Mancos Conservation District and participating landowners.

- **Chimney Rock Erosion Control**

Project shall implement up to 22 LTPBR structures, including 5 one-rock dams, 7 rock rundowns and 10 Zuni bowls. Recipient shall determine the best type of structure and installation method through a service contract with an experienced practitioner. Recipient shall secure permits and procure materials for LTPBR structures, install using Tribal crews, and monitor structures using photo points. Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will conduct post-construction effectiveness monitoring for a period of five years.

- **Mancos River System Restoration**

Project shall create 100 LTPBR structures created with 2 miles of river restored. Recipient shall use an existing model developed through a stream management process to identify areas with the potential to provide impactful results. Recipient shall engage and coordinate with prospective landowners and project management for the construction of LTPBR structures. Recipient shall conduct final site determinations with landowners and through modeling and on-the-ground surveys. Recipient shall design LTPBR structures and complete required permits. Recipient shall construct and install LTPBR structures and conduct post-construction effectiveness monitoring of installed LTPBR structures.

- **Ironton Park Restoration**

Project shall implement coordinated restoration actions to improve ecosystem function across fen peatlands, riparian wetlands, and in-stream habitats (2 acres of fen restoration, 10 acres of riparian habitat restoration and 1.5 miles of in-stream restoration). Recipient shall conduct contracting, routine reporting, and project management for the life of the project. Recipient shall develop a Fen Restoration Plan that will be used for project implementation and a site-specific monitoring schedule. Recipient shall create engineered riparian wetlands to buffer

encroaching recreation to include a monitoring schedule. Recipient shall excavate up to approximately 1,200 cubic yards of wetland overburden, ensure all materials are retained onsite, and strategically redistributed to promote upland growth of vegetation. Recipient shall construct each project component as designed and monitor as proposed.

- **Animas Headwaters Wetland and Stream Restoration**

Project shall restore 10.5 acres of fen habitat, 4 acres of riparian wetlands, and over 1 mile of in-stream habitat. Animas Headwaters Ecological Action Division (AHEAD) has mapped and prioritized the headwaters for the ecological restoration projects. Recipient shall initiate site-specific designs for each location and complete appropriate permitting. Recipient shall conduct pre-monitoring, establish post-monitoring protocols, and conduct post-monitoring. Recipient shall remove fen and riparian wetland overburden to reestablish groundwater connections, install plants, plugs and seed mixes while protecting the site from erosion with erosion prevention materials. Recipient shall implement in-stream restoration using wooden posts and local woody materials, ensuring minimal disturbance to the streambed.

- **Snow Spur Creek Restoration**

Project shall implement 12 LTPBR structures along a 1-mile reach to increase habitat connectivity and over-winter habitat for a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. All disturbance work shall be confined to the channel at the pre-identified sites and no heavy machinery shall be used. Recipient shall complete all permitting and site design. Recipient shall conduct pre-monitoring to establish a baseline of habitat features. The foundation posts for the beaver dam analogs shall be sourced off-site and willows shall be sourced from downstream. Staging of materials, collected willows and wooden posts shall occur on site. Foundation posts shall be installed using only hand tools and performed by Southwest Conservation Corps. Recipient shall lead a volunteer day to weave willows into the structures.

- **Mancos Canyon Stream Restoration**

Project shall install 72 LTPBR structures across 1.5 miles of the river and will allow for approximately 2 miles of continuous restoration. Recipient shall complete pre-implementation monitoring, which may include quantitative and qualitative observations of biotic and abiotic indicators. Recipient shall layout each structure's location, identify the function and intent of each structure, and apply for required permits for in-stream construction activities. Recipient shall install structures and complete post-implementation monitoring pre-runoff, post-runoff, and post-monsoon for at least one year post installation. Recipient shall also conduct maintenance of structures as necessary.

1.3 Category 3 – Habitat Connectivity and Fish Passage (Project 14-17)

- **Park Ditch Diversion Restoration and San Juan River Restoration**

Project shall improve one existing agricultural water diversion structure and restore approximately one mile of river. Project will reconstruct the diversion structure to eliminate annual maintenance needs and improve aquatic connectivity, remove dangerous steel and concrete rubble from the river channel, build a stable diversion feature using large boulders arranged to create fish-passable interstitial spaces, stabilize and revegetate adjacent riverbanks

to maintain long-term bank integrity, implement landslide bank stabilization methods to prevent ongoing erosion and sediment loading and conduct approximately 7,500 cubic yards of channel reshaping and place an estimated 2,500 medium and large rocks. Recipient shall develop final engineering designs and complete permit requirements. Recipient shall construct diversion and conduct stream restoration to include mobilization, earthwork/water control, removal and disposal of existing diversion structure, placing concrete around large boulders, placing large boulders with an excavator, subgrade preparation, installing membrane, installing riprap, channel shaping, removal of excess channel material, constructing new diversion structure, placing large tree root wads, and transplanting willows that will be locally sourced on site.

- [Mancos River Improvements through the Town of Mancos](#)

The project shall create eight excavated channel/long pool features and alternating point bar, 4 cross-vane structures and scour pools, and 3 designated and hardened access points. Project activities shall involve basic channel shaping and the introduction of strategically placed rock structures to increase scour and provide much-needed depth and cover for survival during low flow periods. Channel shaping shall be conducted using an excavator by moving material from the outside river bends to the middle section of the river to improve flow and depth for the entire cross-section. Recipient shall design pool features based on site-specific conditions; complete permitting; manage mobilization and earthwork/water-control activities; construct pools that replicate natural channel characteristics; install portage trail signage and safety signals at access points; restore and stabilize banks; perform seeding and mulching; and provide overall construction management.

- [Wines Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage](#)

This project shall create a permanent passage for priority native fishes by opening 190 connected river miles and many tributaries in the Dolores River basin. Recipient shall mobilize crews and equipment; complete required permitting; conduct earthwork and water-control operations; construct the arch rapid, diversion structure, bendway weirs, headgate, and ditch extension; install PIT-tag arrays; place portage-trail signage and signal boulders; perform bank restoration and apply seeding and mulching; and provide comprehensive construction management.

- [Webber Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage](#)

Project shall improve existing agricultural water diversion structure and create a permanent fish passage allowing for movement upstream and downstream of the diversion. Recipient planning and permitting tasks shall include finalizing conceptual quantities and plans, completing topographic and hydrographic surveys, reaching 50 percent design completion, initiating and completing the NEPA process along with associated resource surveys, and finalizing the full design package. Construction tasks include initiating and completing the construction bidding process, mobilizing the selected contractor, beginning construction, achieving substantial completion, and reaching final project completion.

The milestones for this project are:

*Planned Start Date Refers to Planned Construction Phase

Milestone/Task/Activity	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Application Development	July 2024	June 2026
Environmental and Cultural Compliance	September 2026	November 2029
Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Montezuma County)	October 2028	September 2031
Invasive Phreatophyte Control (La Plata County)	October 2028	September 2031
Yellowjacket Creek Stream Restoration	January 2027	December 2029
Dolores River Restoration Partnership	November 2027	September 2031
Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Ute Mountain Ute Reservation and Tribe)	October 2028	September 2031
Animas Riverbank Stabilization	March 2029	September 2031
Beaver Deceivers/Flow Devices in the Mancos Watershed	April 2027	December 2027
Chimney Rock Erosion Control	November 2026	March 2031
Mancos River System Restoration	December 2027	December 2028
Ironton Park Restoration	March 2029	September 2031
Animas Headwaters Wetland and Stream Restoration	September 2029	July 2031
Snow Spur Creek Restoration	June 2027	January 2028
Mancos Canyon Stream Restoration	July 2028	September 2031
Park Ditch Diversion Restoration and San Juan River Restoration	June 2029	September 2031
Mancos River Improvements through the Town of Mancos	July 2028	September 2031

Wines Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage	October 2027	May 2028
Webber Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage	June 2029	September 2031

2. Recipient Responsibilities

The Recipient shall carry out the approved project in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein, [2 CFR Part 200](#) (including procurement requirements in [200.320](#) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.320>), adherence to Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and shall obtain all required approvals and permits. If the approved project contains construction activities, the Recipient is responsible for construction inspection, oversight, and acceptance. If applicable, the Recipient shall also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators.

3. Reclamation Responsibilities

Reclamation monitoring and oversight of this award includes review and acceptance of financial and performance reports, and other deliverables identified as part of the project scope. Additional monitoring activities may include drawdown approvals, site visits, conference calls, and other on-site and off-site monitoring activities such as inspections or evaluation on Recipient and subrecipient premises. At the Recipient's request, Reclamation may also provide technical support to the Recipient for the approved project and objectives of this Agreement.

III. Financial Assistance

1. Available Funding

The total estimated project cost for this Agreement is \$28,637,012.00.

The amount of federal funds issued with this action is \$25,603,230.00, as indicated by "Amount of Financial Assistance This Action" within block 12 of the NOA.

The Recipient shall not incur costs or obligate funds for any purpose pertaining to operation of the program or activities beyond the period of performance end date. The only costs which are authorized for a period of up to 120 days following the period of performance are those strictly associated with closeout activities for preparation of the final reports.

2. Approved Budget

The total approved budget summarizes the financial aspects of the project. It is detailed below. Final costs incurred within budget categories listed may be either higher or lower than the estimated costs. All costs incurred by the Recipient under this Agreement must be in accordance

with budget submitted to Reclamation, and any pre-award clarifications conducted between the Recipient and Reclamation.

The Recipient is responsible for ensuring federal funds are managed in a manner consistent with [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-E) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-E>, the approved budget, approved project activities, and terms and conditions of award. Recipients are encouraged to direct questions regarding allowability, allocability or reasonableness of costs to the GO for review prior to incurrence of the costs in question.

Budget Summary			
Category	Total Cost	Federal Estimated Amount	Non-Federal Estimated Amount
a. Personnel	\$574,059.00		
b. Fringe Benefits	\$288,620.00		
c. Travel	\$0.00		
d. Equipment	\$0.00		
e. Supplies	\$0.00		
f. Contractual	\$5,916,241.00		
g. Construction	\$19,579,162.00		
h. Other Direct	\$40,188.00		
i. Other Direct – Contingency 10%	\$1,957,917.00		
j. Total Direct	\$28,356,187.00		
k. Indirect Costs – 15%	\$280,825.00		
Total Costs	\$28,637,012.00	\$25,603,230.00	\$3,033,782.00
Cost Share Percentage		89%	11%

3. Cost Sharing Requirement

The Recipient proposed a non-federal cost-share of 11% for this project in their response to published evaluation criteria. If pre-award costs are authorized, reimbursement of these costs is limited to federal cost share percentage identified in this Agreement.

4. Pre-Award Incurrence of Costs

The Recipient shall be entitled to reimbursement for costs incurred on or after July 22, 2024 which if had been incurred after the start date of the period of performance, would have been allowable, allocable, and reasonable under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

5. Indirect Costs

The recipient has elected to charge the de minimus rate of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) per [200.414\(f\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.414#p-200.414(f)) at [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.414#p-200.414\(f\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.414#p-200.414(f)). MTDC is defined as all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, rental costs, and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$50,000.

Note on "subaward". Per [2 CFR Part 200.331](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.331) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.331>, the form of the agreement between a recipient and subrecipient is less important than the substance of the relationship. Some recipients may enter contractual relationships that contribute to the goals and objectives of this Agreement by carrying out a portion of this award. In those instances, the GO may require Recipients to comply with additional guidance to support their determination in applying indirect costs.

6. Restricted Funds

6.1 Contingency Costs

Prior approval is required, in writing, from the GO to transfer funds (of any amount) from the contingency cost line-item to other cost categories in the budget. The request for approval from the recipient must be in writing and identify the reason(s) why the transfer is necessary and identify the cost overruns in other budget line-items. If there are no cost-overruns during the performance of construction under this Agreement, funds obligated under the contingency cost line-item may be de-obligated by the GO.

IV. Payment Information

1. Payment Method

Recipients must utilize the Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) payment system to request payments. ASAP is a Recipient-initiated payment and information system designed to provide a single point of contact for the request and delivery of federal funds. ASAP is the only allowable method for request and receipt of payment. Recipient procedures must minimize the time elapsing between the drawdown of federal funds and the disbursement for Agreement purposes.

2. Payment

Financial assistance recipients are paid in advance by electronic drawdown, provided they maintain written procedures that minimize the time elapse between transfer of funds from ASAP accounts and disbursements, and they have financial management systems that meet standards for fund control and accountability. Advance payments are limited to the immediate cash requirements to carry out the purpose of the approved program or project.

3. Return of Funds, Excess Cash, and Interest

3.1 Return of Funds or Excess Cash

Funds, principal, and excess cash returns may be made to Reclamation through the following means.

Payment Method ASAP

The Recipient must direct returns of funds not spent, excess cash on hand, and award funds and principal owed to the federal government to the ASAP system. Returns should include:

- The agency to credit the funding (i.e. Reclamation)
- The relevant ASAP account numbers
- The reason for the return

Payment Method Electronic Transfer

If the Recipient is unable to return funds owed to the federal government through ASAP, the following electronic transfer information should be utilized:

ACH Returns:

ABA Routing Number: 051036706

Account number: 312018

Bank Name and Location: Credit Gateway, Federal Reserve Bank, Richmond, VA

Agreement Number: Reclamation Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number

Fedwire Returns:

ABA Routing Number: 021030004

ABA Short Name: TREAS NYC

Account number: 14060905

Beneficiary Name: Bureau of Reclamation

Bank Name and Location: Federal Reserve Bank, 33 Liberty Street, Federal Reserve Post Office Station, New York, NY 10045

Agreement Number: Reclamation Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number

Pay.gov:

Accepted payment methods on Pay.gov include ACH, PayPal, Venmo, and debit or credit card. Visit BOR Online Bill Pay at <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/596136970>

Bill Number: Recipient Vendor Code (See Notice of Award Page 1, Section 17)

Customer Number: 9999999999 (default for all BOR recipients)

Amount: \$X.XX

Memo to Agency: To properly document return of funds, you *must* include the Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number and reason for return to BOR. If known, the ASAP ID and Grant Officer Name should also be included.

3.2 Return of Interest

Interest earned on Federal funds in excess of \$500 per year must be returned annually to the Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System (PMS). Recipients and subrecipients can find further information and a link to directions at [2 CFR 200.305\(b\)\(12\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-D#p-200.305(b)(12)) at [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-D#p-200.305\(b\)\(12\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-D#p-200.305(b)(12)).

V. Reporting Requirements

1. Reclamation Required Reports and Submission

Reports can be submitted to the GMS via FAReporting@usbr.gov **or** [GrantSolutions](#).

1.1 Financial Reporting Requirements

The interim Federal Financial Report (SF-425) shall be submitted *Choose an item.*, according to the Report Frequency and Submission schedule noted under the *Federal Financial Report Cycle*, following the Notice of Award page. All financial reports shall be signed by an Authorized Certifying Official for the Recipient's organization.

Per [2 CFR Part 200.344](#) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.344>, the **Final** Federal Financial Report (SF-425) shall be submitted within 120 days of the period of performance end date. The recipient shall not incur costs or obligate funds for any purpose pertaining to the operation of the program or activities beyond the period of performance end date and must liquidate all financial obligations incurred under the award. The only costs authorized for 120 days following the period of performance end date are those strictly associated with closeout activities in preparation of final reports. All sections of the Final SF-425 must be complete.

1.2 Performance Progress Reporting Requirements

Reclamation requires Performance Reports to be submitted *Choose an item.*, according to the Report Frequency and Submission schedule noted under the *Performance Progress Report Cycle*, following the Notice of Award page. Reclamation may utilize standard, OMB-approved forms for the collection of performance information, or no specific format, as identified in the NOFO or program announcement.

For Construction and non-construction, the minimum information to include in Performance Reports are:

- Report identification; recipient name, agreement number, project title, and period of performance start and end dates
- A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives of the federal award for the reporting period
- Where accomplishments can be quantified, or performance data and analysis informative to Reclamation, if applicable
- A reason(s) why any established goals/objectives were not met, if applicable
- Pertinent information on overall activity such as cost overruns, or high unit costs
- Significant developments such as problems, delays, or adverse conditions, if applicable
- Favorable developments such as objectives ahead of schedule, or less cost than anticipated, if applicable

Per [2 CFR Part 200.344](#) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.344>, the **Final** Performance Progress Report shall be submitted within 120 days of the period of performance

end date. The Final Performance Report shall include a summary of all activities completed during the entire period of performance with the minimum information stated above, and any Program Specific or Data Collection report requirements as stated within the NOFO and this Agreement.

2. Federal-wide Reports and Disclosures

2.1 System for Award Management

Unless exempted by [2 CFR 25.110](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-25.110) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-25.110>, recipients must maintain current information in the System for Award Management (SAM) until the final financial report required under the Award is submitted, or the final payment is received, whichever is later, per [Appendix A to Part 25, Title 2](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-25/appendix-Appendix%20A%20to%20Part%2025) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-25/appendix-Appendix%20A%20to%20Part%2025>. This requires recipients to review and update information *at least annually* after the initial registration, or more frequently if required by changes in your information. See <https://sam.gov/content/home>. If a recipient allows their SAM registration to lapse, they will be prevented from submitting applications for funding opportunities in Grants.gov, and ASAP accounts are suspended, among other federal financial assistance restrictions.

2.2 Subawards and Executive Compensation

Unless exempted by [2 CFR Part 170.105](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-170.105) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-170.105>, Recipients are required to report information on subawards and executive total compensation to meet the requirements of the federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. Recipients can review [Appendix A to Part 170, Title 2](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-170/appendix-Appendix%20A%20to%20Part%20170) at [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-170/appendix-Appendix A to Part 170](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-170/appendix-Appendix%20A%20to%20Part%20170), for information on what, where, and when to report.

2.3 Reporting Recipient Integrity and Performance

Recipients that have active financial assistance and procurement contracts from federal agencies exceeding \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Agreement must maintain current information in SAM about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings as outlined in [Appendix XII to Part 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-F/subject-group-ECFR4424206eaecf751/appendix-Appendix%20XII%20to%20Part%20200) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-F/subject-group-ECFR4424206eaecf751/appendix-Appendix%20XII%20to%20Part%20200>.

2.4 Conflicts of Interest

The Recipient must establish safeguards to prohibit its employees and Subrecipients from using their positions for purposes that constitute or present the appearance of a personal or organizational conflict of interest. The Recipient is responsible for notifying the Grants Officer in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of this award. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter which might place the Recipient or its employees in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the

agreement and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the Recipient and/or Recipient's employees and Subrecipients in the matter.

The Grants Officer and the servicing Ethics Counselor will determine if a conflict of interest exists. If a conflict of interest exists, the Grants Officer will determine whether a mitigation plan is feasible. Mitigation plans must be approved by the Grants Officer, in writing. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award.

Definitions:

This section incorporates by reference <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-A> including, but not limited to the following additional terms:

A. Conflict of Interest is defined as any relationship or matter which might place the Recipient, its employees, and/or its Subrecipients in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the agreement and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest may also include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect financial interests, close personal relationships, positions of trust in outside organizations, consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization, or decision-making affecting the award that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the Recipient and/or Recipient's employees and Subrecipients in the matter.

B. Close Personal Relationship means a federal award program employee's childhood or other friend, sibling, or other family relations that may compromise or impair the fairness and impartiality of the Proposal Evaluator and Advisor and Grants Officer in the review, selection, award, and management of a financial assistance award.

C. Discretionary Federal Financial Assistance means Federal awards including grants and agreements that are awarded at the discretion of the agency.

D. Employment means:

1. In any capacity, even if otherwise permissible, by any applicant or potential applicant for a Federal financial assistance award;
2. Employment within the last 12 months with a different organization applying for some portion of the award's approved project activities and funding to complete them OR expected to apply for and to receive some portion of the award; and/or
3. Employment with a different organization of any member of the organization employee's household or a relative with whom the organization's employee has a close personal relationship who is applying for some portion of the award's approved project activities and funding to complete them OR expected to apply for and to receive some portion of the award.

E. Non-federal entity means a State, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization that carries out a Federal award as a Recipient or Subrecipient.

F. Recipient means a non-federal entity that receives a federal award directly from a federal awarding agency to carry out an activity under a federal program. The term Recipient does not include Subrecipients.

G. Subrecipient means a non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal program, but does not include an individual who is a beneficiary of such program. A Subrecipient may also be a recipient of other federal awards directly from a federal awarding agency.

2.5 Trafficking Victims Protection

The Recipient, its employees, and its subrecipients under this award may not engage in human trafficking, procuring commercial sex acts, or using forced labor during the performance of the award, or any subawards. Recipients must inform Reclamation immediately of any allegation of such activity. Reclamation may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, in addition to other remedies for noncompliance, if a violation of the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 \(TVPA\)](#), codified at [2 CFR Part 175.15](#) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/on/2024-09-30/title-2/section-175.15>, for financial assistance awards, is determined. Recipients will ensure this provision is included in any agreements entered into for award activities.

3. Remedies for Noncompliance

Failure to comply with the recipient reporting, disclosure, and notice requirements contained in this Agreement, terms and conditions, or federal financial assistance regulations, may be considered a material noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the award.

Noncompliance may result in withholding of payments, denying both the use of federal funds and recipient cost-share for all or part of a cost, activity or action not in compliance, whole or partial suspension or termination of the Agreement, recovery of funds paid under the Agreement, withholding of future awards, or other legal remedies in accordance with [2 CFR 200.339-340](#) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.339>.

VI. Program or Project Specific Terms and Conditions

1. Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects

Recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from a program for infrastructure are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for an infrastructure project unless:

- (1) All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
- (2) All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard that meets or

exceeds this standard has been established under applicable law or regulation for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product; and

(3) All construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. The construction material standards are listed below.

Incorporation into an infrastructure project. The Buy America Preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America Preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

Categorization of articles, materials, and supplies. An article, material, or supply should only be classified into one of the following categories: (i) Iron or steel products; (ii) 15 Manufactured products; (iii) Construction materials; or (iv) Section 70917(c) materials. An article, material, or supply should not be considered to fall into multiple categories. In some cases, an article, material, or supply may not fall under any of the categories listed in this paragraph. The classification of an article, material, or supply as falling into one of the categories listed in this paragraph must be made based on its status at the time it is brought to the work site for incorporation into an infrastructure project. In general, the work site is the location of the infrastructure project at which the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials will be incorporated.

Application of the Buy America Preference by category. An article, material, or supply incorporated into an infrastructure project must meet the Buy America Preference for only the single category in which it is classified.

Determining the cost of components for manufactured products. In determining whether the cost of components for manufactured products is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components, use the following instructions:

- (a) For components purchased by the manufacturer, the acquisition cost, including transportation costs to the place of incorporation into the manufactured product (whether or not such costs are paid to a domestic firm), and any applicable duty (whether or not a duty-free entry certificate is issued); or
- (b) For components manufactured by the manufacturer, all costs associated with the manufacture of the component, including transportation costs as described in paragraph (a), plus allocable overhead costs, but excluding profit. Cost of components does not include any costs associated with the manufacture of the manufactured product.

Construction material standards. The Buy America Preference applies to the following

construction materials incorporated into infrastructure projects. Each construction material is followed by a standard for the material to be considered “produced in the United States.” Except as specifically provided, only a single standard should be applied to a single construction material.

- (1) Non-ferrous metals. All manufacturing processes, from initial smelting or melting through final shaping, coating, and assembly, occurred in the United States.
- (2) Plastic and polymer-based products. All manufacturing processes, from initial combination of constituent plastic or polymer-based inputs, or, where applicable, constituent composite materials, until the item is in its final form, occurred in the United States.
- (3) Glass. All manufacturing processes, from initial batching and melting of raw materials through annealing, cooling, and cutting, occurred in the United States.
- (4) Fiber optic cable (including drop cable). All manufacturing processes, from the initial ribboning (if applicable), through buffering, fiber stranding and jacketing, occurred in the United States. All manufacturing processes also include the standards for glass and optical fiber, but not for non-ferrous metals, plastic and polymer-based products, or any others.
- (5) Optical fiber. All manufacturing processes, from the initial preform fabrication stage through the completion of the draw, occurred in the United States.
- (6) Lumber. All manufacturing processes, from initial debarking through treatment and planing, occurred in the United States.
- (7) Drywall. All manufacturing processes, from initial blending of mined or synthetic gypsum plaster and additives through cutting and drying of sandwiched panels, occurred in the United States.
- (8) Engineered wood. All manufacturing processes from the initial combination of constituent materials until the wood product is in its final form, occurred in the United States.

Waivers. When necessary, recipients may apply for, and the agency may grant, a waiver from these requirements. Information on the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements can be found at <https://www.doi.gov/grants/buyamerica>.

When DOI has determined that one of the following exceptions applies, the awarding official may waive the application of the Buy America Preference in any case in which the agency determines that:

- (1) applying the Buy America Preference would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- (2) the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- (3) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

A request to waive the application of the Buy America Preference must be in writing. The agency will provide instructions on the format, contents, and supporting materials required for any waiver request. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Made in America Office. There may be instances where an award qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing waiver described at the Approved DOI General Applicability Waivers website located at <https://www.doi.gov/grants/BuyAmerica/GeneralApplicabilityWaivers>.

Definitions

"Buy America Preference" means the "domestic content procurement preference" set forth in section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act, which requires the head of each Federal agency to ensure that none of the funds made available for a Federal award for an infrastructure project may be obligated unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials incorporated into the project are produced in the United States.

"Construction materials" means articles, materials, or supplies that consist of only one of the items listed in paragraph (1) of this definition, except as provided in paragraph (2) of this definition. To the extent one of the items listed in paragraph (1) contains as inputs other items listed in paragraph (1), it is nonetheless a construction material.

(1) The listed items are:

- (i) Non-ferrous metals;
- (ii) Plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- (iii) Glass (including optic glass);
- (iv) Fiber optic cable (including drop cable);
- (v) Optical fiber;
- (vi) Lumber;
- (vii) Engineered wood; and
- (viii) Drywall.

(2) Minor additions of articles, materials, supplies, or binding agents to a construction material do not change the categorization of the construction material.

"Infrastructure" means public infrastructure projects in the United States, which includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property; and structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy including electric vehicle (EV) charging.

"Infrastructure project" means any activity related to the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States regardless of whether infrastructure is the primary purpose of the project. See also paragraphs (c) and (d) of 2 CFR 184.4.

“Iron or steel products” means articles, materials, or supplies that consist wholly or predominantly of iron or steel or a combination of both.

“Manufactured products” means:

(1) Articles, materials, or supplies that have been:

(i) Processed into a specific form and shape; or

(ii) Combined with other articles, materials, or supplies to create a product with different properties than the individual articles, materials, or supplies.

(2) If an item is classified as an iron or steel product, a construction material, or a Section 70917(c) material under 2 CFR 184.4(e) and the definitions set forth in 2 CFR 184.3, then it is not a manufactured product. However, an article, material, or supply classified as a manufactured product under 2 CFR 184.4(e) and paragraph (1) of this definition may include components that are construction materials, iron or steel products, or Section 70917(c) materials.

“Predominantly of iron or steel or a combination of both” means that the cost of the iron and steel content exceeds 50 percent of the total cost of all its components. The cost of iron and steel is the cost of the iron or steel mill products (such as bar, billet, slab, wire, plate, or sheet), castings, or forgings utilized in the manufacture of the product and a good faith estimate of the cost of iron or steel components.

“Section 70917(c) materials” means cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives. See Section 70917(c) of the Build America, Buy America Act.

2. Intangible Property

Title to intangible property acquired under this agreement vests upon acquisition with the Recipient, however Reclamation reserves the right to obtain, publish, reproduce, or otherwise use and authorize others to use for Federal purposes in accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.315](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.315) at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.315>.

3. Liability

a. In general, except as provided under [28 U.S.C. Chapter 171](https://www.uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title28/part6/chapter171&edition=prelim) (known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”) at

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title28/part6/chapter171&edition=prelim>, the United States shall not be liable for monetary damages of any kind for any injury arising out of an act, omission, or occurrence that arises in relation to any facility created or improved under this Agreement, the title of which is not held by the United States.

b. Tort Claims Act. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in 28 U.S.C. Chapter 171, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”).

VII. Reclamation Contacts

1. Grants Officer

The Reclamation GO is the only official with legal authority to; obligate funds, approve amendments, interpret financial assistance statutes, regulations, circulars, policies, and terms of this Agreement. The GO, or Grants Management Official, contact information can be found on the bottom of the Notice of Award cover page.

2. Grants Management Specialist

The Reclamation GMS works in conjunction with the GO and is the primary administrative point of contact for this Agreement regarding issues related to the day-to-day management. Requests for approval regarding changes to the terms and conditions of the Agreement, including but not limited to amendments and prior approval, may be submitted to a GMS but can only be approved, in writing, by a Reclamation GO. For some agreements, the Reclamation GO and the Reclamation GMS may be the same individual.

3. Grants Officer's Technical Representative

The Grants Officer Technical Representative (GOTR), or Federal Project Officer, is the primary point of contact for the programmatic performance, compliance, and progress for this Agreement and represents Reclamation in questions regarding interpretation of specifications, drawings, and other technical matters. The GOTR assists the GO in documenting performance, resolving compliance issues with project activities/milestones, and other technical conditions of the Agreement, however only the GO has the legal authority over management of this award. The GOTR holds no authority to modify, approve, or make determinations related to the terms and conditions of this award.

VIII. Department of Interior Standard Terms and Conditions

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Standard Award Terms and Conditions found at <https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions> are hereby incorporated by reference as though set forth in full text. The Recipient is responsible for ensuring their subrecipients and contractors are aware of and comply with applicable statutes, regulations, and agency requirements.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized process for accounting principles and procedures of the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("SWCD").

Definitions

Financial Officer - The SWCD Financial Officer is the Accounting and Grants Coordinator, or another employee designated in writing by the General Manager with equivalent authority, who is responsible for coordinating SWCD financial operations. The Financial Officer is responsible for administering accounting functions, payroll coordination, grant financial management, accounts payable and receivable, financial reporting, and other financial duties as assigned by the General Manager.

Policy

SWCD maintains its financial records using QuickBooks, or another accounting system approved by the Board of Directors and prepares its financial records in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), applicable Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Under the supervision of the General Manager, the Financial Officer is responsible for maintaining SWCD accounting records and administering the day-to-day financial operations of SWCD. These responsibilities include recording financial transactions, maintaining the general ledger, processing accounts payable and accounts receivable, reconciling all bank accounts, maintaining grant financial records, preparing routine financial reports, assisting with budget preparation, and ensuring that financial records are complete, accurate, and maintained in accordance with the SWCD Records Retention Policy.

The Financial Officer is also responsible for receiving all payments made to SWCD and ensuring that all checks and other forms of payment are accurately recorded and deposited promptly into SWCD accounts. All deposits shall be reconciled with supporting documentation to verify completeness and accuracy.

SWCD checks shall require two authorized signatures prior to issuance. Authorized signatories shall consist of the Board President and either the General Manager or the Board Treasurer. Blank check stock shall be maintained in a secure, locked cabinet accessible only to the General Manager and the Financial Officer. Copies or electronic images of all issued checks, together with supporting documentation, shall be retained in accordance with the SWCD Records Retention Policy.

Electronic payments, automated clearing house (ACH) transactions, wire transfers, and other electronic banking activities shall be conducted using internal controls that provide appropriate authorization, documentation, and oversight as outlined in the SWCD Expense Approval Policy.

The Financial Officer shall prepare and present a Treasurer's Report to the Board of Directors at regular Board meetings, generally every other month unless otherwise directed by the Board. The report shall summarize SWCD's financial position, revenues, expenditures, budget status, cash balances, fund balances, and any significant financial activity occurring since the previous reporting period. The Board of Directors shall review these reports as part of its fiduciary responsibility for financial oversight.

SWCD shall engage an independent certified public accountant or qualified auditing firm to conduct an annual financial audit or financial review, as required by law. The completed audit shall be presented to the Board of Directors for review. Any findings or recommendations shall be evaluated by management, and appropriate corrective actions shall be implemented and reported to the Board as necessary.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations, sponsor requirements, and organizational practices.



Charles Smith, SWCD Board President



JR Ford, SWCD Board Vice President

Southwestern Water Conservation District

SUBRECIPIENT RISK DETERMINATION POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized process for assessing the level of risk associated with organizations that receive subawards from the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("SWCD" or "District"). The risk determination process is intended to ensure that these "subrecipients" possess the financial stability, administrative capacity, internal controls, and programmatic capability necessary to manage sponsored funds in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, District policies, and the terms and conditions of the subaward. The results of the risk assessment will be used to determine the appropriate level of monitoring and oversight throughout the period of performance. This policy does not apply to contractor agreements or procurement of services from vendors.

Scope

This policy applies to all subawards issued by SWCD as a pass-through entity under federal financial award agreements. The policy applies to all employees responsible for issuing, administering, or monitoring subawards and applies to both domestic and foreign subrecipients.

Definitions

Pass-Through Entity - For purposes of this policy, a pass-through entity is non-federal entity that receives financial assistance from a sponsoring Federal agency and provides a portion of that assistance to another entity through a subaward to carry out a portion of the sponsored project. SWCD is the pass-through entity referenced throughout this policy.

Subrecipient - A subrecipient is an eligible organization that receives a subaward from SWCD to carry out part or all of a sponsored project. A subrecipient is responsible for making programmatic decisions, complying with the applicable terms and conditions of the award, and achieving the objectives of the funded project.

Subaward – An award of financial assistance made under a legal agreement entered into by SWCD and a subrecipient for the purpose of carrying out a portion of a sponsored project. A subaward does not include agreements for goods or routine services provided by contractors or vendors.

Contractor - A contractor is an entity that provides goods or services within its normal business operations for the benefit of the project but does not carry out a programmatic portion of the sponsored award. Contractors are subject to the District's procurement policies rather than subrecipient monitoring requirements.

Risk Assessment - A risk assessment is the documented evaluation conducted before issuing a subaward to determine the likelihood that a subrecipient will comply with applicable financial, administrative, and programmatic requirements. The assessment considers the subrecipient's organizational capacity, financial stability, internal controls, audit history, prior performance, and other relevant factors.

Single Audit - A Single Audit is an audit conducted in accordance with applicable federal audit requirements for entities that expend the applicable threshold amount or more in federal awards during a fiscal year. The results of a Single Audit may be used as part of the organization's risk assessment process.

Monitoring - Monitoring refers to the ongoing oversight activities performed by SWCD to ensure that subrecipients comply with applicable laws, regulations, award terms and conditions, and programmatic requirements throughout the period of performance.

Financial Officer - The SWCD Financial Officer is the Accounting and Grants Coordinator, or another employee designated in writing by the General Manager with equivalent authority, who is responsible for coordinating SWCD financial operations. The Financial Officer is responsible for administering accounting functions, payroll coordination, grant financial management, accounts payable and receivable, financial reporting, and other financial duties as assigned by the General Manager.

Policy

It is SWCD's policy to adhere to regulations set forth in the Uniform Guidance, 200 CFR §§ 331-332. To provide the oversight required by federal regulations, SWCD shall conduct and document a risk assessment for each proposed subrecipient prior to issuing a subaward and implement risk-based monitoring activities that provide reasonable assurance the subrecipient will administer the subaward in compliance with applicable regulations and terms of the prime and subawards.. The risk assessment shall evaluate the subrecipient's ability to comply with the administrative, financial, and programmatic requirements of the award and shall consider the overall level of risk associated with the proposed relationship. The assessment shall be completed before execution of the subaward and shall be maintained as part of the official award file.

SWCD recognizes that subrecipients present varying levels of risk. Accordingly, monitoring activities shall be tailored to the level of risk identified during the assessment process. When warranted, special conditions may be imposed on the subaward in accordance with applicable regulations and sponsor requirements.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment shall consider all information reasonably available at the time of the review. The assessment shall evaluate the subrecipient's prior experience managing sponsored awards, the adequacy of its financial management systems, the effectiveness of its internal controls, its history of compliance with award requirements, the results of recent audits, the qualifications of key personnel, the complexity of the proposed project, and any other information that may affect the organization's ability to successfully administer the subaward.

When available, SWCD shall review the subrecipient's most recent Single Audit or independent financial audit, corrective action plans, financial statements, publicly available information regarding suspension or debarment, and prior experience with the organization. Additional documentation may be requested when necessary to adequately assess risk.

Risk Determination

Following completion of the assessment, the subrecipient shall be assigned a risk designation of low, moderate, or high risk. The assigned designation shall reflect the overall assessment of the subrecipient's capacity to comply with applicable requirements and successfully perform the work under the subaward. The rationale supporting the risk determination shall be documented and maintained in the official award file.

Monitoring Requirements

The level of monitoring shall be proportional to the assessed level of risk. Subrecipients presenting a lower level of risk shall receive routine financial and programmatic oversight. Subrecipients presenting a

higher level of risk may be subject to enhanced monitoring activities, including more frequent reporting, additional documentation, technical assistance, invoice review, site visits, corrective action requirements, or other special award conditions determined to be appropriate by SWCD. At a minimum, SWCD shall monitor costs and activities of subawards to ensure expenditures are consistent with the budget, performance goals and scope of work of the subaward. Monitoring activities may be modified during the period of performance if new information indicates that the level of risk has changed.

Reassessment

Risk assessments shall be reviewed whenever a new subaward is issued, an existing award is renewed, or significant changes occur that could affect the subrecipient's level of risk. Such changes may include audit findings, organizational restructuring, changes in key personnel, financial instability, performance concerns, or other compliance issues identified during monitoring.

Documentation and Record Retention

All documentation supporting the risk assessment, risk determination, monitoring activities, and any resulting corrective actions shall be maintained in the official grant file in accordance with the SWCD Record Retention Policy and applicable sponsor requirements.

Responsibilities

The SWCD Financial Officer or Programs Manager is responsible for conducting and documenting subrecipient risk assessments, maintaining assessment records, determining appropriate monitoring requirements, and ensuring compliance with applicable regulations with oversight from the SWCD General Manager. The Programs Manager, or employee with equivalent responsibilities, is responsible for monitoring the programmatic performance of subrecipients and promptly reporting any concerns regarding performance or compliance. The Financial Officer is responsible for reviewing financial reports and invoices and assisting with financial oversight throughout the life of the subaward.

Noncompliance

Failure of a subrecipient to comply with the terms and conditions of a subaward may result in additional monitoring, corrective action requirements, withholding of payments, suspension of activities, modification or termination of the subaward, or any other action authorized by applicable regulations, sponsor requirements, or the subaward agreement.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations, sponsor requirements, and organizational practices.



Charles Smith, SWCD Board President



JR Ford, SWCD Board Vice President

Southwestern Water Conservation District

PAYROLL POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized process for managing the payroll process of the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("SWCD").

Definitions

Financial Officer - The SWCD Financial Officer is the Accounting and Grants Coordinator, or another employee designated in writing by the General Manager with equivalent authority, who is responsible for coordinating SWCD financial operations. The Financial Officer is responsible for administering accounting functions, payroll coordination, grant financial management, accounts payable and receivable, financial reporting, and other financial duties as assigned by the General Manager.

Policy

SWCD contracts with a qualified third-party payroll service provider to process employee payroll in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, tax regulations, and employment requirements. SWCD maintains internal controls designed to ensure that payroll is processed accurately, timely, and only after appropriate review and authorization.

Each employee is responsible for accurately recording all hours worked, leave taken, and any other compensable time on the SWCD approved timesheet for each payroll period in compliance with SWCD's personnel policies. Completed timesheets shall be submitted every other Friday by 5:00PM MST.

Employee timesheets shall be reviewed and approved by the General Manager prior to payroll processing. The General Manager's timesheet shall be reviewed and approved by the President of the Board of Directors to ensure appropriate oversight and separation of duties.

The Financial Officer is responsible for collecting approved timesheets, verifying payroll information, maintaining payroll records, preparing payroll reports, and coordinating payroll processing with SWCD's third-party payroll provider. The Financial Officer shall verify employee compensation, deductions, leave balances, and benefit withholdings to ensure payroll information is complete and accurate.

Prior to payroll submission, the Board Treasurer shall review the payroll package, including approved timesheets, payroll summaries, payroll registers, and any supporting documentation necessary to verify the accuracy and completeness of payroll processing. Payroll shall not be submitted to the payroll service provider until the Board Treasurer has completed this review and approved the payroll package.

Payroll records, reports, and supporting documentation shall be maintained in accordance with the SWCD Records Retention Policy and all applicable legal requirements.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations, sponsor requirements, and organizational practices.



Charles Smith, SWCD Board President



JR Ford, SWCD Board Vice President

Southwestern Water Conservation District

CONTRACTOR MANAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized process for managing contractors employed by the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("SWCD").

Definitions

Contract – A written agreement whose principal purpose is to acquire supplies, services, or construction, or to dispose of supplies for the direct benefit of SWCD. An individual or entity performing services under a Contract is an independent contract and not an employee of SWCD.

Contractor – An entity that is a party to a Contract as defined above. For the purposes of contracts performed under a Federal financial award, a Contractor is an entity that provides goods or services within its normal business operations for the benefit of the project but does not carry out a programmatic portion of the sponsored award. For additional information on subrecipient and contractor determinations related to a Federal financial award, see 2 CFR § 200.331.

Policy

SWCD shall maintain a current inventory of all contractors, consultants, and professional service providers performing work on behalf of SWCD. This inventory shall include contractor contact information, contract effective and expiration dates, a description of the general scope of work, compensation terms, and any insurance, licenses or certifications required for the contracted services.

The General Manager, or a designated employee, shall request updated rate schedules, fee schedules, and any other required documentation from contractors at least annually or at least 30 days prior to when a contract is due to be renewed or amended.

