

The Colorado River Commission of Nevada (Commission) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 via video conference, pursuant to Emergency Directive 006, section 1.

### **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chairwoman  
Vice Chairwoman  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

Puoy K. Premsrirut  
Kara J. Kelley  
Allen J. Puliz  
Cody T. Winterton  
Dan H. Stewart  
Justin Jones  
Marilyn Kirkpatrick

### **DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Special Counsel, Attorney General

Christine Guerici

### **COMMISSION STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Executive Director  
Senior Assistant Director  
Chief of Finance and Administration  
Assistant Director, Hydropower  
Assistant Director, Engineering and Operations  
Assistant Director, Energy Information Systems  
Manager, Natural Resources Program  
Senior Energy Accountant  
Natural Resource Analyst  
Natural Resource Analyst  
Senior Energy Accountant  
System Coordinator  
Office Manager  
Administrative Assistant IV  
Administrative Assistant IV  
Administrative Assistant II

Eric Witkoski  
Sara Price  
Douglas N. Beatty  
Gail Bates  
Robert Reese  
Kaleb Hall  
Angela Slaughter  
Gail L. Benton  
Warren Turkett, Ph.D.  
Peggy Roefer  
Stephanie Salleroli  
Chris Smith  
Gina L. Goodman  
Kathryn Aguilar  
Kira Bakke  
Tamisha Randolph

### **OTHERS PRESENT; REPRESENTING**

Self  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Southern Nevada Water Authority

Aleta Dupree  
Jordan Bunker  
Scott Krantz

**COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION  
OF NEVADA  
MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2020**

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The Colorado River Commission of Nevada (Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Premsrut at 1:32 pm. Chairwoman Premsrut welcomed and introduced Commissioner Justin Jones to the Commission.

**A. Conformance to Open Meeting Law.**

Executive Director Eric Witkoski confirmed that the meeting was posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

**B. Comments from the public. (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.)**

Chairwoman Premsrut asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

**C. For Possible Action: Approval of minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting.**

**Commissioner Stewart moved for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Puliz and approved by those present.**

**D. For Possible Action: Consideration of and possible action to adopt the Colorado River Commission of Nevada's fiscal year 2022 and 2023 budget request.**

Chief of Finance and Administration, Douglas Beatty, presented the Commission budget recommendation for fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

At the June 9, 2020 Commission meeting a draft budget was introduced to the Commission. A draft was provided to all the Commission's customers on May 2, 2020. Staff met with the power customers on May 26, 2020 to review the proposed budget and other information. The acronym USBR referenced in the budget information for the Research & Development Fund (4497) has been defined as United States Bureau of Reclamation.

No additional comments, inquiries, or requests for changes have been received from customers, Commissioners, or interested parties, but Staff has identified two changes that have been made to the budget for fund 4490. The \$900 charge for storage space has been reinstated to accommodate storage of some remaining files, and the proposed contract for hydropower billing support has been reduced from \$125,000 in each year of the biennium to \$65,000 in the first year and \$60,000 in the second year (a reduction of \$125,000 over the biennium). No additional changes impacting the budget were received.

Mr. Beatty explained once the budget was adopted by the Commission, the budget process will continue as follows:

- The budget will be conformed to the State Budget format and submitted as the agency request in the first phase of the budget process.
- The budget will then be reviewed by the agency's assigned Budget Analyst and the Director of the Governor's Finance Office (GFO) and revised as necessary for inclusion in the Executive Budget.
- The revised budget will be returned to the Commission's staff for review and a budget meeting with the Director of the GFO, assigned analysts and representatives of the Legislative Fiscal Staff will be scheduled and held if necessary.
- The Governor's Finance Office will develop the Governor's Recommended Budget for the Colorado River Commission as a component of the complete State Budget. The complete State Executive Budget, once reviewed and approved by the Governor, will be presented to the Nevada Legislature early next year.
- The budget committees of the Nevada Legislature will schedule hearing(s) to review the budget request. This usually happens late in March or early in April for the Commission's portion of the Executive Budget.
- The Legislature will develop and approve the final budget based on the Governor's request and the information provided at the various budget hearings.
- The budget as approved by the Legislature is then incorporated into the State accounting system and the Commission's funds and accounts are then controlled by the adopted amounts.

Staff recommended the Commission adopt the 2022 and 2023 budget and authorize the budget request be submitted to the Governor's Finance Office for inclusion in the Executive Budget in the form required under the State budgeting guidelines.

Chairwoman Premsrirut asked to confirm for the record that no interested party has made any comment on the proposed budget since the budget presentation.

Mr. Beatty affirmed that this was correct.

Chairwoman Premsrirut asked to confirm that the two revisions detailed in this presentation have been the only changes since the budget presentation.

Mr. Beatty again affirmed that this was correct.

**Vice Chairwoman Kelley thanked Staff and moved for approval to adopt the Colorado River Commission of Nevada's fiscal year 2022 and 2023 budget request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and approved by unanimous vote.**

**E. For Information Only: Update on pending legal matters, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or Public Utilities Commission of Nevada filings.**

Special Counsel Christine Guerici presented an update on pending legal matters involving the Commission.

In *Save the Colorado v. Dept of the Interior*, record has been filed for the case and is being reviewed by those representing the intervening states.

Oral argument for *Navajo Nation v. Department of the Interior* will be conducted via videoconference on October 16, 2020 in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Chairwoman Premsrirut expressed interest in viewing the Oral argument for *Navajo Nation v. Department of the Interior* and asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none.

**F. For Information Only: Status update from Staff on the hydrological conditions, drought, and climate of the Colorado River Basin, Nevada's consumptive use of Colorado River water, the drought contingency plan, impacts on hydropower generation, electrical construction activities and other developments on the Colorado River.**

Dr. Warren Turkett, Natural Resource Analyst, gave a status update on the hydrological conditions, drought, and climate of the Colorado River Basin, Nevada's consumptive use of Colorado River water, and other developments on the Colorado River.

- Summary of Lake Powell, Lake Mead, and Nevada Water Supply
- Precipitation and Temperature
- Upper Basin Snowpack Accumulation
- Water Use in Southern Nevada
- Unregulated Inflow, Current and Projected Reservoir Status

A copy of the report is attached and made a part of the minutes. (See Attachment A.)

Chairwoman Premsrirut asked to highlight for the record that as of Water Year 2019, Southern Nevada was currently banking 22% of their unused allocation, an increase from the 17% banked as of Water Year 2018.

**G. Comments from the public. (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.)**

Chairwoman Premsrirut asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Aleta Dupree, a member of the public, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to comment by phone. She stated that she appreciated the very detailed and easy to understand presentation regarding Southern Nevada's water use, that it is important to remember that the CRCNV should be a partner in conservation for water and electricity, and that low hydrological conditions could lead to lower levels of available electricity. Additionally, she stated that hydropower from the Hoover Dam should be able to be supplemented with renewable energy sources, especially for low-income, disabled, and senior citizens at no additional cost.

Chairwoman Premsrirut asked if there were any further comments or questions from the public. There were none.

**H. Comments and questions from the Commission members.**

Chairwoman Premsrirut asked if there were any comments or questions from the Commission members.

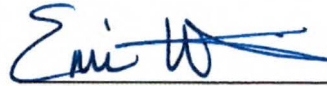
Vice Chairwoman Kelley again welcomed Commissioner Jones to the Commission.

**I. Selection of the next possible meeting date.**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at the Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

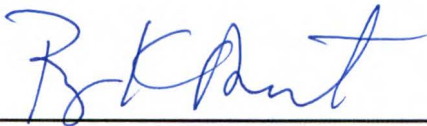
**J. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 pm.



Eric Witkoski, Executive Director

APPROVED:



Puoy K. Premsrut, Chairwoman

# Colorado River Commission of Nevada

## Hydrology and Water Use Update

Warren Turkett

August 11, 2020



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## Summary

### Lake Powell

- Upper Basin snowpack reached the seasonal average in April.
- Dry conditions this water year have reduced the unregulated inflow forecasts.
- Water Year 2020 unregulated inflow is forecasted at 59% of average.

### Lake Mead

- Reclamation will release the August 24 Month study on August 14, which determines the upcoming water years operations.
- Reclamation has essential staff continuing to operate the reservoirs water releases and hydropower generation.

### Nevada Water Supply

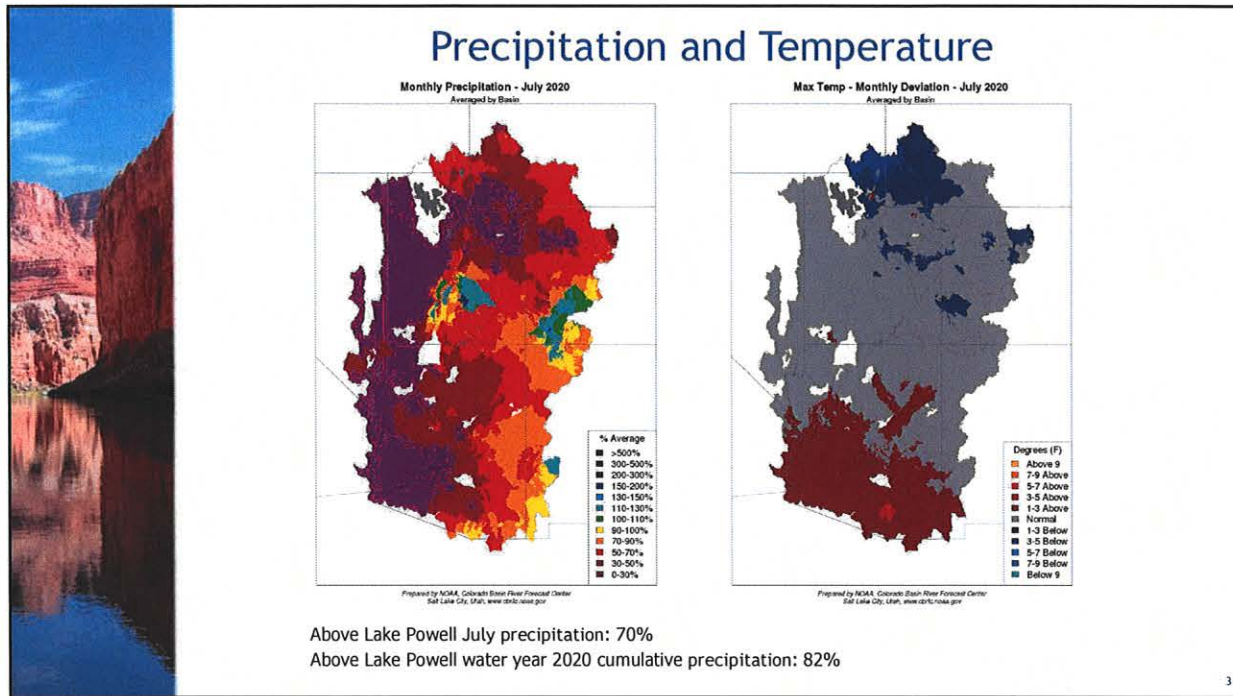
- Southern Nevada has 9 years of water supply banked. <sup>1</sup>
- **In 2019, Southern Nevada used 22% less than its annual allocation.**

Storage	Elevation (f)	% Capacity	Change since last year
Lake Mead	1,084.3	40%	1.3 ft
Lake Powell	3,604.5	51%	-16.9 ft

