International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section

For immediate release
July 31, 2025

USIBWC Virtual Colorado River Citizens Forum Public Meeting on August 27

The US Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Colorado River Citizens Forum board will host a virtual public meeting on:
Wednesday, **August 27, 2025, from 4-6pm MST**

- **Katrina Grantz, Deputy Regional Director with the Bureau of Reclamation**, will present on the operational challenges of the Glen Canyon Dam (GCD). Her presentation will include a high-level overview of GCD infrastructure, updates on maintenance activities such as re-lining the river outlet works, interim operating criteria for the river outlet works, and the status of related studies

- **Dan Bunk, Area Manager of the Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Bureau of Reclamation,** will provide an overview of the Lake Mead/Powell Tiers and their use in federal decision-making for annual operations. Additionally, Mr. Bunk will present a hydrology update and walk through the August 24-Month Study tier determinations for the 2026 operating year.

The public meeting will be held virtually:
Via Teams
Click here to join the meeting.

If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the "Join" link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: +1 915-320-4718,,957382125# Phone conference ID: 957 382 125#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the USIBWC Citizens Forum page at https://www.ibwc.gov/citizens-forums-past-meetings/ and look for the Colorado River Citizens Forum meeting.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Frankie Pinon at frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4716 by noon on **August 26, 2025**.

Media Contact:
Frankie Pinon
Email: frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov
Phone: 915-832-4716

The USIBWC is dedicated to protecting Americans from exposure to Mexican sewage, maintaining and operating critical infrastructure, and ensuring the U.S. gets its fair share of water. We are committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners and our Mexican colleagues to spearhead these issues.

COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, August 27, 2025, from 4-6pm MST

Virtually hosted
Via Teams
Click here to join the meeting.

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – USIBWC Citizens Forum Board
- **Katrina Grantz, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation,** will discuss Glen Canyon Dam's operational challenges, including infrastructure, maintenance updates, interim operating criteria, and related studies.
- **Dan Bunk, Area Manager, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Bureau of Reclamation,** will overview the Lake Mead/Powell Tiers, their role in federal decision-making, and provide a hydrology update with 2026 tier determinations.
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information call 915-832-4716 or email frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov

---

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: Click here to join the meeting.

Meeting ID: 261 197 782 321
Passcode: HB3YM3sH

Download Teams | Join on the web

Or call in (audio only)

