



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

For immediate release
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2025 COLORADO RIVER WATER ALLOCATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Colorado River water allocations to users in the United States and Mexico will be reduced in 2025.

As agreed by both countries and in accordance with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation projections of elevation levels at Lake Mead, which stores water for delivery to the U.S. Lower Basin States (Arizona, California, Nevada) and Mexico, Colorado River water allocations to the United States and Mexico will be reduced in 2025.

The reduced Colorado River water allocations under the 1944 Water Treaty are in accordance with Minutes 323 and 330, two agreements signed by the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) in 2017 and 2024, respectively.

As specified in Minute 323, both countries reduce the use of their annual Colorado River water allotment when the January 1 Lake Mead elevation is projected to be at or below 1,075 feet. This is in addition to the agreement to undertake water savings based on the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan (BWSCP) starting at elevation 1,090 feet or below that will be recoverable when reservoir conditions improve.

The Bureau of Reclamation today released the August 2024 24-Month Study, which determines the distribution of volumes to the United States and Mexico under low storage conditions for 2025. This study projects a Lake Mead elevation of 1,062.32 feet on January 1, 2025.

Also, Minute 330 establishes a complementary water conservation program for the period 2023-2026 of 400,000 acre-feet (193.396 million cubic meters [mcm]) by Mexico, in addition to the volumes already identified in Minute 323. During this same period, the United States is undertaking a water conservation program of approximately 3 million acre-feet (3,700 mcm).

In 2025, Lower Basin users in the United States will have a reduction of 333,000 acre-feet (411 mcm) and water savings contributions of 200,000 acre-feet (247 mcm) under internal U.S. rules known as the 2007 Interim Guidelines and the 2019 Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan, and approximately 500,000 acre-feet (617 mcm) will be saved under a water conservation plan adopted in 2024. With the above, Lower Basin users in the United States will have a total reduction of approximately 1,033,000 acre-feet (1,275 mcm).

The 2025 annual allocation to Mexico will be reduced by 50,000 acre-feet (62 mcm) and Mexico will contribute 30,000 acre-feet (37 mcm) of recoverable water savings under the BWSCP. Additionally, Mexico will generate at least 200,000 acre-feet (247 mcm) under the Minute 330 water conservation program. With these actions, Mexico's annual Colorado River water deliveries in 2025 will be 1,220,000 acre-feet (1,504 mcm).

“We value our partnership with Mexico as both our countries respond to drought in the basin. These agreements for reduced allocations and recoverable water savings are the result of many years of U.S.-Mexico cooperation on the Colorado River. We will continue to work together to explore opportunities to use water more efficiently,” said Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., U.S. Commissioner of the IBWC.

Mexican IBWC Commissioner Adriana Resendez said, “Application of reductions and recoverable savings as well as investment in water conservation projects in both countries are necessary measures to guarantee the sustainability of the Colorado River basin. Thanks to the water conservation efforts in both countries, additional impacts will be avoided in 2025.” She reiterated Mexico's commitment to continue working on the identification and implementation of projects that help conserve water and protect reservoir levels in the basin, to the benefit of all users, and that permit the Mexican Irrigation District to be prepared for potential future shortage conditions.

The agreements reached for reduced allotments, water conservation, and recoverable savings are a result of United States-Mexico Colorado River cooperation since 2007. These agreements reflect a shared commitment of both countries' governments and stakeholders to work proactively to address the potential for unprecedented reductions on the Colorado River as a result of hydrologic conditions, meeting system demands, and increased temperatures in the basin.

U.S. and Mexican water managers will continue meeting with the goal of identifying potential future actions to address the effects they could face as a result of prolonged scarcity conditions in the basin. The IBWC will also continue reporting periodically on changes in system conditions so that users in both countries can be duly informed.

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