

**Aurora Water
Colorado Springs Utilities
Denver Water
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Pueblo Water
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Southern Nevada Water Authority**

August 24, 2022

Commissioner Touton
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Dear Commissioner Touton,

The Colorado River sustains hundreds of communities throughout the West, nourishing the lives and livelihoods of the millions of residents that rely on this essential water supply. Decades of drought, climate change and overuse have reduced the river's once-plentiful flows and upended the supply certainty that has allowed our communities to develop, grow and flourish. Like you, we recognize that achieving balance within the basin is an extraordinary and complex challenge that requires both swift and significant steps to protect the river and its many beneficiaries.

Answering this critical call to action requires individual and collective efforts to conserve the river's limited water supply and protect the vital environmental resources on which we depend. Innovation, action, adaptation, and a shared commitment to stewardship are fundamental steps in this journey and a responsibility we all share.

The signatories of this letter have either approved the enclosed Memorandum of Understanding or are in the process of seeking consideration and approval of the MOU or similar water conservation commitments by their appropriate governing bodies. The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District in Colorado, as a wholesale provider of water to municipalities within its district, supports the commitments in the MOU through the separate letter enclosed.

Our organizations recognize our role in the effort to reduce demands in the Colorado River basin. We come together from across the basin to pledge our commitment to continued water conservation, to reducing our demands for water, and to expanding our efforts to reuse and recycle our water supplies. While we have significantly reduced demands since the onset of the drought, there is more we can and must accomplish.

Achieving the protection storage volumes needed to preserve water and hydropower operations within the Colorado River basin cannot be met by a singular country, basin, state, or water use sector. While municipal water use represents only a small fraction of total Colorado River water use, progress begins with one and then many until we are all moving in the same direction.

We recognize that there is much good we can do if we move toward the same goal and at the pace required. We also understand the consequences of inaction. To that end, we are developing prudent municipal water conservation actions that every community that relies on the Colorado River should be using. In the coming months we will describe the steps our

organizations will take now and codify our commitment to continued effort as we work to ensure our river and the communities it serves continue to thrive. We sincerely hope our commitment to action inspires other stakeholders that share the river to do the same.

Sincerely,

Aurora Water
Marshall Brown, General Manager

Colorado Springs Utilities
Aram Benyamin, Chief Executive Officer

Denver Water
James S. Lochhead, Chief Executive Officer

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager

Pueblo Water
Seth Clayton, Executive Director

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
James W. Broderick, Executive Director

Southern Nevada Water Authority
John J. Entsminger, General Manager