

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Camille Touton  
Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C. Street, NW  
Washington, DC. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton:

We write to request that you move quickly to release funding that Congress appropriated to the Bureau of Reclamation on projects covered by the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan that provide long-term water savings on the Colorado River.

As you are aware, the Colorado River Basin is experiencing the driest condition in more than 1,200 years. To mitigate the impacts of the drought, Congress provided \$250,000,000 in the Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Fund. The purpose of that appropriation is to fund projects in the Basin that: (1) establish or conserve recurring Colorado River water that contributes to supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River water reservoirs in the Lower Basin; and (2) improve the long-term efficiency of operations in the Lower Basin. Congress has also appropriated \$75,000,000 in the last two fiscal years for similar purposes.

As you make this decision, we point you to the attached February 17, 2022, letter to you from the Central Arizona Water Conservation District that outlines priority infrastructure that would improve water management in the Lower Basin. During this historic drought, these are the exact types of projects needed to provide durable long-term savings on the Colorado River. We encourage you to move forward with them as quickly as possible.

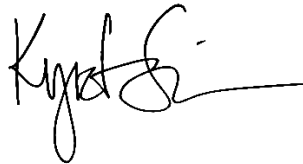
Finally, we request an update no later than early April regarding Reclamation's plans for the expenditure of the balance of the funding described above and the timeline for the completion of any contemplated projects.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for your work on the Colorado River.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress