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## Post-2026 EIS Update

- Federal Register Notice (June 16, 2023) requested comment concerning the scope of the NEPA process for post-2026 Operational Guidelines
  - Purpose of the guidelines – continued stability of the Colorado River System
  - Objectives of the guidelines
    - Avoid continual response to crisis
    - Develop wholistic approach to Colorado River Management
    - Alternatives to coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead should be considered
- Scoping letters were due August 15, 2023

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## 7-Basin States

- Emphasized the unique role of the Basin States and underscored the importance of engagement and collaboration with the Basin States
- Committed to working together to develop a 7-States alternative
- Encouraged greater collaboration and stakeholder engagement
- Encouraged a separate parallel process to collaborate with Mexico and the active and direct participation of Basin States in that process

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## Lower Basin States

- Scope of the post 2026-Guidelines should:
  - Reduce the risk of reaching critical elevations
  - Seek to address the imbalance between supply and demand
  - Develop storage and conservation programs
  - Enhance predictability of mandatory reductions
  - Consideration for surplus criteria
- Term of the Guidelines should enable investment but also allow managers to gain operational experience from any new operations and programs

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## CAP, MWD, SNWA

- Joint Scoping Letter emphasized certain concepts:
  - Simultaneous coordination with Mexico
  - Update and apply Part 417 reasonable and beneficial use determinations to prevent waste
  - Provide durable federal funding to assist in ongoing conservation programs
  - Ensure sufficient water for human health, safety and welfare purposes
  - Include a framework that incentivizes voluntary conservation, augmentation and exchange
  - Consider how these elements are considered in coordination with mandatory reductions to provide a more successful framework

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## CAP

CAP is critical federal infrastructure, and its water supply is crucial to:

- Central and southern Arizona regional economy
- Arizona Tribal water rights settlements

CAP's scoping Letter emphasized certain concepts:

- Compliance with the Compact and the Decree in consideration of climate change
- Equitable sharing of impacts of climate change throughout the Basin
- Consideration of engineering fixes for Glen Canyon Dam
- Review of Beneficial Use/Part 417 to improve efficiency
- Implementing ICS or a similar storage mechanism
- Forbearance mechanisms for system conservation water and stored water
- Framework for augmentation and exchanges

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## CAP

- Elements of the Post-2026 Guidelines:
  - Operational determinations should consider reservoir contents in the Colorado River system.
  - Basin-wide efficiency standards and programs for agricultural, municipal and industrial sectors
  - Mechanisms for voluntary conservation and storage
  - Mandatory reductions to protect critical elevations should be shared equitably among all water users
  - Mandatory reductions solely to CAP to protect or build storage in Lake Mead and Lake Powell is unreasonable

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## Range of Comments From Colorado Water Users

- Post-2026 Guidelines should address supply and demand imbalance
- Adherence to the priority system for implementation of mandatory reductions
- Concerns about the ICS program
- Current coordinated operation can be influenced by forecasts, operations and conservation programs
- Concern pertaining to the role of forecasts in making operational decisions
- Higher priority users assert uncompensated reductions are not acceptable

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