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COMMITTEES
AGING
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

Thank you for your continued leadership on the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. As you begin to prepare the Fiscal Year 2022 Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, I respectfully request that you include not less than \$40 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to implement the Drought Contingency Plan in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

In response to prolonged drought conditions in the Lower Colorado River Basin, the lower basin states and the Bureau of Reclamation negotiated the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) to better conserve scarce water resources in Lake Mead and Lake Powell. While the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* included significant investments to help the Bureau of Reclamation implement DCP programs, with water levels falling faster in Lake Mead and Lake Powell than expected, more resources are urgently needed.

Therefore, I request that not less than \$40 million be provided to the Bureau of Reclamation in the FY22 Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to undertake efforts to conserve water levels in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, and otherwise improve the long-term efficiency in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

Thank you for your important work and leadership. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

