

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Martha McSally, Chair
The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water and Power
Senate Committee on Energy Natural Resources

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chair
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
House Committee on Natural Resources

Dear Chairs McSally and Huffman, Ranking Members Cortez Masto and McClintock:

As business leads with major operations in the Southwest and Colorado River basin, we write to support the seven Colorado River basin states' request that Congress move forward with federal legislation supporting implementation of approved Drought Contingency Plans (DCPs). The states' collective agreement to move forward on these plans comes after years of negotiations, with states pledging proactive conservation measures to safeguard Colorado River water supplies and protect water levels in Lake Mead.

We request that Congress now work to pass companion federal legislation authorizing implementation of the DCPs through the Secretary of the Interior.

Across economic sectors, business operators increasingly recognize the challenges drought has brought to the Southwest and all the Colorado River basin states. Uncertainty around water availability and pricing, combined with pressures from population growth, threaten business operations, economic prosperity, business innovation, investment, and financing.

Businesses need certainty to hire, invest in new facilities and equipment, and continue growing our economy. Right now, companies across the Southwest are facing real risk of water shortage. All seven Colorado basin states have reached agreement through coordinated DCPs, providing a critical step in addressing the region's complex water supply issues. DCP also provides interim security on reservoir operations and water management while longer-term solutions are under negotiation, ensuring that the seven basin states maintain a coordinated dedication to water conservation during negotiations and planning for a drier future.

As a next step, decisive federal passage of DCP implementation legislation is essential to provide a secure water future for agriculture, industry, cities and communities.

Our companies and business organizations have already stepped up to urge state leaders to prioritize drought planning, and many in our group are already taking voluntary steps to reduce our water footprints, conserve water, and contribute to a secure water future.

We look forward to working with you on implementation of federal legislation on the DCPs.

Sincerely,



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CC:

Brenda Berman- Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Robert Snow- Attorney-Advisor, Department of Interior

Carly Jerla- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Lane Dickson- Senate Committee on Energy Natural Resources

Rebecca Bonner- Senate Committee on Energy Natural Resources

Matthew Muirragui- House Committee on Natural Resources

Carlee Brown - House Committee on Natural Resources

Bill Ball- House Committee on Natural Resources

Marnie Kremer- House Committee on Natural Resources

Patrick Tyrrell- Wyoming State Engineer

Eric Millis- Director, Utah Division of Water Resources

John Entsminger- Southern Nevada Water Authority

Peter Nelson- Coachella Valley Water District

Christopher Harris- Colorado River Board of California

Tom Buschatzke- Arizona Department of Water Resources

John Dantonio- New Mexico State Engineer

James Eklund- Squire Patton Boggs, Colorado

Amy Haas- Executive Director, Upper Colorado River Commission