+1 915-320-4718,,957382125#

Phone conference ID: 957 382 125#

Yuma Field Office

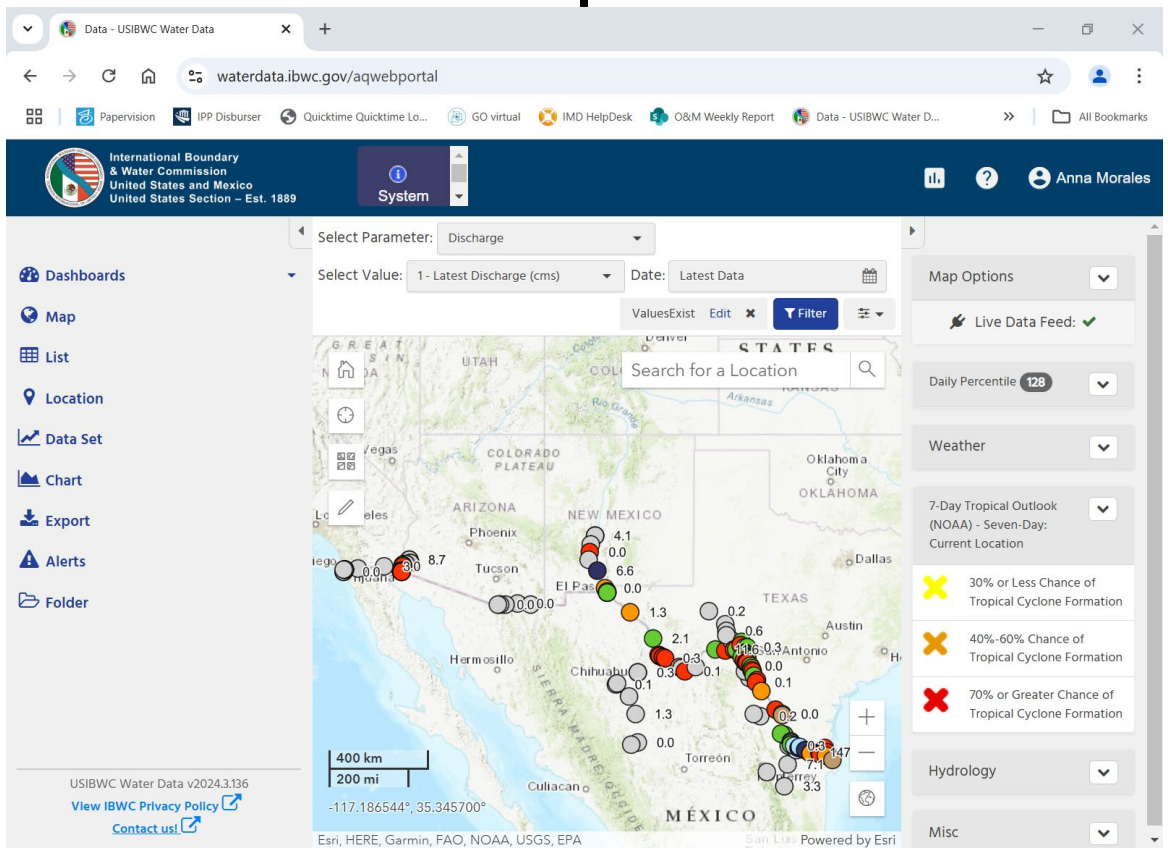
USIBWC Citizens Forum

By: Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager

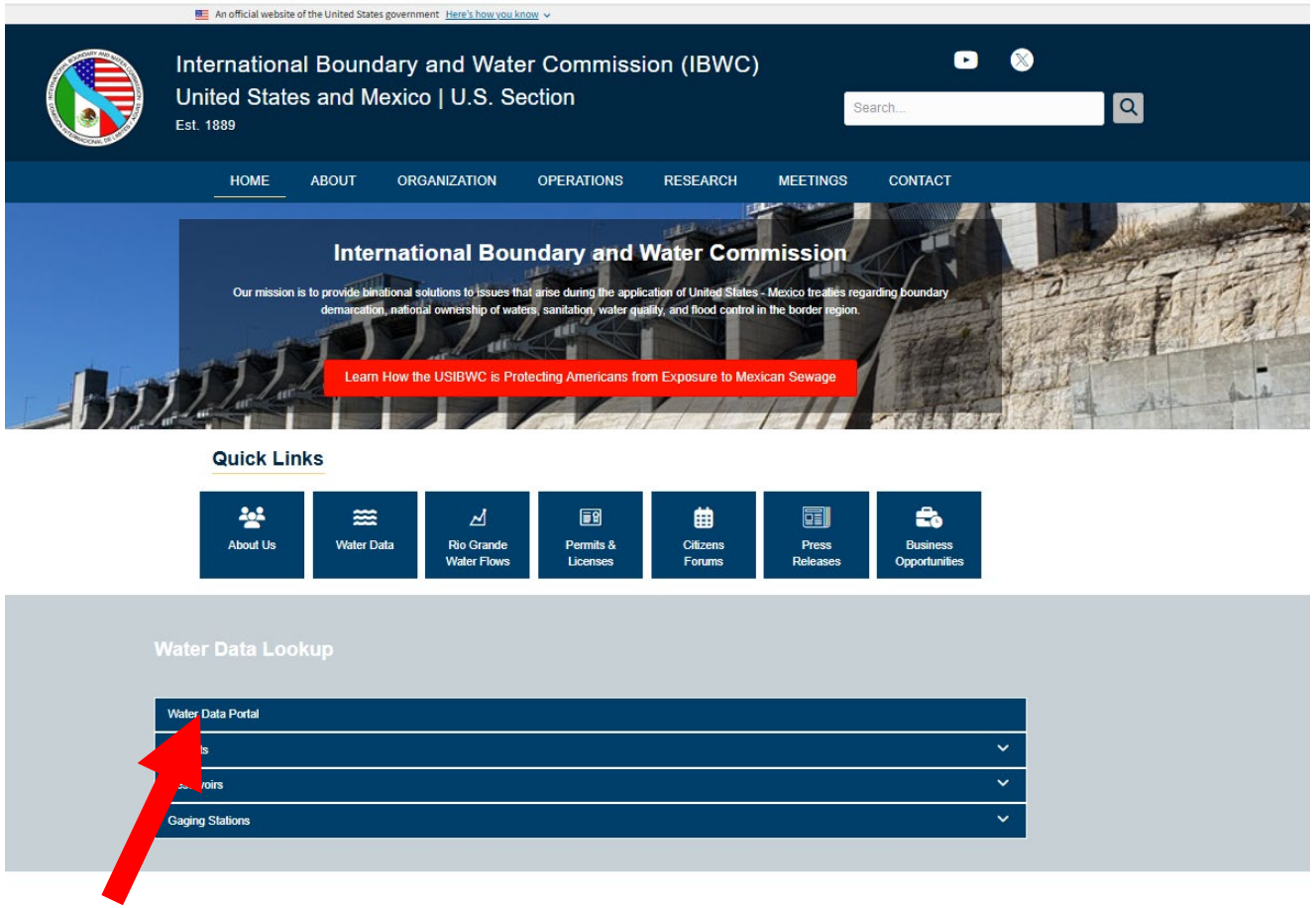
August 27, 2025

USIBWC Water Data WebPortal

https://waterdata.ibwc.gov/aqwebporta



https://ibwc.gov



Monitoring of New River at the International Boundary

- **Minute 264** established a water quality goal
  - Routine- monitor the water quality through observations and the collection of samples in the U.S and Mexico.
  - New River Binational Water Quality Monitoring Study
    - Started November 2024 to October 2025
    - Sampling sites collected in Mexico and the US

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

For Immediate Release
October 16, 2024

IBWC TO CONDUCT YEAR-LONG WATER QUALITY STUDY IN THE NEW RIVER

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) awarded a $679,313.67 contract to EGC-AGEISS Joint Venture of San Antonio, Texas, to collect water and sediment samples in the New River in the United States and Mexico and at Morelos Dam on the Colorado River.

The sampling program was developed by the U.S. and Mexican Sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) with input from local stakeholders to analyze the water quality in the New River as it travels through Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico, and Calexico, Calif., on its way to the Salton Sea.

An additional site was selected at Morelos Dam, between Los Algodones, Baja California, and Yuma County, Ariz., as the Colorado River diverted at the dam is used by irrigators in Mexico who discharge into arroyos and drains that empty into the New River.

The data will be used to assess the water and sediment to determine if there are any potential impacts to the environment and human health. The results will be used to discuss the current monitoring conducted under IBWC Minute 264 and consider revisions under a new Minute to improve conditions in the New River. Additionally, regional stakeholders have requested this study to better inform the public on the river's water quality.

The sampling program will begin in November and continue for one year. The study will analyze water and sediment samples on a routine basis for bacteria, industrial pollutants, pesticides, metals, and more. The samples will be collected by a binational team from both countries at four sites in Mexico and four sites in the United States. The team will be comprised of both sections of the IBWC, the contractor, and the National Water Commission of Mexico.

At the conclusion of the study, the IBWC will develop a report of the results, assess the data, and provide conclusions. The report and data will be publicly available through the websites of both IBWC sections.

QUESTIONS?

www.ibwc.gov

Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager
Yuma, AZ
(928) 246-9728
anna.morales@ibwc.gov

YouTube
@USIBWC

Follow us on
@usibwc

Linkedin: linkedin.com/company/usibwc

Interested in getting the latest news from the USIBWC? Scan this QR code to get on our email list to receive press releases and Citizens Forum notices.

THANK YOU!

Anna Morales
Yuma Area Operation Manager
2995 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite A, Yuma, AZ 85365
(928) 782-1598

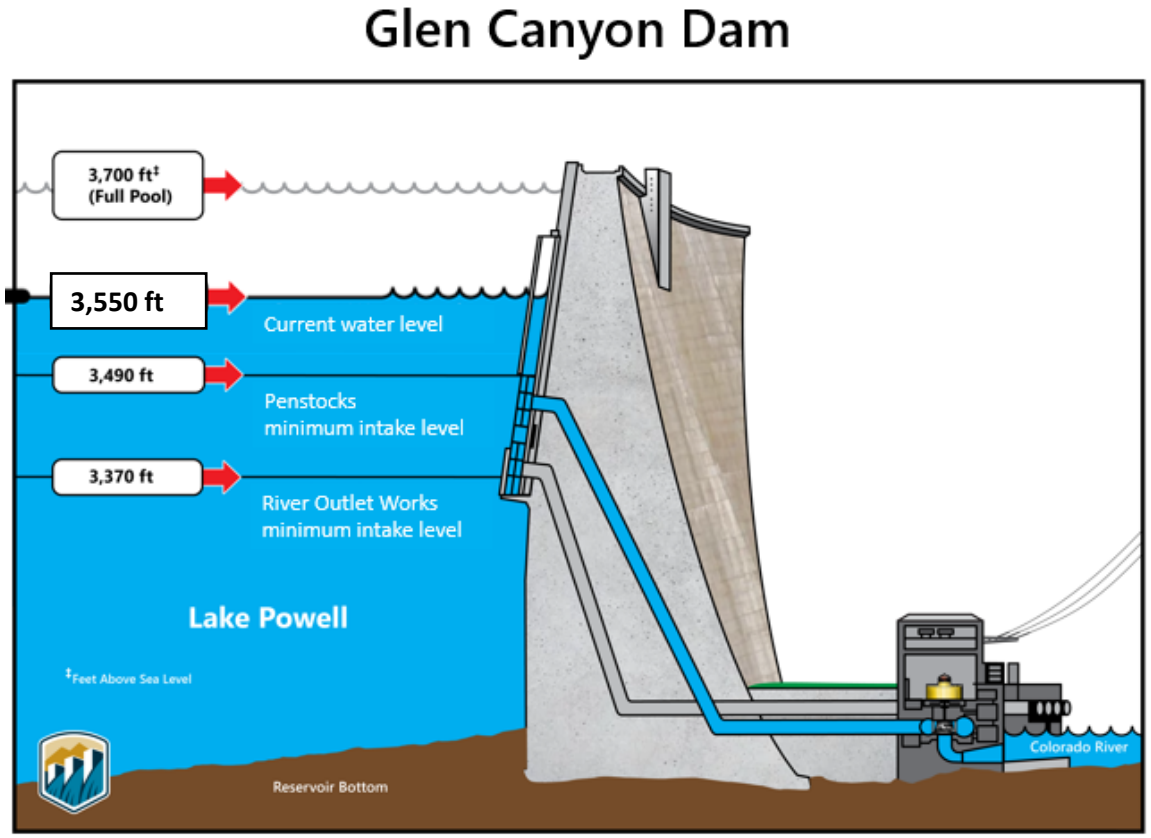
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Glen Canyon Dam Operational Information and River Outlet Works update

