

GREG STANTON
ARIZONA'S 9TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
AND THE INTERNET

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE
207 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-9888

DISTRICT OFFICE
2944 N. 44TH ST., STE. 150
PHOENIX, AZ 85018
(602) 956-2285

STANTON.HOUSE.GOV

June 21, 2022

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1859 C Street NW, #7654
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

The future of Arizona—and the entire American Southwest—depends on how we respond to the growing megadrought crisis in the Colorado River Basin. To avoid the collapse of the Colorado River system which would have catastrophic consequences for our water supply, national security, food and energy production, we need every stakeholder to maintain a steadfast commitment to conservation and drought management.

Last week, you told Congress that additional conservation of 2 million to 4 million-acre-feet is necessary just to protect critical levels in 2023. Meeting that goal will require shared sacrifice among *all* basin users.

I am deeply concerned, though, that not all stakeholders are fully committed to doing their part. California's Resources Control Board reported the state's Colorado River hydrologic region water use hasn't gone down, but actually *increased nearly 41 percent* this April compared to April 2020.¹ In a time of historic drought, that is astounding and unacceptable.

In contrast, Arizonans are doing their part to conserve. The current Tier I shortage under the Drought Contingency Plan has substantially cut Arizona's share—reducing Central Arizona Project's normal supply by 30 percent and our state's total allocation by 18 percent. In addition to these cuts, Arizona is doing even more under the 500 Plus Plan. When factoring these measures and other voluntary conservation efforts, Arizona's contribution to water conservation in Lake Mead this year alone will be approximately

¹ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-06-07/californians-increased-water-use-18-in-april>

800,000 acre-feet.² The cities of Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, and many others have also initiated drought plans to further conserve water.³

As you work to reach agreement with stakeholders to meet this goal, it is imperative that every stakeholder do its fair share to safeguard the Colorado River. Anything less would cause irreparable harm to the system and the millions that depend on it.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

² https://library.cap-az.com/documents/public-information/press-release/CAP-GM-Ted%20Cooke-Statement-BOR-announcement_061422.pdf

³ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2022/05/26/metro-phoenix-cities-cut-back-water-colorado-river-depletes/9894147002/>