The General Manager, or a designated employee, shall periodically meet with active contractors to evaluate contract performance, discuss service expectations and any performance issues, review pricing updates, confirm compliance with insurance and licensing requirements, and identify any revisions that may be necessary to existing agreements. The General Manager is responsible for escalating any performance issues, Contract renewals, amendments, and new service agreements shall be reviewed and approved in accordance with SWCD's procurement policies, contracting procedures, and any Board approval requirements.

All contracts, amendments, supporting documentation, and contractor records shall be maintained in accordance with the SWCD Records Retention Policy.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations, sponsor requirements, and organizational practices.



Charles Smith, SWCD Board President



JR Ford, SWCD Board Vice President

FEDERAL GRANTS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

Policy Number:

Effective Date:

Location: Durango, Colorado

1. PURPOSE & AUTHORITY

The purpose of this Federal Grants Financial Management Policy is to establish a comprehensive, legally compliant, and systematically rigorous framework for the administration, monitoring, and execution of all federal and federal flow-through grant funding received by the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD).

This policy is promulgated under the authority of the SWCD Board of Directors and is designed to satisfy the statutory and regulatory requirements set forth in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR Part 200) and the 2025 Revision of the GAO Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government (GAO-25-107721, the "Green Book"). This policy is intended to supplement, not supplant, SWCD's employee/organizational policies and procedures.

2. CONTROL ENVIRONMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE

The control environment provides the foundational discipline and structure for internal controls within SWCD.

2.1 SWCD Board of Directors Oversight

The SWCD Board of Directors holds ultimate fiduciary and governance responsibility for the oversight of federal, including any federal flow-through, grant funding. The Board shall:

- Review and formally approve all grant applications seeking federal funding exceeding \$50,000 prior to submission.

- Receive and review quarterly financial and programmatic performance reports for all active federal awards.
- Appoint an independent, qualified Certified Public Accountant (CPA) firm to perform annual financial audits and Compliance Supplements (Single Audits) when expenditure thresholds dictate under federal law.

2.2 Operational Roles and Responsibilities

Operational execution of the management of federal grant awards is divided into distinct roles to ensure comprehensive management coverage:

- **General Manager:** Serves as the primary Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). The General Manager is responsible for the strategic alignment of federal grants with SWCD's mission, signing formal grant award agreements, and verifying that programmatic objectives are achieved efficiently.
- **Financial Officer:** Responsible for the financial administration of federal grant awards. This includes maintaining the general ledger, tracking allowable costs under 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E, generating financial reports (e.g., Federal Financial Reports), executing drawdowns from federal payment systems, and preserving financial source documentation.
- **Project Manager:** Responsible for the day-to-day execution of grant-funded objectives, monitoring federal grant sub-recipients, collecting programmatic data, and drafting technical progress reports. The Project Manager is typically SWCD's Programs Coordinator.

3. COMPREHENSIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

SWCD systematically identifies, analyzes, and responds to internal and external risks that could jeopardize compliance with federal grant requirements. Risk assessments must be formally documented on an annual basis or upon the receipt of any new major federal award.

3.1 Programmatic Objective Definition

For each federal award accepted, the Project Manager and Financial Officer shall collaboratively construct a Grant Compliance Matrix that explicitly details operational objectives, key performance indicators (KPIs), reporting deadlines, and specific compliance

mandates unique to the funding agency and federal award.

3.2 Fraud and Improper Payment Vulnerability Assessment

The Financial Officer shall conduct an annual fraud risk assessment focusing specifically on:

- **Unauthorized Expenditures:** Reviewing procurement avenues to prevent unallowable or personal expenses from being charged to federal accounts.
- **Falsified Time Tracking:** Auditing personnel time allocation to ensure hours charged to federal projects reflect actual activity (Personnel Activity Reports).
- **Improper Payments:** Evaluating billing practices to eliminate duplicate invoices, overpayments, or disbursements to unauthorized or debarred vendors. SWCD shall cross-reference all contractors against the federal System for Award Management (SAM.gov) exclusions list prior to contract execution.

3.3 Technology and Information Security Risk Assessment

The Financial Officer shall take reasonable cybersecurity and other measures to safeguard information including protected personally identifiable information and other types of information in conformance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.303(e).

3.4 Significant Organizational Change Management Protocol

SWCD will formally evaluate internal controls when significant structural or environmental changes occur. Trigger events requiring a documented internal control review include:

- Turnover of key personnel (e.g., General Manager or Financial Officer).
- The adoption of new accounting, enterprise resource planning (ERP), or grant-tracking software.
- A sudden, substantial influx of emergency or non-routine federal funding (e.g., federal drought relief or infrastructure funding).
- Transitions in workplace architecture, such as shifts between office-based operations and remote work environments.

4. PREVENTATIVE & DETECTIVE CONTROL ACTIVITIES

Control activities represent specific policies, procedures, and enforcement mechanisms designed to mitigate risks and ensure that management directives are executed.

4.1 Prioritization of Preventative Controls

SWCD prioritizes preventative internal controls (actions taken before a transaction is completed) over detective controls (actions taken after a transaction occurs).

4.2 Segregation of Duties and Mitigating Management Reviews

To prevent fraud and error, SWCD strictly segregates the core operational financial duties related to management of federal grant awards into the following categories: Authorization, Custody, Recording, and Reconciliation. No single individual shall have the capability to execute a transaction from inception to final reconciliation.

Recognizing that SWCD operates as a small governmental entity with limited administrative staff, the following Dual-Authorization Matrix is strictly enforced to govern expenditures involving federal funds:

Expenditure Amount Range	Primary Preparer / Initiator	Required Primary Approver	Required Secondary Approver / Authorizer
\$0.00 - \$4,999.99	Program Manager / Staff	Financial Officer	General Manager (Review via Monthly Ledger)
\$5,000.00 - \$24,999.99	Program Manager / Staff	Financial Officer	General Manager (Written/Digital Signature Required)
\$25,000.00 - \$74,999.99	Financial Officer	General Manager	Board Treasurer (Dual Co-Signature Required)
\$75,000.00 and Above	Financial Officer	General Manager	Full SWCD Board of Directors (Formal Resolution Approval)

Mitigating Control for Small Staff Limitations: In the event that staff absences temporarily

prevent the segregation of duties, the Board Treasurer shall perform an independent, documented line-by-line review of all general ledger entries and bank reconciliations executed during that period.

4.3 Technology Access and Cybersecurity Controls

SWCD protects federal grant information systems through the implementation of the following baseline cybersecurity practices:

- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** MFA must be enabled and enforced for all user accounts accessing SWCD financial accounting software, bank accounts, and federal grant reporting portals (e.g., Grants.gov, ASAP, PMS).
- **Role-Based Access Control (RBAC):** User permissions within financial platforms are strictly limited to the minimum access necessary for employees to perform their designated duties. Program managers shall not possess administrative or transaction-posting capabilities within the general ledger.
- **Password Complexity:** System passwords must conform to modern complexity standards (minimum 12 characters, mixing upper/lowercase, numbers, and special symbols) and be rotated or updated regularly.

4.4 Comprehensive Transaction Documentation

All disbursements charged to a federal grant must be supported by a complete, unedited audit trail. Payment vouchers must include: a verified vendor invoice, evidence of item receipt or service delivery, documentation of the procurement methodology used (e.g., micro-purchase, small purchase, or competitive bidding under 2 CFR § 200.320), and written confirmation of the specific grant account code and allowability analysis.

5. QUALITY INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Information must be captured and communicated across the organization and to external stakeholders in a form and timeframe that enables individuals to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

5.1 Data Accuracy Verification Protocol

Prior to the transmission of financial data, reimbursement requests, or programmatic reports

to any federal agency, the Financial Officer and General Manager must perform a joint data verification review. Financial data must be reconciled directly to the underlying accounting records, and performance tracking numbers must be substantiated by recorded project logs or certified contractor outputs. Reports must be certified in writing using the exact statutory language required by 2 CFR § 200.415.

5.2 External Communication Standards

The General Manager is the designated principal point of contact for external communication with federal grant officers. Any compliance concerns, project delays, or budget reallocations requiring federal approval must be formally communicated in writing by the General Manager. General communication timelines and requests for information from federal agencies must be acknowledged and answered within five business days.

6. CONTINUOUS MONITORING & REMEDIATION PROTOCOL

The internal control system must be continuously monitored to assess the quality of performance over time and ensure that control deficiencies are promptly resolved.

6.1 Periodic Self-Assessments

On a semi-annual basis, the Financial Officer and a designated member of the Board's Financial Committee shall perform a random sample compliance audit of at least 10% of all federal award transactions executed during the preceding six months. This internal evaluation checks for accurate cost allocation, presence of receipts, timely timesheet approvals, and proper system logging.

6.2 Deficiency Remediation and Corrective Action Plans

If an internal control deficiency, data breach, or improper payment is identified through internal monitoring or external audit, SWCD shall initiate the following remediation protocol within 15 calendar days:

1. **Root Cause Analysis:** Perform an investigation to determine the systemic vulnerability or human error that allowed the deficiency to occur.
2. **Drafting the Corrective Action Plan (CAP):** Establish a written CAP detailing the exact operational changes, system updates, or training protocols to be implemented to

permanently eliminate vulnerability.

3. **Assignment and Deadlines:** Assign an explicit staff member responsible for executing the remediation and specify a strict completion deadline not to exceed 60 days from deficiency identification.
4. **Board Report:** Submit the finalized CAP to the SWCD Board of Directors for review and formal monitoring until fully executed and verified.

7. Grant Administrative Protocol

7.1 Primary Point of Contact

A designated project manager shall serve as the primary contact between SWCD and the federal funding agency and any external consultants.

7.2 Cash Management - *Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.305*

Requests for reimbursement of expenses or advance payments by SWCD or any subrecipient must be consistent and fully compliant with the terms of the grant. SWCD must also comply with any required Federal regulations, including 2 CFR § 200.305(b).

- a. SWCD will maintain effective internal controls for federal grant funds.
- b. SWCD must protect federal grant cash and other assets and must assure that grant monies are only used for authorized purposes.
- c. SWCD will maintain adequate records which identify the source and application of funds for federally-funded activities. These records must include source documents of Federal awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, revenue and expenses.
- d. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cost principles, program regulations, and terms of the grant agreement will determine if the cost is allowable, allocable and reasonable to the award.
- e. Federal expenditures will be compared with budgeted amounts for each grant.

7.3 Procedures for Cash Management - *Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.305*

The Project Manager will approve allowable grant expenditures in accordance with SWCD's Expense Approval Policy. SWCD pays for the approved expenditures through SWCD's normal accounting processes.

- a. The Financial Officer initiates reimbursement requests per the stipulations of the grant award after review of federal expenditure activity.
- b. Reimbursement is made via ACH wire directly into SWCD's bank account.
- c. The cash receipt is entered into the financial system.

- d. A copy of the ACH confirmation will be maintained with the cash receipt. The cash receipt is reviewed and approved in the financial system. Cash receipts are recorded per SWCD's Accounting Policy.
- e. If SWCD receives an advance, per Federal requirement, any interest earned more than \$500 will be returned to the awarding agency.

7.4 Allowability of Costs - Legal Requirements: 2 CFR 200.302(b)(7), 2 CFR 200.309, and 2 CFR 200.403 - 2 CFR 200.405

Except where otherwise authorized by law, costs must meet the following general criteria to be allowable under Federal awards:

- a. Must be necessary and reasonable for the performance of the Federal award or sponsored agreement and does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost.
- b. Must be allocable to a project if it is considered a direct cost of that project.
- c. Indirect costs that follow SWCD's indirect cost rate proposal, discussed in the "indirect cost" section of this policy.
- d. Must be consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally-financed and other activities of SWCD.
- e. Consistently treated when used in like circumstances and adequately documented.
- f. Must be allowed by SWCD's approved policy and procedures and conform to any limitations or exclusions set forth by §200.403 principles or identified in the award.
- g. Determined in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- h. Has not been included or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federally-financed program in either the current or prior period.

In the event a special or unusual cost arises, the Financial Officer should attempt to receive prior written approval from the Federal awarding agency to avoid any unreasonableness or non-allocability. If prior approval is not obtained, it does not mean those costs will not be allowed.

Any expenditure that is not allowed to be charged to the award by the agreement, federal agency regulations, or the Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards shall not be charged to the award.

7.5 Cost Share/Matching Funds - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.306

All cost sharing/matching expenses shall be documented in the same manner as regular program expenses. Contributions must meet all the following criteria to be included as matching funds:

- a. Verifiable from the contributor's records;
- b. Not included as contributions for any other federal grant project or program;
- c. Necessary and reasonable to complete project or program objectives;
- d. Allowable under the applicable Federal Cost Principles;
- e. Not paid by the federal government under another award;
- f. Provided for in the approved budget when required by the federal awarding agency;

7.6 Direct Costs - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.306

Direct costs can be identified specifically with a Federal award or other program or activity or can be charged directly to the account assigned to that program or activity. Direct costs include salaries, wages, and proportional fringe benefits of staff directly engaged in the program and only if they are included in the grant agreement. Direct costs also include the cost of equipment, materials, supplies, and services, consultant fees subcontracts, or other allowable costs per the terms of the agreement.

A direct cost can benefit more than one program or function and can be allocated to the benefiting programs or functions on a reasonable or equitable basis.

7.7 Indirect Costs - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.306

Indirect costs are those that are incurred for common or joint objectives and cannot be identified or allocated to a specific project or activity. The indirect costs will be allocated to each capital project with annual activity each year and may include an indirect cost rate for administrative salaries.

Staff provide administrative support to capital projects and execution of the grant program. The indirect cost rate for administrative support will be determined as of August 1 each fiscal year and will be calculated using expenses from the prior year (total labor for those functions divided by SWCD wide total labor). This factor will be added to labor charged to capital projects for the upcoming fiscal year.

Indirect cost recovery or indirect cost rates may be capped to allowable amounts under specific terms included in each grant. Although infrequent, these indirect amounts and/or rates may differ from the standard indirect cost rates of SWCD.

7.8 Program and Budget Revisions - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.308

The Financial Officer is responsible for obtaining written approvals for program or budget revisions.

7.9 Lobbying - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.450

Federal grant funds will not be used for lobbying activities or other influencing activities associated with obtaining grants, contracts, or agreements.

7.10 Reporting - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.327, 2 CFR 200.328 and 2 CFR 200.329

- a. SWCD is responsible for the oversight of the federal award and must monitor activities occurring under the award to ensure they are compliance with all

- requirements and meeting performance expectations. Financial reports, monitoring and reporting program occurrence shall occur as outlined in 2 CFR §§ 200.327 - 329.
- b. Grant expenditures are coded by the project manager to corresponding project accounts, separating Federal grant expenditures from other expenditures.
 - b. The Financial Officer reviews the financial statements and general ledger activity for accuracy, completeness, proper coding, and general adherence to award terms and conditions.
 - c. The Financial Officer submits financial status reports to awarding agency, if required.
 - d. The Financial Officer presents monthly financial status reports to the Board during regular Board Meetings.
 - e. The Financial Officer maintains the Schedule of Federal Expenditures of Awards.

7.11 Timesheets - *Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.306*

All SWCD employees that work on projects funded through federal grants, are responsible for completing their timesheets on a bi-weekly basis. Employees must record all time spent on grant and non-grant activities. Grant activities will be monitored by a unique identifier in the time sheets, and the actual cost of those hours will be allocated to the project business unit.

The payroll department will maintain a file with all timesheets, and the project manager will maintain a file that documents hours charged to the project.

7.12 Contract Administration and Payment - *Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.318(b)*

The project manager, Financial Officer, and relevant contractors shall be responsible for monitoring administration of the contract and shall ensure the fulfillment of all written requirements. Disbursement of federal funds will follow the same accounts payable process as nonfederal payments.

7.13 Standards of Conduct - *Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.318(c)(1) and 2 CFR 200.318(c)(2)*

SWCD employees and members of the Board of Directors must comply with SWCD's conflict of interest standards set forth in SWCD's Procurement Policy.

7.14 Procurement Records and Files - *Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.318(i)*

SWCD will retain historical records of federal procurements in accordance with SWCD's records retention policy.

7.15 Suspension/Debarment - *Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.213*

No procurement will be made using a contractor that has been suspended or debarred from receiving federal funds. Prior to awarding any contract, SWCD staff will search the federal *Excluded Parties List System* (www.sam.gov) to determine that the contractor is not suspended or debarred. Documentation of this search will be maintained in the

grant procurement file.

7.16 Open and Free Competition - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.319

Proposal selection shall be based on responsiveness to the solicitation, price, quality, deadlines of delivery, warranties, accountability and fulfillment of the service and other relevant factors.

To ensure full and open competition, SWCD will abide by the following guidelines:

Procurement Amount	Action
\$75,000 and Above	Formal solicitations shall be conducted, and a cost/price analysis shall be conducted
\$10,001 - \$74,999.99	Cost/price analysis shall be conducted
\$1 - \$10,000	Formal solicitations or cost/price analysis are not required

SWCD reserves the right to award purchase orders, consultant agreements or project contracts on a sole source/noncompetitive basis when one or more of the following circumstances apply: (1) the item or service is available only from a single source that has predominate capability; (2) there is a public emergency that will not permit a delay from competitive solicitations; (3) SWCD received prior approval from the awarding agency; or (4) competition is determined to be inadequate after solicitation from a number of sources. A written justification will be prepared and kept on file for any noncompetitive procurement.

7.17 Procurement Procedures - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.320

A. Methods of Procurement. One of the following procurement methods must be used:

Procurement Method	Purpose
Micro-purchases	For supplies or services when the aggregate dollar amount does not exceed \$10,000. Solicitation of price quotations is not required.
Small purchases	For supplies, services or other property that do not exceed \$75,000. A cost/price analysis must be conducted. A minimum of three written price quotes shall be obtained.
Sealed bids	The preferred procurement method for construction projects. Formal advertising required. A minimum of three responsible bidders must be considered. Public works contracts will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder.
Competitive proposals	For supplies and services of more than \$75,000 when the use of sealed bids is not appropriate. Requests for proposals must be formally advertised and solicited from a minimum of three qualified sources. Formal solicitations shall be conducted.
Noncompetitive proposals	Authorized only by the General Manager

- B. Procurement Authority for Operating Expenses.** The individuals with purchasing authority corresponds with values identified in the Dual-Authorization Matrix in item 4.2 and the ability to sign contracts is reserved for the General Manager and Board of Directors.

RFPs must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. All proposals will be reviewed by the project manager and the contracts department using similar evaluation criteria for nonfederal awards.

7.18 Use of Small Businesses, Minority-owned Firms and Women's Business

Enterprises - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.321

SWCD will make positive efforts to utilize small businesses, minority-owned firms, women's business enterprises, wherever fully practicable. To further this goal, SWCD will:

- a. Place qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists to encourage and facilitate their participation;
- b. Solicit small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises when they are identified as potential sources;
- c. When feasible, divide larger projects into smaller components to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises;
- d. Establish delivery schedules, when permissible, that encourages participation by small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises;
- e. Use the services of organizations such as local Chambers of Commerce, the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce;
- f. Require prime contractors to take the same affirmative steps if subcontracts are awarded.

7.19 Cost or Price Analysis - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.324

A cost or price analysis shall be conducted for every procurement action greater than \$10,000. The cost or price analysis shall be performed prior to receiving bids or proposals. A cost analysis shall consist of a review and evaluation of each element of cost to determine reasonableness, allocability and allowability. A price analysis shall consist of comparing price quotations, market prices and similar information.

7.20 Required Contract Provisions - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.327

SWCD shall include all provisions required by the Federal funding agency and applicable provisions found in *Appendix II of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200)*.

7.21 Equipment Records - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.313(d)(1)

- A. For all equipment purchased with federal grant funds, SWCD will maintain accurate information about the equipment including the following:
 - i. A description and serial number or other identification number;

- ii. Source of funding, including the Federal Award Information Number (FAIN);
- iii. Whether title vests in the recipient or the federal government;
- iv. Acquisition or received date and cost;
- v. Percentage of federal participation in the cost;
- vi. Location use, condition, and the date the information was reported;
- vii. Ultimate disposition data, including date of disposal and sales price.

B. Equipment owned by the federal government shall be identified as such.

7.22 Inventory - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.313(d)(2)

SWCD will conduct a physical inventory at least once each year. Any differences between quantities between the inspection and the accounting records shall be investigated. SWCD will verify the existence, current utilization and continued need for the equipment.

7.23 Disposition of Equipment - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.311(c), 2 CFR 200.313(d)(5) and 2 CFR 200.313(e)

When equipment purchased with federal funds is no longer needed for the original project or program, SWCD staff will consult the grant's terms and conditions, and the federal program officer for disposition instructions.

7.24 Financial and Program Records - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.334

All records will be retained in accordance with SWCD's records retention policy and applicable Federal regulations. SWCD

7.25 Access to Records - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.337

SWCD will grant personnel from the federal awarding agency, Inspectors General, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives, access to any documents, papers, or other records which are pertinent to the federal grant. Any subrecipient shall similarly be required to provide the federal awarding agency, SWCD, Inspectors General, the Comptroller of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives the right of access to any records of the subrecipient pertinent to the Federal award to perform audits, execute site visits, or for any other official use. The right shall also include timely and reasonable access to the subrecipient's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents or the Federal award in general. SWCD staff will be available to answer questions related to such documents.

7.26 Safeguarding Sensitive Information - Legal Requirement: 2 CFR 200.303(e)

SWCD will take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the Federal awarding agency or SWCD considers sensitive consistent with laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.



Charles Smith, SWCD Board President



JR Ford, SWCD Board Vice President

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Procurement Policy

The policy set forth in this document establishes standards and guidelines for the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services to ensure that they are obtained as economically as possible through an open and competitive process, and that contracts are managed with good administrative practices and sound business judgment.

Code of Conduct

A Code of Conduct shall govern the performance, behavior, and actions of the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("SWCD"), including its Board members, employees, volunteers, or agents who are engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts.

1. No employee, director, or agent of SWCD shall participate in the selection, award or administration of a bid or contract, including but not limited to those supported by an award of Federal funds, if a conflict of interest is real or apparent to a reasonable person. A conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to, when an employee, Board member, volunteer, or agent of SWCD, any member of their immediate family, partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the foregoing parties, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from an entity considered for a contract.
2. SWCD employees, board members, volunteers, and agents shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, gifts, trips, favors or anything of monetary value in excess of \$500 dollars from a vendor, potential vendor, or from the family or employees of a vendor, potential vendor, or bidder; or from any party to a sub-agreement or ancillary contract.
3. As permitted by law, rule, policy or regulation, SWCD may pursue appropriate legal, administrative, or disciplinary action against any employee, Board member, volunteer, or agent who is alleged to have committed, has been convicted of or pled no contest to a procurement related infraction. If said person has been convicted, disciplined, or pled no contest to a procurement violation, said person shall be removed from any further responsibility or involvement with grants management, procurement actions or bids, consistent with State or Federal policy.

Solicitation and Competition

Procurement transactions will generally be conducted in a manner that provides full and open competition, consistent with the standards set forth herein. In addition, for procurement transactions occurring under a Federal grant award, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations to bid shall be excluded from competing on those procurements to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage.

SWCD shall begin with an analysis of the need for the procurement, to avoid the purchase of duplicative or unnecessary items (this may include an examination of lease versus purchase alternatives where appropriate). SWCD shall then identify and clearly specify standards for the

goods or services desired and seek competitive offers where possible to obtain the best possible quality at the best possible price. In general: Some form of cost or price analysis shall be made and documented in the procurement files in connection with every procurement action. Price analysis may be accomplished in various ways, including the comparison of price quotations submitted and market prices, together with discounts.

Bids must be sought for goods and services exceeding \$100,000. For procurements that exceed the Federal "small purchase" threshold (the federal threshold is \$100,000, but the locality or State may set a lower threshold), competitive bids will be utilized and requests for these bids will be written in a way that does not restrict competition. (A clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured; all requirements which offerors must fulfill; and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.)

Basis of award cost or price.

SWCD is not required to take the lowest price if other factors are important to the decision. There should be an objective method for selection, and any factors for evaluation and selection should be listed in the procurement documents. Awards shall be made to the bidder or offeror whose bid is responsive to the solicitation and is most advantageous to SWCD (price, quality and other factors considered). A bid may be rejected when it is in SWCD's interest to do so.

Documentation

SWCD shall retain records sufficient to detail the history of each procurement transaction. At a minimum, procurement records must clearly show how SWCD executed price sampling for small purchases, selected the method of procurement and the type of contract to be used. Determined which bids or proposals to accept and which to reject; and determined the basis for the contract cost or price.

Contract Administration

SWCD has an overall system of contract administration to ensure proper oversight and management of procurement actions. SWCD is responsible for evaluating contractor performance and documenting, as appropriate, whether contractors have met the terms, conditions, and specifications of the contract. This may include progress inspections, interim products, inspection of goods delivered, and other such methods that provide assurance that the goods or services purchased are being delivered within the scope of the contract. SWCD's contract administration system must ensure that: The method of procurement is documented, and records maintained for five years after final payment is made; All activities are carried out and costs are incurred in compliance with applicable requirements; and Before payment is made, services performed are adequate and consistent with the contract scope of services

Methods of Procurement

Purchase Threshold Requirements

Purchase Thresholds and categories are defined as follows (2 CFR 200.320):

- Micro-Purchases (Purchases under \$10,000)
- Small Purchases (\$10,001 – \$250,000)
- Competitive Purchases/Sealed Bids (\$250,001+)
- Noncompetitive Proposals

For all purchases (single or cumulative) over \$10,000 for a single vendor within a fiscal year, written price or rate quotes will be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.

Micro-Purchases (Purchases under \$10,000)

Competitive quotations are not required if the prices are reasonable. Selection will be based on quality and cost. To the extent practicable, purchases will be distributed equitable among qualified suppliers.

Small Purchases (\$10,001 – \$250,000)

The organization will obtain price quotes which may be formal (i.e., a quote submitted to the organization on vendor letterhead) or they can be informal (i.e., phone call or web search) from adequate number of sources. All quotes, including phone calls, web searches, etc. will be documented and kept on file.

Competitive Purchases/Sealed Bids (\$250,001+)

Sealed bids will be used when the selection of successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price. Invitation for bids will define the items or services needed to allow bidders to properly respond. Descriptions will not contain features that unduly restrict competition, such as requiring certain brands or manufacturers of items. Bids will be solicited from an adequate number of know supplies providing sufficient response time.

Noncompetitive Proposals

Procurement shall be conducted competitively to the maximum extent possible. Procurement by non-competitive proposals must have prior approval from any/all federal funding sources. Procurement by non-competitive proposals may be used only when the award of a contract is not feasible using small purchase procedures, sealed bids, or competitive proposals and one of the following applies:

1. The item is available only from a sole source, based on a good faith review of available sources.
2. An emergency exists that seriously threatens the public health, welfare, or safety, or endangers property, or would otherwise cause severe injury to ECA, as may arise by reason of flood, earthquake, epidemic, riot, equipment failure, or similar event. In such cases, there must be an immediate and serious need for supplies, services, or construction such that the need cannot be met through any other procurement methods, and the emergency procurement shall be limited to those supplies, services, or construction necessary to alleviate the emergency; or
3. After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

Written justifications for using such procedures shall support all procurements based on noncompetitive proposals. The reasonableness of the price for all procurement based on noncompetitive proposals shall be determined by performing a cost analysis.



Charles Smith, SWCD Board President



JR Ford, SWCD Board Vice President

Southwestern Water Conservation District

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized process for managing all real property owned in full by the Southwestern Water Conservation District ("SWCD") as well as any real property, intangible property, equipment or supplies acquired or improved with federal grant fund awards.

Policy

SWCD Owned Real Property

The General Manager is responsible for the management, maintenance, protection, and appropriate use of all real property, facilities, equipment, vehicles, furnishings, and other assets owned or controlled by SWCD. SWCD property shall be maintained in a safe, functional, and efficient condition that supports SWCD's mission and complies with all applicable laws, regulations, agreements, easements, leases, and contractual obligations.

SWCD shall periodically evaluate the condition of its property and assets to identify maintenance needs, repair requirements, replacement schedules, and capital improvement opportunities. The General Manager shall ensure that appropriate maintenance is performed in a timely manner, that SWCD assets are protected from loss, theft, misuse, or damage, and that insurance coverage remains appropriate for SWCD-owned property.

Any acquisition, sale, transfer, lease, or other disposition of SWCD-owned real property, as well as any significant capital improvement project, shall require approval by the Board of Directors and shall be conducted in accordance with applicable SWCD policies and legal requirements.

Standards for Property Acquired or Improved with Federal Grant Funds

Any real property acquired or improved with federal grant funds or owned by the Federal Government shall be managed in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR §§ 200.310 – 200.312. This includes, but is not limited to, the requirement that SWCD shall, at a minimum, provide the equivalent insurance coverage for real property and equipment acquired or improved with federal grant award funds as provided to property and equipment owned by SWCD. Equipment, supplies and intangible property acquired under a federal award shall be managed and subject to the applicable provisions of 2 CFR §§ 200.313 – 200.316.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations, sponsor requirements, and organizational practices.



Charles Smith, SWCD Board President



JR Ford, SWCD Board Vice President

II. Project Performance

1. Project Narrative and Milestones

Under this agreement, the Recipient shall complete 16 projects bundled over three categories to address the most pressing issues the region is experiencing - ecosystem degradation by invasive species, river bank and system erosion, and fragmentation of habitat and ecosystems that are critical for watershed resilience.

1.1 Category 1 – Invasive Removal (Project 1-4)

- **Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Montezuma County)**

Priority invasive treatment shall occur on approximately 250 acres. The project anticipates active revegetation on the treated acres in the watershed, based on site-specific needs. Recipient shall identify specific project locations, coordinate with landowners, conduct pre-site assessments, develop treatment plans and establish post-work monitoring protocols. Recipient shall implement a phased approach to phreatophyte removal, hire qualified contractors for removal activities, and mulch or chip biomass generated during removal and use material to stabilize disturbed areas along with native seed mixes. Recipient shall conduct replanting of appropriate native vegetation, including cottonwood and willow. Recipient shall conduct post-treatment monitoring by Mancos and High Desert Conservation Districts, and all treatment and monitoring data shall be entered into a GIS database for long-term tracking.

- **Invasive Phreatophyte Control (La Plata County)**

Removal of Russian olive and tamarisk from at least 80 acres per year, with approximately 240 acres treated in total. Recipient shall conduct annual partner coordination meetings and lead landowner outreach to identify new participants and expand the geographic reach of treatments prioritizing sites that connect or extend continuous stretches of previously treated river reaches. Recipient shall create site-specific restoration plans for approximately 80 acres per year and implement phased Russian olive and tamarisk removal using qualified contractors or trained crews, conduct native species replanting, conduct repeat treatments as needed, and utilize site visits and monitoring data to determine annual treatment needs and treatment priorities. Recipient shall allow natural revegetation on most treated sites, while in areas with insufficient natural regeneration, supplement restoration with native willow and/or cottonwood pole plantings. Recipient shall perform post-treatment monitoring using repeat photo points with GIS mapping to track treatment progress, retreatments, and restoration outcomes to guide adaptive management and future planning, and document annual accomplishments and changes in vegetation condition.

- **Dolores River Restoration Partnership**

Approximately 60 acres (10 acres initial tamarisk and Russian olive treatment, 50 acres site maintenance treating re-sprouts and secondary weeds) of invasive phreatophyte removal and native riparian is expected, with approximately 180 acres (30 primary, 150 maintenance) treated in total. The project anticipates active revegetation on the treated acres in the watershed, based on site-specific needs. Over the project's life, approximately 40 acres will be treated by a heavy equipment contractor and 70 acres by a contracted forestry saw crew. Four partnership meetings and four community volunteer and outreach events will be conducted throughout the life of the grant. Recipient shall remove and treat tamarisk, Russian olive, and additional woody invasive species, conduct retreatment of resprouts and secondary herbaceous weed treatment through herbicide application, and masticate

and chip biomass to prevent erosion or bank destabilization. Recipient shall conduct seeding and planting using local native species, stabilize disturbed soils to prevent erosion or bank destabilization, and implement revegetation methods tailored to site conditions and passive/native recruitment potential. Recipient shall install Zeedyk structures on tributaries to the Dolores River. Project Team shall monitor the Dolores River watershed through rapid vegetation assessments of native and non-native species and other ecological health indicators. Recipient shall conduct additional site assessments as needed, plan partnership meetings, volunteer events, and community outreach.

Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Ute Mountain Ute Reservation and Tribe)

Invasive treatment will occur within priority units totaling approximately 86 acres over four years. Recipient shall conduct pre-implementation assessments and wildlife surveys and conduct a phased approach for removal of tamarisk and Russian olive using the cut-stump method, utilize hand crews only to minimize soil disturbance and prevent conditions that favor invasion by noxious weeds, and stage biomass for piling, burning, or chipping and transport off-site, based on site accessibility. Recipient shall conduct instream Restoration by implementing LTPBR treatments and installing structural and process-based elements to enhance channel function and riparian recovery. Recipient shall follow-up with post-implementation vegetation surveys and identify areas that require retreatment. All work shall be implemented by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and treatment data shall be entered into the GIS database.

1.2 Category 2 – Erosion Control and Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (Project 5-12)

- **Animas Riverbank Stabilization**

The project will focus on bank stabilization for an estimated 2.3 miles of the Animas River. The Recipient shall provide full project coordination and management and engage with all landowners and interested stakeholders through the Animas River Plan process. Recipient shall conduct site assessments and develop site-specific designs and advance all required permitting. Recipient shall complete hydraulic modeling, preliminary design, final design and manage construction, including preparing bid documents, overseeing contractor procurement, conducting construction observation and documentation, and performing project closeout. Recipient shall complete as-built surveys following construction.

- **Beaver Deceivers/Flow Devices in the Mancos Watershed**

Project involves constructing beaver exclusion fencing and/or flow devices at specific agricultural diversions and road culverts. Recipient shall determine locations suitable for device installations based on site characteristics and select appropriate device types based on water depth, site aspects, flow rate ranges and sensitivity of infrastructure. Recipient shall coordinate with landowners to design and construct flow devices and/or beaver exclusion fencing at four agricultural diversions or road culverts. Recipient shall develop site-specific designs tailored to ecological and operational needs. Recipient shall complete required permitting prior to construction. Recipient shall develop monitoring and maintenance plan collaboratively with Mancos Conservation District and participating landowners.

- **Chimney Rock Erosion Control**

Project shall implement up to 22 LTPBR structures, including one-rock dams, rock rundowns and Zuni bowls. Recipient shall determine the best type of structure and installation method through a service contract with an experienced practitioner. Recipient shall secure permits and procure materials for

LTPBR structures, install using Tribal crews, and monitor structures using photo points. Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will conduct post-construction effectiveness monitoring for a period of five years.

- **Mancos River System Restoration**

Project shall create up to 100 LTPBR structures, within an estimated 2 miles of river restored. Recipient shall use an existing model developed through a stream management process to identify areas with the potential to provide impactful results. Recipient shall engage and coordinate with prospective landowners and project management for the construction of LTPBR structures. Recipient shall conduct final site determinations with landowners and through modeling and on-the-ground surveys. Recipient shall design LTPBR structures and complete required permits. Recipient shall construct and install LTPBR structures and conduct post-construction effectiveness monitoring of installed LTPBR structures.

- **Ironton Park Restoration**

Project shall implement coordinated restoration actions to improve ecosystem function across fen peatlands, riparian wetlands, and in-stream habitats (approximately 2 acres of fen restoration, 10 acres of riparian habitat restoration and 1.5 miles of in-stream restoration). Recipient shall conduct contracting, routine reporting, and project management for the life of the project. Recipient shall develop a Fen Restoration Plan that will be used for project implementation and a site-specific monitoring schedule. Recipient shall create engineered riparian wetlands to buffer encroaching recreation to include a monitoring schedule. Recipient shall excavate up to approximately 1,200 cubic yards of wetland overburden, ensure all materials are retained onsite, and strategically redistributed to promote upland growth of vegetation. Recipient shall construct each project component as designed and monitor as proposed.

- **Animas Headwaters Wetland and Stream Restoration**

Project shall implement coordinated restoration actions to improve ecosystem function across fen peatlands, riparian wetlands, and in-stream habitats (approximately 10.5 acres of fen habitat, 4 acres of riparian wetlands, and over 1 mile of in-stream habitat). Animas Headwaters Ecological Action Division has mapped and prioritized the headwaters for the ecological restoration projects. Recipient shall initiate site-specific designs for each location and complete appropriate permitting. Recipient shall conduct pre-monitoring, establish post-monitoring protocols, and conduct post-monitoring. Recipient shall remove fen and riparian wetland overburden to reestablish groundwater connections, install plants, plugs and seed mixes while protecting the site from erosion with erosion prevention materials. Recipient shall implement in-stream restoration using wooden posts and local woody materials, ensuring minimal disturbance to the streambed.

- **Snow Spur Creek Restoration**

Project shall implement up to 12 LTPBR structures along a 1-mile reach to increase habitat connectivity and over-winter habitat for a conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. All disturbance work shall be confined to the channel at the pre-identified sites and no heavy machinery shall be used. Recipient shall complete all permitting and site design. Recipient shall conduct pre-monitoring to establish a baseline of habitat features. The foundation posts for the beaver dam analogs shall be sourced off-site and willows shall be sourced from downstream. Staging of materials, collected willows and wooden posts shall occur on site. Foundation posts shall be

installed using only hand tools and performed by Southwest Conservation Corps. Recipient shall lead a volunteer day to weave willows into the structures.

- **Mancos Canyon Stream Restoration**

Project shall install up to 72 LTPBR structures across approximately 1.5 miles of the river and will allow for approximately 2 miles of continuous restoration when completed. Recipient shall complete pre-implementation monitoring, which may include quantitative and qualitative observations of biotic and abiotic indicators. Recipient shall layout each structure's location, identify the function and intent of each structure, and apply for required permits for in-stream construction activities. Recipient shall install structures and complete post-implementation monitoring pre-runoff, post-runoff, and post-monsoon for at least one year post installation. Recipient shall also conduct maintenance of structures as necessary.

1.3 Category 3 – Habitat Connectivity and Fish Passage (Project 13-16)

- **Park Ditch Diversion Restoration and San Juan River Restoration**

Project shall improve one existing agricultural water diversion structure and restore approximately one mile of river. Project will reconstruct the diversion structure to eliminate annual maintenance needs and improve aquatic connectivity, remove dangerous steel and concrete rubble from the river channel, build a stable diversion feature using large boulders arranged to create fish-passable interstitial spaces, stabilize and revegetate adjacent riverbanks to maintain long-term bank integrity, implement landslide bank stabilization methods to prevent ongoing erosion and sediment loading and conduct approximately 7,500 cubic yards of channel reshaping and place an estimated 2,500 medium and large rocks. Recipient shall develop final engineering designs and complete permit requirements. Recipient shall construct diversion and conduct stream restoration to include mobilization, earthwork/water control, removal and disposal of existing diversion structure, placing concrete around large boulders, placing large boulders with an excavator, subgrade preparation, installing membrane, installing riprap, channel shaping, removal of excess channel material, constructing new diversion structure, placing large tree root wads, and transplanting willows that will be locally sourced on site.

- **Mancos River Improvements through the Town of Mancos**

The project shall create eight excavated channel/long pool features and alternating point bar, 4 cross-vane structures and scour pools, and 3 designated and hardened access points. Project activities shall involve basic channel shaping and the introduction of strategically placed rock structures to increase scour and provide much-needed depth and cover for survival during low flow periods. Channel shaping shall be conducted using an excavator by moving material from the outside river bends to the middle section of the river to improve flow and depth for the entire cross-section. Recipient shall design pool features based on site-specific conditions; complete permitting; manage mobilization and earthwork/water-control activities; construct pools that replicate natural channel characteristics; install portage trail signage and safety signals at access points; restore and stabilize banks; perform seeding and mulching; and provide overall construction management.

- **Wines Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage**

This project shall create a permanent passage for priority native fishes by opening approximately 190 connected river miles and many tributaries in the Dolores River basin. Recipient shall mobilize crews and equipment; complete required permitting; conduct earthwork and water-control operations;

construct the arch rapid, diversion structure, bendway weirs, headgate, and ditch extension; install PIT-tag arrays; place portage-trail signage and signal boulders; perform bank restoration and apply seeding and mulching; and provide comprehensive construction management.

- **Webber Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage**

Project shall improve existing agricultural water diversion structure and create a permanent fish passage allowing for movement upstream and downstream of the diversion. Recipient planning and permitting tasks shall include finalizing conceptual quantities and plans, completing topographic and hydrographic surveys, reaching approximately 50 percent design completion, initiating and completing the NEPA process along with associated resource surveys, and finalizing the full design package. Construction tasks include initiating and completing the construction bidding process, mobilizing the selected contractor, beginning construction, achieving substantial completion, and reaching final project completion.