USIBWC Colorado River Citizens Forum
August 27, 2025

Glen Canyon Dam Operational Information

- Priority is safe and reliable operations
- Historically low reservoir levels presenting new challenges
- Glen Canyon Dam was not envisioned to operate solely through the river outlet works for extended periods of time
- 2023 and 2024: New experiences, information, and operating guidance
- Studies and investigations



August 27, 2025

New Information and Operational Experience

- **New Information in 2023 and 2024**
  - Cavitation of the outlet works pipes at low reservoir elevations
  - Tailrace sedimentation scouring from outlet works operation
  - Unknown issues from operating the outlet works for extended periods, especially as sole means of release

River outlet works and tailrace at base of Glen Canyon Dam

Investigations and Maintenance

Investigations

- Tailrace sedimentation scour study
- Outlet works cavitation study
- Intake vortex avoidance study

Maintenance

- River Outlet Works (ROW) recoating and cavitation damage repair
- Hollow jet valves refurbishment/replacement

Reclamation Technical Services Center Hydraulic Laboratory
GCD tailrace Sedimentation Model

August 27, 2025

GCD Interim Operating Guidance

Established March 26, 2024

1. Exercise full extent of operational capabilities to maintain reservoir level at or above elevation 3,490 feet (minimum power pool)
2. Minimize potential for cavitation damage in ROW, limit maximum flows through the ROW

Interim operating guidance will be revised based on results from studies and operating experience. Potential mitigation measures will be developed and implemented.

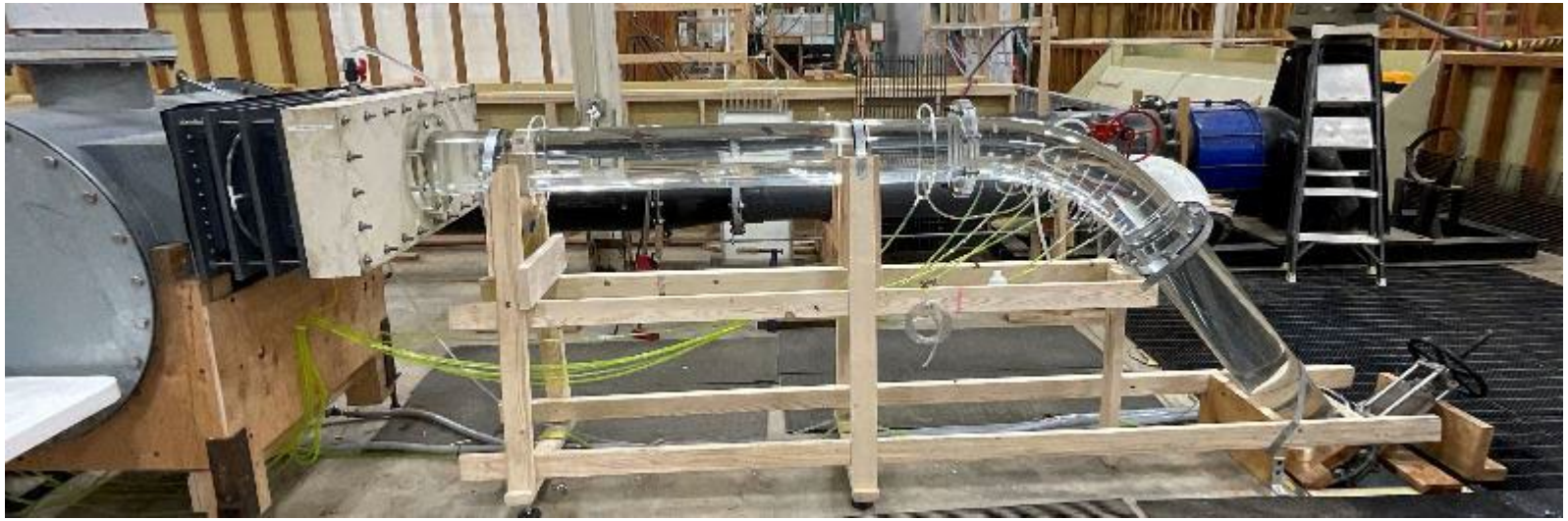
Operations: Recent Use of the ROW

- Cool-Mix Flows
  - Jul-Nov 2024
    - Operated ROWs 3 & 4, up to design capacity (3,750 cfs per ROW), 16-18 hours per day
    - No cavitation issues observed, sediment movement observed, but no impact to operations (powerplant operating at same time)
  - 2025: initiated Aug 3, may continue through Oct 20
    - Lake Powell elevation is currently very near 3,550, using interim operating guidance

River Outlet Works Cavitation Model

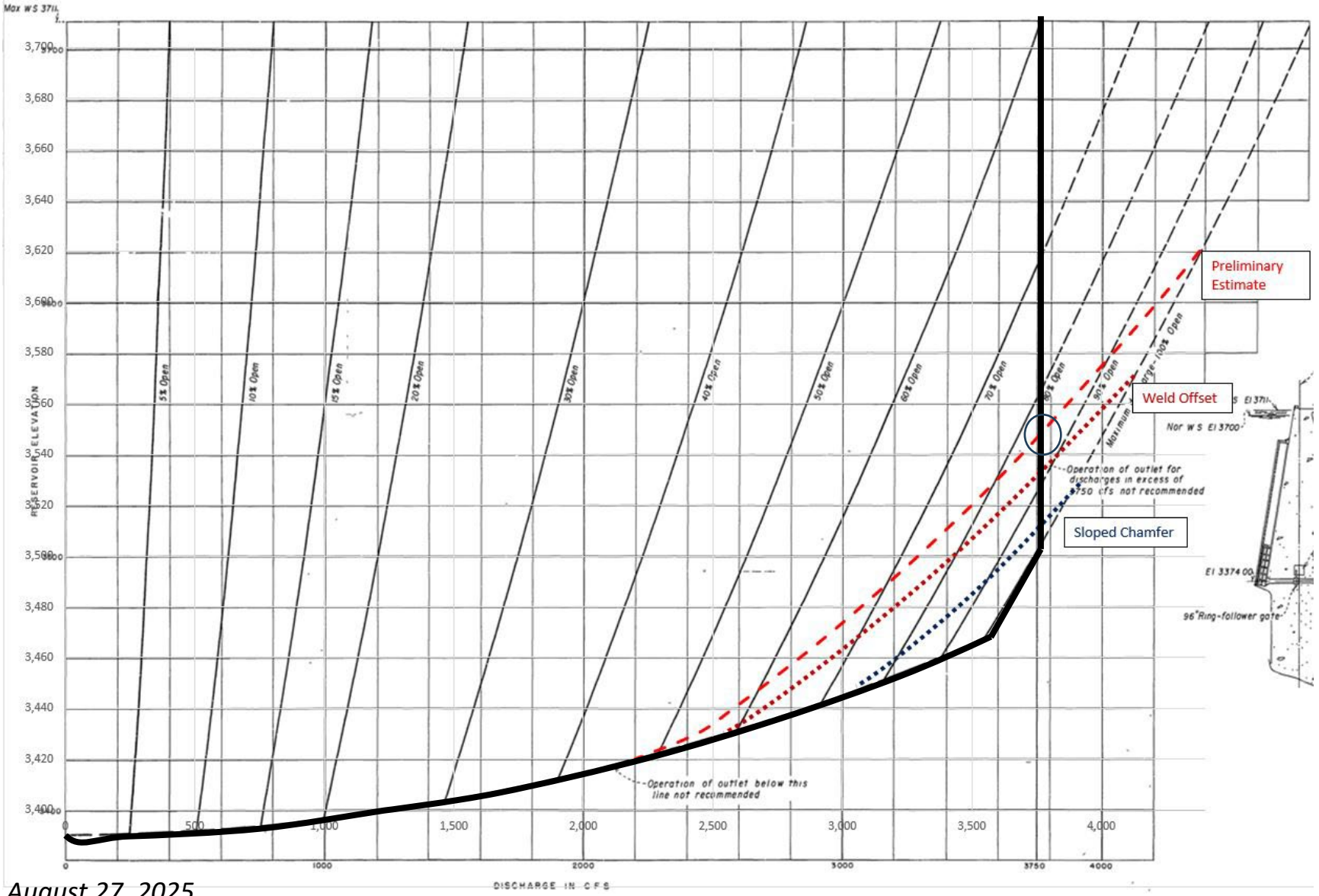
Current Status:

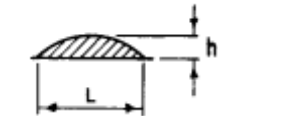
- Physical model testing/analysis complete
- Additional field studies recommended



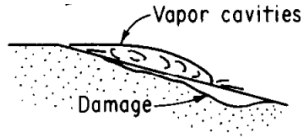
August 27, 2025

River Outlet Works Cavitation Model Results



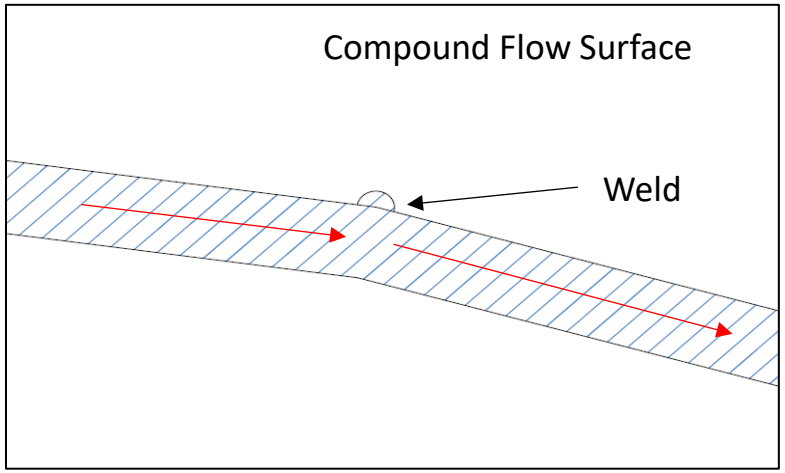


Weld Offset



d. Abrupt slope away from flow

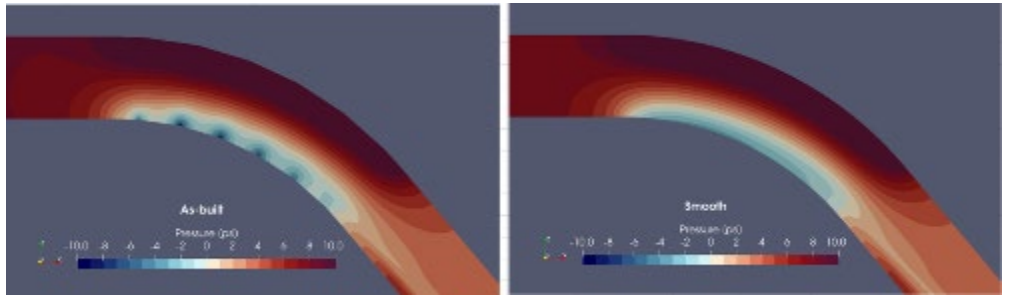
Sloped Chamfer



River Outlet Works Cavitation Model

Recommendations:

- Field test
  - Cavitation measurements for range of operating conditions
  - Pre and Post-test inspections
  - 2 ROWs (one as a control, one with smoothed weld joints)
- CFD Model
  - Compare to field test results
  - Smoothed welds
  - Potential geometry improvements
- LAPC Testing
  - Induce cavitation at model scale
  - Facility is under renovation



August 27, 2025

Tailrace Sedimentation Model

Major Conclusions:

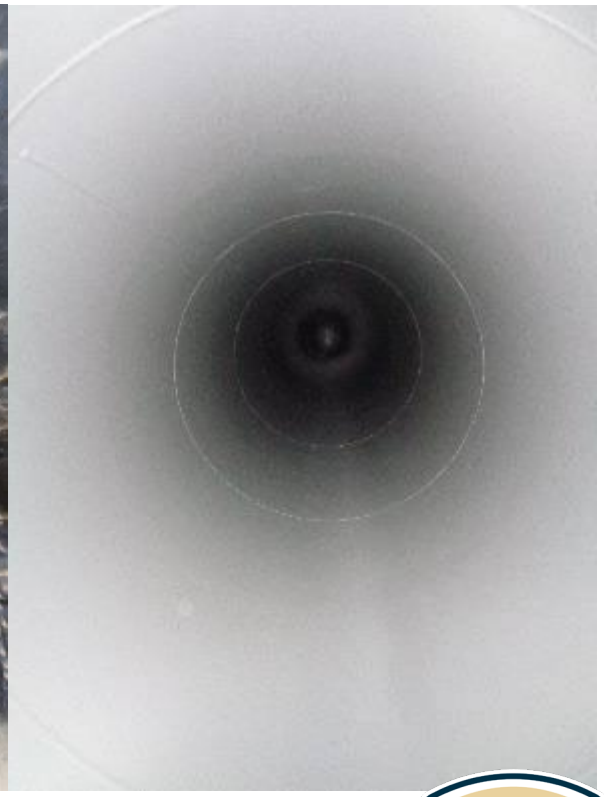
- High flow from ROW mobilizes sediment that can backfill draft tube creating large maintenance need
- As ROW discharge decreases, sedimentation risk decreases
- River structures can be added to tailrace to disrupt sediment transport
- Tailrace sedimentation is a maintenance issue, no risk to facility

Maintenance: ROW Recoating completed June 2025

- Recoating of all 4 ROW
- Replaces 60+ year-old original coating
- Coating protects steel pipe from corrosion, it does not prevent cavitation
- Two coats of solvent-borne epoxy and one coat of polysiloxane

ROW 1 - Before

ROW 1 - After



Future maintenance: Hollow Jet Valves

- Value Planning study conducted
- Considering rehabilitation of hollow-jet valves OR replacement with fixed-cone valves or jet-flow gates.
  - Recommended physical model testing of valves to understand effects of discharge jet on sediment deposition and flow capacity.
- Space limitations for new valves, would have to build out (costly)
- New gates/valves are long lead items, 2-3 years (after award) to install

