



## Colorado River Indian Tribes React To Announcements Regarding Declining Water Levels At Lakes Powell And Mead

**(Parker, Ariz.)** The Bureau of Reclamation announced on August 16 that Lakes Powell and Mead are continuing to decline, and the Lower Basin will be in a Tier 2 shortage below elevation 1050 in 2023. As Commissioner Touton said, all of us must work together as partners to protect the Colorado River.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes is in discussions to make water available for system conservation in 2023 and have provided Reclamation and Arizona with our following plan. The CRIT are also developing a multiyear farming and following plan that includes additional conservation measures to be implemented during 2023 and for many years thereafter.

The CRIT appreciate the efforts of Senator Sinema to obtain additional funding for conservation in the Inflation Reduction Act, the efforts of Congressman Grijalva to pass the CRIT Water Resiliency Act in the House and Senator Kelly's continuing effort to push for enactment of the CRIT Resiliency Act in the Senate. These actions will permit CRIT to increase its water conservation on the reservation and to be able to make more water available for off-reservation use increasing the water resiliency for others in the State of Arizona.

After listening to the Reclamation briefing today Chairwoman Flores commented, "We recognize that the decades long drought has reduced the water availability for all of us in the Basin. We continue to conserve water and develop ways to use less water as we adjust to higher temperatures, more wind and less precipitation. Our ancestors lived through droughts and floods before the settlers arrived and built the dams on the Colorado River. We are a resilient people at CRIT and bring this attitude to the way we live and to our efforts to protect the life of the River that is our namesake."

The CRIT have fallowed land since 2016 for system conservation and have contributed over 200,000 acre-feet to Lake Mead raising its elevation by more than three feet and plan to increase their annual contribution in 2023.

**About the Colorado River Indian Tribes:**

The Colorado River Indian Tribes include four distinct Tribes - the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo. There are currently about 4,566 Tribal members. The CRIT Reservation was created in 1865 by the Federal Government for “Indians of the Colorado River and its tributaries,” originally for the Mohave and Chemehuevi, who had inhabited the area for centuries. People of the Hopi and Navajo Tribes were relocated to the reservation in later years. The reservation stretches along the Colorado River on both the Arizona and California side. It includes approximately 300,000 acres of land, with the river serving as the focal point and lifeblood of the area.