The milestones for this project are:

*Planned Start & Completion Dates Refer to Planned Construction Phase

Milestone/Task/Activity	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Application Development	July 2024	June 2026
Environmental and Cultural Compliance	September 2026	December 2029
Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Montezuma County)	October 2028	September 2031
Invasive Phreatophyte Control (La Plata County)	October 2028	September 2031
Dolores River Restoration Partnership	October 2028	September 2031
Invasive Phreatophyte Control (Ute Mountain Ute Reservation and Tribe)	October 2028	September 2031
Animas Riverbank Stabilization	March 2030	September 2031
Beaver Deceivers/Flow Devices in the Mancos Watershed	January 2029	October 2029
Chimney Rock Erosion Control	November 2027	March 2031
Mancos River System Restoration	January 2030	September 2031
Ironton Park Restoration	March 2030	September 2031
Animas Headwaters Wetland and Stream Restoration	August 2028	July 2031

Snow Spur Creek Restoration	June 2028	December 2028
Mancos Canyon Stream Restoration	July 2028	September 2031
Park Ditch Diversion Restoration and San Juan River Restoration	June 2030	September 2031
Mancos River Improvements through the Town of Mancos	December 2029	September 2031
Wines Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage	September 2028	April 2029
Webber Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Passage	March 2028	September 2031



Pre-Award System Survey

A. GENERAL INFORMATION	Recipient Name	Southwestern Water Conservation District
	UEI	840628885
B. FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HISTORY	List All Federal Grants or Cooperative Agreements Received in the Past 5 Years (State the Award Number, Year, Amount, Purpose)	
	Bureau of Reclamation	N/A
	Other Department of the Interior	N/A
	Other Federal Grants	N/A
C. RECIPIENT SINGLE AUDIT HISTORY	2 CFR 200.501 requires a Single Audit for recipients who expend \$1,000,000 or more in Federal awards during their fiscal year. ☒ Our fiscal year runs <u>01/01 through 12/31</u>. ☒ We have previously received a Single Audit. The most recent audit report was issued for the fiscal year: 2025. ☐ We have never been required to complete a Single Audit.	

**D.
FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM**

2 CFR 200.302 requires that a Recipient's financial management system: separately identifies each Federal award received and expended, and under which Federal program the award was received; allows for accurate and complete reporting; contains supporting documentation for expenditures; accounts for funds, property, and assets; tracks Federal award budgets; and has written procedures for payments and determining allowability of expenditures.

2 CFR 200.306 requires that cost share or matching contributions are identifiable in the Recipient's financial management system.

Describe the financial management system used, including the type of system/name of software:

The Southwestern Water Conservation District uses QuickBooks as its financial management system and maintains financial controls that comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.302 and 2 CFR 200.306.

Each Federal award is assigned its own unique line-item account within QuickBooks, allowing revenues, expenditures, budgets, and cost-share or matching contributions to be separately identified and tracked by funding source. The system supports accurate and complete financial reporting, maintains supporting documentation for expenditures, and accounts for organizational funds, property, and assets.

Financial and program records are retained in accordance with the Southwestern Water Conservation District's Record Retention Policy.

☒ We have a financial management system that meets the 2 CFR 200 requirements identified above.

☐ We do not have a financial management system that meets the 2 CFR 200 requirements identified above.

If it does not meet the requirements identified above, state which requirements are not met:

E. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	We have documented policies and procedures for: ☒ Payroll ☒ Accounting ☒ Purchasing/Procurement ☒ Property management ☒ Contractor management ☒ Subrecipient risk determination and monitoring (if applicable) Describe the documented policies and procedures, including how long they have been in place and how they are communicated to employees: As a small entity three employees, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) maintains streamlined administrative procedures that are appropriate to the size and scope of the organization. SWCD makes all efforts to align its internal policies and procedures with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Policies pertaining to personnel have largely been in place as of June 2022, the document retention and expense approval policies have been in effect since early 2026, and those policies pertaining to financial affairs were updated in July of 2026 in preparation for an anticipated federal grant award. All policies and procedures are presented to new hires during a comprehensive onboarding to ensure they comply with all measures. All employees also receive physical copies of all policies and procedures as part of their new employee packet. If all policies identified above are not documented, state which policies do <u>not</u> exist:
---	---

RECIPIENT AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

By signing, I acknowledge that I am the Authorized Representative to sign on behalf of SWCD (Recipient Name). The information provided above is accurate as of the signature date below. I acknowledge that the Bureau of Reclamation has the right to evaluate SWCD (Recipient Name) systems, policies, and procedures that are used for administration of Reclamation grants and cooperative agreements.

SIGNATURES

RECIPIENT AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

X



Name: Andrew Grams-Hessle

Date: 7/10/26

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

11/18/2024

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

Southwestern Water Conservation District

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

84-0628885

* c. UEI:

SQ3NJJS7W5H2

d. Address:

* Street1:

841 East Second Ave.

Street2:

* City:

Durango

County/Parish:

* State:

CO: Colorado

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

81301-5425

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Andrew

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Straub-Heidke

Suffix:

Title:

General Manager

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number:

970-247-1302

Fax Number:

* Email:

astraub-heidke@swwcd.org

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

D: Special District Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Bureau of Reclamation

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

15.567

CFDA Title:

Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation (B2E)

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

n/a

* Title:

Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation (B2E)

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Addressing Drought Mitigation in Southwest Colorado: Water Conservation and Infrastructure Partnership

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

* a. Applicant

03

* b. Program/Project

03

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

03/01/2025

* b. End Date:

12/31/2031

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	25,603,230.00
* b. Applicant	615,564.00
* c. State	2,591,929.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	504,209.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	29,314,932.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Andrew

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Straub-Heidke

Suffix:

* Title:

General Manager

* Telephone Number:

970-247-1302

Fax Number:

* Email:

admin@swcd.org

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:

07/13/2026

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009

Expiration Date: 06/30/2028

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal interest in the title of real property in accordance with awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure nondiscrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE GENERAL MANAGER
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT	DATE SUBMITTED 7/9/20



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Andrew Straub-Heidke & Joshua Brooks

Subject: Agenda Item 8.3: 2027 Budget Preparation (Action Needed)

Date: August 11, 2026

In late August, SWCD staff will start preparing a draft 2027 budget for review and consideration by the board beginning at our budget workshop, currently scheduled for **September 10, 2026**. As a refresher, below is a summary of the budget process adopted by the SWCD Board in 2019.

- **August Board meeting:** The Board appoints a budget officer (Steve Wolff) and reviews goals and activities. The Budget Officer, with staff support, presents draft revenue projections and any proposed non-typical expenditures. Board discussion about any priorities is encouraged.
- **September budget workshop and interim:** Between the August board meeting and the budget workshop, the Budget Officer will work with staff and individual board members to develop a draft budget based on preliminary revenues estimates for the coming year. The initial draft budget will be presented to the board by SWCD staff during the budget workshop. The board discusses the draft budget and directs staff to make any agreed-upon changes in preparation for the October Board meeting.
- **October Board meeting:** Prior to the October 2026 Regular board meeting, a revised draft budget will be distributed to the board members for their individual review. The Board will review the revised budget, including September changes, and the draft budget message at its October meeting. The Board will endeavor to have the draft budget substantially complete as a result of the discussion at the October meeting.
Administratively, it's especially important to have staff compensation and benefit costs for the upcoming year set at the October meeting since we will have to submit our final benefit package to CEBT by October 10, 2026. No later than October 15, 2026, the approved draft budget will be available for public inspection in the SWCD office and will be posted on SWCD's website with a link on the main page. The date/time of the December public budget hearing will be published.

- A. **December Board meeting:** The Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget. Following the public hearing, the board may revise the proposed budget in response to public comment and as otherwise allowed by state statute. The Board shall consider three resolutions; 1) Adopt the Proposed FY2027 Budget, 2) Appropriate Sums of Money, and 3) Set the Mill Levy. The Budget Officer certifies the mill levy to the County Commissioners by the statutory deadline (December 15).



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Josh Brooks

Subject: Agenda Item 8.4: 2026 Grantee Update & 2027 SWCD Grant Guidelines and Grant Application

Date: 08/12/2026

This memo is being provided to update the Board on the status of the 2026 awarded grants and the 2027 Grant Program Guidelines, as discussed at our June Regular Board Meeting.

Grant Program Guidelines:

- Updated based on June Board Meeting discussion regarding moving to a reimbursement model and requiring W9 information prior to grant disbursement.
- Additionally, at the June Board Meeting, an item of discussion was the addition of a Drought Response category. These guidelines have added that category and any unspent grant funds in the previous year are to be rolled into its budget, to a maximum of \$50,000.
- As per General Manager and General Counsel's recommendations, a stipulation has been added stating that the District can for whatever reason, rescind grant funds should the Board deem fit.

Grant Program Application:

- Online Form Attached – Fillable printable document will be finalized (with the same questions) after the board meeting

2026 Grant Program Status

Entity	Project	Reimbursed	Approved
Mountain Studies Institute	Southwest Education Colorado Watershed Education	\$10,000	\$10,000
Abraham Davis Ditch Company	Abraham Davis Ditch Headgate	\$50,000	\$50,000
Four Mile Ditch Association, Inc.	Head Gate Repair	\$15,775	\$22,500

Mesa Ditch Company	Mesa Ditch Diversion Structure Repair	\$25,761	\$25,761
Piedra Falls Ditch Company	Headgate and ditch restation post Oct 2025 flood events - Piedra Ditch	\$50,000	\$50,000
San Juan River Ranch Association Inc.	Headgate and ditch restation post Oct 2025 flood events - Obannon Ditch	\$18,635	\$18,635
Snowball Ditch Company	Repair of the Snowball Ditch from November 2025 Flood Damage	\$4,465	\$4,465
San Miguel Watershed Coalition	San Miguel Watershed Wilfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP)	\$0	\$25,000
The Telluride Institute	TESEL Sensitive Wetlands Assesement & Monitoring Program (SWAMP) + West End Ecosystem Pilot	\$10,000	\$10,000
Wright Ingraham Instutute	Field Workshop 2026: San Luis Valley	Request Withdrawn	Request Withdrawn
City of Durango	Florida Pipeline Replacement Design	\$0	\$100,000
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District	Engineering of Dutton Ditch Raw Water Pipe Extension to Stevens Reservoir and Pump Station	\$0	\$100,000
RiversEdge West	Dolores River Restoration: Managing Invasive Plants and Revegetation Best Practices	\$0	\$23,800
Trees, Water, & People	Restoring Waterways, Preserving Lifeways: Improving Ecological Function in the Mancos River	\$0	\$50,400
Riverview Ditch Company	Riverview Ditch Repair Project	\$15,000	\$15,000
Total		\$189,636	\$495,561

Link to 2027 Application: <https://www.swwcd.org/swcd-2027-grant-application>



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters of the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO

2027 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Southwestern Water Conservation District Background

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (“SWCD”) is a political subdivision of the State that was established by the Colorado General Assembly in 1941 to protect, conserve, use, and develop the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores River Basins as well as to safeguard all waters to which the state of Colorado is equitably entitled.¹ SWCD periodically offers financial assistance in the form of grants to qualified entities², that are carrying out projects consistent with SWCD’s statutory purposes. Funding for this program is subject to SWCD’s discretion, annual budget, and appropriation process. The Board retains the right, in its sole discretion, to approve, reduce, or deny any grant request.

Before applying, please ensure you can answer “yes” to each of the following questions:

- ☒ Are you a qualified entity²?
- ☒ Are you located within the SWCD’s boundaries?
- ☒ Is the project anticipated to start and finish in 2027?
- ☒ Are you actively contributing to your project with matching funds or in-kind services? If cash, are these funds from your organization or another grant/source? SWCD generally requires at least 25% match of the total project costs³.
- ☒ Is the SWCD grant request less than 50% of the total project cost?
- ☒ Have you spoken with SWCD staff (Josh Brooks, 970-247-1302) about the project and grant application before submission?

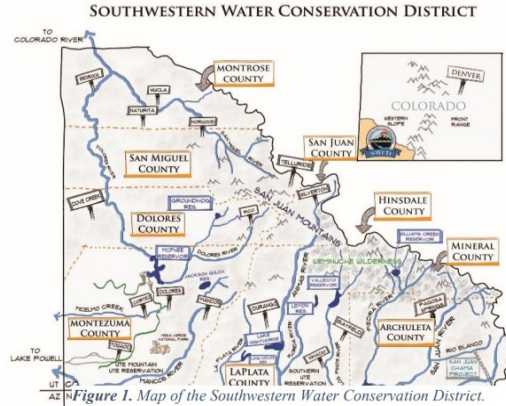


Figure 1. Map of the Southwestern Water Conservation District.

¹ See C.R.S. § 37-47-101 through -151

² See “Additional Requirements” for definition

³ See “Matching Exceptions” for list of exceptions

1.0 General Program Information

For the 2027 grant program, applications may be submitted from **September 4 through November 6th, 2026**. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application as early as possible so that there is adequate time to work with SWCD staff to ensure that the application meets all requirements in advance of the November 7th deadline. Generally, funding decisions on grant applications will be made by the SWCD Board at its first regularly scheduled meeting of 2027 (generally held in February).

Emergency Grant Requests: The deadlines provided above apply to routine grant requests and can be modified at the discretion of the SWCD Board to address emergencies. Emergency Requests typically stem from a natural disaster or other severe weather-related event and include but are not limited to: flood events causing damage to diversion, storage, or measurement structures; catastrophic canal or pipeline failure that prevents the delivery of water; imminent or actual spillway or dam failure, wildfire impacts including post-fire runoff, and other impacts; and toxic spills. Projects that result from or are exacerbated by deferred maintenance do not qualify. Please contact SWCD staff directly if this occurs to discuss submitting an emergency grant application. SWCD will not consider grant requests for entities that do not have appropriate reserves, have not adequately or proactively maintained their water supply systems, or have shown a lack of preparation for an emergency event.

SWCD annually anticipates receiving grant requests well over the available funds. The maximum amount of money potentially available from SWCD in the 2027 calendar year for all grant recipients is listed in the table below.

Grant Funding Category	<u>Proposed 2027 Funds Available</u> <i>Total Grant Program \$250,000</i>	<u>Annual Max Grant</u> <i>Request per Applicant per Category</i>	<u>Five-Year Max</u> <i>Grant Funds received per Applicant per Category</i>
Water Supply/Watershed Restoration: Water supply or watershed restoration or enhancement projects, including design, engineering, and construction	\$125,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
Public Forums/Studies: Public forums, workgroups, studies, planning efforts	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Education: Teaching seminars, workshops, and related programs	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Emergency requests: flood events causing damage to diversion, storage, or measurement structures; catastrophic canal or pipeline failure that prevents the delivery of water; imminent or actual spillway or dam failure, wildfire impacts, including post-fire runoff, and toxic spills	\$50,000 + any remaining unallocated grant funds	\$50,000	\$50,000

Drought Response: Irrigation efficiency projects, water storage, delivery & conveyance improvements, water measurement, drought feasibility studies	\$50,000 Comprised of unallocated EOY 2026 funds	\$50,000	\$50,000
--	---	----------	----------

If, as part of budget development for the upcoming fiscal year, the board adjusts the total grant program funding available, funding allocations by category will be adjusted proportionally or based on Board recommendations.

Any member of SWCD’s Board of Directors or Staff with a financial or property interest in a grant request will disclose any such interest or any other conflict of interest and recuse themselves from participating in any recommendation, vote, or decision-making process related to that grant request.

2.0 Additional Requirements

Eligibility:

SWCD will only consider grant requests from “qualified entities” for (1) development or improvement of water supply and watershed restoration or enhancement projects, including related design, engineering, and construction, (2) studies and facilitating stakeholder involvement in water-related matters, including water quality, (3) educational purposes, including teaching seminars, workshop, and related programs, and (4) emergency situations. “Qualified entities” are defined by statute to include any public entity, non-profit corporation, not-for-profit corporation, carrier ditch company, mutual ditch or reservoir company, unincorporated ditch or reservoir company, or cooperative association within the boundaries of SWCD.⁴ All projects, studies, and program grants will be limited to “raw” or untreated water supplies, except as provided below. Only projects or portions of projects located within the SWCD’s boundaries are eligible for grant funding.

SWCD will **not** consider grant requests or funding for;

- a. Completed Projects; however, the board may make an exception for projects completed within the past six months arising from the emergencies;
- b. Municipal or domestic drinking water projects that do not qualify as a “public water system,” which is defined for the purposes of these guidelines to mean any system that does not have a public water system ID number with the state of Colorado;
- c. Any part of a municipal or domestic “public water system” which is unrelated to raw water storage or delivery. Applications for eligible portions of the public water system should include the state ID number for the system;
- d. Wastewater treatment projects;

⁴ C.R.S. § 37-47-107(1)(j.5).

- e. Legal fees or payroll costs. SWCD will not pay an employee's salary or hourly wages but may consider paying for crew or seasonal work as it pertains to the specific project described in the grant proposal. If your project includes salary or hourly wages for employees, please identify them as a separate line item in the proposed budget and explain how you will pay for those costs without using SWCD grant funds. If you want to apply for funding for crew or seasonal project work, please identify this in your application, extra documentation may be required by the Board to approve such requests. Paying for an employee's time will be at the discretion of the board;
- f. Grant administration costs; or
- g. Weed management projects, although consideration will be given to programs that specifically remove phreatophytes if the Applicant demonstrates it has a plan, including funding, for appropriate revegetation and ongoing maintenance.
- h. Projects that arise due to lack of proper maintenance or lack of maintaining sufficient financial reserves to address routine maintenance and unforeseen events.

Matching Contributions

SWCD will not award a grant for more than 50% of the total project costs,⁵ and Applicants must demonstrate that they are actively contributing to the project for which they are requesting a grant. Any grant approval and release of funds will be contingent on the recipient demonstrating that they have secured funding for the remaining total project costs.

In addition, Applicants or beneficiaries of the proposed project must also demonstrate that they will provide, through a cash contribution and/or in-kind goods or services, at least 25% of the total project costs (in other words, half of the matching funds)⁶. Applications proposing the use of in-kind goods and services as all or a portion of the required matching contribution must provide detailed information identifying the time and valuation (at an hourly or total project rate) of in-kind contributions. The Board may, at their discretion, consider previous expenditures directly related to the proposed project as matching contributions if those expenditures occurred within six months of the grant application deadline. Matching Contributions Exceptions:

Non-profit, or non-governmental organizations, serving on behalf of a broad group of local constituents that do not receive tax revenues and do not have opportunities for third-party contributions for the project, may request a reduction of the match requirement to 10% of the total project cost (subject to approval by the Board) by garnering and documenting strong community or watershed support for the project.

⁵ For multi-phase projects, "total project costs" shall mean all costs related to the particular phase of the project for which the Applicant is requesting funding.

⁶ Multi-phase projects, "total project costs" shall mean all costs related to the particular phase of the project for which the Applicant is requesting funding.

Applicants that are actively pursuing large state, federal, or other grants may request a reduction in match. In these cases, applicants must describe the Grants being applied to and how SWCD dollars will be used to leverage these funds.

Limits on Grant Funding

The amount of funding each “qualified entity” may receive from SWCD is further limited to the following:

- a. Recipients of grants for the development or improvement of water-related projects may not receive more than \$60,000 in a single year or a total of \$120,000 in any given five-year period.
- b. Recipients of grants for participation in public forums and the performance of studies may not receive more than \$20,000 in any single year or a total of \$40,000 in any given five-year period.
- c. Recipients of grants for educational purposes may not receive more than \$10,000 in a single year or a total of \$20,000 in any given five-year period.
- d. Recipients of grants for Emergency purposes may not receive more than \$50,000 in a single year or a total of \$50,000 in any given five-year period.

Exceptions: For qualified entities that have multiple departments/programs, they may request that five-year limits apply only to singular departments or programs. Ultimately, departments or programs that are considered for this exception will have to demonstrate that their budget operates separately from the larger entities' whole budget. For example, the department or program is required to find its own funding for programs through grants and other means.

Award Rescission

The District reserves the right to rescind, modify, or withdraw a grant award at any time if it determines, in its sole discretion, that doing so is necessary or appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, circumstances involving changes in eligibility, non-compliance with grant requirements, misrepresentation or material changes in the proposed project, availability of funding, or other circumstances that affect the District’s ability or willingness to support the awarded project. Any funds that have not yet been disbursed may be withheld, and the District may require the return of previously disbursed funds where permitted by applicable law and the terms of the grant agreement.

3.0 Application Instructions and Process

Completion of SWCD’s application is required for SWCD to consider grant requests. The Board will not consider applications that do not meet the minimum requirements. To ensure consideration

for funding by SWCD, please apply for a grant before the water project, study or educational program has been initiated.

2027 SWCD Grant Application

Each application should be filled in electronically (highly preferred) or printed legibly and include, at a minimum, the required information indicated by a required field. If submitting a printed document, all applications and supporting documentation must be submitted in a single file. Applications submitted in multiple files will not be considered. For printed applications, please attach additional sheets as necessary to fully answer any question to assure that all information that might help evaluate your application is considered. Please return the **signed copy** of the application to Southwestern Water Conservation District and retain a copy for your records. Please submit to the following address or email: Southwestern Water Conservation District, 841 E. 2nd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301, *or* admin@swwcd.org. Once your grant application is received, it will be reviewed by SWCD staff to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements before consideration by the Board.

The Board will review and consider grant applications at the first Regular Board meeting in 2027. Applicants are encouraged to attend the meeting at which the funding requests will be considered, either in person or virtually, so that they can provide a brief summary of their grant request and answer questions that may arise. The Board requests a thorough, completed application form be submitted in lieu of a formal presentation.

For questions about the application or board meeting, please contact SWCD staff by phone (970-247-1302) or e-mail (admin@swwcd.org). For your reference, agendas are generally posted to the swwcd.org website one week prior to regular board meetings.

4.0 Evaluation Criteria

Grant proposals will be evaluated based on how well the proposed project, study, or educational request carries out the purposes, mission, and strategic priorities of SWCD. The Board will give special consideration to grant proposals that further the use or protection of pre-compact water rights and the development of Colorado River Compact entitlements as well as educational-related requests that complement or otherwise further SWCD's existing programs.

Furthermore, Applicants must demonstrate adequate shareholder assessments and reserves for ongoing operation, maintenance, and repair of their infrastructure. The Board will give favorable consideration to grant proposals from Applicants that are proactively and financially planning for their own future needs.

5.0 Fund Disbursement

Once a grant application has been reviewed and approved by the Board, a request for the release of grant funds may be made during 2027. If the Applicant will not be able to use the funds in that year, please contact the SWCD office as soon as possible.

For grant funds to be released, the Applicant must complete the following tasks:

1. Sign the “Document of Understanding” that accompanies the grant approval letter;
2. Complete a “Request for Release of Funds” form found on the SWCD website, [Financial Assistance Program - Southwestern Water Conservation District \(swwcd.org\)](http://www.swwcd.org);
3. Provide valid W-9;
4. Provide written documentation that all committed matching funds have been secured;
5. Provide written documentation that the Applicant continues to be a qualified entity

The signature of the Applicant’s authorized representative on the “Request for Release of Funds” form indicates that the funds are needed at that time and that the Applicant ensures and verifies that the funds are only being used for the specific purpose(s) described in the application and amount(s) indicated in SWCD’s grant approval letter. The Applicant agrees to allow SWCD to display a public notice identifying the project or activity as partially funded by the SWCD.

All grants awarded through this program shall be administered on a reimbursement basis. Grant recipients must first incur and pay eligible project expenses and then submit a Request for Release of Funds, together with supporting documentation acceptable to SWCD, including but not limited to invoices, receipts, proof of payment, contractor pay applications, or other records demonstrating that the expenses have been incurred and paid. SWCD reserves the right to review all submitted documentation and determine the eligibility of requested reimbursements prior to the release of grant funds. Reimbursement requests may be denied, reduced, or delayed if sufficient documentation is not provided or if the expenses are determined to be inconsistent with the approved grant application or award conditions.

The reimbursement requirement set forth herein may be waived, in whole or in part, by staff upon a finding that advance payment is necessary to facilitate the successful completion of the approved project, study, or program, there is a proven financial need, and is in the best interest of the District.

In the event the project, study, or program for which the grant was awarded ultimately comes under budget, the grant recipient must return a pro-rata portion of the remaining funds to SWCD within 45 days of completion. For example, if the completed project, study, or program is \$20,000 under budget and SWCD contributed 20% of the total anticipated project costs, then the grant recipient must return \$4,000 (20% of \$20,000) to SWCD.

6.0 Changing the Use of Funds

If the Board approves funding for the application, and at a future date the Applicant wishes to modify the intended use of funds, please notify staff as soon as possible. Any such modifications may be disallowed or require Board approval. Otherwise, SWCD requires reimbursement of funds.

7.0 Grant Extension Requests

If the Board approves funding for the application, and completion of the project, study, program, or other grant-funded task has not occurred in 2027, the Applicant must submit a written grant extension request to SWCD Staff describing the progress to date and the projected timeline for completion. At that time, Staff may elect to approve a one-year extension.

Grant extensions are usually limited to one year. However, the Board may approve grant extensions of more than one year; the Applicant may be required to submit a new application, or if funds have already been disbursed, the Board may request that the funds be returned.

8.0 Annual Reporting Requirement

If the Board approves funding for the application, the Applicant must provide a written report and/or supporting documentation of the work accomplished no later than December 31, 2027. This written report will include a detailed accounting of the use of funds including supporting documentation for any expenses incurred, as well as a detailed outline of the total project budget spent. Additional documentation may be requested at the discretion of SWCD. See sample final reports at wwwcd.org. If the Applicant cannot submit the final report by the deadline, they must submit a written request for an extension of time to SWCD staff prior to December 31, 2027, which explains the reporting delay and proposed final submittal date. The Board will not consider future grant requests from Applicants that do not comply with this provision or submit an unacceptable final report.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
**West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302**

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Andrew Straub-Heidke

Subject: Agenda Item 8.6: Update on Programs Coordinator Hiring Process

Date: August 13, 2026

As of August 13, 2026, the application for the Programs Coordinator position has been posted on the SWCD website, Josh's Water Jobs, and LinkedIn. Approximately \$224 will be spent on recruitment by the close of the posting period on August 28, 2026.

As of August 11, the posting has received:

- 295 views on LinkedIn;
- 532 views on the webpage hosting the application; and
- 5 applications.

The purpose of this memo is to update the Board on staff's current efforts to identify a qualified candidate and to outline the anticipated next steps in the recruitment process.

Next Steps

Once the job posting closes on August 28, 2026, staff will review applications and identify qualified candidates to advance to in-person interviews. Staff would then conduct interviews during the week of September 7, 2026.

Past procedure has called for the Board President and General Manager to participate in interviews, and staff intends to follow that practice. Staff would also like to offer the opportunity for one additional Board member to participate, should they wish to do so. As participation of three or more Board members may have implications under applicable open meeting requirements, staff may need to limit participation or prepare an appropriate statement for the District website if necessary.

Interviews will be conducted in person. If a candidate is unable to attend in person, staff will make accommodations for the interview to be conducted via Zoom.

Proposed Interview Schedule

Interviews are currently proposed for the following time blocks during the week of September 7, 2026. Thursday, September 10, is not included because it is currently scheduled as the District's budget workshop meeting day.

Wednesday, September 9

- Block 1: 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- Block 2: 10:00–11:00 a.m.
- Block 3: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday, September 11

- Block 1: 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- Block 2: 10:00–11:00 a.m.
- Block 3: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Additional interview slots may be added if these dates/times do not work for any of the qualified applicants.

Board Input

Unless otherwise directed by the Board, staff will proceed with the recruitment and interview process outlined above. Staff welcomes any feedback from the Board and would appreciate hearing whether any Board members would like to participate in the interviews.

**SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DURANGO, COLORADO**

**PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

The [Southwestern Water Conservation District](#) (“District”), based in Durango, Colorado, is seeking candidates for the Programs Coordinator position. The District was created by Colorado statute in 1941 to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water of the San Juan and Dolores River basins for the welfare of the District, and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the basin to which the state is entitled. The District encompasses all of La Plata, Montezuma, Archuleta, San Juan, San Miguel, and Dolores counties, and parts of Montrose, Hinsdale, and Mineral counties. The District has a nine-member Board of Directors who are each appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of each member county.

The Programs Coordinator provides support to the General Manager in overseeing the day-to-day District operations and coordinates core Southwestern Water Conservation District (“SWCD” or “District”) programs, including the District’s outreach and education activities. The position also provides administrative support and assists the General Manager with special projects as they arise, including Board administration and coordination. The General Manager provides day-to-day supervision of the position, with additional guidance and oversight provided by the SWCD Board of Directors (“Board”). The position is a full-time, non-exempt position that is based out of the District’s office in Durango. Please see the Job Description below for additional information about the position.

The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, have strong verbal and written communication skills, and good public relations abilities.

The Minimum Requirements for the position are:

- Bachelor’s degree, preferably in Environmental Science, Water Resources, Engineering or related natural resources field
- Four (4) years of work experience in a natural resource field is preferred
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills
- Proficient with Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and Adobe
- Organizational and time management skills
- A valid Colorado driver’s license (or ability to obtain within 3 months of hiring) as well as valid motor vehicle insurance which meets Colorado’s minimum requirements

Highly Desirable Traits and Skills include:

- Knowledge of geographic area and river basins in southwest Colorado
- Background in water issues, water rights, or water policy
- Experience in management of natural resource programs

- Experience with event coordination, public outreach, and educational activities
- Experience with grant programs
- Experience leading or assisting with event planning & coordination
- Experience performing administrative tasks
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to multi-task
- Detail oriented
- Ability to work well independently as well as with a team

This is a full-time position with benefits including Paid Time Off (PTO) and holidays, retirement plan, and health and life insurance. Anticipated pay range is \$55,000 to \$70,000 annually. Although a pay range is listed, annual pay for this position will be set commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications and in compliance with the State and Federal equal pay laws. All employees of Southwestern Water Conservation District are Employees At Will.

To apply, please submit: (1) a cover letter explaining the basis for your interest in the position and a short explanation of why you are a good candidate for the job; (2) resume; (3) fully completed Application for Employment form; and (4) a fully completed Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation form. Forms for #3 and #4 above are available at <https://swwcd.org>. All materials listed above must be received in order to be considered for this position and should be submitted electronically (PDF preferred) at: <https://www.swwcd.org/job-application-programs-coordinator-swwcd>. **This position is expected to stay open until August 28, 2026. However, Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Please submit your application as soon as possible and no later than August 28, 2026.**

**SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PROGRAMS COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION**

Job Title:	Programs Coordinator
Reports to:	General Manager
Type of Position:	Full-time
Hours:	40 hours/week
Status:	Non-Exempt
Effective Date:	July 29, 2026

Summary of Job Description:

The Programs Coordinator is responsible for coordinating core Southwestern Water Conservation District (“SWCD” or “District”) programs, including all of District’s outreach and education activities, in close collaboration with its General Manager. The position also performs administrative tasks and assists the General Manager with special projects as they arise. The General Manager provides day-to-day supervision of the position, with additional guidance and oversight provided by the SWCD Board of Directors (“Board”). The position is a full-time, non-exempt position, based in Durango, Colorado.

Specific Job Duties and Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Programs Coordination (approximately 55%)

- SWCD’s Grant Program
 - Work with grant applicants to clarify guidelines and application requirements; prepare evaluation of grant applications and make recommendations to the Board using the SWCD Grant Program Guidelines; ensure SWCD’s reporting requirements are met, and generate annual program report to the Board.
 - Annually review and recommend updates to the Board of the SWCD Grant Program Guidelines.
- Implementation of B2E Grant
 - Hold regular group and individual project coordination meetings with subrecipients.
 - Monitor subrecipients’ compliance with grant and related contractual terms.
 - Assist in contracting process with Bureau of Reclamation and subrecipients.
 - Develop and implement communication strategy with stakeholders and members of the public.
- Animas Water Rights Program
 - After initial review by the General Manager, guide Notice of Intent (NOI) applications through SWCD’s process, including drafting quitclaim deeds and other correspondence related to making absolute increments of the conditional water rights decreed in Case Nos. 06CW127 and 05CW88 (Water Division 7);

verify depletion calculations completed by the District's consultants and update the annual depletions log entered in Case No. 06CW127, and ensure notice of intent process is adhered to.

- Weather Modification Program
 - Support the General Manager and other stakeholders within the District with budget and contract development.
 - Identify and secure annual funding partners for all three weather modifications programs the District is a partner on.
- Streamgaging Program
 - Identify and secure annual funding partners to support the District in managing its joint funding agreement with the United States Geological Survey.

Water Information Program (approximately 25%)

- Serve as the event producer and content coordinator for Water Information Program ("WIP") events throughout Southwest Colorado, including:
 - SWCD's annual Spring Water Seminar, which is typically held in late March. Responsibilities include event planning and logistics, vendor coordination, sponsorships, agenda development, speaker recruitment, and other event-related tasks.
 - SWCD's annual Children's Water Festival, held each May.
 - Water Law in a Nutshell or similar educational course.
 - Forest-to-Faucets Teacher Training Workshop.
- Manage the WIP website, social media accounts, and announcements.
- Lead public outreach and education efforts for WIP programs and events while identifying and engaging new audiences throughout Southwest Colorado.
- Manage and seek new WIP partnerships.
- Coordination of the WIP Steering Committee.

Additional District Outreach & Representation (approximately 10%)

- Assist the General Manager with:
 - developing content for materials or presentations; and
 - drafting resolutions, letters of support, newsletter articles, and other correspondence.
- Assist with District events and organizational activities, including education and outreach programs, public inquiries, meetings, records requests, and other duties assigned in support of District operations, as needed.
- Subject to the review of the General Manager, draft the District newsletter that may contain original articles, links to other regional and statewide water-related articles, and a calendar of upcoming events.
- Work in coordination with the District's state lobbyist and provide necessary support to the Board and General Manager relative to legislative activities of interest.
- Consult and coordinate with the District's General Counsel (or Special Counsel, as appropriate) prior to publicly discussing or taking any positions on any legal issues or

- topics of negotiation, and/or responding to related informational requests.
- Serve as an alternate for the General Manager on Colorado Water Congress State and Federal Affairs Committee meetings.
- Represent SWCD in local and regional events and processes as assigned, and other efforts as assigned.

Miscellaneous (approximately 10%)

- Provide administrative and operational support across District programs and functions, including Board administration and coordination, drafting meeting minutes, human resources, front office operations, fiscal and grant administration, contract management, communications, and general office administration, as needed.
- Travel to meetings and events as directed by the Board or General Manager.
- Any other job duties as assigned by the General Manager, SWCD Board or its personnel committee.
- Abide by and ensure compliance with all District personnel policies; Federal, State and Local employment laws; and all applicable Wage and Hour laws.

This job description describes the general nature and level of work required of the Programs Coordinator. It is not intended to be an exclusive or exhaustive list of duties and responsibilities required for this position. This job description may be changed or amended at any time by the SWCD Board, without prior notice, to meet the needs of the Southwestern Water Conservation District. The time estimates regarding each key function of the position will vary each month and each year.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Josh Brooks

Subject: Agenda Item 08.07 SWCD Branded Merchandise Policy Update

Date: August 13, 2025

This memo has been drafted to inform the SWCD Board of Directors that the District's preferred vendor for embroidered merchandise, Advertising Innovations, has undergone a change in ownership. As a result of this change, the vendor has implemented a new policy requiring a minimum order of 10 items.

This change presents the Board with two options for moving forward. The Board may either:

1. Revise the SWCD Branded Merchandise Policy, which was adopted in December 2025, to accommodate the vendor's new minimum-order requirement; or
2. Direct staff to identify and evaluate alternative vendors that can continue to meet the District's current ordering needs.

If the Board elects to pursue the first option, the existing and draft versions of the SWCD Branded Merchandise Policy are attached for review. The primary changes proposed in the draft policy are as follows:

- Establish two annual ordering periods. All merchandise orders would be submitted on either January 1 or July 1. Consolidating orders into two annual purchasing periods should increase the number of items ordered at one time and help the District meet the vendor's 10-item minimum.
- Modify employee and Board member eligibility. Employees and Board members would be eligible to receive one additional branded merchandise item per year.
- Establish a one-year eligibility period for new employees. After receiving their new-hire merchandise, new employees would need to complete one full year of employment before becoming eligible to order an additional item. For example, an employee hired in August would receive their new-hire items during the following January bulk order but would not become eligible for an additional item until the subsequent January, approximately 17 months after their initial hire date.

The Board may adopt all, some, or none of these proposed changes. Any provision may be modified or removed as needed to develop a policy that allows the District to continue working

with its preferred vendor while maintaining a reasonable and equitable process for branded merchandise purchases.

Alternatively, the Board may direct staff to pursue alternative vendors. If this option is selected, staff will identify potential vendors and obtain pricing for consideration at the October Board Meeting.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

Branded Clothing Guidelines:

Purpose:

To provide guidance for ordering and distributing branded clothing items (e.g., vests, polos, jackets) for employees and board members to represent the organization at public events, conferences, or in community settings.

Eligibility:

- **New Employees & Board Members:** Eligible for two branded items (e.g., polo, vest, jacket) upon hire/appointment, and a baseball cap.
- **Current Employees:** Eligible for replacement or one additional branded item every two years or as needed (e.g., due to wear).
- **Existing Board Members:** Eligible for one branded item per term.

Guidelines:

1. **Intended Use:** Clothing is provided to promote visibility and professionalism at public events, conferences, outreach activities, and when conducting official business. Personal wear outside these settings is optional, but encouraged to support community recognition.
2. **Cost Limit:** The organization will cover up to \$130 per person for new board members and hires per year, and up to \$105 for reappointed board members and existing staff.
3. **Item Selection:** Branded items will be consistent in style and logo placement. The District may offer a selection (e.g., polo, vest, or jacket) and may update available styles periodically.
4. **Optional Purchase:** Employees, board members, or SWCD Contractors may order additional items at their own expense through approved vendors.
5. **Equity & Sizing:** Reasonable accommodation will be made to ensure all individuals have access to appropriately sized and styled clothing.

Process:

- Orders will be coordinated by the Program Manager annually or upon the onboarding of new individuals.
- Individuals will be invited to select preferred items and sizes from approved options.
- All branded items must conform to the approved logo standards and color palette.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

Branded Clothing Guidelines **DRAFT**:

Purpose:

To provide guidance for ordering and distributing branded clothing items (e.g., vests, polos, jackets) for employees and board members to represent the organization at public events, conferences, or in community settings.

Eligibility:

- **New Employees & Board Members:** Eligible for two branded items (e.g., polo, vest, jacket) upon hire/appointment, and a baseball cap.
- **Current Employees:** Staff who have been employed for a full year become eligible for replacement or one additional branded item per year or as needed (e.g., due to wear).
- **Existing Board Members:** Eligible for one branded item per year.

Guidelines:

6. **Intended Use:** Clothing is provided to promote visibility and professionalism at public events, conferences, outreach activities, and when conducting official business. Personal wear outside these settings is optional, but encouraged to support community recognition.
7. **Cost Limit:** The organization will cover up to \$130 per person for new board members and hires per year, and up to \$105 for reappointed board members and existing staff.
8. **Item Selection:** Branded items will be consistent in style and logo placement. The District may offer a selection (e.g., polo, vest, or jacket) and may update available styles periodically.
9. **Optional Purchase:** Employees, board members, or SWCD Contractors may order additional items at their own expense through approved vendors.
10. **Equity & Sizing:** Reasonable accommodation will be made to ensure all individuals have access to appropriately sized and styled clothing.

Process:

- Orders will be coordinated by the Accounting & Grants Coordinator biannually (January & July).
- Individuals will be invited to select preferred items and sizes from approved options.
- All branded items must conform to the approved logo standards and color palette.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Josh Brooks

Subject: Agenda Item 8.8 – CEBT Reaffirmation (Action Required)

Date: August 17, 2026

In late 2020, the SWD board adopted a "policy" addressing the District's employee health and life insurance benefits that became effective January 1, 2021. District employee health and life insurance plans are required to be reaffirmed annually, thus it is the goal of this memo to 1) review previous and future costs of the Districts currently adopted plans, 2) determine if any changes to these plans are warranted, and 3) if no amendments are necessary, receive Board approval to reaffirm the District's existing plan types.

I will take the opportunity to provide the Board with information about current health insurance costs. Health insurance premiums increased by 14.1% from 2025 to 2026. The expected increase from 2026 to 2027 is between 15-19%, though we have yet to receive final numbers. The table below shows costs of each plan the District offers over the last two years as well as projected costs for 2027.

Monthly Health Insurance Premiums for Individual Only

Year	Health	Dental	Vision	TOTAL	Employee Cost
2025 – PPO2	\$1,182	\$42	\$5	\$1,229	\$29
2025 – PPO4	\$897	\$42	\$5	\$944	\$0
2025 – HDHP3	\$734	\$42	\$5	\$781	\$0
2026 – PPO2	\$1,349	\$44	\$5	\$1,398	\$198
2026 – PPO4	\$1,049	\$44	\$5	\$1,098	\$0
2026 – HDHP3	\$859	\$44	\$5	\$908	\$0
2027 ¹ – PPO2	\$1,578	\$51	\$6	\$1,635	\$435
2027 ¹ – PPO4	\$1,227	\$51	\$6	\$1,284	\$84
2027 ¹ – HDHP3	\$1,005	\$51	\$6	\$1,062	\$12

¹ – Estimate only. Based on 17% increase.

As can be seen, an SWCD employee can still receive individual health insurance at minimal cost to them if they choose a higher deductible plan (either PPO4 or HDHP3, but not PPO2). The employee cost to add a spouse or a family to their plan under PPO4 ranges from \$800 to \$1,200.

The SWCD Employee Health Benefits Policy is attached below and currently has no changes from the previous year, save the annual reaffirmation.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Policy regarding SWCD Employee Health and Life Insurance Benefits

Beginning January 1, 2021 (and amended in August 2026), SWCD will offer the health and life insurance benefits described below to all eligible employees, which shall consist of permanent employees regularly working at least 32 hours a week.