Next Steps

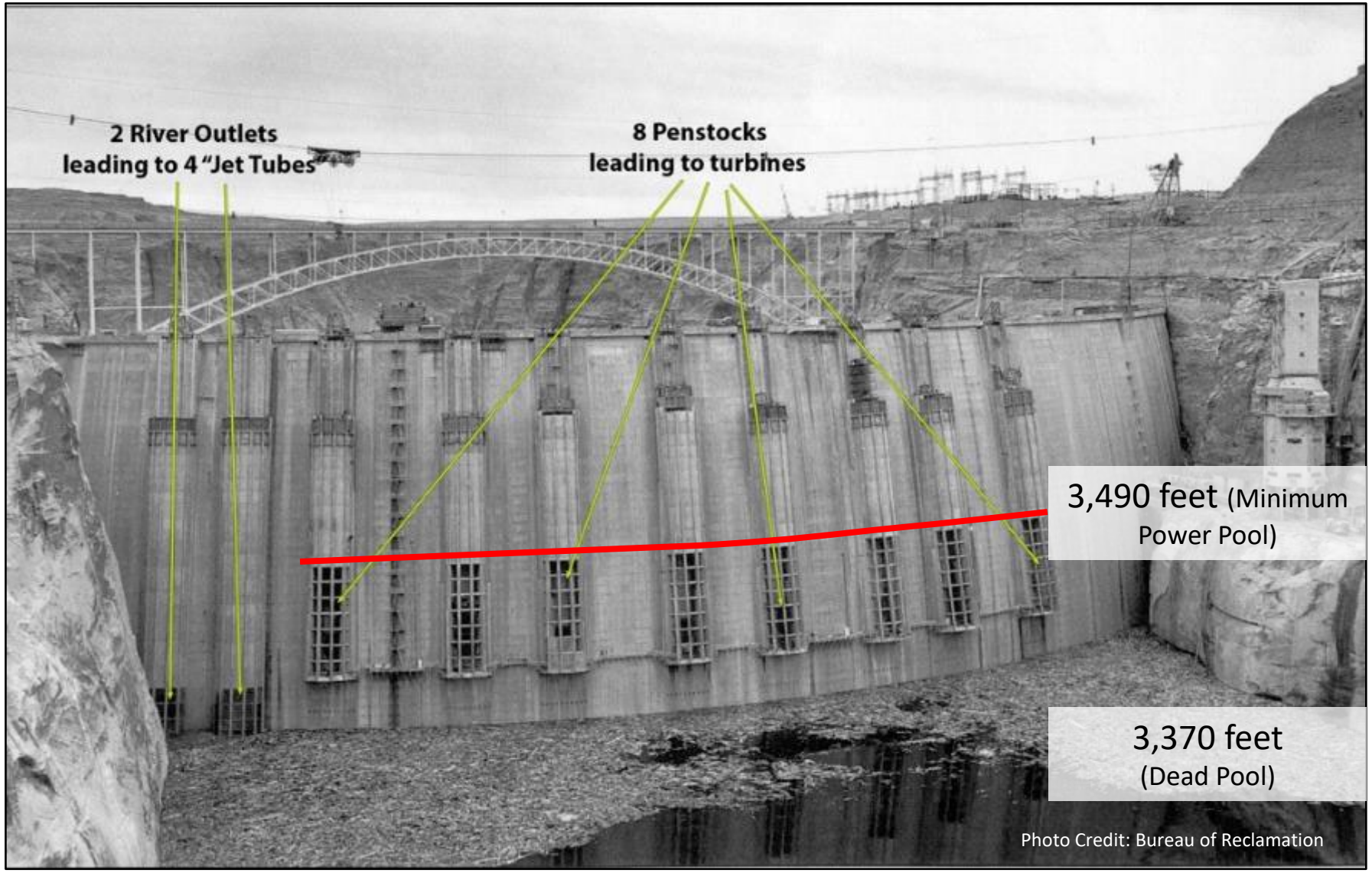
- Continuation of GCD Interim Operating Guidance
  - Update guidance, if needed, pending results from inspections, field testing, and numerical modeling
- ROW cavitation field testing and follow-up inspections
- Tailrace sedimentation: plan for maintenance and resuming powerplant operations
- Hollow Jet Valve maintenance work

Key Takeaways

- Historically low reservoir levels have introduced operational uncertainty and potential risks to infrastructure
- Interim operating guidance for GCD for low elevations reduces risks to infrastructure by reducing maximum releases from the ROW
- Elevations above 3,490 ft: releases can be made through 8 penstocks and 4 ROW; below 3,490 ft releases can be made through the ROW.
- Studies and planning are ongoing to investigate, develop, and implement mitigation measures
- Interim operating guidance will be revised as appropriate


Thank you
BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

Glen Canyon Dam - November 21, 1963



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

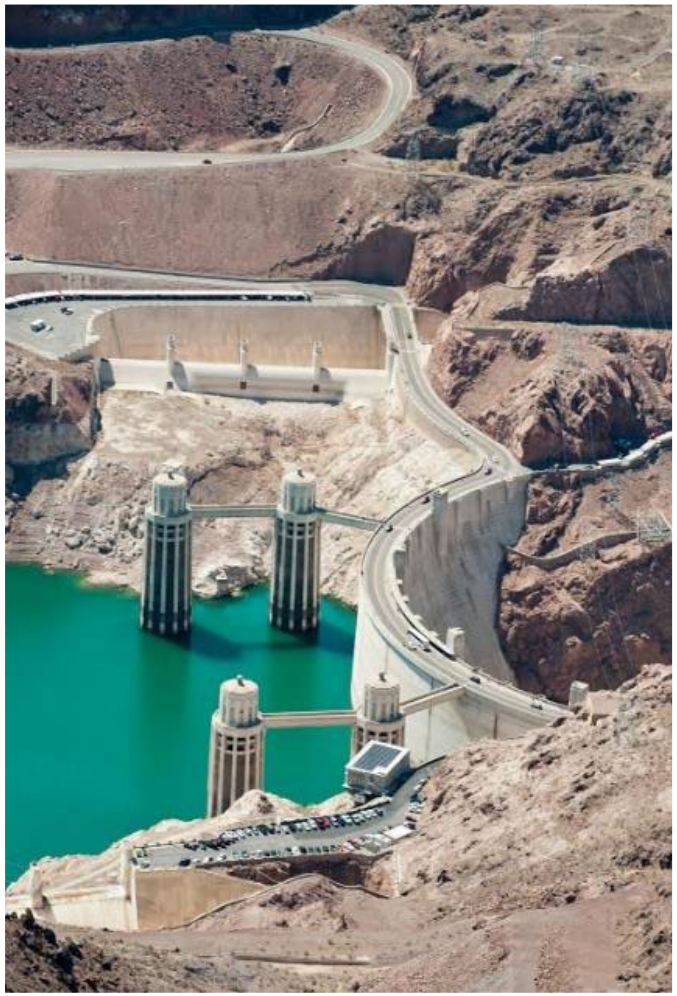
Colorado River System Status Update

USIBWC Colorado River Citizens Forum

August 27, 2025

Colorado River – Current Conditions
(as of August 25, 2025)

Lake Powell near Glen Canyon Dam



Lake Mead near Hoover Dam

- Lake Powell current elevation is 3,549.5 feet at 30% of capacity (7.1 maf)
- Lake Mead current elevation is 1,055.1 feet at 31% of capacity (8.1 maf)
- Total system storage currently 38% of capacity (44% at this time last year)

Lake Powell & Lake Mead Operational Diagrams and Current Conditions[1]

Lake Powell

Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)
3,700	**Equilization Tier** Equalize, avoid spills, or release 8.23 maf	23.31
3,636-3,666 (2008-2026)	**Upper Elevation Balancing Tier** Release 8.23 maf If Lake Mead < 1,075 feet, balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.0 maf	14.65-18.36 (2008-2026)
3,575		8.90
3,525	**Mid-Elevation Release Tier** Release 7.48 maf; if Lake Mead < 1,025 feet; release 8.23 maf If any minimum probable Lake Powell elevation projection shows Lake Powell < 3,500 feet, begin planning to reduce releases to no less than 6.0 maf	5.55
3,500	**Lower Elevation Balancing Tier** Balance contents with a min/max release of 7.0 and 9.5 maf If any minimum probable Lake Powell elevation projection shows Lake Powell < 3,500 feet, begin planning to reduce releases to no less than 6.0 maf	4.22
3,370	The Secretary reserves the right to operate Reclamation facilities to protect the Colorado River system if hydrologic conditions require such action as described in Sections 6 and 7(D) in the 2007 Interim Guidelines ROD	0