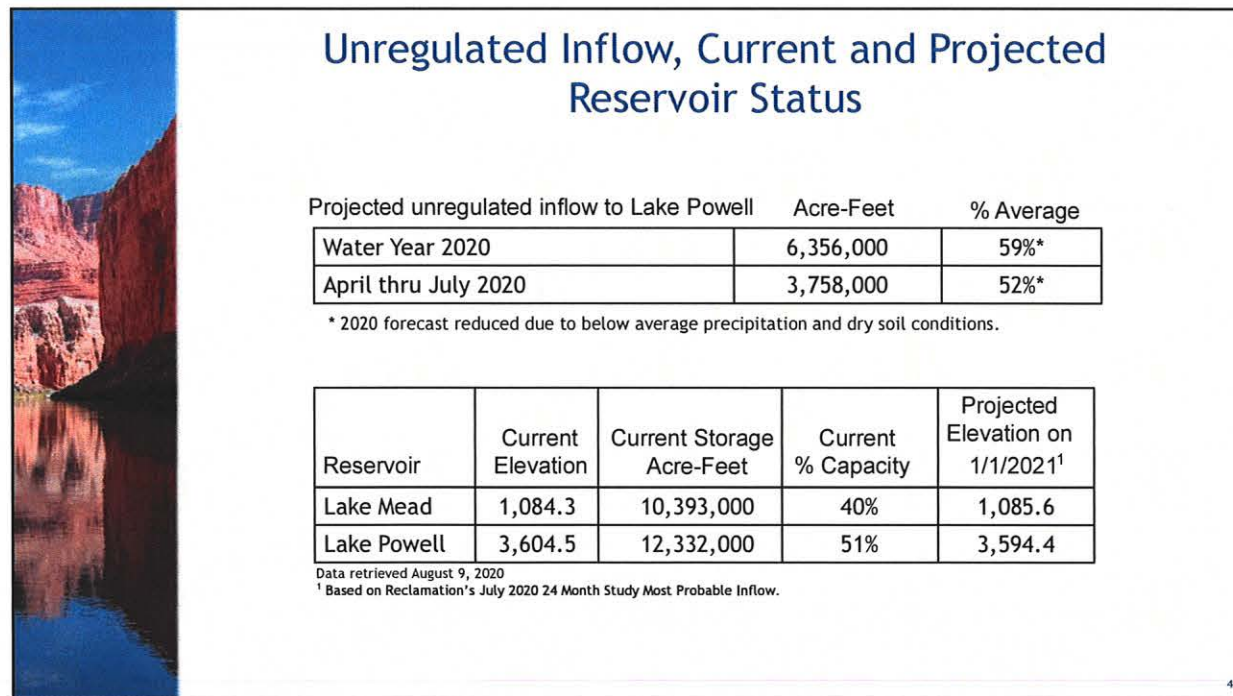
Data retrieved August 9, 2020  
<sup>1</sup> Based on historical Southern Nevada water use.

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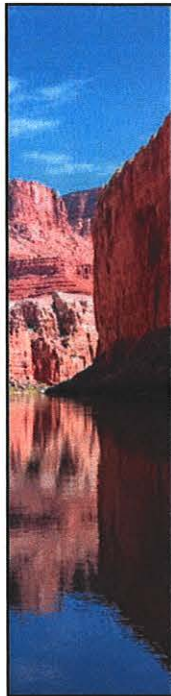




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## Water Use In Southern Nevada

Southern Nevada Water Use	2019 Actual Use in Acre-Feet
Nevada Annual Allocation	300,000
Diversion	472,314
Return Flows	238,318
Consumptive Use	233,996
Unused Allocation Available for Banking	66,004 (22%)

Southern Nevada Water Use	Diversions	Return Flows	Consumptive Use
January-June 2020	224,096	112,112	111,984

Banked Water (through end of 2019)	Acre-Feet
Ground Water Recharge in So. Nevada	358,315
Banked in Lake Mead	785,913
Banked in California and Arizona	944,071
Total	2,088,299

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