- All SWCD employees are required to enroll, for at least employee-only (i.e. individual) coverage, in one of the following medical plans offered through CEBT: PPO2, PPO4, or HDHP3. These employees may, at their option, also enroll in Vision Plan A and/or Dental Plan A.
- Employees may, at their option, elect to enroll their qualified dependents (i.e., spouse and/or children) in their selected medical plan, Vision Plan A and/or Dental Plan A.
- SWCD will provide each employee who selects PPO2 or PPO4, for at least their individual coverage, a monthly allowance of up to \$1,200. The monthly allowance shall be used to pay 50% of the premium associated with the employee-only portion of the applicable medical plan (i.e., PPO2 or PPO4). The employee may then, at their option, choose to use any remaining amount of the monthly allowance to offset the remainder of the costs associated with enrolling the employee and any spouse or dependents in: (1) PPO2 or PPO4 medical insurance plan; (2) Vision Plan A; and (3) Dental Plan A. The \$1,200 monthly allowance shall not be used for any other purpose.
- SWCD will provide each employee who selects HDHP3, for at least their individual medical coverage, a monthly allowance of up to \$1,050. The monthly allowance must first be used to pay 50% of the premium associated with the employee-only portion of HDHP3. The employee may then, at their option, choose to use any remaining amount of the monthly allowance to offset the remainder of the costs associated with enrolling the employee and any spouse or dependents in: (1) Vision Plan A; and (2) Dental Plan A. The \$1,050 monthly allowance may not be used for any other purpose. In addition to offering a monthly allowance of up to \$1,050 to those employees who select HDHP3, SWCD will offer an employer contribution of \$150 per month toward a qualified health savings account (HSA). The HSA monthly contribution amount shall be the same regardless of whether the employee elects to also enroll one or more of their dependents in HDHP3.
- All SWCD employees will receive life insurance through CEBT for a benefit that is

APPROVED BY BOARD ACTION ON:

equal to one times the employee's annual earnings. SWCD will pay 100% of the cost associated with enrolling each employee in this life insurance plan. Employees may also, at their option and sole expense, elect to enroll their qualified dependents in any life insurance plan made available to SWCD through CEBT.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Josh Brooks and Carrie Padgett
Subject: 2026 Emergency Grant Request Review
Date: August 17, 2026

Summary

During the 2026 grant cycle application window, 18 entities applied for grant funding. The SWCD Board approved a total allocation of \$550,000 in grant funding for 2026. A total of \$186,361 in emergency request grants has been funded, with \$44,439 remaining available for emergency grant funding requests in 2026.

As you may recall, the emergency request grant funding category is for “flood events causing damage to diversion, storage, or measurement structures; catastrophic canal or pipeline failure that prevents the delivery of water; imminent or actual spillway or dam failure, wildfire impacts, including post-fire runoff, and toxic spills”. A maximum grant request per application in this category is \$50,000. The maximum amount any applicant can receive in five years is \$50,000.

The grant guidelines also state "the Board may make an exception for projects completed within the past six months arising from the emergencies" when emergency requests are submitted. Multiple applicants have already completed their projects or purchased equipment and supplies to ensure project completion before the 2026 spring runoff.

A new emergency funding request was submitted to SWCD in July of 2026. A summary sheet of the grant application is provided below.

Bess Girl Ditch Company

Project: Bess Girl Ditch Company

Basin: Piedra

Amount Requested: \$1,860

Total Project Costs: \$3,720

Match: \$1,860 (50% of total project costs)

Quick Summary:

The Bess Girl Ditch headgate is located on the Middle Fork of the Piedra River. Water diverted here feeds the ranches for irrigation. The Bess Girl Ditch serves approximately 2,100 acres in Hinsdale County that provide grass and hay for cattle. The ditch company has 10 shareholders. Annually, the company's board of directors sets a projected budget in February and sends assessments in the spring. The company funds special improvement projects similarly and assesses costs proportionately among shareholders.

The October 2025 flood left its mark on the diversion and headgate of the Bess Girl Ditch Company. Much of the material around the headgate was eroded from the structures. A great deal of debris was then deposited on the structure, along the ditch, and on the embankment. To complete the work, the ditch needed manpower, a tractor, and a mini excavator to remove debris, move material to cover the pipe, and remove silt from the ditch. The large rocks placed in the river for use with the diversion were also moved, making them less useful for sending water to the intake. So far, the work has allowed the ditch company to collect water from the river and send it down the ditch to their fields. Without this work, they would not have had any water. With the river's low water levels, they are unable to collect our adjudication. Future work will be needed to improve the rock diversion in the river.

Quick Qualifications Check:

- Bess Girl Ditch Company is a qualified entity.
- The water rights for this ditch have a 1936 appropriation date.
- Work was completed in April of 2026.
- Bess Girl Ditch Company meets the match funding requirements, and the request is not more than 50% of the total project cost.
- Bess Girl Ditch Company does not have 5-year funding restrictions due to past grants.

Staff Comments and Recommendations:

Staff recommends the Board award the requested amount of \$1,860.

New form submission assigned to you: SWCD 2026 Grant Application

From Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>

Date Mon 2026-07-27 8:38 AM

To Carrie Padgett <carrie@durangowater.com>



SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SWCD 2026 Grant Application

Overview:	
Name of Qualified Entity:	Bess Girl Ditch Company
Date of Submittal:	July 24, 2026
Type of Qualified Entity:	Public Entity
Mailing Address to Send Grant Check (if approved):	PO Box 4960 Pagosa Springs, CO 81157
Federal ID Number:	86-3861546
Public Water System ID:	WDID 7800571
Contact Person 1:	Robin Ball
Contact 1 Title:	Secretary
Contact 1 Phone:	970-946-1581
Contact 1 Email:	robinball1581@gmail.com
Contact Person 2:	Becky Guilliams
Contact 2 Title:	Treasurer

Contact 2 Phone:	970-946-5628
Contact 2 Email:	horsecrazy6364@gmail.com
Project Overview:	
Project Name:	Flood mitigation
Applicant:	Bess Girl Ditch Company
Is the Applicant using a fiscal agent? if so is the fiscal agent a qualified entity?:	no
River Basin and County:	Piedra River Basi - Hinsdale County
Total Project Costs?:	\$3720
Grant Request Amount? Request cannot exceed 50% of total project costs.:	\$1860
Applicant Match? Applicant match must be at least 25% of total project costs. See Guidelines for exceptions and more information.:	\$1860
I acknowledge that the grant funds will be used in 2026?:	Yes
Water Activity Category:	
What category does this grant fall into?:	Emergency: Situations arising from catastrophic or unforeseen events. Max Request \$50,000.
Applicant Description:	

Provide a brief description of the applying entity. For ditch companies, please provide the number of shareholders, acres served, and annual assessment. (250-word max):	The Bess Girl Ditch Company is incorporated with 10 shareholders. A projected budget is set by the Board of Directors each February. Assessments are sent out to all shareholders to be received in early summer. Improvement projects are funded similarly. Acreage served is approximately 2100
Describe how the applicant is proactively and financially planning for their own future needs through adequate assessments, reserves, and other means. (250-word max):	A projected budget is set by the Board of Directors each February. Assessments are sent out to all shareholders to be received in early summer. Improvement projects are funded similarly.
Provide a narrative description of the project's physical location, as well as its purpose. Additionally, provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project. (200-word max):	The head gate and diversion of the Bess Girl Ditch Company is on the Middle Fork of the Piedra River. S 33 degrees 24'W, 2,089' from the S 1/4 corner of Section 3, T.37N., R.3W., N.M.P.M. to a point whence the quarter (1/4) section corner between sections 10 and 15, T.37N., R.3W., N.M.P.M., bears 1892 feet S 65 degrees E Water diverted here feeds the ranches for irrigation
What are the measurable results such as acres served, watersheds impact, types of crops, number of taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, area of habitat improvements, or students impacted.:	The Bess Girl Ditch provides irrigation water for our meadow meadow (approximately 2100 acres) . We grow grass for cattle (approximately 500). Hay is harvested on about 77 acres.
Photos, maps, or other graphics can be inserted or attached to support the above questions.:	File attached — please log in to download it securely.
Long Answer:	
What are the benefits of the project? Consider the following prompts in your answer, hitting	The flood of October 2025 left it's mark on the diversion and headgate of the Bess Girl Ditch Company. Much of the material around the

all points if possible. 1. How does the project assist SWCD in furthering its statutory mission to protect, conserve, use, and develop the water resources of southwestern Colorado, as well as safeguard all waters to which Colorado is entitled? 2. In February of 2022, SWCD adopted a strategic plan with six strategic priorities. Which priorities does this project satisfy and how? 3. Does your project enhance or preserve any pre-compact water rights? If so, please describe the amount, appropriation date and adjudication date of these water rights. (750-word max):

headgate was eroded from the structures. And then a great deal of debris was deposited on the structure, along the ditch and embankment. (See photos) Man power, tractor and mini excavator were required to remove debris, move material to cover the pipe, and remove silt from the ditch. The large rocks that had been placed in the river for a diversion also were moved, rendering them less useful in sending water to the intake. The benefits of the work done so far is to allow water to be collected from the river and sent down the ditch to our fields. Without this work, no water would have been available. With the low water levels in the river, we are unable to collect our adjudication. Future work will be needed to improve the rock diversion in the river. We value water as a precious resource for our ranches and our neighbors both the two legged and four legged. We try to make wise use of that resource with irrigating practices and maintaining our ditches and structures. It is important to us to retain our rights to water that is crucial to our way of life. Strategic Priorities • In coordination with the appropriate partners, ensure the SWCD remains engaged in obtaining, updating and analyzing water supply, demand and quality data necessary to address the water management challenges facing southwest Colorado; This project is an opportunity for partnership in water management • Balance meeting multiple water needs amongst a diverse set of priorities, especially when there is potential for conflict or mutual benefit; By clearing the debris and reinstating water flow in the ditch, we can meet priorities for shareholders. We never take all the water from the river even though our property will suffer as the fish need habitat as does the wildlife need water. • Support investment in improvements to existing infrastructure as well as the development of new infrastructure for multiple uses in

	southwest Colorado; This project returned the existing infrastructure to serviceable. Future work will improve the infrastructure • Strengthen the continued professional and efficient operation of SWCD while building a culture of mutual trust and respect; and • Cultivate SWCD's credibility with decisionmakers and the public through targeted outreach efforts. While working together we have the opportunity to share our stories building understanding and relationships.
Attach a 'water rights tabulation' report from the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), if applicable.:	
Water Project Timeline:	
Provide a narrative description of the timeline for the project's major tasks and/or a detailed outline (250-word max):	April 20, 2026 - Mobilize mini excavator to site, remove plant material from around structure, remove silt from ditch, remove rock in front of head gate, move soil to cover ditch tube. Hand labor to assist, install new slide in spill box, install plastic along rocks for diversion
Engineering and Legal Feasibility:	
Will the project require the acquisition of additional water rights or a change of existing water rights? If yes, please explain (150-word max):	No
Will the project require local, state, or federal regulatory permits of any type? If yes, please explain. (150-word max):	No
List below any feasibility studies or investigations that have been completed or are	Site has been reviewed by Shaan Bliss of Natural Resource Conservation Services

now in progress for the proposed project. (200-word max).:	
Please attach feasibility studies or investigations here.:	
Matching Requirements:	
Applicants must demonstrate that they are actively contributing to the project for which they are requesting funding. Any grant approval will be contingent upon the recipient ultimately demonstrating that they have secured funding for the full project cost.:	Costs will be assessed to shareholders proportionately. Three thousand has already been expended.
In addition, applicants must also demonstrate that they will provide, through a cash contribution and/or the performance of in-kind services, at least 25% of the total project costs. See the guidelines for more information. Please upload a table showing contributing entity, amount, In-Kind or Cash, and Approval Date or Anticipated Approval Date. Please include the total applicant match, total other funding, and the SWCD request.:	File attached — please log in to download it securely.
I've read the above statement, and this application meets the matching requirements.:	Yes
Water Project Budget:	

Please provide a detailed project budget. You can use the template below or provide a more detailed table in an attachment. *Describe any payroll or legal costs, as well as any costs for administering this and other grants. SWCD will not fund those portions of the project.:	Manual labor - 54 hours @ \$35 = \$1890 Mini excavator - 8 hours @ \$150 = \$1200 Mobilization of mini excavator - 4 hours @ \$150 = \$600 Metal for new slide on spill box - \$30
Or upload a water project budget here.:	
Water Activity Budget:	
Provide any narrative description of the project expense and funding budget that is necessary. (200-word max):	The contractor who removed the debris and rocks has been paid from operating funds collected from assessments. These funds were planned for operating expenses in 2026. Without additional funding, shareholders will be assessed again for operational costs.
Please include a detailed description of in-kind materials and services, if any, along with the basis for in-kind valuations.:	10 mm plastic to line intake where water was leaking around - 1/4 roll @ \$350 = \$87.50 6 mm plastic to line rocks in river to divert water to head gate - 1/2 roll @ \$150 = \$75 welder and labor to cut metal for slide - 1 hour @ \$35 plus welder = \$50
Attach supporting documentation if necessary.:	
By submitting below, I acknowledge I have read the 2026 SWCD Grant Program guidelines, I understand the program requirements, and I submit this application, which is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. Should the grant funds be awarded, I understand that the grant funds shall only be used by a	I understand the above statement

qualified entity for the specific purpose(s) described in my SWCD grant application and up to the amount indicated in SWCD's grant approval letter. I understand that grant funding may be requested when needed in 2026. Upon the District's receipt of the Request for Release of Funds form, documentation showing the applicant continues to be a qualified entity and that all other matching project funds required by the District's 2026 Grant Program Guidelines have been committed and secured, the grant will be made available. If the intended use of grant funds changes, I am required to inform SWCD staff and further review and approval by the District's Board will be necessary. The District may require additional documentation regarding the use of the funds at its discretion. In addition, in the event the project, study, or program for which the grant was awarded ultimately comes in under budget, I must return a pro-rata portion of the remaining funds to the District within 45 days of completion. For example, if the completed project, study, or program is \$20,000 under budget, and SWCD contributed 20% of the total project costs, then the grant recipient shall be required to return \$4,000 (20% of \$20,000) to SWCD. I

acknowledge that a final written report, including a description of work completed and a detailed accounting of the use of funds, will be due to SWCD within three (3) months of the final expenditure or by December 31, 2026, whichever occurs first. If the Applicant cannot submit the final report by the deadline, they must submit a written request for an extension of time to SWCD staff prior to December 31, 2026 that explains the reporting delay and a proposed final submittal date. The Board will not consider future grant requests from Applicants that do not comply with this provision and submit an acceptable final report. If the project will not be completed in 2026, I understand it is necessary to submit a written grant extension request.:	
Name of Individual Submitting Applicant:	Robin Ball
Date of Submission:	7/24/2026

[Reply / Manage](#)



Structure Summary Report

Structure Name: BESS GIRL DITCH (7800571)

Associated Permits:

Structure Type: DITCH

Water Source Type: Tributary

CIU Code: Active Structure with contemporary diversion records (A)

Water Source: MIDDLE FORK PIEDRA RIVER [00184081] @
Stream Mile: 3.16

Physical Location

Feature Type	Dist N/S	Dist E/W	Q10	Q40	Q160	Sec	Township	Range	PM	UTMx	UTMy	Latitude	Longitude	Location Accuracy
Point of Diversion				NW	SE	3	37.0 N	3.0 W	N	307906.9	4149107.0	37.468908	-107.172215	GPS

Division: 7 District: 78

County: HINSDALE

Designated Basin:

Management District:

Structure History

Start Date	End Date	Description	Comment
4/30/2025		MEASURING RULES COMPLIANCE SW/GW - DIV 7	

Water Rights - Net Amounts

Adj Date	Appro Date	Priority Admin No	Order No	Priority No	Associated Case Numbers	Net Absolute	Net Conditional	Net APEX Absolute	Net APEX Conditional	Decreed Units	Seasonal Limits	Comments
4/19/1962	11/1/1936	31716.00000	0	#309	W0963, W0869	10.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	C	No	FROM TONER & STEVENS #638, FROM TONER & STEVENS #638

Diversion Record - Totals

Water Class	Irr Year	FDU	LDU	MaxQ	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Annual Amount	Units	Data Status
Total (Diversions)	2026	5/11/26	6/29/26	9.94							361.91	208.41	0.00				570.32	AF	Provisional
Total (Diversions)	2025	5/12/25	10/30/25	8.00							257.70	376.01	287.31	124.11	106.69	97.59	1249.41	AF	Approved
Total (Diversions)	2024	5/24/24	10/30/24	14.23							149.24	461.76	374.80	534.55	235.46	267.06	2022.87	AF	Approved
Total (Diversions)	2023	5/31/23	10/30/23	9.54							12.89	245.36	374.13	351.93	206.34	123.29	1313.95	AF	Approved
Total (Diversions)	2022	6/6/22	10/30/22	14.23						0.00		291.12	322.34	325.49	205.85	102.29	1247.09	AF	Approved
Total (Diversions)	2021	5/18/21	10/29/21	9.01						0.00	227.71	460.81	336.98	255.30	161.20	170.32	1612.31	AF	Approved

Note:
FDU - First day used
LDU - Last day used
MaxQ - Maximum flow rate

Irrigated Lands

Year	Parcel Count	Land Use	Irrigation Method	Parcel Size (Acres)	Prorated Structure Acres	Linked Surface Water WDIDs	Linked Groundwater WDIDs
2025	77800122	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	69.8364	34.9182	2	0
2025	77800123	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	475.0742	237.5371	2	0
2023	77800123	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	535.8707	267.9354	2	0
2020	77800401	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	69.8364	34.9182	2	0
2020	77800402	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	534.8659	267.4330	2	0
2015	77800459	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	48.4006	24.2003	2	0
2015	77800460	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	534.8659	267.4330	2	0
2010	77801075	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	48.4006	24.2003	2	0
2010	77801076	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	534.8659	267.4330	2	0
2005	77800580	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	48.4006	24.2003	2	0
2005	77800581	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	534.8659	267.4330	2	0
2000	77800045	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	48.4006	24.2003	2	0
2000	77800046	GRASS_PASTURE	FLOOD	534.8659	267.4330	2	0

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

CERTIFICATE OF FACT OF GOOD STANDING

I, Jena Griswold, as the Secretary of State of the State of Colorado, hereby certify that, according to the records of this office,

BESS GIRL DITCH COMPANY

is a

Nonprofit Corporation

formed or registered on 03/25/1981 under the law of Colorado, has complied with all applicable requirements of this office, and is in good standing with this office. This entity has been assigned entity identification number 19871429905 .

This certificate reflects facts established or disclosed by documents delivered to this office on paper through 08/14/2026 that have been posted, and by documents delivered to this office electronically through 08/17/2026 @ 14:52:28 .

I have affixed hereto the Great Seal of the State of Colorado and duly generated, executed, and issued this official certificate at Denver, Colorado on 08/17/2026 @ 14:52:28 in accordance with applicable law. This certificate is assigned Confirmation Number 18917094 .



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jena Griswold".

Secretary of State of the State of Colorado

*****End of Certificate*****

Notice: A certificate issued electronically from the Colorado Secretary of State's website is fully and immediately valid and effective. However, as an option, the issuance and validity of a certificate obtained electronically may be established by visiting the Validate a Certificate page of the Secretary of State's website, <https://www.coloradosos.gov/biz/CertificateSearchCriteria.do> entering the certificate's confirmation number displayed on the certificate, and following the instructions displayed. Confirming the issuance of a certificate is merely optional and is not necessary to the valid and effective issuance of a certificate. For more information, visit our website, <https://www.coloradosos.gov> click "Businesses, trademarks, trade names" and select "Frequently Asked Questions."

Contributing entity	Amount	In kind/cash	Approval Date
Shareholders	\$1860	cash	6/25/26
Shareholders	\$217.5	in kind/cash	4/20/26
Unknown grant	\$1860	cash	unknown

Water Activity Budget Details:

Provide any narrative description of the project expense and funding budget that is necessary. (200-word max):

The contractor who removed the debris and rocks has been paid from operating funds collected from assessments. These funds were planned for operating expenses in 2026. Without additional funding, shareholders will be assessed again for operational costs.

Please include a detailed description of in-kind materials and services, if any, along with the basis for in-kind valuations.:

10 mm plastic to line intake where water was leaking around - 1/4 roll @ \$350 = \$87.50
6 mm plastic to line rocks in river to divert water to head gate - 1/2 roll @ \$150 = \$75
welder and labor to cut metal for slide - 1 hour @ \$35 plus welder = \$50

HARRIS WATER ENGINEERING, INC.
954 EAST SECOND AVENUE, SUITE #202
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
970-259-5322
carrie@durangowater.com

Memorandum
August 17, 2025

To: SWCD Board of Directors
From: Carrie Padgett
Subject: SWCD Water Conservation and Infrastructure Partnership
Local Capacity Grant: Technical Assistance Grant

Community Navigator Technical Assistance Grant

As a reminder, through the funding provided by SWCD and CWCB's Local Capacity Grant, funds were secured to provide technical assistance to projects to "provide technical project design support to proposed projects to ensure sound design and multi-benefit project outcome consideration" under Task 2. The scope of work estimated assisting up to 20 projects over two years with \$3,000 provided per project.

These funds would further the project's implementation and help secure future federal grant opportunities. This funding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Project proponents will complete a brief questionnaire on technical assistance funding needs for Board review and approval. To date, the Board has approved four of these grants since April of 2025.

For today's meeting, one project is ready for your review and potential approval for implementation.

Proposal for Technical Assistance Grant – Proposal #1

1. *Project Entity:* Dolores Watershed Collaborative (DWC)
2. *Project Name:* Southwest Colorado RCPP Project Development
3. *Location:* Dolores Basin
4. *Project Description:* Multiple partners have been meeting for more than a year to develop projects for a USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application. The RCPP project entails drought and watershed resilience forest and water projects across southwestern Colorado. Water projects include irrigation infrastructure improvements and aquatic and wetland habitat enhancements.
5. *What activities will the funding support?* DWC capacity to conduct stakeholder meetings, landowner outreach, project planning and site visits, project coordination, and recruiting a technical service provider for design and engineering work on a Dolores River mainstem irrigation diversion, headgate design and installation, and fisheries and wetland enhancements.
6. *How will these activities further the project's implementation?* Funding allows DWC to participate in project development and grant proposal development, enabling the Upper Dolores Watershed project to be included in the SW CO RCPP application.
7. *Future funding opportunities:* SW CO RCPP, Colorado Water Plan Grant, BOR Water Resources Enhancement
8. *Additional information:* Thank you for this opportunity!

MEMO

To: SWCD Board of Directors and Staff

From: Laura Spann, CWCB

Contact: 720.916.7723, laura.spann@state.co.us

Subject: Brief CWCB Funding Update

Date: August 12, 2026



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Water Plan Grant Program: **Deadline Dec 1**

\$40.2 million is available for Water Plan Grants for the state fiscal year (July 1 and December 1 application cycles).

The CWCB Board set target allocations by grant category:

- Agriculture - \$10.8 million
- Conservation and Land Use Planning - \$6.8 million
- Engagement and Innovation - \$2.8 million
- Storage and Supply - \$7.2 million
- Watershed Health and Recreation - \$12.5 million

CWCB received 77 applications on July 1, with funding requests totaling more than **\$49 million**.

8 applications support projects in southwest Colorado, though additional regional or statewide proposals may also benefit this part of the state. Submitted applications are available on the [webpage](#).

The next deadline for Water Plan Grants is December 1 and potential applicants are encouraged to reach out to CWCB staff several months in advance.

Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) for Southwest Colorado: **Deadline Sept 21**

The current WSRF Southwest Basin Account balance is \$311,933. The annual allocation of up to an additional \$300,000 will be distributed this fall.

The Roundtable generally considers requests up to \$100,000 from the WSRF Basin Account. The next WSRF deadline is September 21 for review at the October 22 Southwest Basins Roundtable meeting in Durango at the Santa Rita Water Reclamation Facility.

Diversion Measurement Installation Program: **Accepting Div. 4 & 5 This Fall**

Division 4 informational meetings will be held on **October 14 and 15** in **Gunnison and Montrose** with more information to come. Check the [Diversion Measurement Installation Program website](#) for more information on the meeting locations and Division 4 and 5 applications.

Upper Colorado Region Weekly Hydrology Summary

This hydrologic information is provided weekly to summarize the hydrologic conditions in the Upper Colorado Region. If additional information is required, please contact Nathaniel Todea (ntodea@usbr.gov).

Selected Reservoir Status - Report Date: August 13, 2026

Reservoir	Elevation (ft)	Live Storage (1000 AF)	% of Live Capacity	Avg Daily Unreg Inflow (cfs)	Daily Release (cfs)
Lake Powell	3,520.25	5,275	23%	287	7,861
Blue Mesa	7,430.62	214	26%	477	1,333
Flaming Gorge	6,011.58	2,634	72%	600	1,838
Fontenelle	6,500.34	291	87%	702	704
Navajo*	6,019.04	858	52%	-423	995
Elephant Butte**	4,275.30	27	1%	52	0

Current as of: 8/13/2026

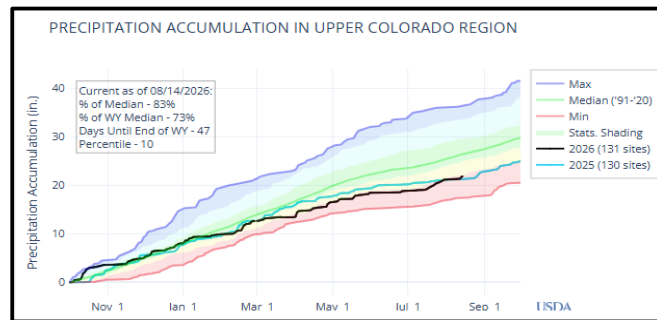
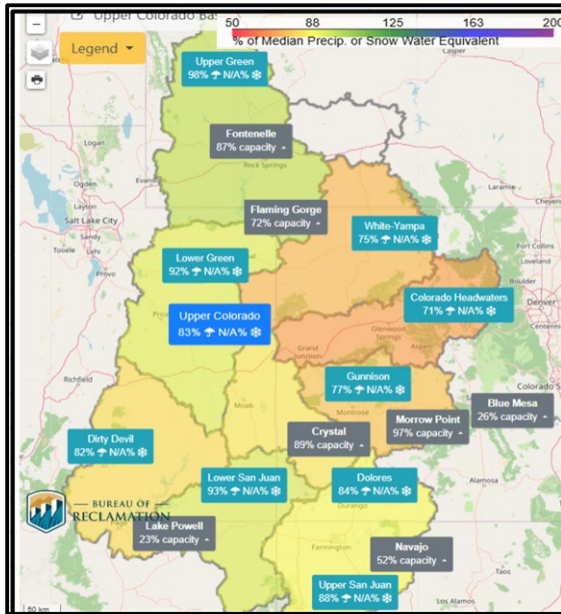
* Uses Modified Unregulated Inflow

** Unreg Inflow Current as of: 8/9/2026

Selected Reservoir Inflows - Unregulated Forecast and Observed Inflow

Reservoir	2026 WY Volume (kaf) (August Final Forecast)	2026 WY % of Avg (August Final Forecast)	2026 April-July Volume (kaf) (Observed)	2026 April-July Volume (kaf) (Observed)	Jul Unreg Inflow Observed (1000 AF)	July Unreg Inflow Observed (% Avg)
Lake Powell	3,585	37%	1,144	18%	84	9%
Blue Mesa	385	43%	155	24%	19	18%
Fontenelle	607	56%	318	43%	82	49%
Flaming Gorge	645	46%	328	34%	86	43%
Navajo*	553	61%	141	23%	-6	-13%

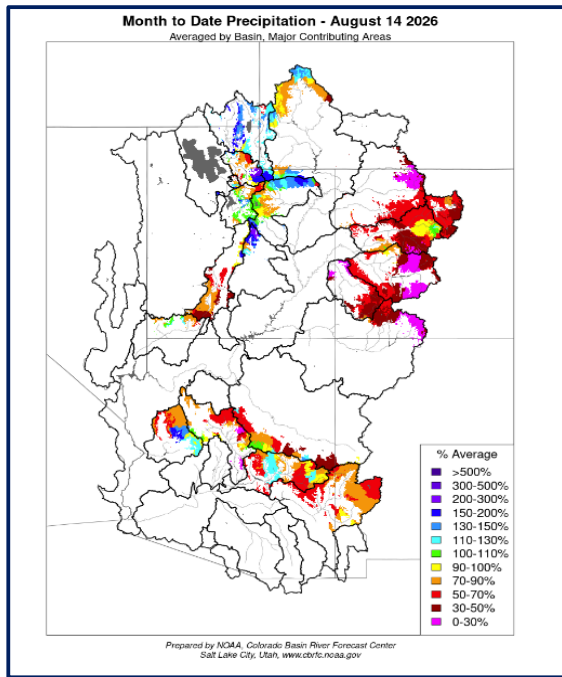
*When the MUI is negative, it indicates the upstream storage and trans basin diversion losses are greater than the total inflow.



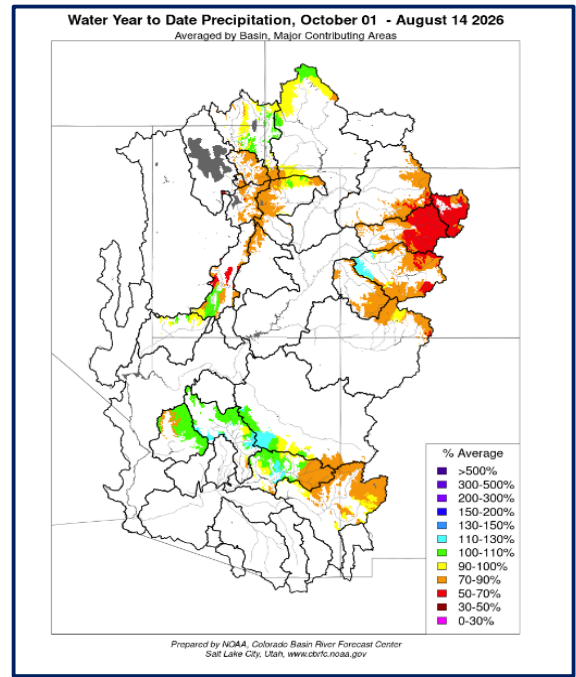
% Average Precipitation

Note: The NRCS site list generating the aggregate precip values in this graphic is limited to only those sites that have been in operation for the entire WY 1991 - 2020 comparison period. For this reason, the percent median may vary slightly from that reported directly from NRCS.

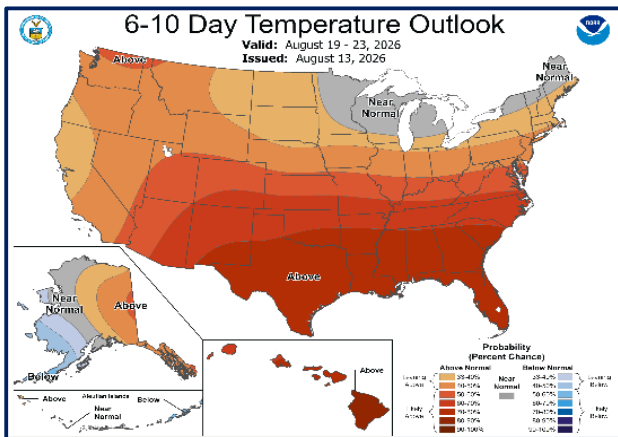
Upper Colorado Region Weekly Hydrology Summary



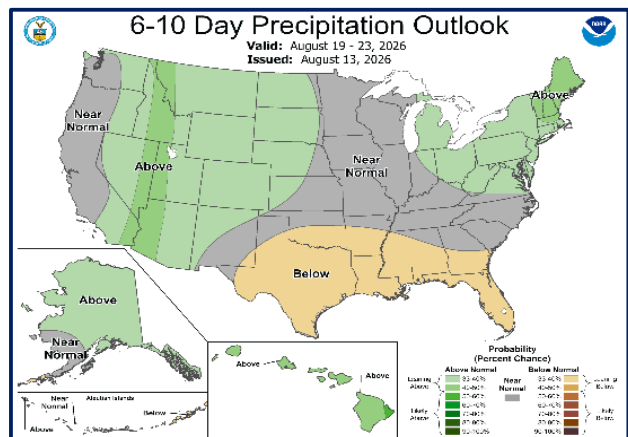
[Month to Date Precipitation](#)



[Water Year to Date Precipitation](#)



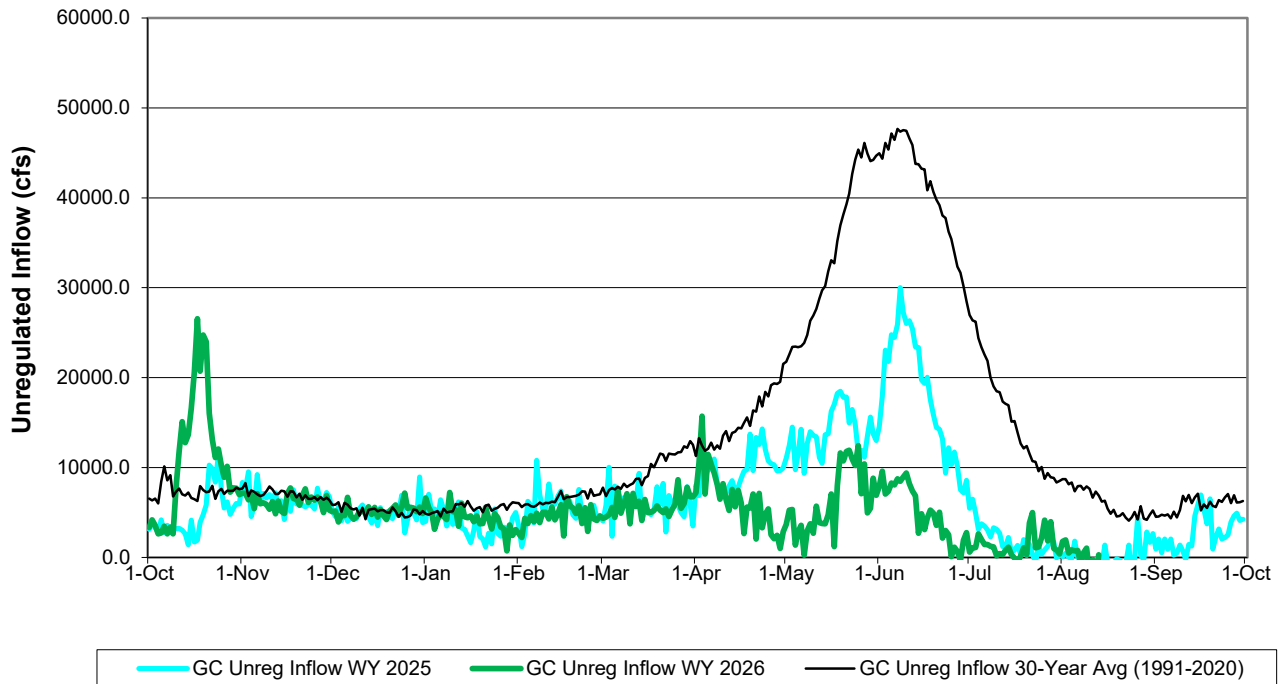
[6-10 Day Temperature](#)



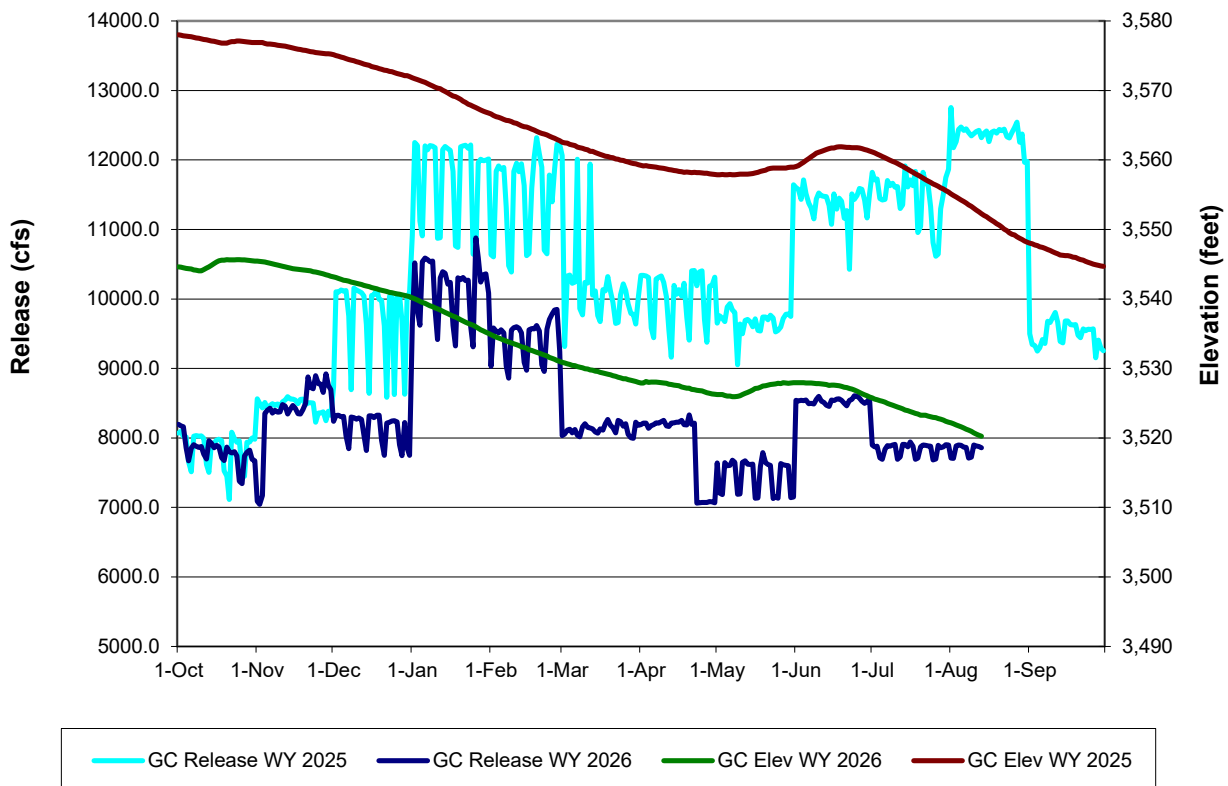
[6-10 Day Precipitation](#)

Upper Colorado Region Weekly Hydrology Summary

**Lake Powell Reservoir and Glen Canyon Dam
Daily Unregulated Inflow
Water Year 2026**

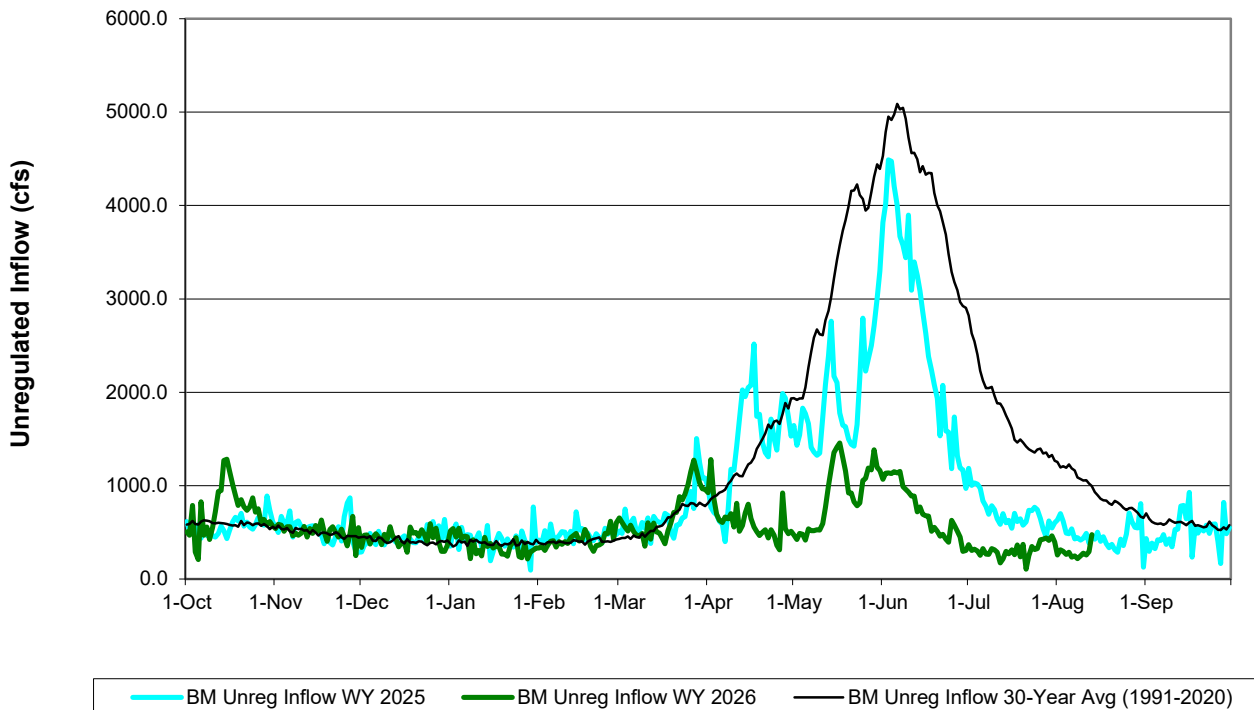


**Lake Powell Reservoir and Glen Canyon Dam
Daily Total Release and Elevation
Water Year 2026**

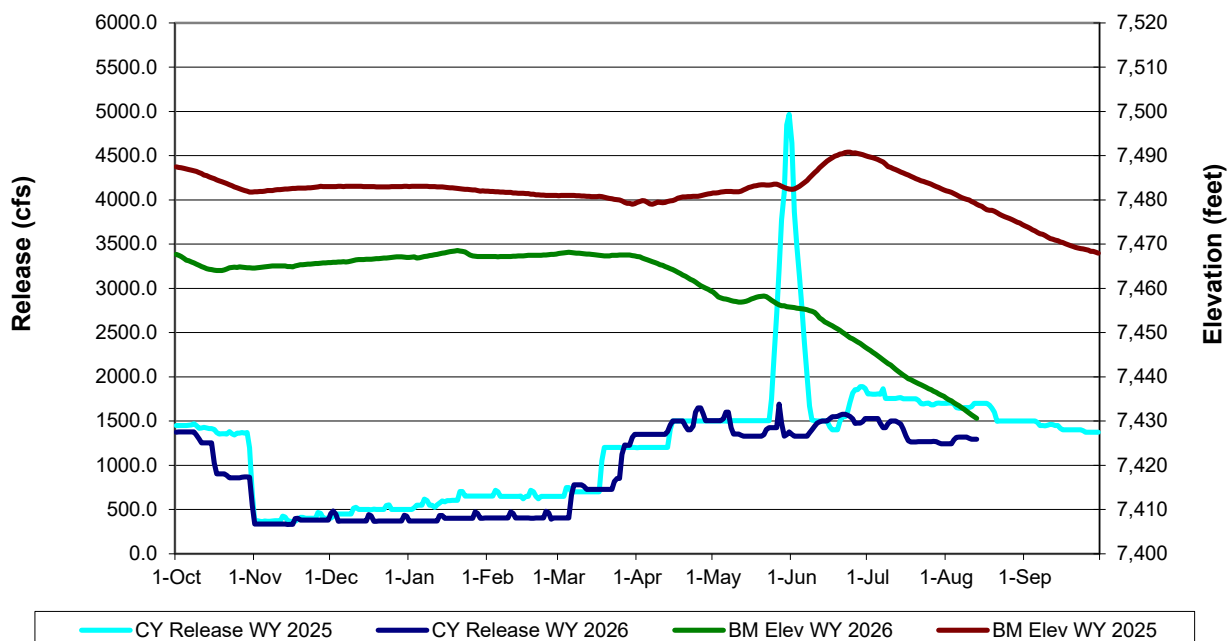


Upper Colorado Region Weekly Hydrology Summary

**Blue Mesa Dam and Reservoir
Unregulated Inflow Daily Average
Water Year 2026**

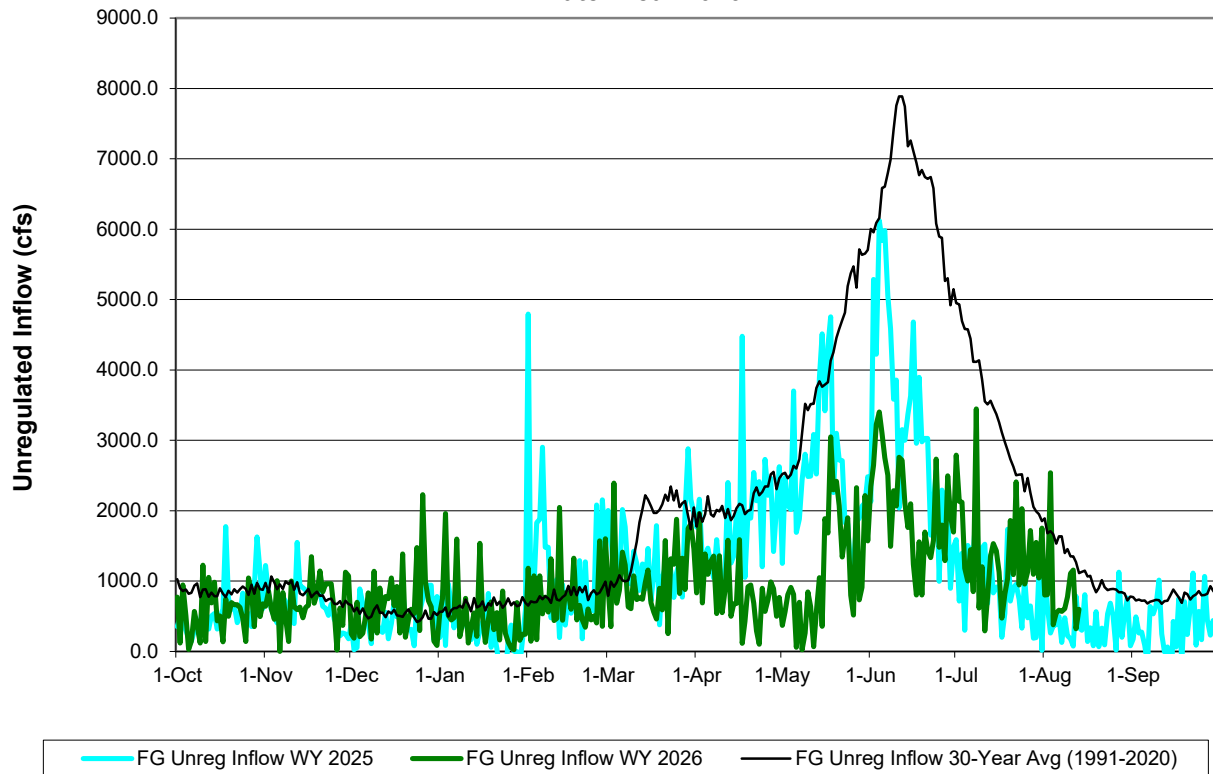


**Crystal Dam and Reservoir Daily Total Release and
Blue Mesa Dam and Reservoir Elevation
Water Year 2026**

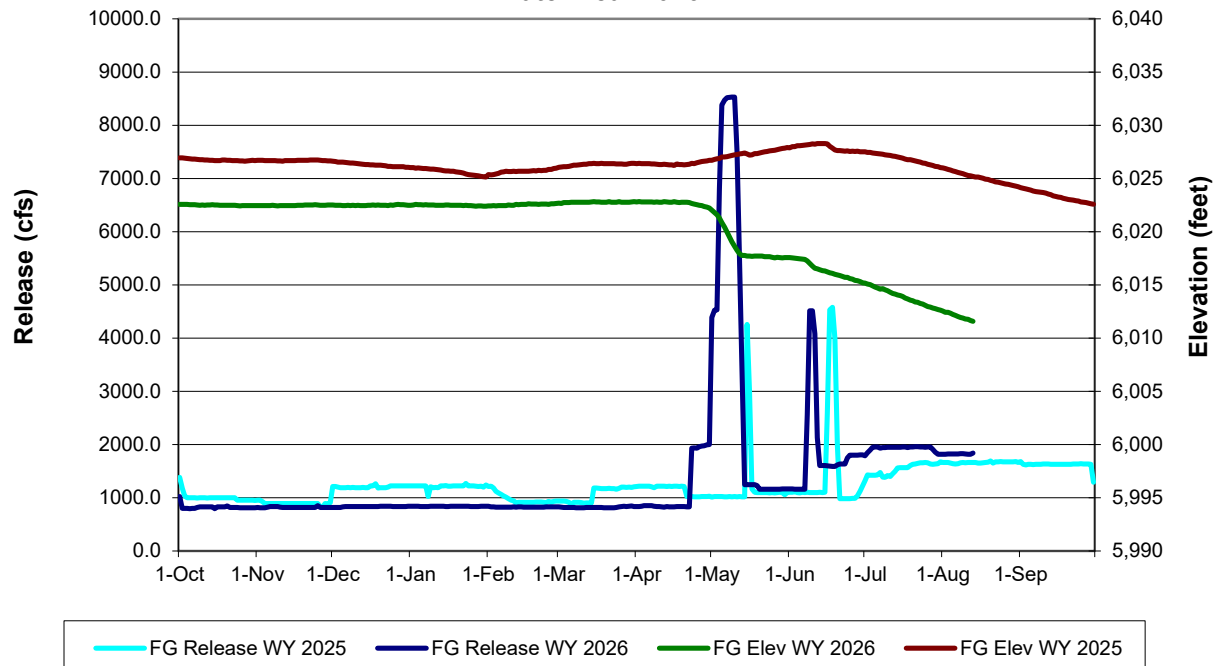


Upper Colorado Region Weekly Hydrology Summary

**Flaming Gorge Dam and Reservoir
Unregulated Inflow Daily Average
Water Year 2026**

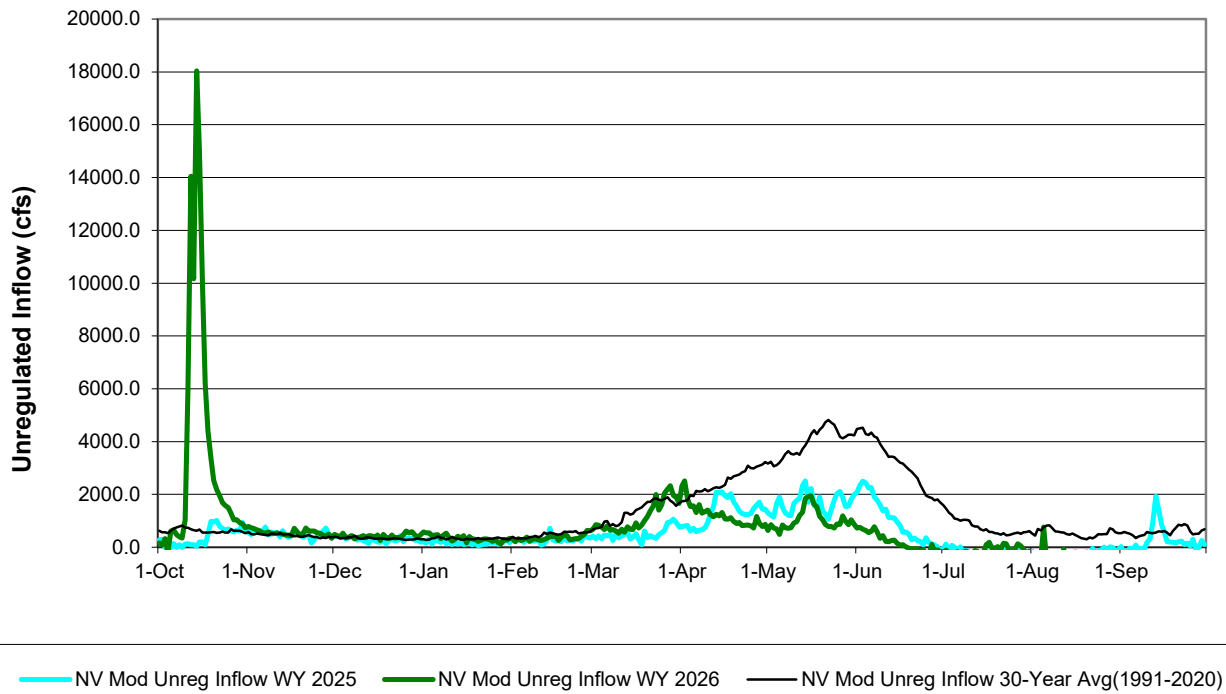


**Flaming Gorge Dam
Daily Total Release and Elevation
Water Year 2026**

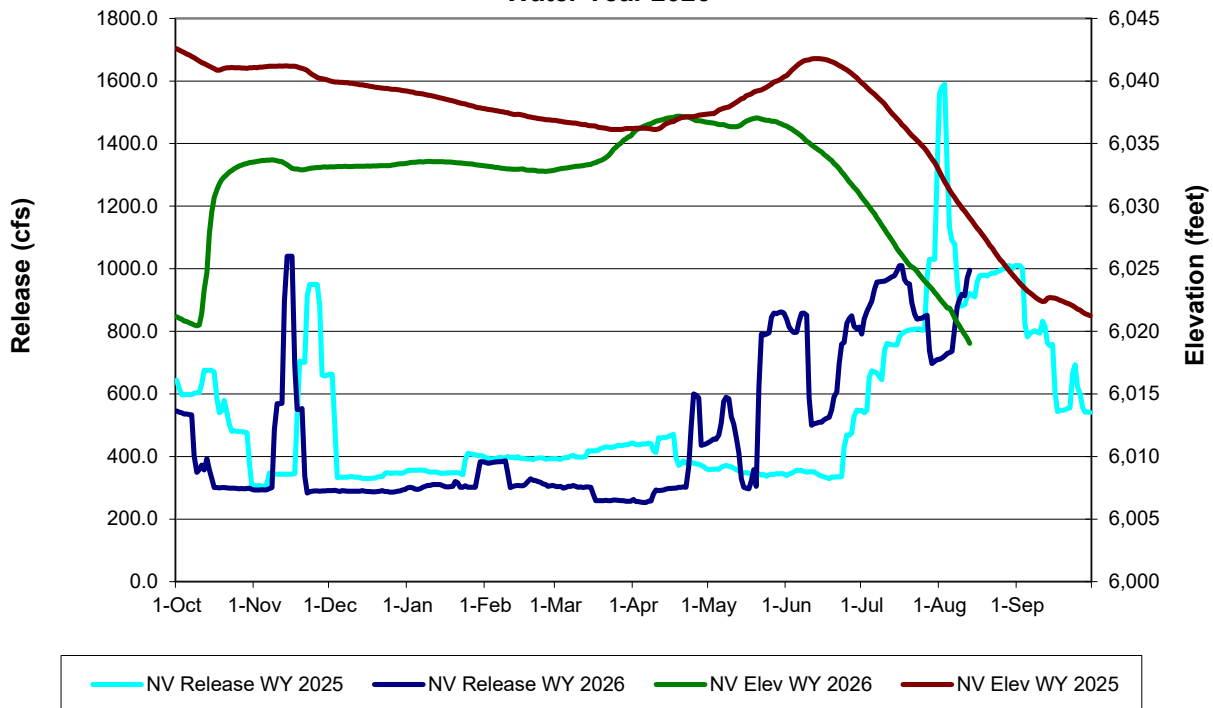


Upper Colorado Region Weekly Hydrology Summary

**Navajo Dam and Reservoir
Unregulated Inflow Daily Average
Water Year 2026**



**Navajo Dam
Daily Total Release and Elevation
Water Year 2026**





Weekly Hydrologic Update

Current System Conditions (as of 8/2/2026)

Reservoir	Elevation (feet)	Change Since Last Week (feet)	Content 1,000 acre-feet (kaf)	Percent Full	Projected EOY 2026 Elevation (feet) ¹	Change Since Previous 24-Month Study (feet)	7-Day Release (cubic feet per second)
Lake Powell	3,522.04	-0.86	5,376	23%	3,507.68	+2.66	7,800
Lake Mead	1,040.96	-0.26	7,044	27%	1,037.31	+0.48	9,200

- Colorado River total system contents: 18,904 kaf (32% of capacity)²
- Colorado River total system contents last year: 22,744 kaf (39% of capacity)

Upper Basin Conditions

- WY 2026 [Precipitation to Date](#): 21.13 inches (83% of normal), 83% last week
- [Current Snowpack](#): NA
- [Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow](#) – As of July 1, 2026
 - Forecasted Water Year 2026: 3,501 kaf (36% of normal), an increase of 10 kaf as compared to the previous forecast of 3,491 kaf (36% of normal)
 - Forecasted April-July 2026: 1,080 kaf (17% of normal), an increase of 30 kaf as compared to the previous forecast of 1,050 kaf (16% of normal)

Lower Basin Conditions

- [Lake Mead Basin](#)
 - WY 2026 [Precipitation to Date](#): 21.52 inches (108% of normal), 115% last week
 - [Current Snowpack](#): NA
 - 24-Month Study inflow projection: August inflow projection of 102 kaf³
 - Colorado Basin River Forecast Center: August inflow projection of 72 kaf (83% of average)⁴
- [Salt/Verde Basin](#)
 - WY 2026 [Precipitation to Date](#): 20.85 inches (98% of normal), 99% last week
 - [Current Snowpack](#): NA

Mexico Excess Flows

- 2026 Excess Flows: 1,976 acre-feet (January 1 to August 2, 2026)

Other System Conditions

- For other Colorado Basin conditions, please visit <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/levels.html>.
- For the conditions in the Salt River Project, please visit <https://streamflow.watershedconnection.com/Dwr>.
- For Alamo and Painted Rock reservoir conditions, please visit <https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/spl>.

For questions concerning this report, please contact the River Operations group at bcoowaterops@usbr.gov.

¹ Projected values are based on the July 24-Month Study.

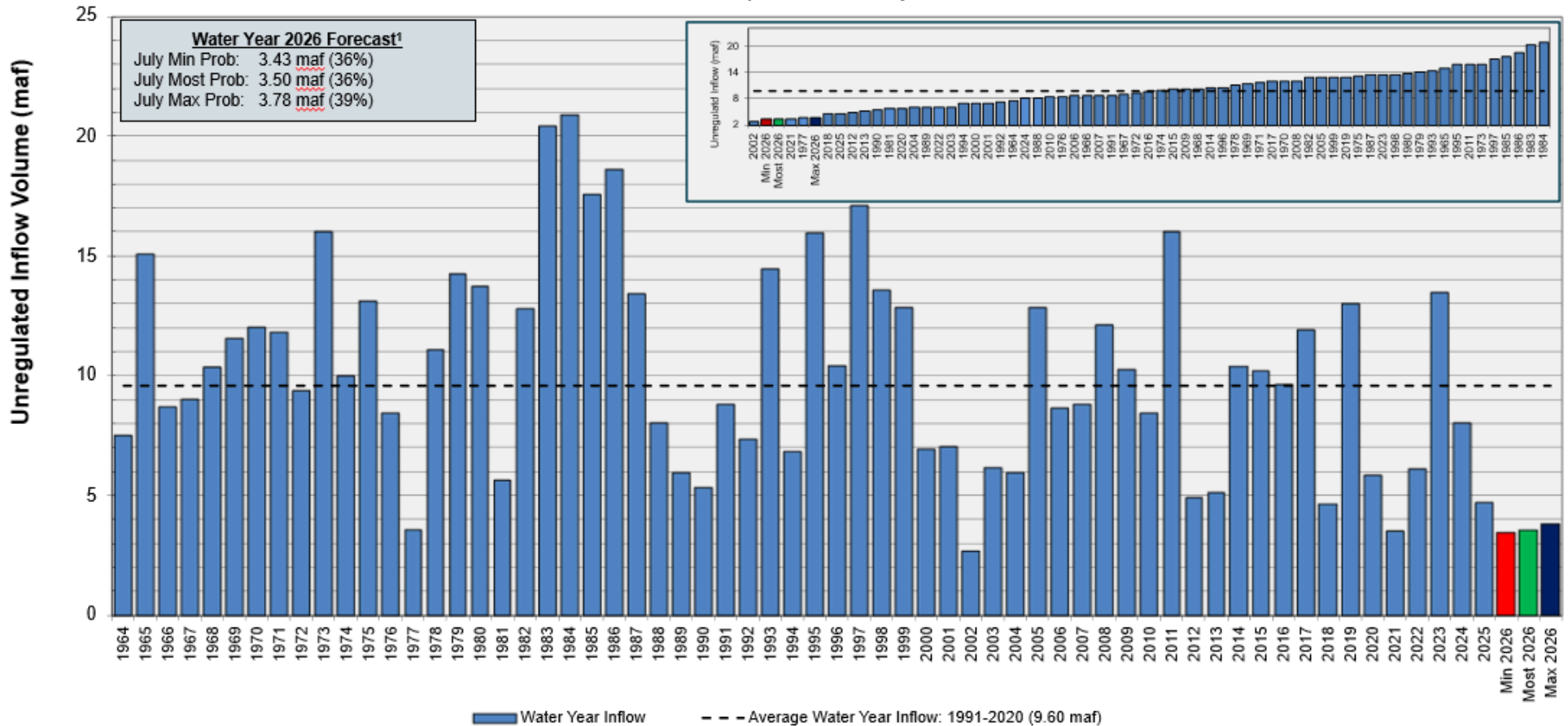
² The total system contents include Upper and Lower Colorado River reservoirs, less Lake Mead exclusive flood control space.

³ The 24-Month Study forecast uses a dataset based on average monthly intervening flow from 2021 to 2025, inclusive, to project future intervening flow into Lake Mead (5-year average).

⁴ The CBRFC's forecast of intervening flow between Lake Powell and Lake Mead provides a comparison to Reclamation's 5-year average. The CBRFC forecast uses a 30-year climatology record from 1991-2020.

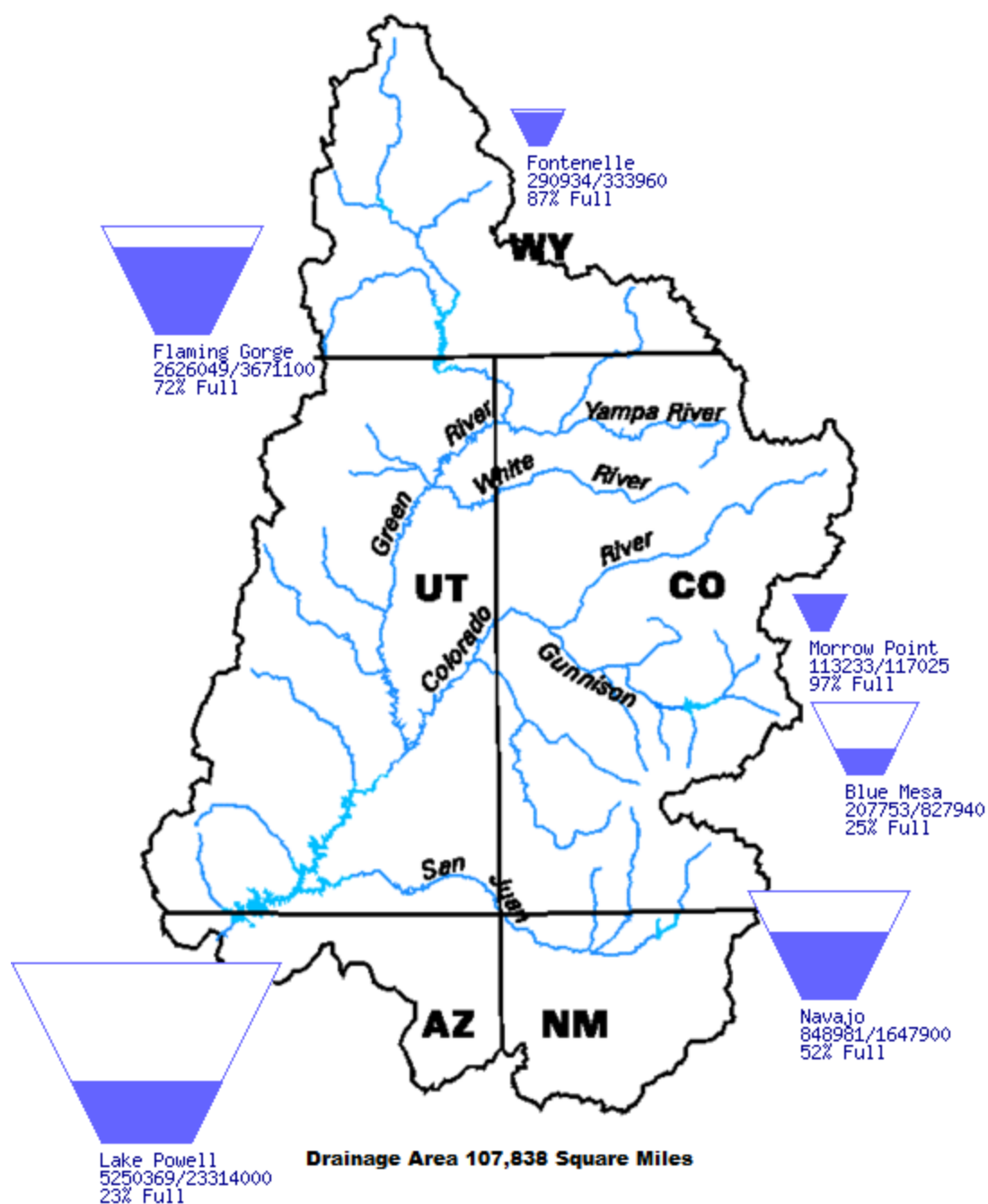
Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of July 1, 2026
Comparison with History



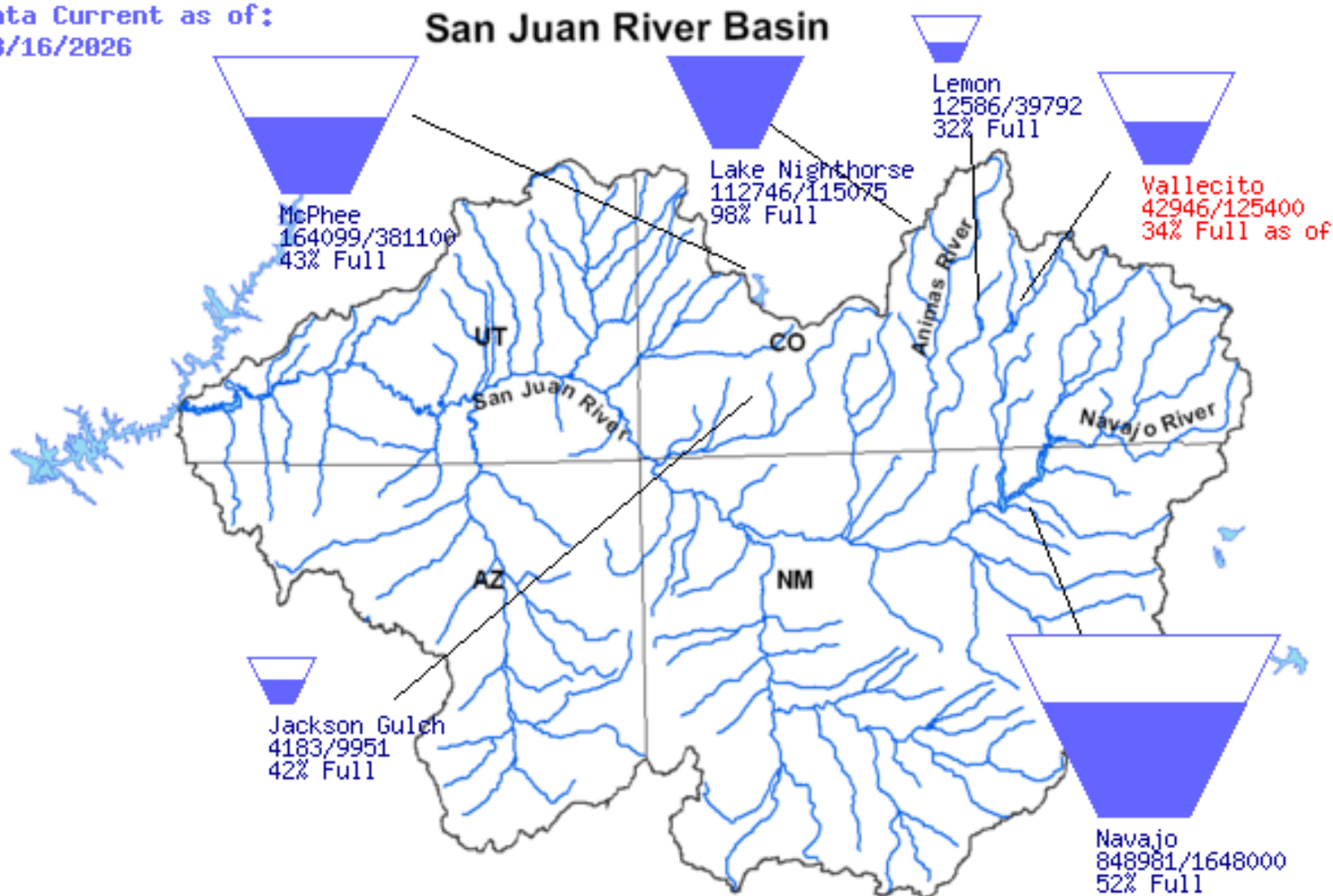
Data Current as of:
08/16/2026

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



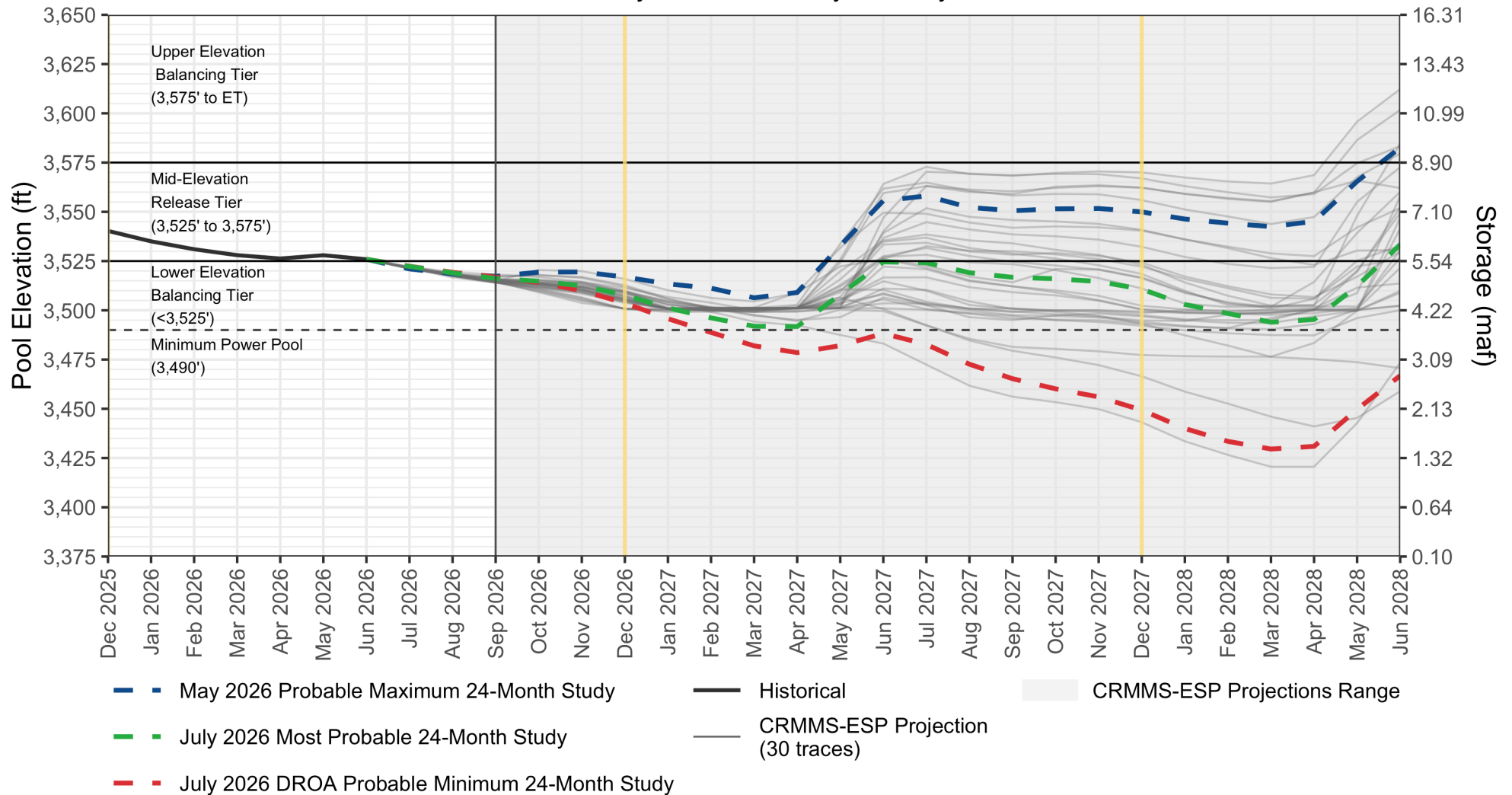
Data Current as of:
08/16/2026

San Juan River Basin



Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations^{1,2}

CRMMS Projections from May and July 2026

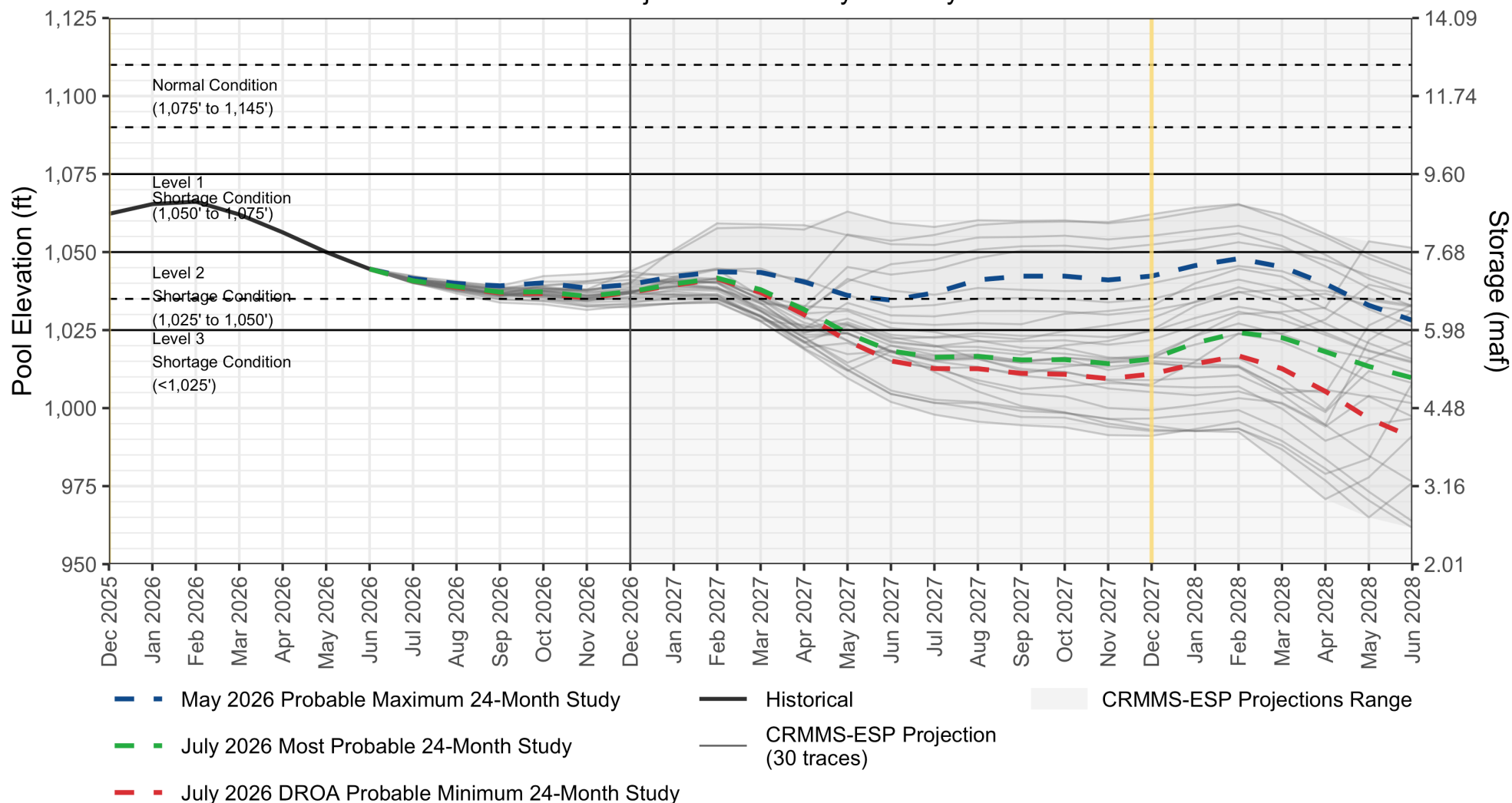


¹For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS recovery and Upper Basin Demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026.

²In water year 2026, Reclamation will reduce the annual release volume from Lake Powell to Lake Mead to 6.0 maf through September 2026 by implementing Section 6.E. of the Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines (Interim Guidelines SEIS). Beyond water year 2026, for modeling purposes, this graphic contains existing operational assumptions built into CRMMS that constrain Glen Canyon Dam releases, to prevent Lake Powell from falling below elevation 3,500 feet. As described in Sections 6.E and 7. B of the Interim Guidelines SEIS, Reclamation will consider all tools that are available to avoid Lake Powell elevation declining below 3,500 feet and any actual constraining of Lake Powell releases is subject to appropriate consultation between Reclamation and other Basin partners with respect to the implementation of potential releases. Whereas, the Probable Minimum scenario shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints, beyond water year 2026, so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.

Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations^{1,2}

CRMMS Projections from May and July 2026

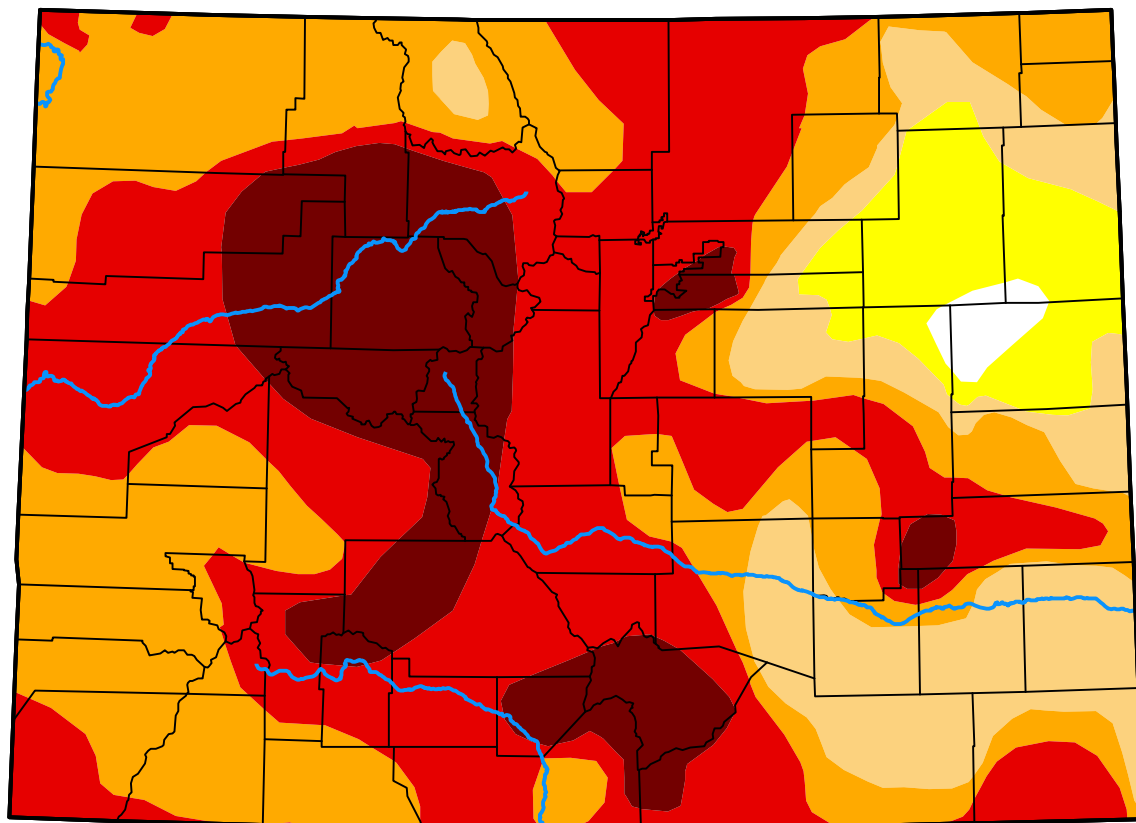


¹For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SEIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS recovery and Upper Basin Demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026.

²In water year 2026, Reclamation will reduce the annual release volume from Lake Powell to Lake Mead to 6.0 maf through September 2026 by implementing Section 6.E. of the Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines (Interim Guidelines SEIS). Beyond water year 2026, for modeling purposes, this graphic contains existing operational assumptions built into CRMMS that constrain Glen Canyon Dam releases, to prevent Lake Powell from falling below elevation 3,500 feet. As described in Sections 6.E and 7. B of the Interim Guidelines SEIS, Reclamation will consider all tools that are available to avoid Lake Powell elevation declining below 3,500 feet and any actual constraining of Lake Powell releases is subject to appropriate consultation between Reclamation and other Basin partners with respect to the implementation of potential releases. Whereas, the Probable Minimum scenario shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints, beyond water year 2026, so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

August 11, 2026
(Released Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.83	99.17	93.06	80.31	49.45	14.10
Last Week <i>08-04-2026</i>	2.71	97.29	90.95	78.43	47.10	13.48
3 Months Ago <i>05-12-2026</i>	0.00	100.00	96.23	82.07	46.52	14.80
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-06-2026</i>	25.96	74.04	46.22	15.77	4.35	0.67
Start of Water Year <i>09-30-2025</i>	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34	0.00
One Year Ago <i>08-12-2025</i>	37.87	62.13	47.28	40.16	20.30	7.05

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

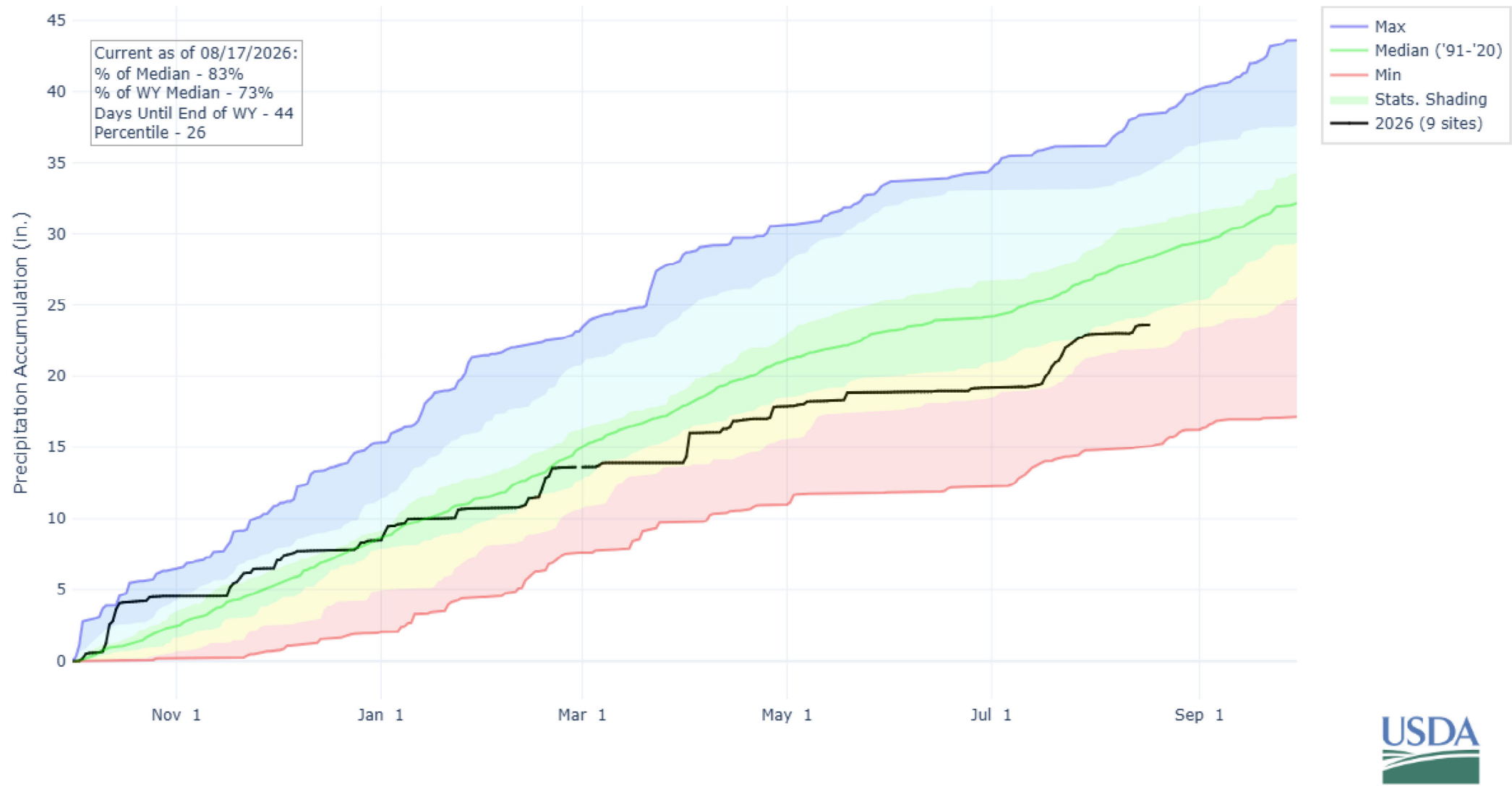
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

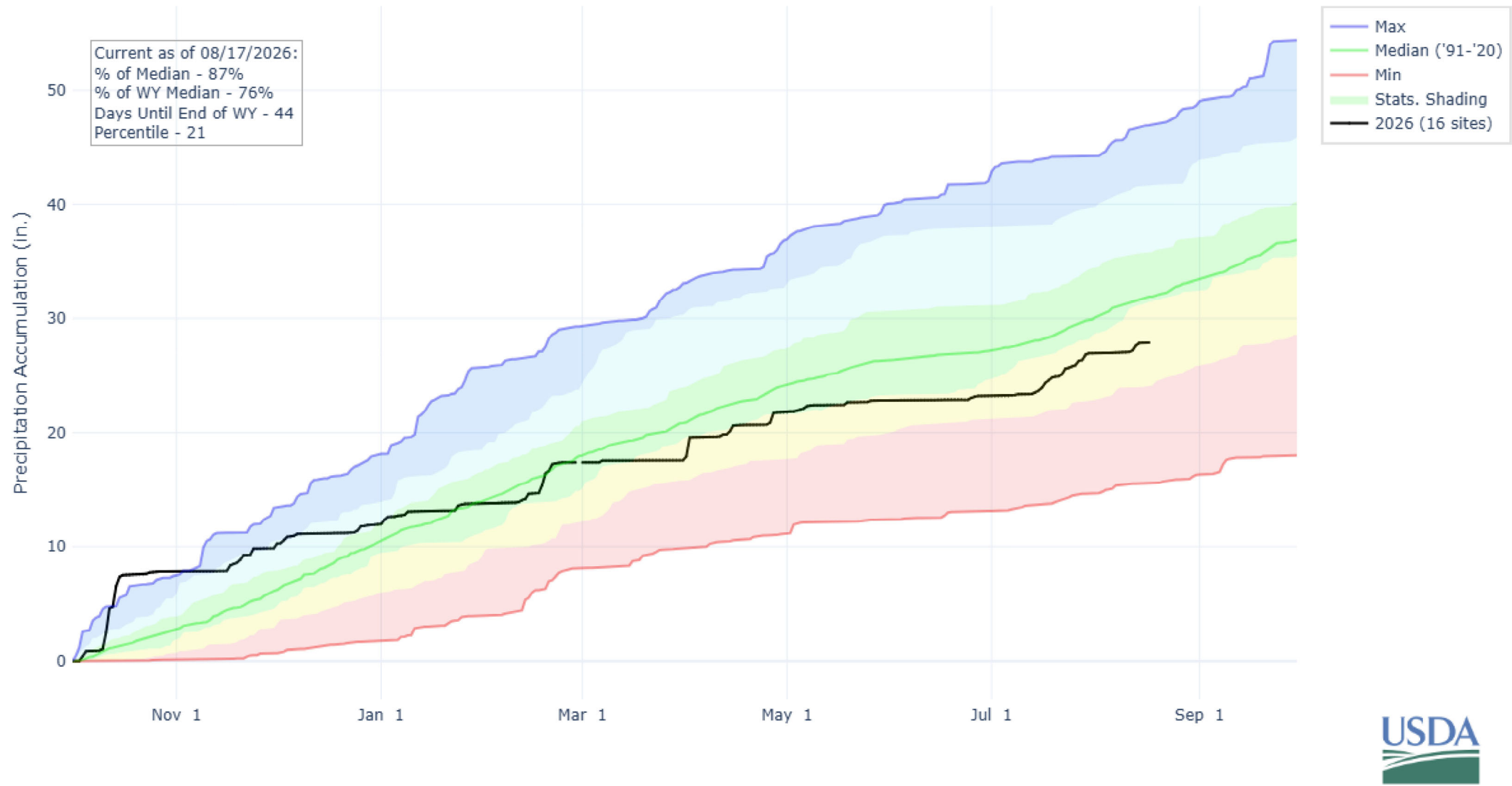


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN UPPER COLORADO-DOLORES



PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN UPPER SAN JUAN





THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
**West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302**

BOARD MEMORANDUM

From: Andrew Straub-Heidke

Subject: Agenda Item 12.3 & 12.4: Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell & Lake Mead FEIS/Upper Division States Contribution Program

Date: August 17, 2026

FEIS Overview

On July 31, 2026, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) released its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Post-2026 Colorado River operations. The FEIS establishes an adaptive framework for operating Lake Powell and Lake Mead through 2036, with operational agreement updates every 2 years, unless there is a consensus-based agreement for a longer a longer duration. The FEIS specifically states that “operations should be responsive to hydrology,” indicating a shift from demand driven operations to supply driven operations.

The major provisions from the FEIS include:

- Lower Basin shortages of up to 3.0 million acre-feet per year when conditions warrant.
- Lake Powell releases ranging from 5.0 to 12.0 million acre-feet (MAF) annually, depending on system conditions and reservoir elevations.
- Ability to store conserved water in Lake Powell (up to 3 MAF) and Lake Mead (up to 8 MAF).
- Voluntary Upper Basin conservation of up to approximately 200,000 acre-feet per year, subject to hydrologic conditions.
- When Lake Powell is projected to fall below elevation 3,500 feet or when Lake Mead is projected to fall below elevation 1,000 feet, Reclamation will take the necessary steps to protect critical infrastructure, including the potential for maximum use of Upper Initial Units to release additional water.

The most important point for Colorado is that the FEIS does not impose mandatory annual water-use reductions on the Upper Basin. Instead, it contemplates voluntary conservation and continued development of contribution programs. This is significant given the Upper Basin's position that its water users already experience shortages when natural supplies are inadequate.

At the time this memo was prepared, Reclamation had not yet released the Record of Decision. A copy of the Executive Summary of the FEIS is included in your Board packet for your review.

Upper Division Near-Term Contribution Program

As a result of the language in the FEIS, the Upper Division States are currently developing a "Near-Term Contribution Program" for 2027 and 2028, funded with \$100 million in federal funding from Reclamation. The program will pay water users to voluntarily reduce water use, with the conserved water intended to benefit the Upper Basin rather than provide a direct supply to Lower Basin states, as has been the result from previous conservation programs.

Colorado is developing its own state program, with final program criteria and action expected at the CWCB Board Meeting in Frisco on September 15 and 16. The intent is to encourage participation across agricultural, municipal and industrial water users while avoiding significant negative impacts to local communities and agricultural economies, given the list of criteria that CWCB has developed. Like the Demand Management program, this program is also intended to provide temporary, voluntary, and compensated contributions; not permanent reductions in water rights or water use. CWCB anticipates that funding will be available for Colorado River water contribution projects starting in 2027.

A key unresolved issue is how conserved water will be credited and shepherded. The Upper Division states expect the water to remain available for Upper Basin purposes and potentially be stored in Lake Powell or other Upper Basin reservoirs. For Colorado, the immediate issue is therefore how much voluntary conservation can realistically be generated, who bears the economic impact, determining geographic and user proportionality, and how the resulting water is credited and protected for the Upper Basin. The extremely dry conditions entering 2027 also raise questions about how much water users will have available to contribute.

CWCB's Contribution Program memo from the July CWCB Board Meeting is included in your Board packet, along with an article about the contribution program from Aspen Journalism.



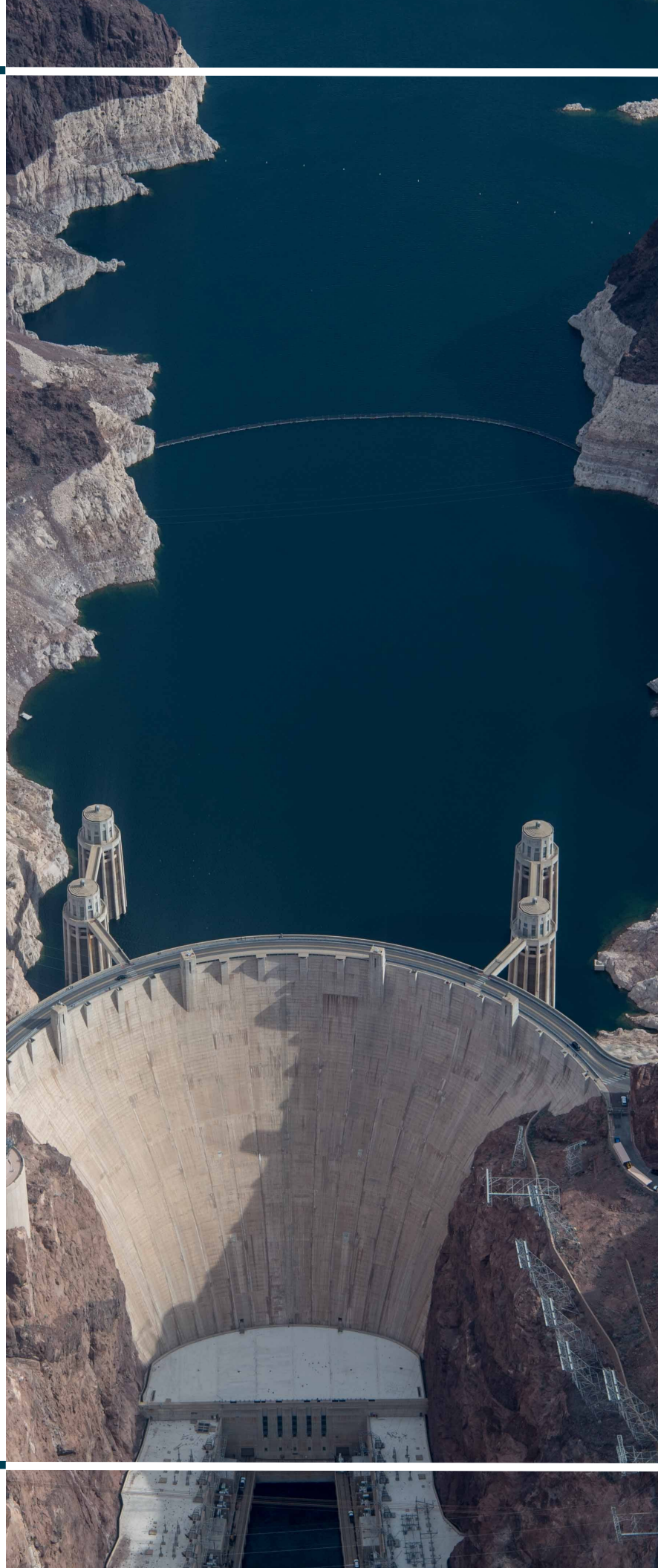
— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Post-2026 Operational
Guidelines and
Strategies for Lake
Powell and Lake Mead

Executive Summary

July 2026
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper and Lower Colorado Basins
Interior Regions 7 and 8





— BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION

Mission Statements

The **Department of the Interior** protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

The mission of the **Bureau of Reclamation** is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Executive Summary

ES.1 Background

The Colorado River Basin (Basin) provides essential water supplies to approximately 40 million people, nearly 5.5 million acres of agricultural lands, and habitat for ecological resources across seven states which includes broad areas in the Southwestern United States (U.S.) and Northwestern United Mexican States (Mexico) (**Map ES-1**). Prudent management of the Basin is critically important because the Colorado River is the foundation for diverse resources across a large geographic region and faces exceptional challenges from prolonged drought and future uncertainty. States, tribes, and Mexico rely on the Colorado River to support essential municipal, agricultural, environmental, cultural, and hydropower needs. These resources are now at significant risk: since the onset of the current drought in 2000, the Basin's primary reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, have fallen to historically low elevations. Several of the major reservoir- and water-management documents and agreements developed to guide Colorado River operations through the persistently dry conditions expire in 2026, including the [2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead](#) (2007 Interim Guidelines; Reclamation 2007), the [2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans](#) (Reclamation 2019), and key international agreements between the U.S. and Mexico. Despite the significance of these agreements, actions taken over the past two decades have not been sufficiently robust to prevent continued decline of the reservoirs through the prolonged drought.

The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), acting through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), proposes adoption of new guidelines and coordinated management strategies to address Lake Powell and Lake Mead through their full operating ranges to take effect when the current agreements expire in 2026. Management strategies will primarily focus on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam but may include actions upstream and downstream of these facilities to protect critical reservoir elevations, such as releases from the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Upper Initial Units to increase the elevation at Lake Powell, and approaches to enhance opportunities for Lower Colorado River Basin (Lower Basin) water users to reduce water use (see **Map ES-1**).

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to inform the Secretary's timely adoption of a new set of objective guidelines that improve predictability to all water users and managers in the Basin. Developing new guidelines is difficult in this complex Basin, where critically low storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, significant hydrologic variability, and the anticipation of drier future conditions amplify the central tradeoff: balancing the potentially profound impacts of water-delivery reductions with the need to maintain reservoir storage. The alternatives in this Final EIS capture a broad range of management strategies to address this tradeoff, and they demonstrate that there are multiple ways to find a balance if conditions improve. If conditions do not improve, achieving a balance is more difficult, and, under critically dry futures, even large and unprecedented reductions may be needed and may not be enough to stabilize storage.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Map ES-1 Colorado River Basin

Source: National Weather Service GIS 2023, Reclamation GIS 2025, USGS National Hydrography Dataset GIS 2023; Map production: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions; Date: June 30, 2026, Disclaimer: This map is intended for informational purposes only. Geographic features may have been compiled at varying scales and for different purposes. No representation is made as to the accuracy of this graphic.



- Major dam
- ★ Lee Ferry Compact Point
- ▲ Lees Ferry Gaging Station

- Colorado River
- Major Colorado River tributary
- Colorado River Basin, Upper and Lower Basins

States in the Colorado River Basin (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico are Upper Division states, and Arizona, California, and Nevada are Lower Division states)

Consistent with the Department of the Interior's (Department) longstanding preference for consensus-based management of the Colorado River System, the Department and Reclamation engaged extensively with the Basin States,¹ Basin Tribes,² and other interested parties during development of successor operating guidelines over the course of 4 years. However, despite those efforts, the Basin States did not reach consensus on long-term guidelines prior to the completion of this EIS. Accordingly, rather than adopting long-term operating guidelines of the same duration as the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Secretary proposes in the Preferred Alternative to adopt an operational strategy consisting of an adaptive decision framework to develop operating guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead for operating years 2027 through 2036. This framework provides for more robust operational provisions than the current guidelines while preserving the flexibility to respond to changing hydrologic conditions and to incorporate future consensus recommendations, should they be reached.

Reclamation, as the agency designated to act on the Secretary's behalf with respect to operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam and managing the mainstream waters of the lower Colorado River in accordance with federal law, is the lead federal agency for the purposes of compliance pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, for the development and implementation of the proposed interim guidelines. Five federal agencies are cooperating for purposes of assisting with environmental analysis and preparation of this EIS. The cooperating agencies are the Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), and Western Area Power Administration. The Final EIS is organized into four volumes:

Volume I – EIS with the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Purpose and Need. Provides the background of Colorado River operations and describes why federal action is needed.

Chapter 2: Description of Alternatives. Describes the process of formulating alternatives, describes the Preferred Alternative, and presents a range of reservoir operation strategies and guidelines considered under each alternative. A summary of the performance tradeoffs between alternatives is provided at the end of Chapter 2.

Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences. Describes the existing environmental conditions and evaluates potential impacts that could result from implementation of the alternatives.

Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination. Describes public and stakeholder involvement process during the preparation of this Final EIS.

¹ Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

² There are 30 federally recognized Native American tribes in the Basin: Ak-Chin Indian Community, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Cocopah Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe, Gila River Indian Community, Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, Navajo Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute, Shivwits Band of Paiutes, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Tohono O'odham Nation, Tonto Apache Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, and Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe.

Volume II – Supporting appendices, primarily focused on modelling information, including modeling assumptions, analytical methods, and supporting calculations.

Volume III – Technical appendices for each of the environmental resources discussed in Chapter 3. These appendices provide supporting and more detailed information.

Volume IV – List of persons contributing to the preparation of this Final EIS, list of references cited in this Final EIS, glossary of commonly used terms, and index.

ES.1.1 Purpose and Need for Action

The proposed federal action is needed for the following reasons:

- *The Secretary is legally required to coordinate operations of Colorado River reservoirs:* The Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 directs the Secretary to adopt criteria for the coordinated long-range operation of Colorado River reservoirs. In compliance with this obligation, the Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs Pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968 (Long-Range Operating Criteria [LROC]; Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 [CRBPA]; Reclamation 1970) were developed and adopted by the Secretary in 1970. The LROC provides general narrative guidance regarding Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations but does not contain specific, objective criteria to guide annual operations. To address this inadequacy, the 2007 Interim Guidelines were developed to provide objective criteria used by the Department to implement the LROC. The 2007 Interim Guidelines have provided the predictability needed by the entities that receive Colorado River water to better plan for and manage available water supplies from the Colorado River and other sources.
- *The 2007 Interim Guidelines are expiring:* Current operational guidelines expire during the 2026 operating year. The Department has determined that specific, objective operational guidelines are important to provide improved predictability and should be established for another interim period beyond 2026. Most of the federal and non-federal agreements associated with implementing provisions of the 2007 Interim Guidelines also expire after the 2026 operating year.
- *The 2007 Interim Guidelines have not sufficiently reduced risk:* Based on operational experience since 2007, the current guidelines are not robust enough to manage the system in a way that is sufficiently protective of the resources dependent on the Colorado River. Despite near-continuous drought-response actions in recent years, low reservoir conditions have persisted, and new infrastructure risks at Glen Canyon Dam have arisen. More robust and adaptive guidelines are needed for the efficient and sustainable management of the major mainstream Colorado River reservoirs and system resources.
- *Imbalance between water supply and demand will be exacerbated by increasingly likely low-runoff conditions:* The Basin is experiencing increased aridity due to climate variability, and long-term drought and low-runoff conditions are expected in the future. These conditions will exacerbate the now widely recognized imbalance between water supply and demand in the Basin. Robust and flexible guidelines are needed to manage the Colorado River system and its resources under a broad range of potential future hydrologic conditions.
- *Expanded and innovative use of conservation is needed:* Recognizing the anticipated future low-runoff conditions in the Basin, the Department has also determined a need for guidelines that provide

Colorado River water users, including Basin Tribes, expanded opportunities to conserve, store, exchange, and take subsequent delivery of water in and from Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell. The guidelines should also support and integrate future efficiency improvements and opportunities for augmentation.

- *Addressing tribal concerns regarding Basin management is needed:* Basin Tribes have expressed concern that the current approach to Colorado River water management is insufficient to address the range of interests, needs, and fundamental rights of the Basin Tribes. The Department has determined a need for guidelines that provide flexibility and predictability for Basin Tribes to remain able to benefit from their water rights and have opportunities to participate in voluntary conservation programs.

The purpose of the proposed federal action is to:

- Update and expand management guidelines for Colorado River reservoirs, particularly for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- Provide Colorado River water users a greater degree of predictability with respect to annual water availability in future years under anticipated increasing variability, low runoff, and low reservoir conditions
- Provide additional mechanisms for the conservation, exchange, storage, and delivery of water supplies in Colorado River reservoirs to increase the flexibility to meet water use needs
- Provide new or enhanced opportunities for Basin Tribes to benefit from their water rights
- Provide flexibility to build resilience and accommodate future needs and growth that are supported by Colorado River water supplies, including the integration of unquantified tribal water rights once they are resolved

ES.1.2 Proposed Federal Action

Reclamation, acting on behalf of the Secretary, proposes to adopt guidelines and coordinated reservoir management strategies to address operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead through their full operating ranges. This action would improve predictability to all water users and managers in the Basin by developing and adopting objective guidelines for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam to take effect when the current operating guidelines expire in 2026. This action is designed to provide for the sustainable management of the Colorado River system and its resources under a wide range of potential future system conditions.

The proposed federal action considers the following operational elements that are collectively designed to address the purpose and need for the proposed federal action:

- 1) Identification of circumstances under which the Secretary would allocate the annual amount of water available for consumptive use from Lake Mead to the Lower Division states (Arizona, California, and Nevada) at, below, or above 7.5 million acre-feet (maf), pursuant to the Supreme Court Decree in *Arizona v. California*, 376 U.S. 340 (1964) (Final Decree entered in 2006).
- 2) Coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, particularly under low reservoir conditions.
- 3) Storage and delivery of conserved water in Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell to increase the flexibility to meet water use needs from both reservoirs, including the storage and delivery of

non-system water; exchanges; and water conserved through extraordinary measures by or for tribal, agricultural, or municipal entities.

The proposed federal action allows for development of robust operating guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead without precluding upstream or downstream actions needed to protect critical reservoir elevations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead, such as the following:

- Approaches that consider total system storage in all major Colorado River reservoirs and/or actual inflows to determine coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.
- Approaches that include opportunities for conservation, augmentation, demand management, or other water management strategies (such as exchanges or transfers).
- Modified operations at upstream CRSP Upper Initial Units³ to release additional water if needed to protect critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam.

The Secretary intends that the guidelines be interim in nature and extend for the same duration as the 2007 Interim Guidelines (approximately 20 years). Adoption of new guidelines for an interim (or limited) period provides the opportunity to gain additional experience for operating the reservoirs, thereby informing future operational and water management decisions.

Recognizing additional authorities may be developed, the Department intends to adopt and implement the guidelines in a manner consistent with the Law of the River. The Department also intends that the guidelines be used to implement the LROC and applicable federal law through the issuance of the Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs.

ES.1.3 Geographic Scope

Consistent with the geographic scope analyzed in the 2007 Interim Guidelines Final EIS, the geographic scope that would be affected by the proposed federal action begins at full pool of Lake Powell at Gypsum Canyon and extends downstream along the mainstream Colorado River floodplain to the Southerly International Boundary (SIB) with Mexico. This proposed federal action would also potentially affect interests of water users in the Lower Division States in service areas that extend beyond the mainstream of the Colorado River.

Although the proposed federal action is focused on Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations, management strategies that include activities upstream of Lake Powell are being analyzed in this Final EIS. These activities include Upper Colorado River Basin (Upper Basin) conservation and, if warranted to protect critical reservoir elevations, coordinated operations of the CRSP Upper Initial Units to release additional water within their respective Records of Decision (RODs) to increase the elevation at Lake Powell. Operations at the CRSP Upper Initial Units specifically contemplated in this Final EIS are intended to remain within the scope of the existing RODs.⁴ Since those RODs are covered by their own NEPA, this Final EIS does not need to expand the geographic scope of analysis

³ CRSP Upper Initial Units include [Flaming Gorge](#), [Blue Mesa](#) (a component of the Aspinall Unit), and [Navajo](#) reservoirs. Current RODs governing operations of these units were signed in 2006, 2012, and 2006, respectively.

⁴ While the Secretary will consider and prioritize operations at these facilities that are consistent with existing RODs, the Secretary retains the authority to operate outside those RODs if necessary. The modeling assumptions regarding operation of the CRSP Upper Initial Units presented in this Final EIS are not intended to, and do not, limit the Secretary's ability to operate these facilities as necessary to respond to hydrologic conditions in accordance with applicable federal law, including operations for the authorized purposes as stated in the 1956 Colorado River Storage Project Act.

upstream of Lake Powell. With respect to Upper Basin conservation, the nexus to the proposed federal action is the storage and delivery of that conserved water in Lake Powell. The effects of this storage in and delivery from Lake Powell are within the scope of the EIS, while specific activities that may be undertaken in the Upper Basin to generate the conserved water are not within the scope of this EIS. Any such activities are unknown at this time and will not necessarily require federal decision making. Any federal decisions associated with these conservation activities will be assessed outside of this EIS.

ES.2 Alternatives

ES.2.1 Alternative Development

The process of developing the range of alternatives was informed by solicitation of input and extensive collaborative engagement with stakeholders throughout the Basin. This took place over a two-and-a-half-year period beginning with publication of the Scoping Report in October 2023 through publication of this Final EIS.

During the public involvement periods and the rest of the alternatives development process, Reclamation received considerable [input](#) from the Basin States, many Basin Tribes, conservation organizations, other federal agencies, other stakeholders, and members of the public. Input submitted ranged from detailed proposed alternatives to operational concepts and principles. Throughout the alternatives development phase, Reclamation met continuously with states, tribes, and other partners to review and discuss their input. For those proposals containing sufficient detail to be considered as a full alternative or a major component of an alternative, Reclamation worked extensively with these entities to not only understand and gather additional information, but also to model and perform preliminary analyses of their proposals to facilitate refinements. Additionally, Reclamation developed an online platform, the Post-2026 Operations Exploration Web Tool, allowing stakeholders, interested parties, and the public to independently or collaboratively design operational strategies to inform their input to the NEPA process.

On January 9, 2026, the Environmental Protection Agency published a notice in the *Federal Register* ([91 Federal Register 2131](#)) announcing the availability of the Draft EIS and beginning a public comment period that ran through March 2, 2026. Since Draft EIS publication, the Department has also continued to work with the Basin States and Basin Tribes to facilitate development of a consensus agreement. Despite this extensive engagement, a long-term consensus-based approach to Basin reservoir operations has not yet been achieved.

This Final EIS analyzes a No Action alternative and five action alternatives that incorporate over 4 years of input provided by stakeholders and the public and received through consultations with the Basin States and Basin Tribes. These alternatives capture a broad range of operational concepts and potential environmental impacts:

- Preferred Alternative (added since publication of the Draft EIS)
- No Action Alternative
- Basic Coordination Alternative
- Enhanced Coordination Alternative

- Maximum Operational Flexibility Alternative
- Supply Driven Alternative

ES.2.2 The Preferred Alternative

In the absence of a long-term consensus-based approach, Reclamation has developed a Preferred Alternative and analyzed it in this Final EIS. The Preferred Alternative is a 10-year decision framework. The decision framework establishes operational principles, sideboards (key thresholds and ranges for operational elements), and a process that would govern development and issuance of operating guidelines covering anticipated 2-year intervals, unless consensus-based agreements provide for a longer duration. The framework does not establish specific operating guidelines; rather, it provides the structure within which operating guidelines would be developed, reviewed, and periodically updated through 2036.

The decision framework in the Preferred Alternative offers a vehicle for continued work toward sustainable management in the Basin. It provides continuity following the expiration of the 2007 Interim Guidelines; establishes transparency and predictability for future decision making; preserves flexibility to respond to changing hydrology and evolving Basin circumstances; facilitates incorporation of future Basin consensus recommendations; and is consistent with applicable federal law. The framework (principles, sideboards, and process) would remain constant through 2036, unless modified through future federal action and appropriate environmental compliance.

ES.2.2.1 Operating Guidelines

Operating guidelines are the objective criteria that determine the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead for the anticipated 2-year interval. For each interval, the framework process would be carried out to develop and issue operating guidelines in accordance with the principles and sideboards described below. The operating guidelines would be adopted through the issuance of a decision document published in the *Federal Register*. Once issued, the operating guidelines would be implemented through Annual Operating Plans.

ES.2.2.2 Operational Principles

The operational principles are designed to ensure that operating guidelines adopted under the framework adhere to fundamental management priorities and provide a basis for review and reflection as new operating guidelines are developed.

The operational principles are listed below:

1. ***Operations should be responsive to hydrology.*** Annual operations and mid-year adjustments that account for evolving supply conditions should be adopted to ensure a flexible, adaptive approach to management.
2. ***Critical federal infrastructure must be protected through practical and deliberate operations.*** When Lake Powell is projected to fall below elevation 3,500 feet or when Lake Mead is projected to fall below elevation of 1,000 feet, processes and tools will be used to manage risks to infrastructure and prevent damage to federal facilities of regional and national importance. These elevations reflect current understanding of these facilities but do not preclude the identification of alternate or additional critical elevations.

3. ***Operating guidelines should implement the LROC while also providing directions to address extraordinary circumstances.*** Operating guidelines will provide objective criteria for operating under low reservoir conditions within the bounds of the LROC but may also provide for temporary operational actions that are not otherwise provided for under the LROC when necessary to protect critical federal infrastructure in accordance with applicable federal law.
4. ***Operating guidelines should prioritize consensus-based recommendations.*** The Department will support efforts to achieve consensus agreements that appropriately provide benefits to multiple parties, that offer innovative, inclusive solutions to operational and management challenges, and that are sufficiently protective of the system. Should such agreements arise, they will be prioritized as new operating guidelines are developed and adopted. In the absence of consensus-based arrangements, the Secretary will take the necessary management actions, consistent with applicable federal law.

ES.2.2.3 Operational Sideboards

The decision framework's operational sideboards are key thresholds and ranges for the four operational elements (described below) that create boundaries for the development of each set of operating guidelines and provide a basis for environmental compliance for the duration of the decision framework. The sideboards defined in **Table ES-1** were chosen to appropriately balance tradeoffs among resources and ensure that the Department would have the flexibility and environmental compliance to operate in accordance with the operational principles given future hydrologic uncertainty.

Table ES-1
Operational Sideboards for the Preferred Alternative

Operational Element	Operational Ranges
Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines	Up to 3.0 maf to provide protection of critical infrastructure at Hoover Dam in dry hydrologic conditions The allocation of shortages would be based on applicable law, including the Consolidated Decree. Deviation from applicable law would occur only if water entitlement holders have reached voluntary arrangements Consultation would occur if projected Lake Mead elevation < 1,000 ft to determine potential additional reductions to Lower Basin water deliveries
Coordinated Reservoir Operations	5.0 maf to 12.0 maf Lake Powell WY releases to provide protection for critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam and sufficiently high releases necessary to prevent spill avoidance releases Consultation would occur if projected Lake Powell elevation < 3,500 ft to determine potential additional actions
Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water	Lake Powell: up to 3.0 maf Lake Mead: up to 8.0 maf (supports existing ICS, new ICS-type program, conservation pools, and exchange mechanisms)
Lower Basin Surplus Guidelines	Up to 500 kaf in addition to Flood Control and Quantified Surplus

Operational Element	Operational Ranges
Additional Activities Above Lake Powell	Potential for maximum use of CRSP Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs to release additional water if needed to protect critical infrastructure Voluntary Upper Basin contributions up to 200 kaf per year subject to hydrologic conditions

In contrast to the specified operations under the other alternatives analyzed in this Final EIS, the Preferred Alternative is designed to create the opportunity for subsequent decision making; because of this distinction, it is appropriate to include a modeling representation of operating guidelines that may be developed under the Preferred Alternative. The sideboards provide a basis for understanding the range of potential impacts, and analyzing these potential impacts provides a necessary and instructive comparison to the other alternatives included in this Final EIS. Taken together, the representation of the operational elements described below is referred to and analyzed in this Final EIS as the “Representative Preferred Alternative.” The Representative Preferred Alternative is a set of modeling assumptions designed around the Preferred Alternative sideboards to approximate the range of operating guidelines that may be adopted for each interval during the 10-year framework. The specifications in the operational elements reflect how the Representative Preferred Alternative was modeled; exact operations would be subject to the guidelines in place during each interval and would adhere to consultation triggers.

ES.2.2.4 Process

Each set of operating guidelines would be implemented and evaluated through a process during which Reclamation would work with stakeholders to seek consensus, align with operational principles and sideboards, and account for system conditions, hydrology, and other Basin developments.

ES.2.3 Summary of Alternatives

Each alternative is comprised of four operational elements: (1) Guidelines to Reduce or Increase Deliveries from Lake Mead, (2) Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead), (3) Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-System Water, and (4) Additional Activities Above Lake Powell. Each element is varied across the alternatives providing a reasonably broad range of Colorado River operations that capture an appropriate range of potential environmental impacts. **Table ES-2** summarizes the representation of these elements in the No Action Alternative and the five action alternatives considered and evaluated in this Final EIS.

Table ES-2
Summary Comparison of Alternatives

Preferred Alternative (Including Representation of Operational Elements)	The Preferred Alternative is a multi-year decision framework that establishes the process and criteria that would govern development and adoption of operating guidelines through 2036. The decision framework is anticipated to be implemented in two-year operating intervals, unless consensus-based agreements provide for a longer duration. Unlike other alternatives, the operating guidelines for each interval are not specified in this Final EIS, and each set of guidelines would be developed based on operational principles and fit within the framework's defined operational sideboards (thresholds and ranges for operational elements). The sideboards provide a basis for assumptions included in the Representative Preferred Alternative summarized in this table, which captures the range of operating guidelines that may be adopted during each interval. Lake Powell releases range from 5.0 maf to 12.0 maf depending primarily on Lake Powell elevation. Lower Basin shortages up to 3.6 maf (including assumptions about reductions to Mexico) are distributed using a combination of LB Priority (up to 1.5 maf, 2027-2028) and priority.				
	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead^{3, 4}	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water³	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/ Releases from Lake Mead³	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
	- Shortages up to 3.6 maf (including assumptions about reductions to Mexico) - In 2027-2028, shortages up to 1.5 maf are distributed based on the distribution developed by the Lower Division States and shortages exceeding 1.5 maf are distributed based on priority (Approach 1 of the Supply Driven Alternative) - After 2028, shortages are distributed based on priority, unless agreements are reached - Consultation to determine additional reductions if projected Lake Mead elevation is less than 1,000 feet	- Lake Powell releases determined based on Lake Powell elevation unless equalization releases are required - Releases range from 5.0 to 12.0 maf, unless more is required for equalization releases - Consultation to determine additional actions if projected Lake Powell elevation is less than 3,500 feet	- Storage up to 7.0 maf in Lake Mead with additional 1.0 maf Federally Managed Water Resources Pool; included for purposes of determining Lower Basin surplus and Shortage Conditions, as well as equalization releases from Lake Powell - Storage up to 3.0 maf at Lake Powell; included for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases - Existing ICS converted to new mechanism immediately - Expanded flexibilities: interstate exchanges within each basin, new tribal mechanism	Surplus determinations based on Lake Mead elevation at or above 1,165 feet, 70R (spill avoidance strategy) or Flood Control conditions	- Potential maximum use of CRSP Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs to release additional water if needed to protect critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam contingent on hydrologic conditions - Trigger additional releases when projected Lake Powell elevation is less than 3,525 feet - Voluntary Upper Basin contributions up to 200.0 kaf per year subject to hydrologic conditions

³ These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. **Appendix A** provides additional detail. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.

⁴ As noted in **Section 2.4**, the anticipated guidelines for the first operating interval as of publication of this Final EIS are preliminary. Modeling assumptions for 2027-2028 regarding shortage distribution reflect the May 1, 2026, Lower Division States proposal. As described in **Table 2-1**, Operational Sideboards, absent voluntary arrangements, the distribution of shortages would be based on applicable law (i.e., the priority system). This distribution is modeled in the Representative Preferred Alternative for years 2029 and beyond. Both distribution methods are documented and analyzed in **Appendix C**, Shortage Allocation Model, and **Chapter 3**. Regarding maximum shortage volume, modeling assumptions provide for reductions above the 1.25 maf maximum if needed to avoid critically low elevations at Lake Mead.

No Action Alternative	The No Action Alternative is included as a requirement of NEPA. Operations would revert to annual determinations announced through the Annual Operating Plan. Pursuant to the LROC, the objective is to maintain a minimum release of water from Lake Powell of 8.23 maf, therefore Lake Powell releases are assumed to be 8.23 maf ¹ unless a higher release is required for equalization or a lower release occurs due to Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure limitations. ² Shortages to the Lower Basin would be based on priority and reach a maximum of 600.0 thousand acre-feet (kaf). This would not represent a continuation of current operations but is generally based on the operating guidance that was in place before the adoption of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. While the authority to use CRSP Upper Initial Units to respond to exigent and emergency conditions was recognized at that time, no specific framework for such activities had been developed, so no defined activities are included in this alternative. Existing Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) would be delivered in accordance with existing agreements, but there would be no new storage and delivery mechanisms.				
	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead³	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water³	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/ Releases from Lake Mead³	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
	• Shortages determined based on Lake Mead elevation • Shortage volume of 400.0, 500.0, and 600.0 kaf at elevations 1,075, 1,050, and 1,025 feet, respectively • Shortages distributed based on priority	• Lake Powell release of 8.23 maf unless more is required for equalization releases • Releases less than 8.23 maf below elevation 3,490 feet due to Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure limitations	• No new storage and delivery mechanism to replace ICS • Delivery of existing ICS in accordance with existing agreements	• Surplus determinations limited to 70R (spill avoidance strategy) and Flood Control conditions	• No specific additional activities above Lake Powell defined

¹ Article II(2) of the LROC states the “objective shall be to maintain a minimum release of water from Lake Powell of 8.23 [maf].” Reclamation recognizes that entities in the Basin have different legal positions regarding how this LROC statement incorporates other Law of the River elements to determine annual releases. Reclamation also recognizes that variation in releases of water above and below the minimum objective release of 8.23 maf can, in appropriate circumstances, be adopted.

² Releases from Glen Canyon Dam may be unable to achieve the specified annual release volume when Lake Powell is below elevation 3,490 feet due to infrastructure constraints. Modeling assumptions for all alternatives reflect this constraint (see **Appendix A**).

³ These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. **Appendix A** provides additional detail. Reclamation’s modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.

Basic Coordination Alternative	This alternative is designed to be implementable absent new agreements among Basin water users. Lake Powell releases would primarily be 8.23 maf, with some releases above and below 8.23 maf, and minimum releases of 7.0 maf. Lake Powell elevations could be increased by releases from CRSP Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs to protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam. Reclamation would identify triggers for when additional Upper Basin actions are needed to protect critical infrastructure. Lower Basin shortages up to 1.48 maf would be triggered based on Lake Mead elevation and distributed consistent with priority system. Existing ICS would be delivered in accordance with existing agreements, but there would be no new delivery and storage mechanisms.				
	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead ³	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water ³	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/ Releases from Lake Mead ³	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
	- Shortages based on Lake Mead elevation up to 1.48 maf - Shortages distributed based on priority - Identify conditions when additional reductions may be needed to avoid reaching critically low elevations	- Lake Powell releases are determined based on Lake Powell elevation unless equalization releases are required - Releases range from 7.0 to 9.5 maf, unless more is required for equalization releases - Identify conditions when additional action may be needed for infrastructure protection	- No new storage and delivery mechanism to replace ICS - Delivery of existing ICS in accordance with existing agreements	Surplus determinations limited to 70R (spill avoidance strategy) and Flood Control conditions	- Releases from CRSP Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs and contingent on hydrologic conditions to protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam - Identify conditions when additional Upper Basin actions may be needed for infrastructure protection

³These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. **Appendix A** provides additional detail. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.

Enhanced Coordination Alternative	This alternative is based on concepts from Basin Tribes, federal agencies, and other stakeholders to achieve protection of critical infrastructure while benefitting key resources (e.g., natural, hydropower and recreation) through an approach to distributing storage between Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Lake Powell releases would be determined based on a combination of Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevations, 10-year running-average hydrology, and Lower Basin deliveries. This alternative would include storage and delivery mechanisms for Lake Powell and Lake Mead and extensive flexibilities for all users. The operations incorporate Basin-wide shared contributions to the system, including Upper Basin conservation that would be stored in Lake Powell and Lower Basin shortages starting at 1.3 maf, approximately the average annual evaporative and system losses at and below Lake Mead, and reaching a maximum of 3.0 maf. Shortages would be triggered based on combined storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead and distributed pro rata.				
	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead³	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water³	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/ Releases from Lake Mead³	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
	• Shortages determined based on combined storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead • Shortages begin at 60% full at a volume of 1.3 maf, then increase linearly, reaching a maximum of 3.0 maf at 30% full and below • Shortages distributed pro rata	• Lake Powell releases determined based on a combination of Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevations, 10-year running-average hydrology, and Lower Basin deliveries • Releases range from 4.7 to 10.8 maf	• Storage up to 5.0 maf in Lake Mead with additional 2.0 maf Protection Pool; included for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases and shortages • Storage up to 2.0 maf in Lake Powell; included for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases but excluded from shortage determinations • Existing ICS converted to new mechanism immediately • Extensive flexibilities for all users: intra- and interstate transactions within each basin • Tribal water (both conserved consumptive use and unused) including in Lake Powell conservation pool and Lake Mead Protection Pool	• Surplus determinations limited to 70R (spill avoidance strategy) and Flood Control conditions	• Upper Basin conservation contributed to the Lake Powell conservation pool based on hydrologic conditions: up to 200.0 kaf per year for first 5 years, up to 275.0 kaf per year for second 5 years, up to 350.0 kaf starting in year 11

³These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. **Appendix A** provides additional detail. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.

Maximum Operational Flexibility Alternative	This alternative is informed by a proposal submitted by a consortium of conservation organizations and incorporates proactive responses, targeted reservoir management strategies, and innovative and flexible tools to address an increasingly variable set of future hydrologic conditions. Lake Powell releases would range from 5.0 to 11.0 maf and would be determined by total CRSP system storage and recent hydrology. Releases would switch to “run-of-river” when Lake Powell is at 3,510 feet or lower. The operations incorporate Basin-wide shared contributions, including up to 4.0 maf of shortages in the Lower Basin triggered by combined seven-reservoir storage (CRSP Upper Initial Units, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, and Lake Havasu) and recent hydrology and voluntary water contributions from both basins.				
	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead³	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)³	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/ Releases from Lake Mead³	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
	• Shortages determined based on combined seven-reservoir storage and recent hydrology • Shortages start at 80% full and increase linearly, subject to upward adjustment based on hydrology, reaching a maximum of 4.0 maf • Shortages distributed based on priority, as described in Approach 1 of the Supply Driven Alternative	• Lake Powell releases determined based on total Upper Basin system storage and recent hydrology • Releases subject to downward adjustment based on hydrology and range from 5.0 to 11.0 maf • Releases switch to “run-of-river” when Lake Powell is at elevation 3,510 feet or lower	• Storage up to 8.0 maf in either Lake Powell or Lake Mead; excluded for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases and shortages • Existing ICS converted to new mechanism over 5 years • Extensive flexibilities for all users: transactions within and across basins, including interstate and inter-basin	• Surplus determinations limited to Flood Control conditions	• Average of 200.0 kaf of Upper Basin annual conservation based on hydrologic conditions contributed to the Lake Powell conservation pool

³These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. **Appendix A** provides additional detail. Reclamation’s modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.

Supply Driven Alternative	Annual Lake Powell releases are determined based on a 65 percent of 3-year-average natural flow at Lees Ferry. Lake Powell elevations could be increased by releases from CRSP Upper Initial Units within their respective RODs to protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam. This alternative would include new delivery and storage mechanisms for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Lower Basin shortages up to 2.1 maf would be triggered based on Lake Mead elevation. This alternative analyzes two approaches to shortage distribution: state-based combined with Lower Basin-wide priority and state-based combined with Lower Basin-wide pro rata.				
	Shortage Guidelines to Reduce Deliveries from Lake Mead ³	Coordinated Reservoir Operations (Lake Powell and Lake Mead)	Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water ³	Surplus Guidelines to Increase Deliveries/Releases from Lake Mead ³	Additional Activities Above Lake Powell
	- Shortages determined based on Lake Mead elevation - Shortages start at 1,145 feet and reach a maximum of 2.1 maf at 1,000 feet and below - Shortages distributed using two approaches: LB Priority and LB Pro Rata	- Lake Powell releases determined primarily based on 65% of 3-year natural flows at Lees Ferry - Releases range from 4.7 to 12.0 maf	- Storage up to 8.0 maf in Lake Mead; excluded for purposes of determining shortages - Storage up to 3.0 maf at Lake Powell; included for purposes of determining Lake Powell releases - Existing ICS converted to new mechanism over 10 years - Expanded flexibilities: interstate exchanges within each basin	Surplus determinations based on Lake Mead elevation at or above 1,165 feet, 70R (spill avoidance strategy) or Flood Control conditions	- Increased releases from CRSP Upper Initial Units by up to 500.0 kaf per year within their respective RODs and contingent on hydrologic conditions to protect infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam - Up to 200.0 kaf of Upper Basin annual conservation based on hydrologic conditions contributed to the Lake Powell conservation pool - In years when Lake Powell cannot meet its required water year release because of low elevation, additional "gap water" is introduced into the system and tracked to be released in subsequent years

³These operational elements contain modeling assumptions for water deliveries to Mexico. Shortage volumes include assumptions related to reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Lake Mead storage volumes for the Storage and Delivery of Conserved System and Non-system Water include assumptions related to storage available to Mexico. Surplus Guidelines include assumptions related to increased deliveries to Mexico. **Appendix A** provides additional detail. Reclamation's modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.

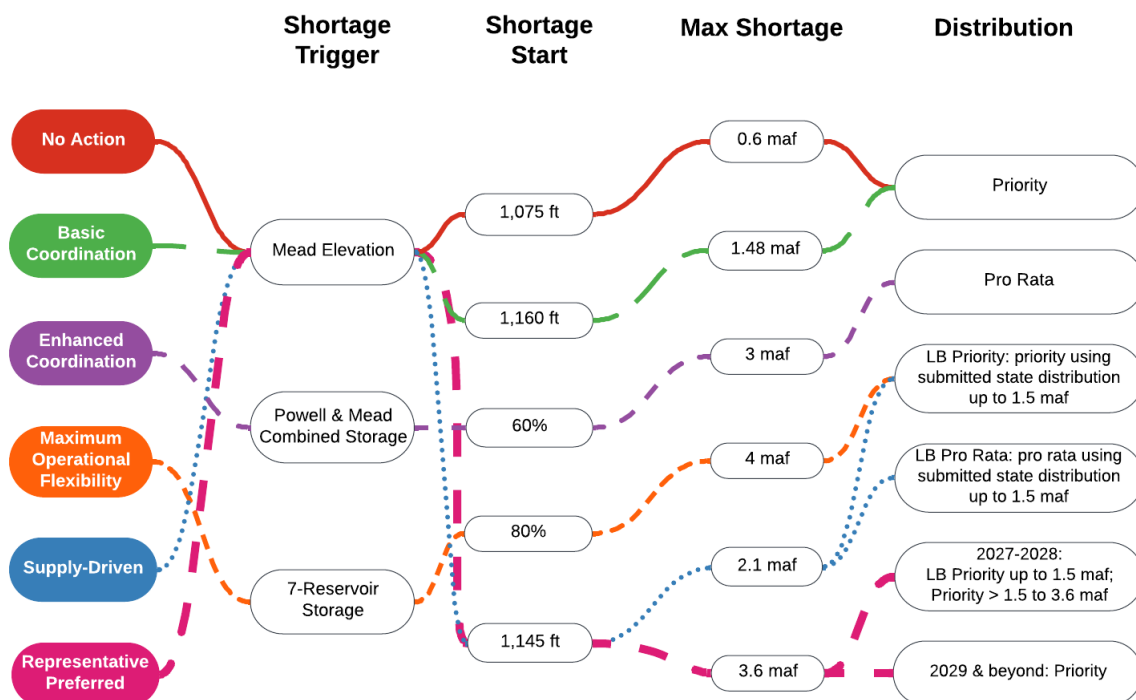
ES.2.4 Range of Alternatives

The Final EIS incorporates a reasonable and broad range of alternatives in accordance with NEPA. The figures below demonstrate the broad range of operational approaches incorporated into the alternatives by summarizing them across the following categories: Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines, Coordinated Reservoir Operations, Lake Mead Storage and Delivery of Conserved Water, and Activities above Lake Powell. For each figure below, the individual lines connect each alternative with the approach(es) that Reclamation has analyzed within that alternative.

ES.2.4.1 Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines

Figure ES-1, Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines, shows the range of approaches considered for factors that would trigger Lower Basin shortage, the level at which shortages would start, the maximum Lower Basin shortage amount, and the method(s) by which shortages would be distributed among Lower Basin water users.

Figure ES-1
Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines



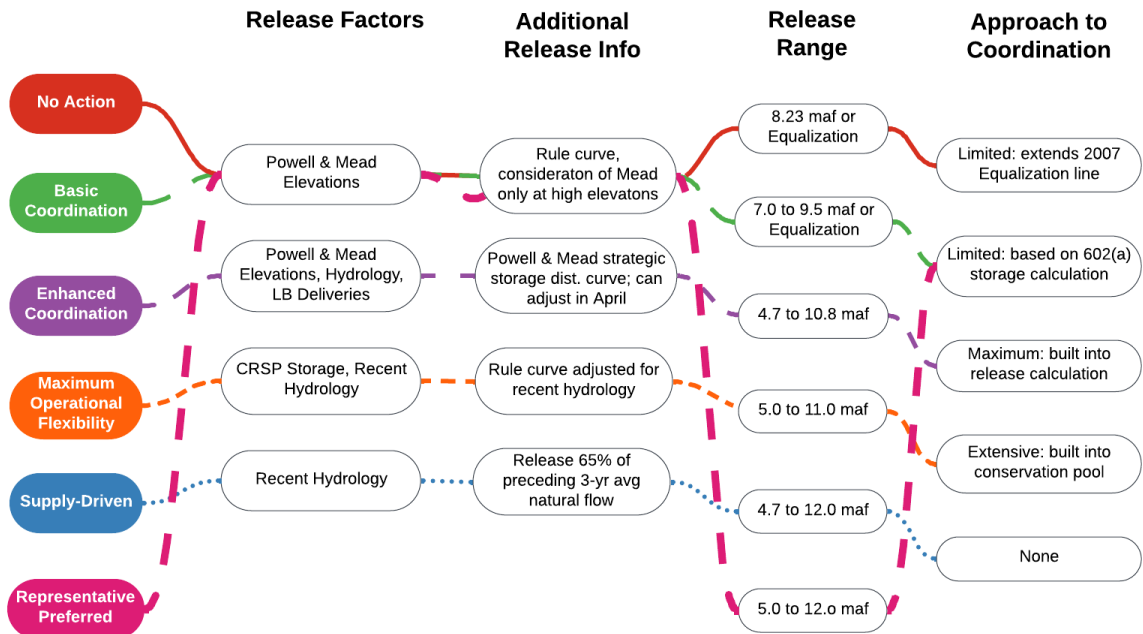
Notes: Additional restrictions in water deliveries will occur when Lake Mead is near dead pool, resulting in large reductions (referred to as “dead pool-related reductions”). These are not considered an operational element of the alternatives. The “Representative Preferred Alternative” is a set of modeling assumptions designed around the Preferred Alternative sideboards. The specific operating guidelines for each operating interval during the term of the Preferred Alternative may differ.

Shortage volumes include modeling assumptions for reductions in water deliveries to Mexico. Reclamation’s modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State.

ES.2.4.2 Coordinated Reservoir Operations

Figure ES-2, Coordinated Reservoir Operations, shows the range of approaches considered for the factors that would determine Lake Powell water year release volumes, additional information about the structure of operations, the range of water year release volumes that could occur based on those factors, and the approach to coordination of operations between Lake Powell and Lake Mead (that is, how dependent operations of Lake Powell would be on conditions at Lake Mead).

Figure ES-2
Coordinated Reservoir Operations

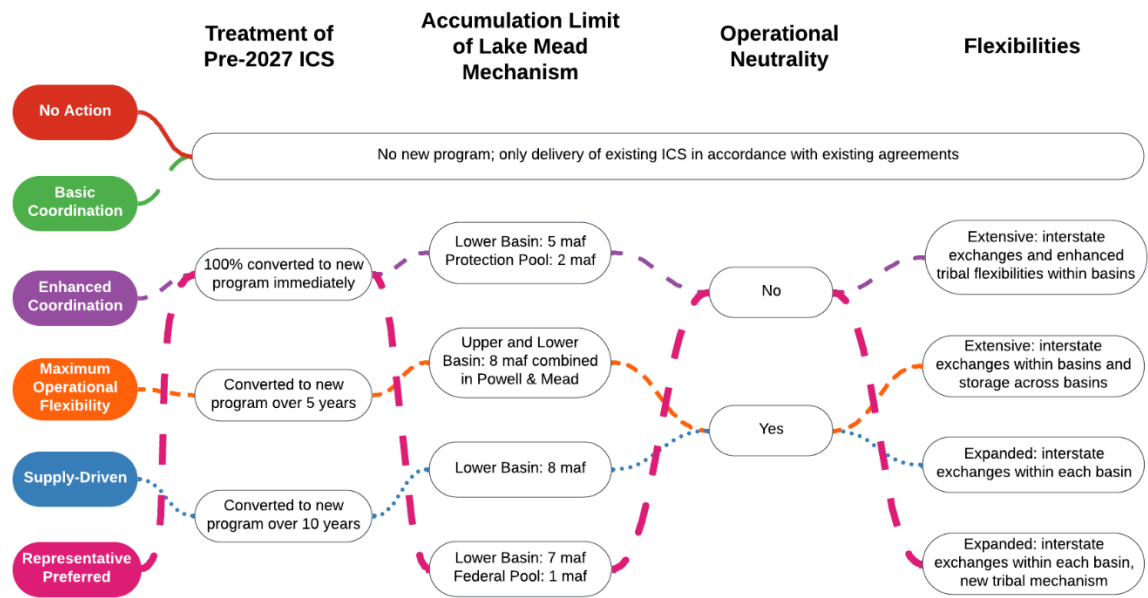


Note: The “Representative Preferred Alternative” is a set of modeling assumptions designed around the Preferred Alternative sideboards. The specific operating guidelines for each operating interval during the term of the Preferred Alternative may differ.

ES.2.4.3 Lake Mead Storage and Delivery of Conserved Water

Figure ES-3, Lake Mead Storage and Delivery of Conserved System Water, shows the range of approaches considered to incorporate this mechanism, including how Intentionally Created Surplus created prior to 2027 is converted into a new mechanism, the maximum amount of conserved water that could be stored in Lake Mead, whether stored conserved water is excluded from determinations of Lake Powell releases and shortage volumes (“operational neutrality”), and the level of flexibilities for transactions of stored conserved water between users.

Figure ES-3
Lake Mead Storage and Delivery of Conserved System Water

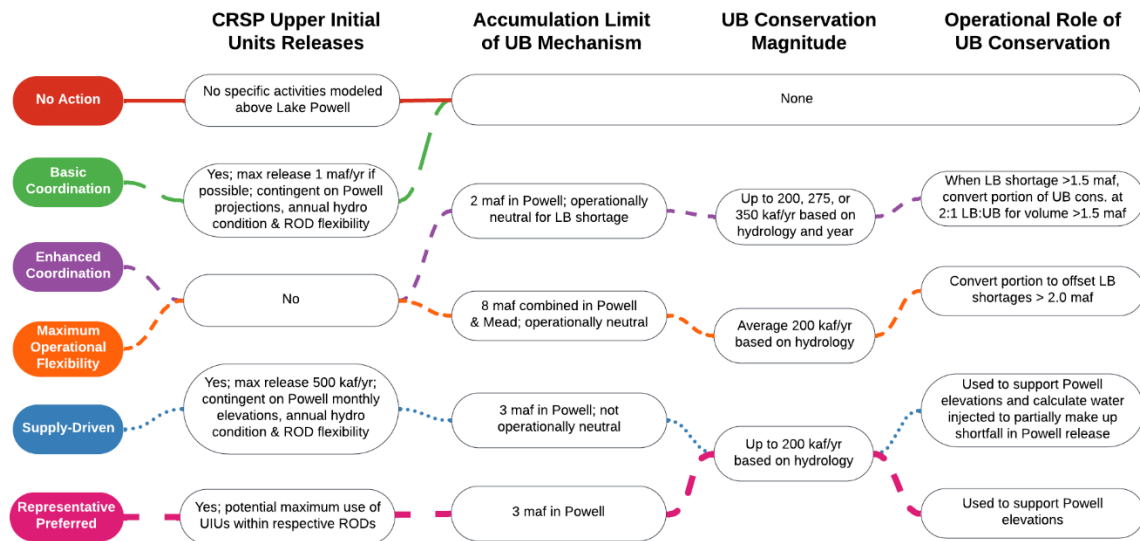


Notes: Accumulation limits include modeling assumptions for storage available to Mexico. Reclamation’s modeling assumptions are not intended to constitute an interpretation or application of the 1944 Water Treaty or to represent current U.S. policy or a determination of future U.S. policy regarding deliveries to Mexico. The U.S. will conduct all necessary and appropriate discussions regarding the proposed federal action and implementation of the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico through the IBWC in consultation with the Department of State. The “Representative Preferred Alternative” is a set of modeling assumptions designed around the Preferred Alternative sideboards. The specific operating guidelines for each operating interval during the term of the Preferred Alternative may differ.

ES.2.4.4 Activities Above Lake Powell

Figure ES-4, Activities Above Lake Powell, shows the range of approaches to releases from CRSP Upper Initial Units to protect Glen Canyon Dam infrastructure, the maximum amount of conserved water that could be stored, assumptions about the amount of annual Upper Basin conservation, and rules for when Upper Basin conserved water would be converted to system water.

Figure ES-4
Activities Above Lake Powell



Note: The "Representative Preferred Alternative" is a set of modeling assumptions designed around the Preferred Alternative sideboards. The specific operating guidelines for each operating interval during the term of the Preferred Alternative may differ.

ES.3 Potential Environmental Effects

ES.3.1 Analysis Methods

The analysis for this Final EIS uses a Decision Making under Deep Uncertainty (DMDU) approach, drawn from a well-established branch of decision science, that is designed to account for uncertainty in future Basin conditions. The most impactful and largest source of uncertainty is future hydrology. Since 2000, hydrologic conditions drier than those in the previously observed record have continued to occur, confounding ongoing efforts to manage system risk. Reclamation began significant investments in research to improve hydrologic predictions and understanding of long-term supply outlooks in 2004, but there have been only limited improvements in prediction skill and long-term hydrologic projections continue to show a wide range of possibilities around the overall likelihood of a drier future. Therefore, long-term planning in the Basin must account for conditions of *deep uncertainty*, which occur when it is not possible to confidently assign probabilities to specific future conditions. Population growth and changes in water use in the Basin also contribute to the challenge of planning for a deeply uncertain future.

Alongside research into understanding hydrologic uncertainty, Reclamation has also invested in decision science research through the development of DMDU methods that allow for reliable analysis despite the uncertainty. Development of DMDU applications in the Basin stems from a collaboration with the RAND Corporation during the 2012 Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, when the methods were introduced into Reclamation's long-term planning. The DMDU framework used here enhances the ability to evaluate the robustness of the alternatives – that is, their ability to meet important performance objectives in a wide range of futures. It also supports the identification of future conditions that could cause vulnerability to critical system conditions. A focus on robustness and vulnerability prevent overreliance on the types of probabilistic risk projections that, in previous planning efforts, did not convey the actual risks facing the system and contributed to insufficient protection against the ongoing drought.

The hydrologic modeling performed for this analysis employs DMDU by testing the system in 400 potential futures that cover a wide range of hydrologic conditions. This hydrologic modeling generated projections of future Colorado River system conditions (such as reservoir elevations, reservoir releases, and river flows) for the alternatives. These system projections serve as the basis for analyzing potential effects on other environmental resources (e.g., recreation, biological resources, and energy) and any associated resource specific models. For each resource, the analysis describes robustness across this wide range, identifies specific conditions that could cause vulnerability, and provides important context for interpreting those findings without overconfidently predicting system outcomes. This aligns with the guidance provided in Executive Order “Restoring Gold Standard Science” from May 2025, and provides a sound basis for comparing the alternatives’ ability to meet key performance thresholds for resources throughout the Basin.

ES.3.2 Summary of Environmental Consequences

The analysis focuses on specific issues identified during internal and public scoping for all affected environmental resources (e.g., hydrologic, biologic, and socioeconomic). Resources considered but determined to not be significantly impacted by the action include transportation, noise, light, and minerals.

A summary of environmental consequences is provided in **Table ES-7**, Summary of Potential Effects of the Alternatives, located at the end of this Executive Summary. Performance indicators were developed to address the specific issues raised during scoping. Throughout, a higher percentage reflects better performance. Where quantitative or DMDU results are not possible, a qualitative description of potential impacts is provided. The affected environment and environmental consequences are discussed in detail in Chapter 3 and the associated resource appendices.

ES.4 Synthesis of Performance in Key Metrics

The action alternatives together capture a wide range of concepts across the operational elements that make up an alternative; this operational variety produces a wide range of potential system outcomes. The following sections provide an overview of performance and vulnerability over the period 2027-2036, which is significant because the Preferred Alternative is a 10-year decision framework. The Preferred Alternative, as analyzed in the Representative Preferred Alternative, is compared to the other

action alternatives, the No Action Alternative, and the Continued Current Strategies Comparative Baseline below.

ES.4.1 Performance Tradeoffs among Key System Metrics

ES.4.1.1 Introduction

Operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead inherently involve tradeoffs among resources that benefit from different fundamental system elements: storage in each reservoir, dam releases, river flows, and water deliveries. For example, it is not possible for a set of operating guidelines to have the most robust performance with respect to maximizing protection of critical elevations, minimizing reductions in water deliveries, and maximizing hydropower generation all at once. With the extended period of dry hydrologic conditions since 2000 and the resulting depletion of storage, these tradeoffs have become more stark, and achieving a broadly acceptable balance between resources is now more difficult than ever before.

ES.4.1.2 Tradeoff Analysis

While there are many important metrics across Basin resources, it is instructive to summarize the high-level system impacts through five metrics related to Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevations, Lower Basin deliveries, and releases from Glen Canyon Dam. Analyzing tradeoffs among the metrics described in **Table ES-3** also provides important insight into the tradeoffs among other resources.

Table ES-3
High Level Performance Metrics Included in Figure ES-5

Metric Name	Description
Percent of months in which Lake Powell stays above elevation 3,500 feet	Elevation 3,500 feet provides a buffer above 3,490 feet, below which the reliability of infrastructure to meet critical downstream water supply needs may be compromised and hydropower cannot be produced at Glen Canyon Dam
Percent of months in which Lake Mead stays above elevation 975 feet	Elevation 975 feet provides a buffer above 950 feet, below which infrastructure may be critically impacted and hydropower cannot be produced at Hoover Dam
Percent of years in which Lake Mead dead pool-related reductions ⁵ are avoided	Delivery reductions due to Lake Mead being near dead pool (elevation 895 feet) resulting in large magnitudes of reductions to Lower Basin water users
Average annual shortage	The average annual shortage that occurs under each alternative provides important summary information for Lower Basin water users and context for reservoir-based performance
Average water year releases from Glen Canyon Dam	The average water year release from Glen Canyon Dam that occurs under each alternative provides important context for reservoir-based performance

⁵ Dead pool and Hoover Dam infrastructure can start to impact Lake Mead's ability to make deliveries to the Lower Basin at elevation 950 feet. Restrictions in water deliveries will occur when Lake Mead is near dead pool, resulting in large reductions (referred to as "dead pool-related reductions"). Although not considered an operational element of the alternatives, accounting for such reductions is an important performance metric.

The elevations described in **Table ES-3** have operational relevance, and comparing alternative performance relative to these elevations provides meaningful insight. In practice, operational implementation would include identifying elevations above critical thresholds (i.e., 3,490 feet and 950 feet) at which additional responsive actions could be taken in advance to avoid reaching those critical elevations. The “buffer” elevations shown in **Table ES-3** (i.e., 3,500 feet and 975 feet) may or may not correspond to operational decision for actual implementation; here, they are used for analytical purposes in this Final EIS.

Figure ES-5 summarizes how the alternatives and the Continued Current Strategies Comparative Baseline⁶ (labeled “Cont. Current”) perform over the next 10 years in five vertical axes that correspond to the five key metrics described in **Table ES-3**. The performance of each alternative is captured by a colored, segmented line that crosses the axes at different vertical positions, where the height denotes performance. Crossing lines are a visual cue that there is a tradeoff between different performance metrics. The five-metric performance summary is divided into four categories of potential 2027-2036 future hydrologic conditions that get increasingly dry from top to bottom.⁷ The hydrologic categories are summarized in **Table ES-4**. Results are divided into these categories to demonstrate how the alternatives respond under different assumptions about future hydrologic conditions and to explore the impacts of hydrology on performance tradeoffs.

Table ES-4
Hydrologic Categories Included in Figure ES-5

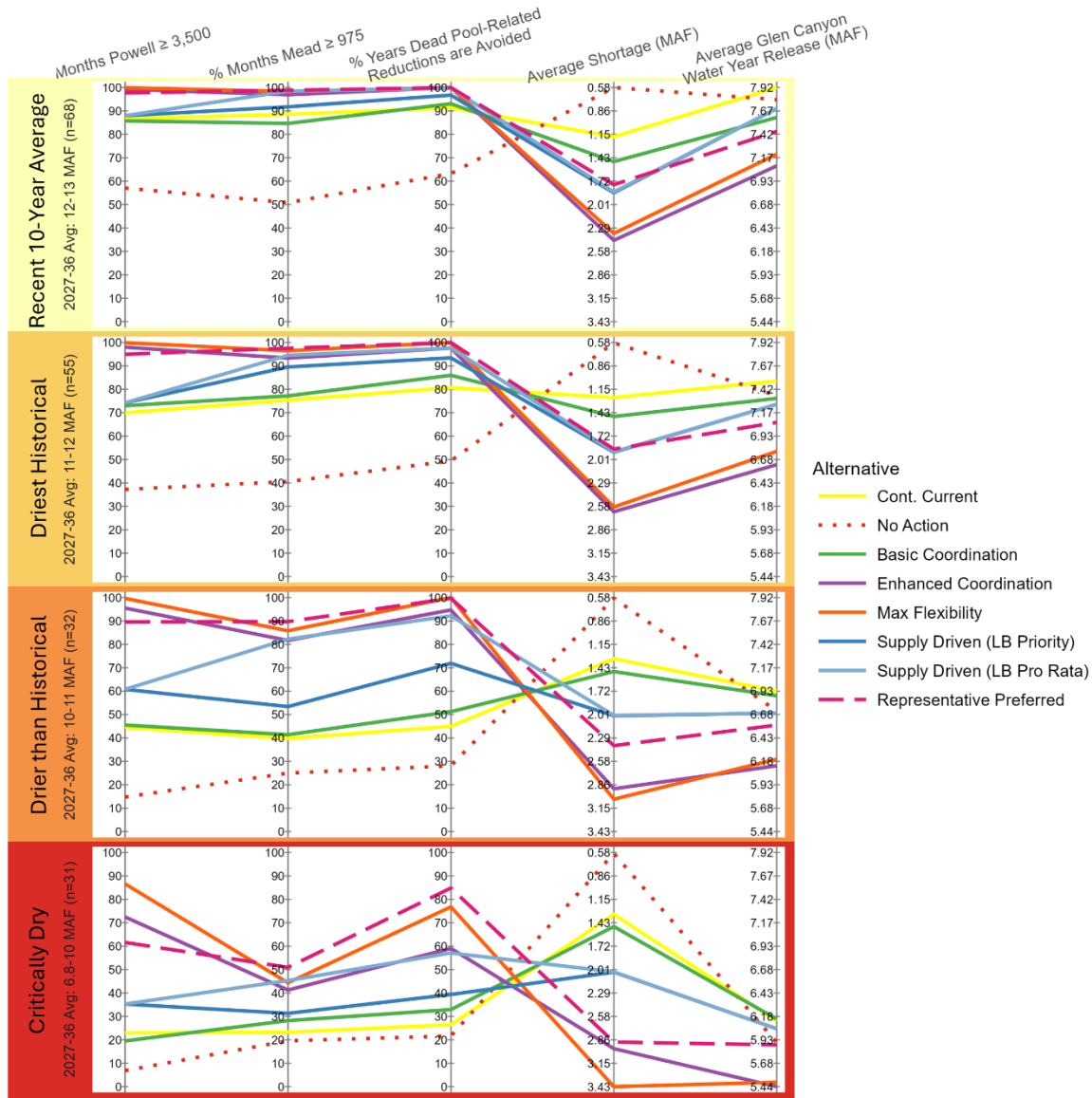
Hydrologic Category	Average Annual Simulated Lees Ferry Flow, 2027-2036 (maf)	Description
Recent 10-Year Average	12-13	Hydrologic conditions in this category are similar to the historical average from 2016-2025 (12.1 maf) ⁸
Driest Historical	11-12	Hydrologic conditions in this category are similar to the driest 10-year period in the historical record (11.8 maf, 2012-2021)
Drier than Historical	10-11	Hydrologic conditions in this category are 7-15% (0.8 to 1.8 maf) drier than the driest 10-year period in the historical record
Critically Dry	<10	Hydrologic conditions in this category are 15-42% (1.8-5.0 maf) drier than the driest 10-year period in the historical record

⁶ This scenario represents no changes from current operations and relies on strategies and agreements that expire in 2026. It is provided as a comparative baseline to inform an understanding of how the alternatives perform relative to current operations.

⁷ Wetter futures were also tested and are included in the impact analysis; however, for this analysis the hydrologic categories shown are most informative.

⁸ The 10-year average for 2014-2023 (12.8 maf), 2015-2024 (12.6 maf), and 2016-2025 (12.1 maf) are all between 12 and 13 maf.

Figure ES-5
Key Performance Tradeoffs in Different Hydrologic Conditions



Note: Differences in Lake Mead performance between Supply Driven (Lower Basin [LB] Priority) and the Supply Driven (LB Pro Rata) Alternatives reflect how different shortage distributions interact with assumptions regarding the use of the storage and delivery mechanism for conserved water.

A key performance tradeoff demonstrated by **Figure ES-5** is the tradeoff between percent of time in which critical reservoir elevations and dead pool-related reductions are avoided (first three axes from left) and average shortage (fourth axis from left). In the Recent 10-Year Average hydrologic category, this stands out as a difference between the No Action Alternative and the action alternatives, but in the drier hydrologic categories (especially Drier than Historical and Critically Dry), the performance differences between the action alternatives becomes clearer and the tradeoffs (indicated by the crossing lines) become steeper: the Maximum Operational Flexibility and Enhanced Coordination Alternatives incorporate large shortages and better protect the reservoirs, the Supply Driven Alternatives and the Basic Coordination Alternative have lower volumes of shortage and lower reservoir protection, and the No Action Alternative provides minimal protection and results in a high frequency of dead pool-related reductions while imposing minimal shortage. Across hydrologic categories, the Representative Preferred Alternative balances tradeoffs differently than other action alternatives. This is evident beginning in the Driest Historical hydrologic category, where it provides protection of Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevations similar to the most protective alternatives, while the average shortage volumes are similar to the Supply Driven Alternatives.

In Drier than Historical hydrologic futures, the Maximum Operational Flexibility and Enhanced Coordination Alternatives show that lower water year releases from Glen Canyon Dam provide more protection to keep Lake Powell above 3,500 feet, while the higher water year releases in Basic Coordination and Supply Driven result in significantly higher frequencies of Lake Powell falling below 3,500 feet. The Representative Preferred Alternative falls in between Supply Driven and Enhanced Coordination Alternatives: it releases less from Glen Canyon on average than the Supply Driven Alternative and better protects elevation 3,500 feet, but it releases more and offers less protection compared to the Enhanced Coordination Alternative. In the Critically Dry hydrologic category, water year releases are low across all alternatives, but only the Representative Preferred (62 percent of months), Enhanced Coordination (72 percent of months) and Maximum Operational Flexibility (87 percent of months) Alternatives protect 3,500 feet more than half of the time. The Supply Driven Alternatives and Basic Coordination Alternative maintain elevations above 3,500 feet in 35 percent and 20 percent of months, respectively.

The effectiveness of large shortages at preventing dead pool-related delivery reductions is clearest in the Critically Dry hydrologic category, where the Representative Preferred, Maximum Operational Flexibility, and Enhanced Coordination Alternatives rely on large average shortages to significantly outperform the other alternatives in avoiding dead pool-related reductions. However, in Critically Dry conditions, even these more protective alternatives result in Lake Mead elevations below 975 feet in 49, 56, and 59 percent of months, respectively.

Figure ES-1 is a quantitative representation of system tradeoffs and shows how those tradeoffs are exacerbated by drying hydrologic conditions. The analysis in this figure demonstrates how the sideboards of the Preferred Alternative, as analyzed in the Representative Preferred Alternative, appropriately balance the tradeoffs across key system metrics and provide protection in conditions drier than the ongoing, unprecedented drought. The Representative Preferred Alternative achieves good performance across key system metrics related to critical infrastructure in the driest hydrologic conditions the Basin has experienced (Driest Historical Hydrology) but imposes lower average shortages and enables higher Glen Canyon Dam releases than other similarly protective alternatives. In

conditions that are slightly drier than observed history (Drier than Historical Hydrology), the Representative Preferred Alternative maintains this moderate balance of performance between reservoir elevations, shortages, and Glen Canyon Dam releases. In the driest hydrologic conditions modeled (Critically Dry Hydrology), the ability of any set of operations to achieve good performance in these metrics is significantly diminished, but the Representative Preferred Alternative shows that the Preferred Alternative sideboards can protect critical infrastructure in the majority of these conditions while considering adverse impacts to Lower Basin water users.

ES.4.2 Vulnerability Analysis for Key Reservoir Elevations

The analysis related to **Figure ES-5** examines tradeoffs and the influence of different hydrologic scenarios on the alternatives' performance in important metrics. **Table ES-5** and **Table ES-6**, below, provide insight into what specific hydrology is likely to cause the system to be vulnerable to critical conditions under different alternatives and whether those conditions are similar to anything from the observed record. This context is helpful in understanding whether the conditions leading to vulnerability could be reasonably expected based on history.⁹ Based on analysis of 400 modeled hydrologic futures, an average-flow threshold was identified for each alternative that skillfully predicted the occurrence of a critical system condition at least once within 10 years of implementation (between 2027 and 2036).

Table ES-5
Vulnerability to Lake Powell Falling Below Elevation 3,500 Feet at Least Once in the First 10 Years and Comparison to Historical Conditions

Alternative	Water Year 2027-2036 Average Natural Flow that Could Cause Vulnerability (maf/year)	Number of Years Below Threshold 2000-2025 (Historical Data)	Number of Years Below Threshold 1906-2025 (Historical Data)
Cont. Current	≤12.1	3	4
No Action	≤19.6	26	111
Basic Coordination	≤11.9	1	1
Enhanced Coordination	≤9.3	0	0
Max Flexibility	≤8.1	0	0
Supply Driven (LB Priority)	≤12.5	7	9
Supply Driven (LB Pro Rata)	≤12.5	7	9
Representative Preferred	≤10.1	0	0

⁹ Information about how the vulnerability thresholds compare to projections of future conditions, which include the potential for a drier future, can be found in **Technical Appendix 3**, Hydrologic Resources.

Table ES-6
Vulnerability to Lake Mead Falling Below Elevation 975 Feet at Least Once in the First 10 Years and Comparison to Historical Conditions

Alternative	Water Year 2027-2036 Average Natural Flow that Could Cause Vulnerability (maf/year)	Number of Years Below Threshold 2000-2025 (Historical Data)	Number of Years Below Threshold 1906-2025 (Historical Data)
Cont. Current	≤11.6	0	0
No Action	≤14.5	23	67
Basic Coordination	≤11.3	0	0
Enhanced Coordination	≤9.7	0	0
Max Flexibility	≤10.0	0	0
Supply Driven (LB Priority)	≤11.1	0	0
Supply Driven (LB Pro Rata)	≤9.7	0	0
Representative Preferred	≤10.0	0	0

With respect to Lake Powell falling below elevation 3,500 feet at least once in the next 10 years, the Supply Driven Alternative is the most vulnerable action alternative: under these operations, Lake Powell would likely fall to critical elevations if the 10-year average natural flow at Lees Ferry is 12.5 maf or lower. Hydrologic conditions this dry or drier occurred in 7 years since 2000. With respect to Lake Mead falling below elevation 975 feet at least once in the next 10 years, the flow thresholds indicating vulnerability are drier for all of the action alternatives than any observed historical conditions. However, conditions this dry do occur in the set of 400 hydrologic traces analyzed in this EIS, which includes the potential for a future drier than historical observations (see **Appendix F, Approach to Hydrologic Uncertainty**, for information about the 400 hydrologic traces).

Modeling indicates that the Representative Preferred Alternative would likely be vulnerable to Lake Powell falling below 3,500 feet if the 2027-2026 average flow is 10.1 maf or less and Lake Mead falling below 975 feet if the 2027-2036 average flow is 10.0 maf or less. The Representative Preferred Alternative is reasonably unlikely to be vulnerable in the next 10 years because these conditions have not occurred and are about 15 percent drier than the driest 10-year period on record (2012-2021, average of 11.8 maf). However, estimates for 2026 natural flow suggest 2017-2026 will become the driest 10-year period on record (about 11.5 maf), reflecting that hydrology could continue to decline relative to the comparisons in this table. The possibility for a drier future is reflected in the set of 400 hydrologic traces analyzed in this EIS.

ES.4.3 Conclusions

A number of reservoir and water management decisional documents and agreements that govern operation of Colorado River facilities and management of Colorado River water are currently scheduled to expire at the end of 2026. The Secretary, acting through Reclamation, proposes adoption of new guidelines and coordinated management strategies to address Lake Powell and Lake Mead through their full operating range, to be implemented upon the expiration of the existing guidelines and agreements. Management strategies will primarily focus on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam but may include actions upstream and downstream of these facilities to protect critical reservoir elevations.

Since the adoption of the current guidelines in 2007, unprecedented drought has changed the Basin's understanding of hydrology. Hydrologic conditions drier than those in the previously observed record have continued to occur, confounding ongoing efforts to manage system risk. This reality poses both near- and long-term challenges in managing the Colorado River system to continue to provide predictability and certainty to Basin water users as well as operating flexibility to conserve and enhance water storage in Colorado River system reservoirs.

This Final EIS analyzes a reasonable and broad range of alternatives for the operational elements identified in the proposed federal action. These alternatives were developed through extensive engagement with a wide range of partners and stakeholders as well as the general public during a timeframe of over 4 years. In the absence of a consensus long-term agreement, Reclamation has included a Preferred Alternative decision framework in this Final EIS that establishes the operational principles, sideboards, and process that would govern development and adoption of operating guidelines through 2036. The sideboards of the Preferred Alternative were analyzed through the Representative Preferred Alternative, and the analysis of the potential impacts of these sideboards provides environmental compliance for decisions made consistent with the decision framework. Based on the analysis in this Final EIS and the key tradeoffs shown above, the Preferred Alternative, as analyzed in the Representative Preferred Alternative, appropriately balances the inherent system tradeoffs: it is a practical approach to robust protection of critical infrastructure while considering adverse impacts to water users and avoiding unnecessary impacts to other resources.



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive
Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Amy Ostdiek and Michelle Garrison
Interstate, Federal and Water Information Section

DATE: July 15, 2026

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9: Colorado River Updates

This is an informational item with no board action requested.

1. Hydrology and operations update

Hydrology

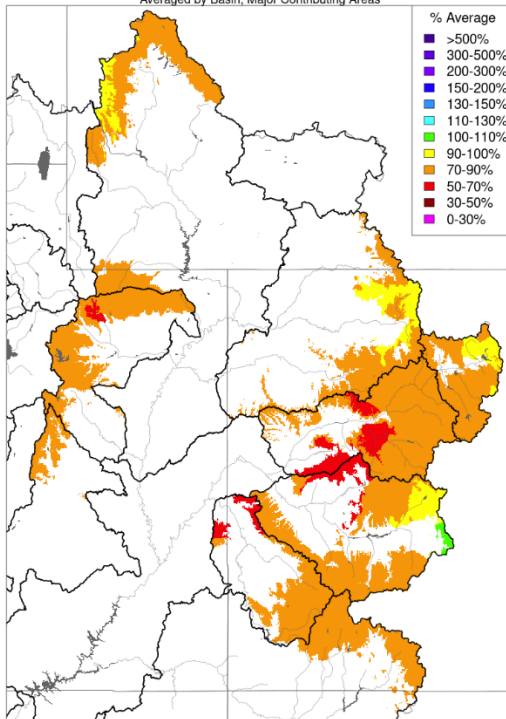
Aridification and extended drought conditions have placed significant strain on basin storage and on water users in the Upper Basin. Water Year (WY) 2024 streamflow was below average. WY 2025 precipitation and streamflow were significantly below average. Inflow into Lake Powell was 49% of average, making WY 2025 the fifth driest on record. For WY 2026, above average October precipitation was followed by dry and extremely warm conditions through the winter and spring. Snowpack was the lowest on record in many areas of the basin and spring runoff occurred weeks earlier than normal. Precipitation and runoff deficits are highest in the headwater basins in Colorado. June inflow forecasts for Lake Powell project WY 2026 to be the second driest on record. Climate forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of continued warmer than average conditions with less certainty regarding potential summer precipitation.

Drought conditions increased in severity and reservoir storage conditions deteriorated in western Colorado and throughout the basin. Long-term impacts from depleted storage are expected to continue, as indicated in current forecasts for reservoir operations. Projections for record low elevations in Lake Powell prompted additional activities to protect critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam.



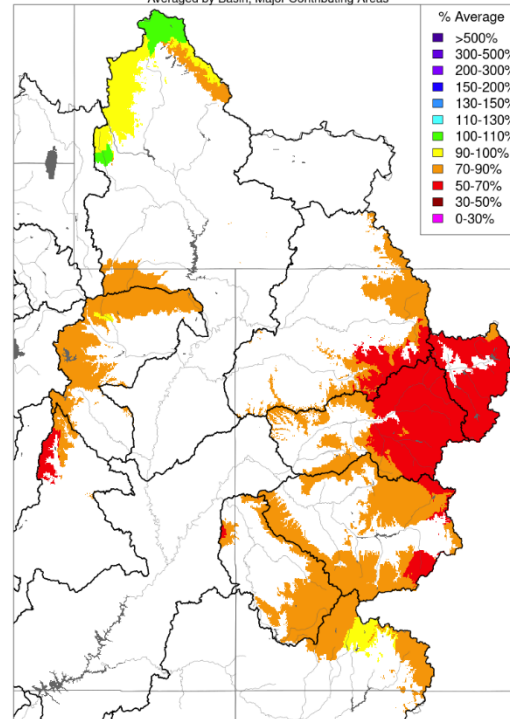
Water Year Precipitation, October 2024 - September 2025

Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



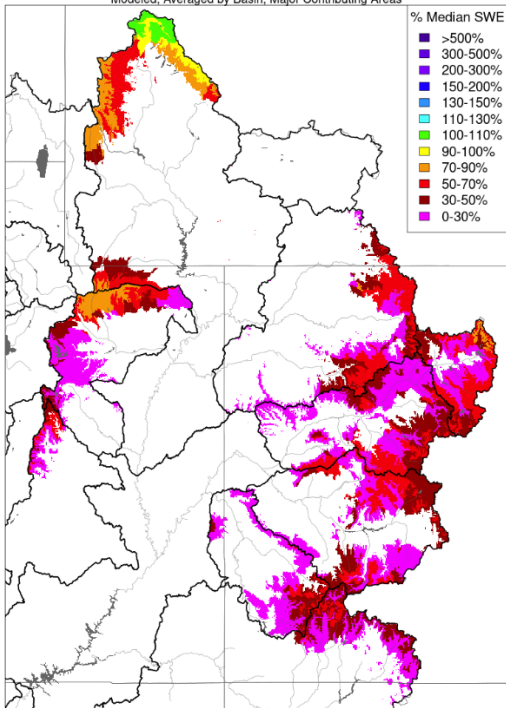
Water Year Precipitation, October 2025 - June 2026

Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



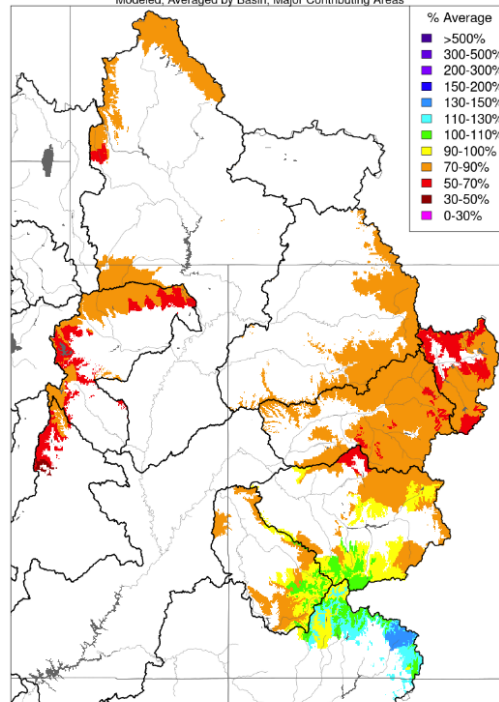
Snow Conditions - March 15 2026

Modeled, Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas

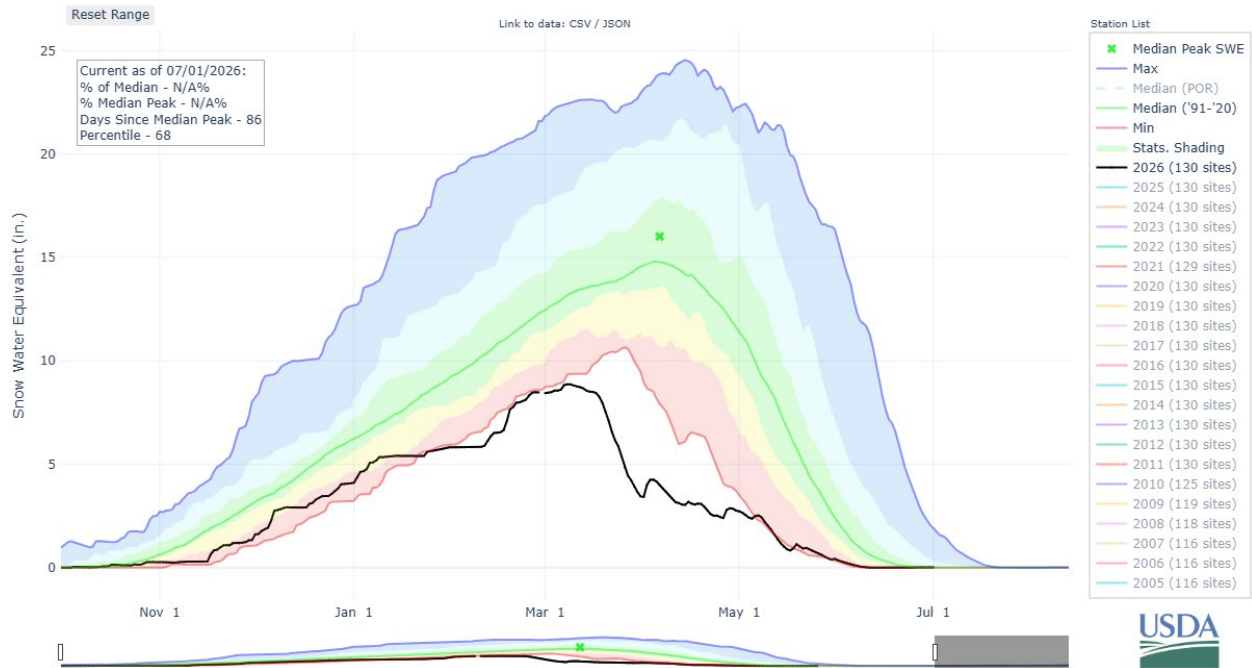


Soil Moisture - Fall - 2025 (November 15)

Modeled, Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas

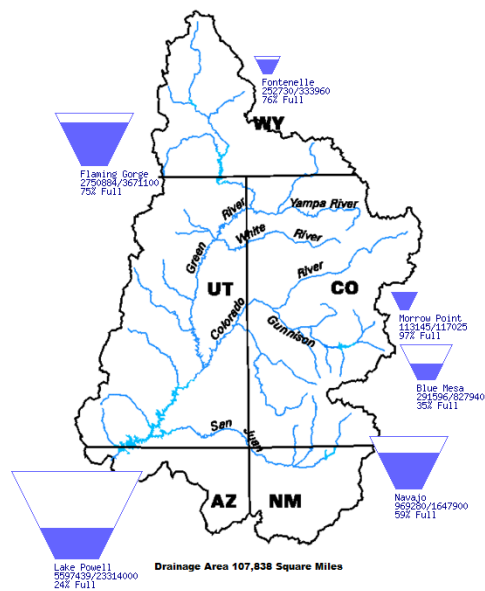


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER COLORADO REGION



Data Current as of:
06/30/2026

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



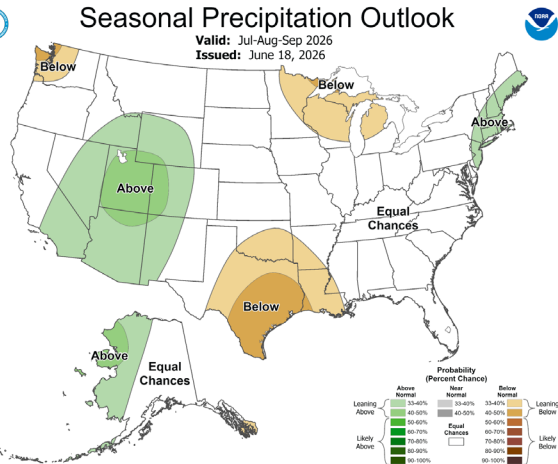
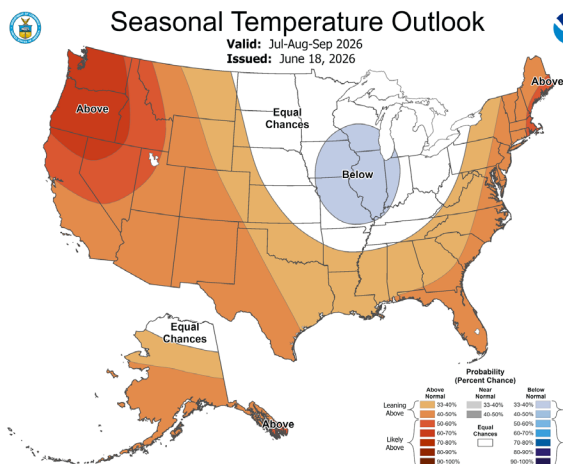
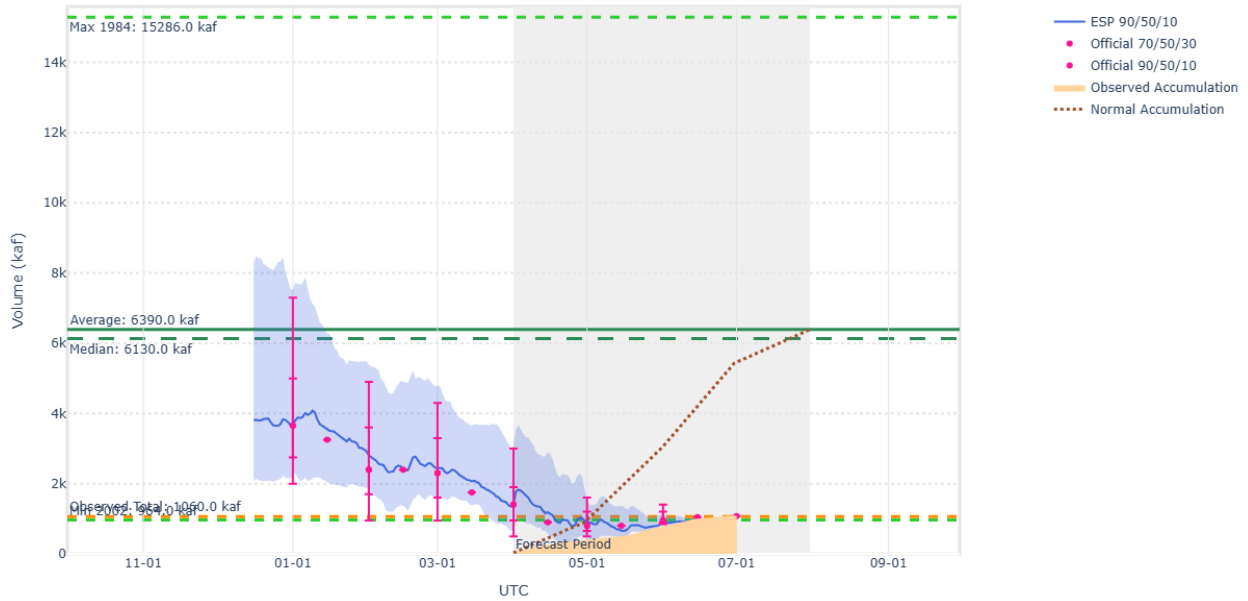
2026 Water Supply Forecast - Colorado - Lake Powell, Glen Cyn Dam, At (GLDA3)

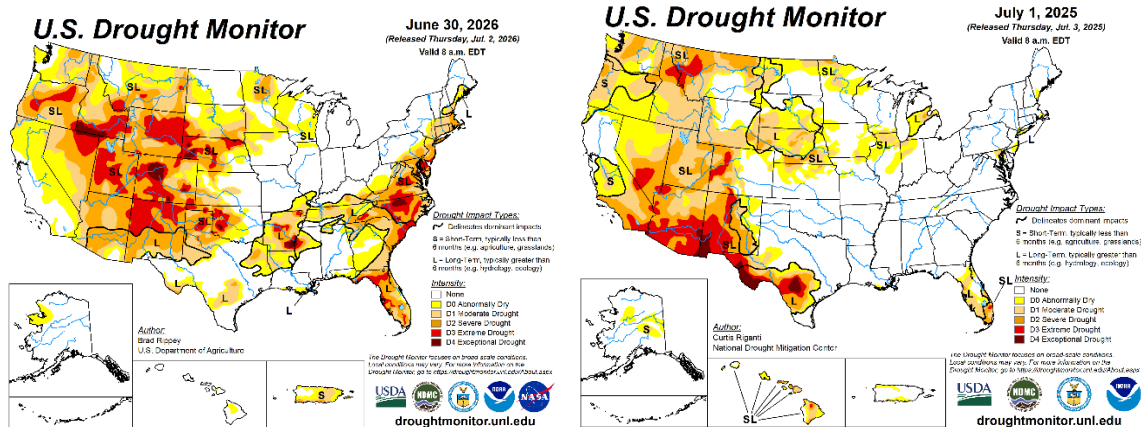
ESP is Unregulated and No Precipitation Forecast Included

Official 50% Fcst (2026-07-01): 1080 kaf (17% Avg, 18% Med), (1% of Yrs Below Fcst, 62 Highest Flow / 62 Tot Yrs)

ESP 50% Fcst (2026-07-01): 1015 kaf (16% Avg, 17% Med), (1% of Yrs Below Fcst, 62 Highest Flow / 62 Tot Yrs)

Observed Volume: 1060 kaf (17% Average, 17% Median)



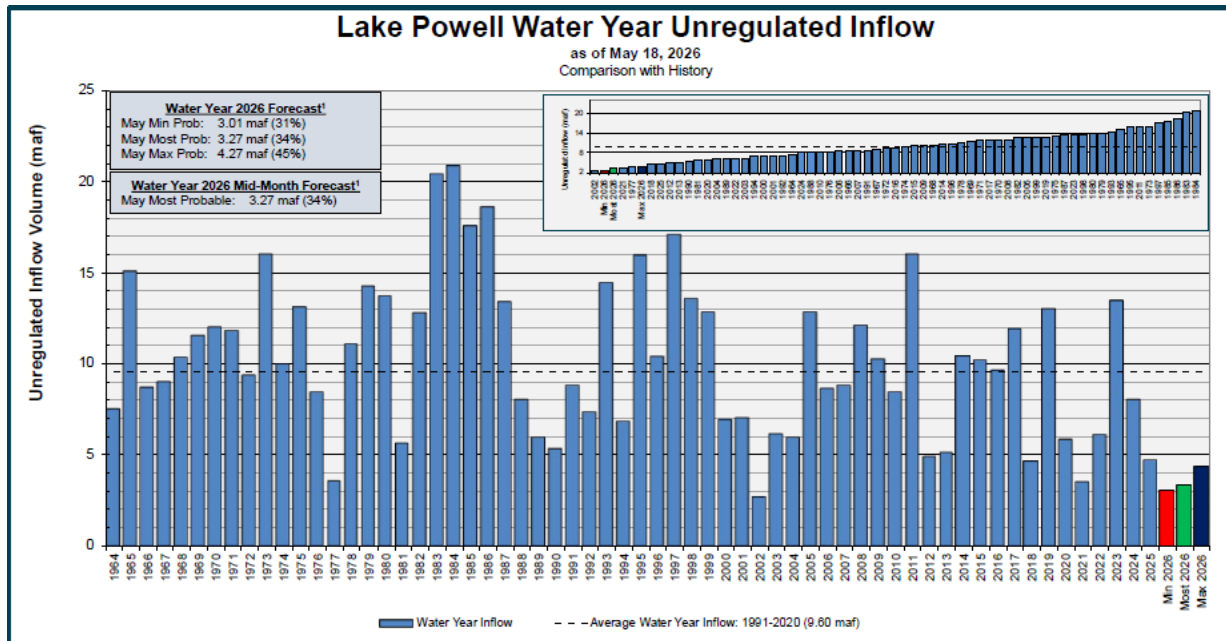


Operations

Upper Basin

Low inflows and reservoir storage prompted multiple reservoir operation changes and Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) activities in WY 2022 and early 2023 to protect critical infrastructure in Lake Powell, including Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) releases from Blue Mesa and Flaming Gorge reservoirs to increase Lake Powell elevations. With wet hydrologic conditions in WY 2023, Lake Powell elevations rose significantly in April 2023 and remained above the 3525' threshold through 2025. Blue Mesa and Flaming Gorge reservoirs recovered the previously released water in WY 2024. However, due to release of half of the DROA water from Lake Powell in summer 2023 as part of Lower Elevation Balancing Tier operations, Lake Powell elevations are now lower than they would have been without DROA releases, leaving Lake Powell at increased risk of dropping below critical elevations in the future. The lack of long-term effectiveness of the DROA releases does not match the goals and objectives of the DROA and may factor into future Upper Basin DCP decisions.

The August 2025 24-Month Study from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) set Lake Powell's WY 2026 operations in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with a fixed annual release of 7.48 MAF. Streamflow at the Lees Ferry gage includes Lake Powell releases, flow of water around Glen Canyon Dam through bank storage and leakage, and inflows from the Paria River. The 10-year cumulative streamflow at Lees Ferry through WY 2025 was slightly more than 84 million acre-feet.

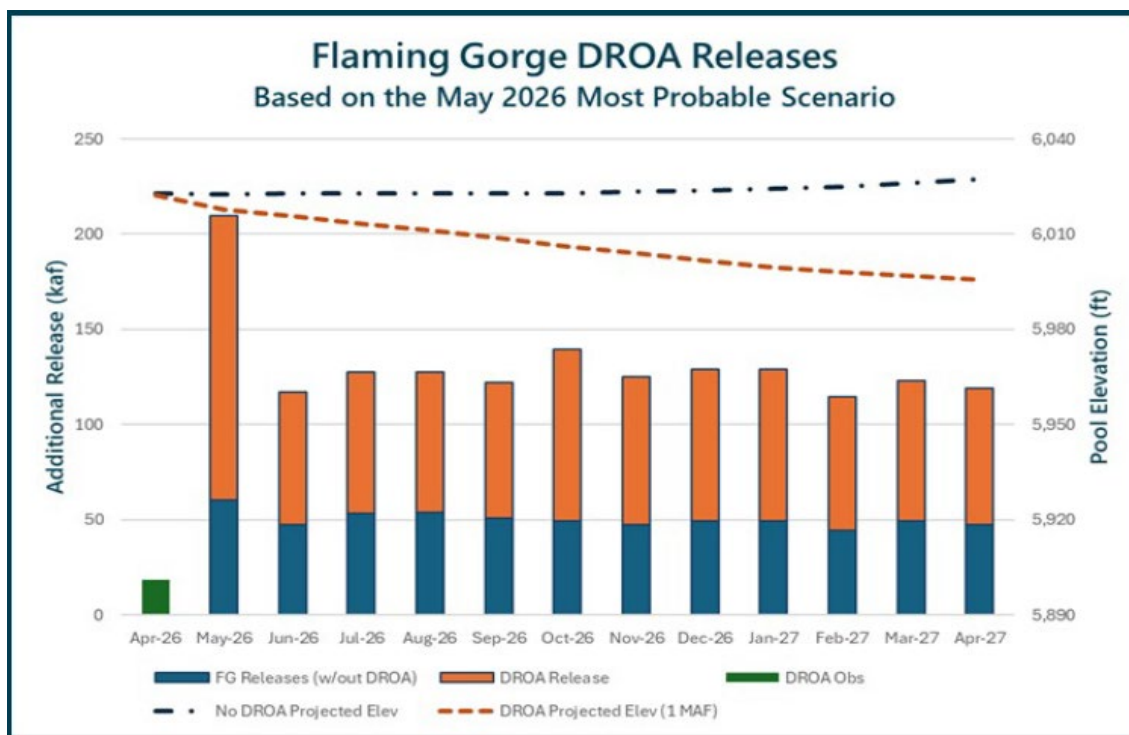


2026 Operations to protect Glen Canyon Dam critical infrastructure

Lake Powell storage declined significantly in WY 2025 and early WY 2026 due to low inflows and is expected to continue to decline rapidly through the remainder of WY 2026 and early WY 2027 due to extremely low inflow forecasts. Lake Powell elevation will drop below 3525' in July and is expected to continue to decline through spring 2027. Based on November 2025 Lake Powell elevation forecasts, Reclamation altered monthly release volumes from Glen Canyon Dam starting in December 2025. Releases were decreased in winter and spring to maintain higher elevations in Lake Powell through spring runoff. During that winter and spring period, inflow forecasts decreased drastically due to the warm and dry conditions throughout the Upper Basin. Lake Powell elevations were projected to drop below 3490', the minimum elevation at which water can be passed through the hydropower penstocks at Glen Canyon Dam. Below 3490' releases can only be made through the bypass tubes. Planning for additional actions to maintain Powell elevations above 3500' continued. On April 21 the Upper Colorado River Commission approved the 2026 Drought Operations Plan to release 660 thousand acre-feet to 1 million acre-feet of additional water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to protect critical infrastructure at Lake Powell. The Secretary of the Interior signed the 2026 Drought Operations Plan and announced Reclamation would decrease the Lake Powell WY 2026 release from 7.48 to 6.0 million acre-feet based on its 2024 Record of Decision (ROD) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Interim Guidelines. Releases from Flaming Gorge Reservoir were increased and releases from Lake Powell were decreased immediately afterward due to the dire conditions.

Reclamation will work with the UCRC and Upper Division States (UDS) on DROA releases up to 1 million-acre feet from Flaming Gorge Reservoir. These planned releases may be almost double the volume of previous releases from Flaming Gorge and are expected to create significant local impacts. No DROA releases from Blue Mesa Reservoir and Navajo Reservoir

are currently planned due to lack of available storage in those units. DROA releases from Flaming Gorge Reservoir will be accounted for and will be eligible for recovery in future years.



Reclamation has posted a summary accounting sheet for the DROA releases that started in April 2026 at:

<https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/documents/dcp/DROA/DROSummarySheet.pdf>

Effectiveness of the Flaming Gorge releases will depend on WY 2027 operation plans for Glen Canyon Dam, which have not yet been determined. The UDS and UCRC will continue to evaluate effectiveness of the releases from Flaming Gorge throughout the remainder of WY 2026 as additional information becomes available. If dry conditions persist, Lake Powell will drop below 3500' in 2027 even with planned DROA releases and Lake Powell release reductions.

Lower Basin

The table below describes the Interim Guideline Lower Basin shortage tiers, reduction of deliveries to Mexico pursuant to Minute 323, Lower Basin DCP contributions and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan contributions as determined by projected elevations at Lake Mead. As determined by the August 2025 24-Month Study, in Calendar Year 2026 Lake Mead is operating in a Tier 1 shortage condition, as it did in CY 2025.



**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 - 1,050	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

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.



The Lower Basin proposed up to 3 million acre-feet of compensated conservation and other activities to address drought conditions as part of Reclamation’s 2024 SEIS process to contemplate additional changes to Lake Powell and Lake Mead reservoir operations through the end of the Interim Guidelines (“near-term operations”). Reclamation is adding the expected conservation volumes to its models as conservation agreements with participating entities are signed, which is increasing projected Lake Mead elevations. Estimates from April 2026 are summarized in the table below. Note that conservation numbers for the Lower Basin can include both intentional conservation actions and wet hydrology.



Modeled Lower Basin Conservation¹

As anticipated to be modeled in the April 2026 Most Probable 24-Month Study (all volumes in acre-feet)

State	Conservation Activity	2026	2027	2028	Total
AZ	CAP System Conservation Agreements	98,800	3,567	3,567	105,934
	Cathcart Farms System Conservation	61	0	0	61
	Cibola Valley IDD System Conservation	2,329	0	0	2,329
	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation System Conservation	13,933	0	0	13,933
	Matador System Conservation	3,240	0	0	3,240
	GRIC System Conservation	24,775	7,468	7,468	39,711
	Hopi Tribe System Conservation	3,059	0	0	3,059
	MVIDD System Conservation	14,184	0	0	14,184
	San Carlos Apache Tribe System Conservation	23,451	0	0	23,451
	YMIDD System Conservation	23,893	0	0	23,893
CA	Coachella Groundwater System Conservation	35,000	0	0	35,000
	Coachella Ag System Conservation	6,511	0	0	6,511
	IID System Conservation	199,093	0	0	199,093
	MWD ICS Creation	0	0	90,974	90,974
	MWD System Conservation	0	0	0	0
	PVID-MWD System Conservation	119,338	0	0	119,338
	Bard-MWD System Conservation	9,862	0	0	9,862
	Quechan Indian Tribe-MWD System Conservation	13,000	0	0	13,000
NV	SNWA System Conservation Water	89,000	0	0	89,000
	SNWA ICS Creation	0	56,849	0	56,849
	SNWA Tributary Conservation	35,000	35,000	35,000	105,000
Other	242 Wellfield Additional Pumping Agreement	50,000	0	0	50,000
	PSCP	2,622	145	145	2,912
	Annual Total	767,151	103,029	137,154	1,007,334
	Cumulative Total	767,151	870,180	1,007,334	

¹ All projected or provisional volumes are subject to change. Additional conservation activities are being considered including system conservation, ICS, and other conserved water in 2026, 2027, and 2028. These additional activities will be included in Reclamation's operational modeling.



22

Minute 330: Expansion of Colorado River Temporary Measures

The United States and Mexico entered into Minute 330 to the 1944 U.S. - Mexico Water Treaty in April 2024. This agreement includes a commitment from Mexico to generate 400,000 acre-feet of water through conservation projects through 2026. 250,000 acre-feet of water will benefit the Colorado River System, and Mexico will receive \$65 million from the United States to help fund that conservation effort. The additional 150,000 acre-feet of water will be deferred for delivery beyond CY 2026 as part of Mexico's Water Reserve. These volumes are in addition to any volumes conserved under Minute 323. Both minutes expire in 2026. The schedule for generation of water by Mexico is described in the table below.

Date	Minimum Cumulative Volume (acre-feet)	Minimum Cumulative Volume (cubic meters)
By December 31, 2024	133,000	164,054,000
By December 31, 2025	333,000	410,752,000
By December 31, 2026	400,000	493,396,000

Minute 330 can be accessed at the following link: [Minute No. 330](#)

LTEMP

In 2024 Reclamation also released its Final SEIS and ROD for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) that explores options for changing monthly and



daily releases and release temperatures to help prevent establishment of smallmouth bass and other non-native fish in the Grand Canyon and to alter sediment accounting and implementation windows for high flow experiments (HFEs) to redistribute sand higher on sandbars. The options include releases through the bypass tubes, limited by new interim operating guidance to prevent further damage to the bypass tubes at low elevations. LTEMP does not alter annual releases, which are determined according to the Interim Guidelines and 2024 SEIS and ROD.

Bypass releases to reduce water temperatures from Glen Canyon Dam to disadvantage smallmouth bass reproduction were conducted July - November 2024 resulting in a hydropower cost to the Basin Fund exceeding \$18 million. Monitoring indicated the releases were likely effective in reducing smallmouth bass reproduction. Bypass releases were conducted again August - October 2025 with a shortened target stream reach. Decreases in the duration and stream reach helped decrease the costs to the Basin Fund to \$6.5 million in 2025. A potential short-duration HFE was considered for November 2025 but not implemented due to uncertainty regarding available resources during the federal government shutdown. The Secretary of Interior recently announced its decision not to implement a short-duration HFE in spring 2026 due to concerns related to low reservoir elevation and low streamflow conditions.

The Secretary of Interior and the National Energy Dominance Council are currently considering potential summer and fall bypass operations to disadvantage smallmouth bass reproduction in 2026. Considerations include rising water temperatures, low reservoir elevations and release volumes, impacts of operating the bypass tubes at low elevations, and cost.

2. Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead

The Basin States continue negotiations about post-2026 operational guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. In response to requests from the Bureau of Reclamation, the Upper and Lower Basins, respectively, provided additional information about potential post-2026 operations. The Bureau of Reclamation also provided its “Preliminary Preferred Alternative.” The Board received additional information about these transmittals and the Preliminary Preferred Alternative at the May Board meeting. Since that time, the States and Bureau of Reclamation have been in ongoing discussions about potential near-term operations. The Upper Division States have also focused on developing Upper Basin components that would operate parallel to the operational framework, including a successor to the 2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement, and agreement relating to potential contributions from the Upper Division States. It is now expected that Reclamation will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement in July and a Record of Decision in August.

3. Upper Division States Contribution Program

Throughout the course of the negotiations for post-2026 operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the Upper Division States have consistently offered establishment of a contribution program, through which the Upper Division States would conserve and contribute water that may be stored in Lake Powell or the Upstream Initial Units and that would be operationally neutral relative to the operational framework. This effort would build on several years of



engagement with water users and key stakeholders across the state about a potential conservation program.

Recently, the Bureau of Reclamation indicated its intention to award \$100 million to the Upper Division States through the Upper Colorado River Commission to implement a near-term contribution program. At the same time, the Upper Division States are pursuing an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the accounting for and crediting of contributed water through such a program. Staff now seeks input from the Board on development of appropriate criteria for selecting projects within Colorado.

In contemplating appropriate criteria, staff has reviewed a number of previous efforts, detailed below:

Demand Management Feasibility Investigation

The Board's investigation into Demand Management (DM) is rooted in the Demand Management Storage Agreement (DMSA), a key component of the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan. The DMSA established the foundational requirements for any potential program, including verification and accounting, conveyance, storage and release mechanics, funding, and compliance with federal and state law.

The Board conducted a rigorous, multi-year, iterative investigation:

- 2018: Adopted the Support and Policy Statement to define scope, authorities, and priorities in the DM feasibility investigation.
- 2019: Finalized the Drought Contingency Plan and the DMSA; developed and adopted the inaugural CWCB DM Work Plan to explore threshold issues through subject-matter workgroups.
- 2020: Published the DM Update Report, documenting findings to date and providing a foundation for future framework development.
- 2021-2023: Developed the DM Framework and Decision-Making Roadmap, which categorized various questions as relating to achievability, whether a program would be worthwhile, and advisability of such a program.

System Conservation Pilot Program

In response to drought conditions across the Upper Basin, Colorado implemented the System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP) in 2023-2024. This built on previous iterations of SCPP in 2015-2018. The SCPP was a conserved consumptive use program that was intended to mitigate the impacts of drought across the Upper Basin. Water conserved through SCPP became system water. Throughout the SCPP, Board and staff identified practical lessons that helped inform the draft criteria listed below. The tables below detail participation in SCPP.



SCPP 2023

State	Number of Projects Funded	Estimated Water Conserved (ac-ft)	Dollar Amount for Funded Projects
CO	22	2,517	\$991,929
NM	1	4,633	\$1,205,182
UT	20	15,091	\$5,437,255
WY	20	11,338	\$5,749,557
CO/WY	1	4,231	\$2,585,110
Total	64	37,810	\$15,969,035

SCPP 2024

State	Number of Projects Funded	Estimated Water Conserved (ac-ft)	Dollar Amount for Funded Projects
CO	46	14,239	\$7,204,730
UT	31	22,351	\$9,954,819
NM	1	4,933	\$1,479,900
WY	26	19,209	\$8,493,429
CO/WY	6	2,899	\$1,475,392
Total	110	63,631	\$28,608,270

Provisional Accounting Memorandum of Understanding

In 2024, the Upper Division States and the Bureau of Reclamation entered into the Provisional Accounting Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU provides a framework for quantifying, verifying, and reporting water contributed through qualifying activities across the Upper Basin. The water contributed through qualifying activities is accounted for under the MOU so that it may be credited to the benefit of the Upper Division States pursuant to a future agreement.

Colorado has multiple qualifying activities, including the Homestake pilot release project, which was a demonstration project not seeking credit; forbearance of the Ewing-Placer Ditch, a transmountain diversion from the headwaters of the Eagle River; and forbearance of the Larkspur Ditch, a transmountain diversion from the headwaters of Tomichi Creek. The Board was briefed on these projects at the May 2026 meeting. Colorado continues to pursue potential future projects under the Provisional Accounting MOU.

Colorado Contributions in 2027-2028

The Upper Division States now have the opportunity to synthesize the efforts above and to continue gathering information that may help to inform a potential longer-term Upper Basin



contribution program. The Bureau of Reclamation is making \$100 million available to the Upper Division States through the Upper Colorado River Commission to support conservation and contribution activities beginning in water year 2027. This federal funding will be a helpful mechanism to bridge past research and future application. By leveraging the data and administrative experience gained through the DM feasibility investigation, SCPP, and the Provisional Accounting MOU, the Board is well positioned to ensure these resources are deployed strategically to align with lessons learned to date and State priorities and strategy. The Board will also consider potential projects as water conservation projects subject to C.R.S. §§ 37-92-103(2) and 37-92-305, which will protect historical consumptive use in change of water rights and abandonment cases. This future effort will be distinct from SCPP in that it will involve accounting and credit through a future agreement between the Upper Division States and the Bureau of Reclamation. It will be implemented within existing legal authorities.

At this time, staff proposes the Board consider potential criteria for implementation in water year 2027. This agenda item is intended to be an open discussion of potential criteria, in preparation for finalization of criteria at the September Board meeting.

Initial draft criteria for Board consideration has been developed based on input from across the State and includes:

- Result in water contribution/credit for UDS pursuant to provisional accounting and credit agreement
- Operate within existing authorities
- Provide mechanisms for and encourage Tribal participation
- Valid and active water right (or shares)
- Minimum acreage for irrigation projects
- Build and support local drought resiliency
- Encourage innovative water conservation techniques
- Administrative ease
- No injury
- Compliance with local ditch company/water user association by-laws and regulations and certification of such
- Avoid reasonably foreseeable negative community impacts
- Encourage contributions from across the state and sectors, including considering ways to incentivize proportional participation
- Incentivize environmental benefits where possible
- Utilize federal funding

Throughout implementation, staff will analyze a number of open questions relating to implementation, administration, and other issues, and will provide a comprehensive report to the Board of lessons learned, which may help inform future efforts.



WATER

Colorado water officials announce creation of state-run conservation program

Contribution program will be paid for with \$100 million in federal funds



by **Heather Sackett**

July 16, 2026



This field in the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association district has been fallowed this season due to a lack of water. The state of Colorado announced Wednesday that it will set up a conservation program using federal dollars,

which means more fields on the Western Slope could soon look like this.

CREDIT: HEATHER SACKETT/ASPEN JOURNALISM

In the culmination of a process that has been years in the making, Colorado officials Wednesday announced the creation of a state-run water conservation program.

In what officials are calling a “near-term contribution program,” the Upper Basin states (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) will pay water users to voluntarily cut back in 2027 and 2028, using \$100 million in promised funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Colorado will now **join Utah and Wyoming** in setting up a conservation program within their respective states.

The noteworthy, long-expected announcement came at the regular July meeting of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, where board members considered the criteria for the program. **A draft list** says the program must, among other criteria, avoid negative community impacts; encourage contributions from across the state and water-use sectors; incentivize environmental benefits; encourage tribal participation; and build local drought resiliency. The board is scheduled to finalize the program criteria at its September meeting.

These types of conservation programs have traditionally targeted agricultural water users, often seen as the low-hanging fruit for water savings because they use the majority of Colorado River water. But officials are hoping this program will have participation across all water-use sectors, including municipal and industrial.

“I love that it is called a contribution program because that kind of imagines broader participation and engagement,” said board member Taylor Hawes. “So I think that is good. I think the more flexibility we can have, the better in a program like this.”

But details were scant on exactly how much water Colorado will contribute to the program and how the saved water would be used. And although some experts have begun **calling for permanent reductions** in water use, it remains — for now — a temporary, short-term program.

“We cannot guarantee a certain amount of water will be conserved in a given year because we don’t know how much water our water users are going to get,” said Amy Ostdiek, interstate section chief at the CWCB. “We have been clear that we just can’t do that.”

In a **May letter** to federal officials, the Upper Colorado River Commission said it has a goal of saving 100,000 acre-feet by the end of September 2028, which marks the end of water year 2028, but only if sufficient federal funding is available and hydrologic conditions allow. Colorado’s share of the Upper Basin’s allocation is 51.75%, meaning Colorado could be on the hook for 51,750 acre-feet over the next two years.

But Ostdiek said they are not at this time discussing a specific target that Colorado or the Upper Basin would have to contribute in exchange for the \$100 million from the Bureau of Reclamation.

“We have felt confident that we can generate up to 100,000 acre-feet by 2028,” Ostdiek said in a Q&A session with the media after her presentation to the CWCB. “But really, what we’re going to be focused on is getting robust participation.”

It’s also unclear exactly how the saved water will be used. Officials said it’s not meant for use by the Lower Basin (California, Arizona and Nevada); it will be for the benefit of the Upper Basin. The water will need to have a home in Upper Basin storage buckets — Lake Powell, Navajo, Blue Mesa or Flaming Gorge reservoirs — but how it will fit into broader reservoir operations is unknown.

“I think that is going to be the subject of ongoing discussion, exactly how this water is used and characterized,” Ostdiek said. “I think what we know is that it needs to be credited to or subject to the discretion of the Upper Division states in some way.”



CREDIT: HEATHER SACKETT/ASPEN JOURNALISM

Missouri Heights resident Cassie Cerise pets her dog Dinah on her ranch outside of Carbondale in summer 2023. Cerise enrolled the field behind her in the Upper Colorado River Commission's System Conservation Program, getting paid to not irrigate it.

Conservation concept is not new

These types of programs that pay water users to cut back are not new to Colorado, and officials said they are incorporating the lessons learned from previous demand-management studies beginning in 2019, stakeholder input and pilot programs. The state participated in the 2023 and 2024 System Conservation Pilot Program, as well as an earlier version that ran from 2015 to 2018.

But conservation programs remain controversial. The Grand Valley Water Users Association, one of the largest irrigation districts on the mainstem of the Colorado River, did not allow its members to participate in SCPP for fear of negative impacts to other water users in the district.

All of the projects enrolled in SCPP involved agricultural water users on the Western Slope, a potentially risky situation, according to the Colorado River Water Conservation District. The Glenwood Springs-based agency, which represents 15 counties across the Western Slope, had tried to influence the creation of criteria for participation in SCPP to avoid negative impacts to rural agricultural communities.

Ultimately, only the Upper Colorado River Commission determined who got to participate in SCPP. Now, it seems state officials are taking to heart the River District's recommendations. River District General Counsel Peter Fleming thanked Ostdiek for including some of the criteria that the district had set forth in its principles about how to create a conservation program.

Fleming encouraged the board members to adopt variable pricing to account for the difference in the value of relatively cheap water on the Western Slope versus more-expensive water on the Front Range. Pueblo Water had wanted to participate in SCPP, but the \$509 per acre-foot offered in 2024 to Colorado participants was too far below market value.

"You can see the variable economic values of the water assigned there and the need to have variable pricing in order to encourage widespread participation," Fleming said.

The River District's position is that the entire burden of a conservation program shouldn't be borne by the Western Slope, but must also be shouldered by Front Range water providers, who collectively deplete the Colorado River basin by about 500,000 acre-feet a year.

He added that a program should also have a strong element of local control.

"The River District obviously would like to stay involved in this process," he said.

The creation of a conservation program for Colorado comes at a critical time for the basin, which remains locked in the grip of a historic drought, with combined storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead at an all-time low since the reservoirs began filling. Although the Upper Basin has argued that it has never used its entire allocation granted by the 1922 Colorado River Compact (and therefore shouldn't have to cut back), in the face of dwindling flows and calls for conservation from its downstream neighbors, the four states can no longer avoid reducing their water demand.

The Colorado River basin is also in the midst of a management crisis, with the seven states that share the river still unable to find agreement on a new framework after more than two years of failed negotiations. The current guidelines for how shortages are shared and how reservoirs are operated expire this year, and the feds are poised to step in with their own management plan, expected later this month.

The Upper Basin would need separate parallel agreements with Reclamation alongside the federal management plan to account for and get credit for water saved through the contribution program.

In her presentation, Ostdiek gave a preview of Reclamation's expected plan, which could allow for a pool in Lake Powell to store up to 3 million acre-feet conserved by Upper Basin states. But board chair Barbara Vasquez worried about overestimating the amount of water that could be contributed given the recent historically dry conditions. Farmers and ranchers across Colorado are now experiencing the fallout from the worst snowpack on record in the form of shortages and fallowed fields.

“So prior programs, we spent a lot of money for very little water conserved. I worry that next year may be even worse than this year, and it's not willingness, but ability,” Vasquez said. Given the water that's available, she said, “that might disappoint expectations on the part of the negotiators at the table for the Colorado River.”

Aspen Journalism is a nonprofit, investigative news organization covering water, environment, social justice and more. Visit aspenjournalism.org.