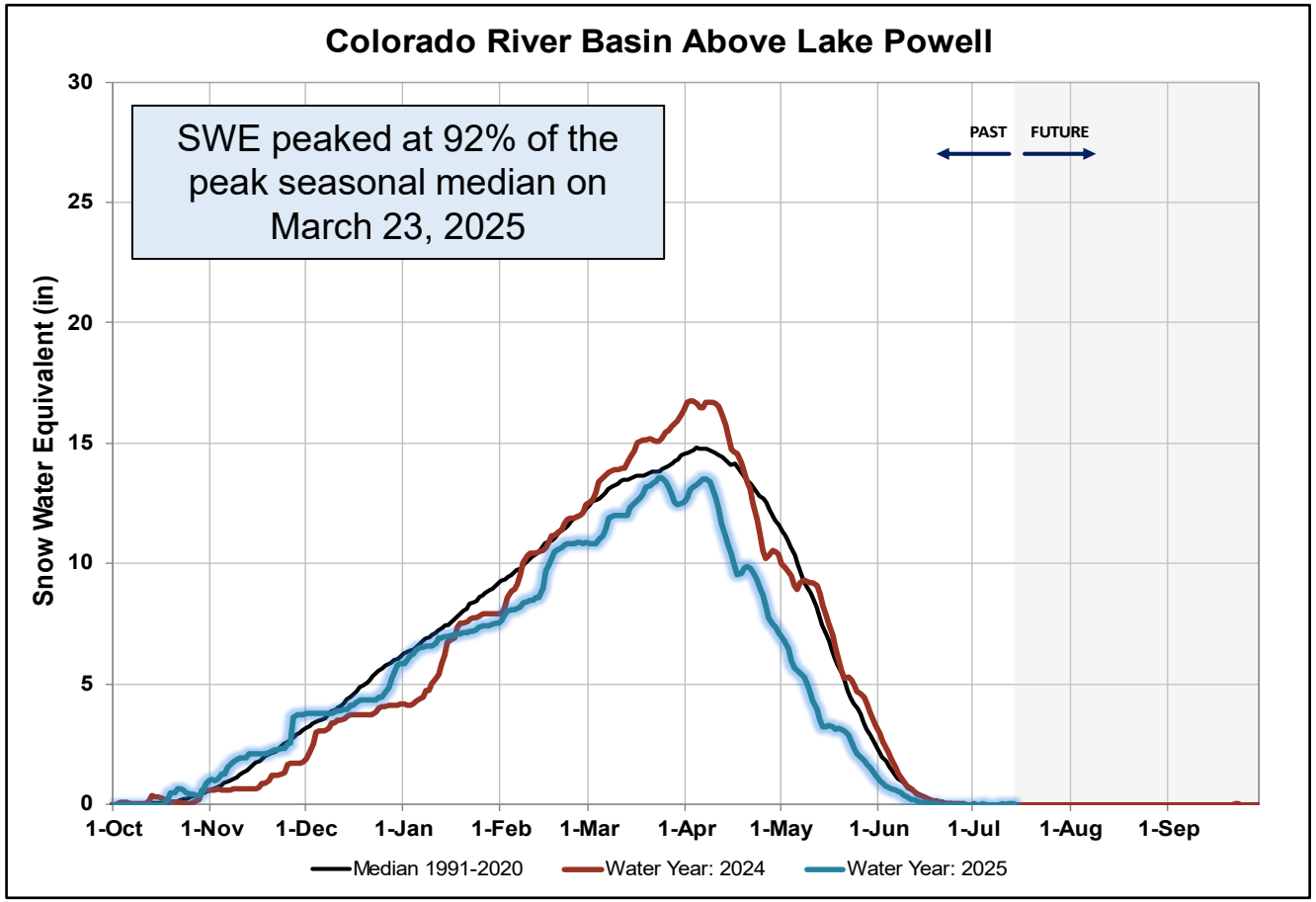
Lake Mead

Elevation (feet)	Operation According to the Interim Guidelines	Live Storage (maf)
1,220	**Flood Control Surplus or Quantified Surplus Condition** Deliver > 7.5 maf	26.18
1,200 (approx.)		23.14 (approx.)
1,145	**Domestic Surplus or ICS Surplus Condition** Deliver > 7.5 maf	16.18
1,075	**Normal or ICS Surplus Condition** Deliver ≥ 7.5 maf	9.60
1,050	**Shortage Condition** Deliver 7.167 maf	7.68
1,025	**Shortage Condition** Deliver 7.083 maf	5.98
1,000	**Shortage Condition** Deliver 7.0 maf Further measures may be undertaken	4.48
895		0

[1] The blue shaded regions indicate the operating tiers for the 2025 and 2026 water/calendar years for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, respectively.

Water Year 2025 Upper Basin Snowpack and Inflow[1,2]

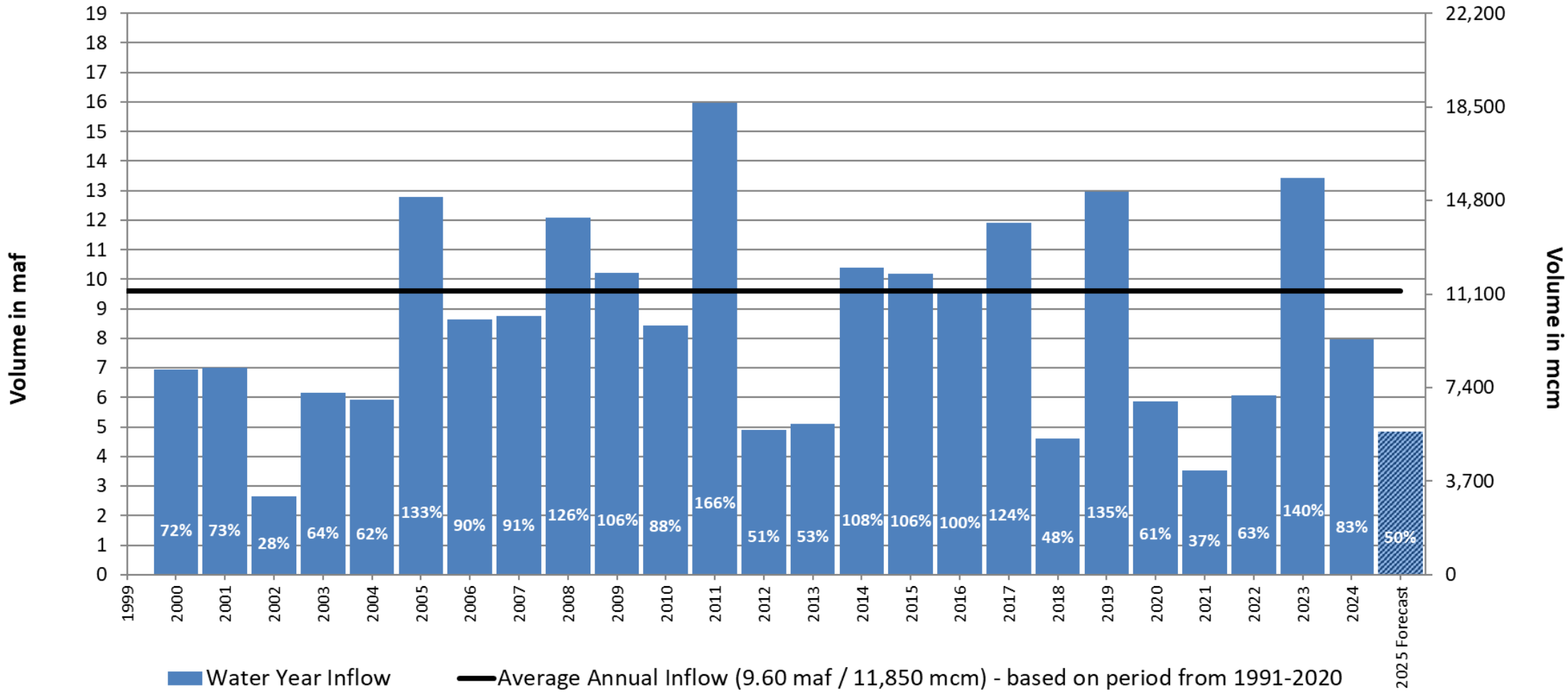
Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow Forecast as of August 1, 2025		
Period in 2025	Volume (maf)	% of Average
April through July (preliminary observed)	2.63	41%
Water Year	4.84	50%



[1]Percent of normal precipitation is based on an arithmetic mean, or average; percent of normal snowpack is based on the median value for a given date.
[2]Statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.

Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow

Water Years 2000 through 2025[1]



[1] The water year 2025 Lake Powell inflow forecast is based on the Most Probable (median) forecast dated August 1, 2025.

Lower Basin Side Inflows – WY/CY 2025[1,2]

Intervening Flow from Glen Canyon to Hoover Dam

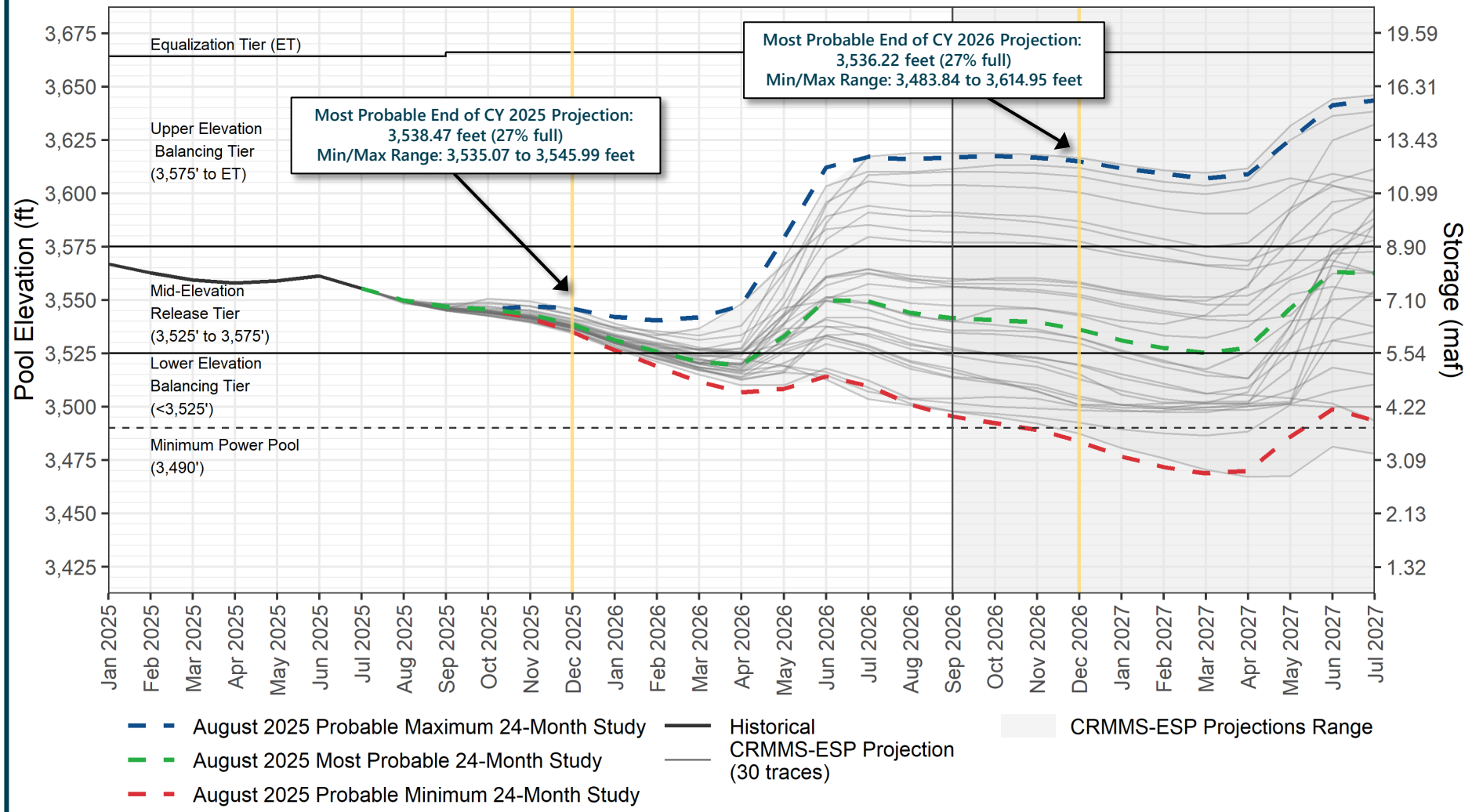
	Month in WY/CY 2025	5-Year Average Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (kaf)	Observed Intervening Flow (% of Average)	Difference From 5-Year Average (kaf)
Observed	October 2024	62	47	76%	-15
	November 2024	42	42	101%	1
	December 2024	65	64	98%	-1
	January 2025	74	37	50%	-37
	February 2025	61	57	92%	-5
	March 2025	102	43	43%	-58
	April 2025	93	28	30%	-65
	May 2025	52	24	46%	-28
	June 2025	18	31	173%	13
	July 2025	53	23	43%	-30
Projected	August 2025	102			
	September 2025	83			
	October 2025	62			
	November 2025	42			
	December 2025	65			
	WY 2025 Totals	807	582	72%	-226
	CY 2025 Totals	807	597	74%	-210

[1] Values were computed with the LC's gain-loss model for the most recent 24-month study.

[2] Percents of average are based on the 5-year mean from 2020-2024.

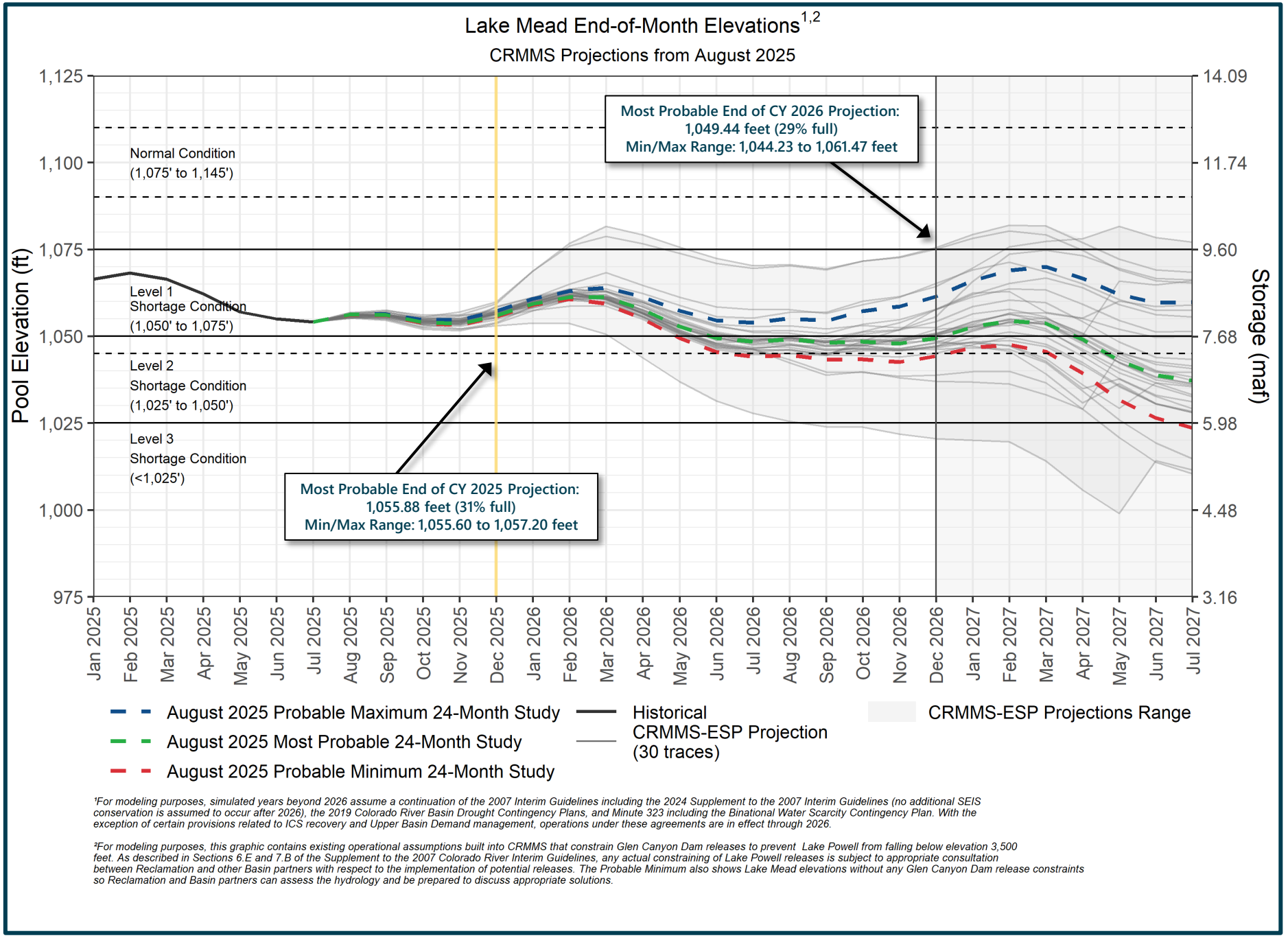
Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations[1,2]

CRMMS Projections from August 2025



[1]For 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.

[2]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 Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, 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. The Probable Minimum also shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.



[1]For 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.

[2]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 Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, 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. The Probable Minimum also shows Lake Mead elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.

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 - 1050	**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*

2026 Lake Mead Operations →

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.

Additional Conservation by the U.S. Lower Basin and Mexico as of August 2025

U.S. Lower Basin[1]

Calendar Year	Annual Volume Conserved (in acre-feet and mcm)	Cumulative Volume Conserved (in acre-feet and mcm)
2023	1,160,697 AF *(1,432 mcm)*	1,160,697 AF *(1,432 mcm)*
2024	903,767 AF *(1,115 mcm)*	2,064,464 AF *(2,546 mcm)*
2025	874,372 AF *(1,079 mcm)*	2,938,835 AF *(3,625 mcm)*
2026	771,148 AF *(951 mcm)*	3,709,983 AF *(4,576 mcm)*

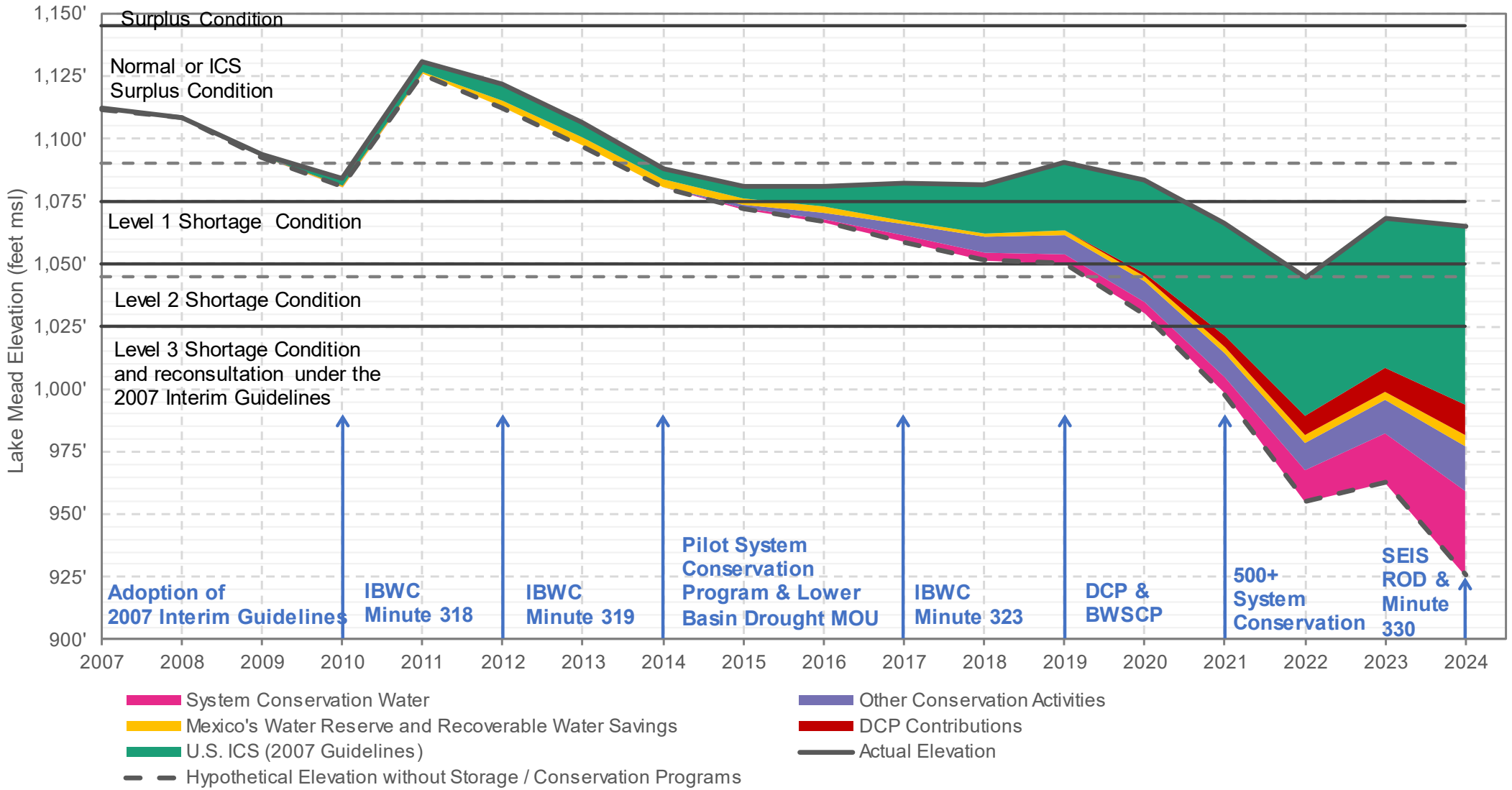
Mexico[2]

Date	Minimum Cumulative Volume Conserved (acre-feet)	Minimum Cumulative Volume Conserved (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

[1] U.S. Lower Basin additional conservation reflects final accounting in the 2023 and 2024 Water Accounting Reports and executed system conservation agreements based on current projections. All projected or provisional volumes are subject to change. Additional conservation activities are being considered including system conservation, ICS, and other conserved water in 2025 and 2026. These additional activities are included in Reclamation's operational modeling. Conserved volumes are credited toward Protection Volume Conservation under the 2024 Supplemental EIS or system conservation efforts under the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan.

[2] Mexico additional conservation consistent with Minute 330.

Lake Mead Storage and Conservation*



**End of calendar year 2024 balances of U.S. ICS and Mexico's Water Reserve, system conservation water, and other voluntary contributions to Lake Mead are based on the 2024 Water Accounting Report published on May 15, 2025.*

For more information:

https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/

https://www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION