

**The Colorado River Commission of Nevada (Commission) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at the Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89155.**

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chairwoman	Puoy K. Premsrirut
Vice Chairwoman	Kara J. Kelley
Commissioner	Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Commissioner	Steve Walton

**DEPUTY ATTORNEY(S) GENERAL**

Special Counsel, Attorney General	Michelle D. Briggs
Special Counsel, Attorney General	David W Newton

**COMMISSION STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Executive Director	Eric Witkoski
Senior Assistant Director	Sara Price
Chief of Finance and Administration	Douglas N. Beatty
Assistant Director, Engineering and Operations	Shae Pelkowski
Assistant Director, Energy Information Systems	Kaleb Hall
Assistant Director, Hydropower	Gail Bates
Assistant Director, Natural Resources	Warren Turkett, Ph.D.
Chief Accountant	Gail L. Benton
Power Systems Operations Manager	Walter Shupe
Hydropower Program Manager	Craig Pyper
Senior Energy Accountant	Hyelim Hong
Senior Energy Accountant	Andrew Weart
Hydropower Analyst	Elissa Emery
System Coordinator	Chris Smith
Application Specialist	John Sagmani
Executive Assistant Manager	Gina L. Goodman
Office Manager	Noah Fischel
Administrative Assistant III	Tamisha Randolph
Administrative Assistant II	Bobbie Hickman

**OTHERS PRESENT: REPRESENTING**

College of Southern Nevada  
City of Henderson  
Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Moss Adams  
Moss Adams  
Overton Power District  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Self

Tina Dobbs  
Becky Risse  
Justin Luna  
JD Menkens  
Chris Suehisa  
Johnathan Denninghoff  
Jordan Bunker  
Alicia Ashcraft

**COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION OF NEVADA**

**MEETING OF**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

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The Colorado River Commission of Nevada (Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Premsrirut at 1:34 p.m., followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**A. Conformance to Open Meeting Law.**

Executive Director, Eric Witkoski, confirmed that the meeting was posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

**B. Comments from the public. Members of the public are invited to comment on items on the meeting agenda or on items not contained therein. No action may be taken on a matter raised during public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item for possible action.**

Chairwoman Premsrirut asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

**C. For Possible Action: Approval of minutes of the September 10, 2024, meeting.**

Commissioner Kirkpatrick moved for approval the minutes of the September 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Kelley and approved unanimously.

**D. For Possible Action: To approve Contract No. CRCGV-01 between successful bidder, Peak Substation Services LLC, and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, based on Bid Solicitation No. 69CRC-S2784 for Distribution Transformers for Southern Nevada Water Authority's Garnet Valley Water System Project in the amount of \$1,588,470 and authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$158,847.**

Mr. Witkoski provided an overview, explaining the contract details and its alignment with the Garnet Valley Project. He invited Mr. Pelkowski to summarize the RFP process. Mr. Pelkowski elaborated that the RFP was distributed to 29 bidders via Nevada E-Pro, resulting in five quotes. After evaluating the submissions against the project specifications and contractual criteria, Peak Substation Services LLC was identified as the most qualified bidder. He noted the inclusion of a 10% contingency, describing it as a standard practice in local contracting.

Chairwoman Premsrirut sought transparency regarding the evaluation team. Mr. Pelkowski confirmed that he, Mr. Beatty, and Mr. Mingura from SNWA constituted the evaluation panel.

Following this, Chairwoman Premsrirut invited comments or questions from the Commissioners. With no further discussion, Commissioner Walton moved to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick. The motion to approve the agreement, including the contingency, passed unanimously.

**E. For Possible Action: To approve Contract No. CRCBC-03 between successful bidder, Virginia Transformer Corporation and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, based on Bid Solicitation No. 69CRC-S2820 for two Power Transformers for the City of Boulder City in the amount of \$3,458,640 and authorize a change order contingency in an amount not to exceed \$345,864.**

Mr. Witkoski introduced the item, noting it relates to the interlocal agreement with Boulder City for the design, procurement, and construction of a replacement electrical substation. Mr. Pelkowski provided additional context, explaining that the RFP was issued to 33 vendors through Nevada E-Pro, yielding ten quotes. The evaluation team, comprising Mr. Pelkowski, Mr. Beatty, and Mr. Stubits from Boulder City, selected Virginia Transformer after rigorous negotiations.

Chairwoman Premsrirut commended the increased number of quotes and asked about potential reasons for the uptick. Mr. Pelkowski attributed it to shifts in the utility industry, with new suppliers stepping up post-COVID to address equipment shortages.

Mr. Pelkowski further clarified that this RFP marked the third attempt for this procurement, ultimately yielding a viable solution. He explained that while the progress payments remained similar to past projects, the absence of base material surcharge risks was a positive development.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick inquired about lead times, observing that transformer availability has been heavily impacted since COVID-19. Mr. Pelkowski confirmed a two-year lead time, which, while long, represents an improvement over extended delays experienced in recent years.

Vice Chairwoman Kelley moved to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Walton. The motion to approve the agreement and contingency passed unanimously.

**F. For Possible Action: Public Comment and Adoption of Language Access Plan pursuant to NRS 232.0081.**

The Commission discussed adopting a Language Access Plan as recent legislation requires to ensure government agencies can provide public materials in multiple languages. Mr. Witkoski explained that although the Colorado River Commission is not heavily involved in public-facing interactions, the organization is prepared to translate materials when necessary. The website includes a feature that can convert text into various languages, which was demonstrated during the meeting.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick raised concerns about translation accuracy, particularly for Asian languages, and inquired about the technology used. Mr. Witkoski acknowledged that while translation requests are infrequent for the Commission, funding is available through the state to support such initiatives. He also mentioned that other state agencies are exploring advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, to enhance translation and documentation efficiency.

Chairwoman Premsrirut opened the floor for public comment, but none was provided. Following the discussion, Vice Chairwoman Kelley moved to adopt the plan, allowing Mr. Witkoski to make adjustments as necessary to comply with statutory requirements. Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**G. *For Possible Action:* Consideration of and possible action to appoint Shae Pelkowski as a Board Member from the Colorado River Commission of Nevada to serve on the Silver State Energy Association (SSEA) Board of Directors and approve Shae Pelkowski to serve, if selected by the SSEA board, as its chairman or vice chairman; or alternatively appoint another person to fulfill the role.**

Mr. Witkoski explained that this item was revisited after prior discussions about appointing him to the role but concluded that Mr. Pelkowski, as Assistant Director of Engineering and Operations, was a more appropriate choice. This aligns with precedent, as his predecessor, Mr. Bob Reese, previously held the position.

Chairwoman Premsrirut noted the historical overlap in duties that justified this arrangement and confirmed that Mr. Beatty would continue serving as the SSEA board alternate.

Vice Chairwoman Kelley moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick. The motion to appoint Mr. Pelkowski to the SSEA board, with Mr. Beatty as the alternate, was unanimously approved.

**H. *For Information Only:* Update on budget submitted for the FY 2026 and FY 2027 and related matters and upcoming 2025 Legislative session.**

The Commission received an update on the budget preparation for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and related legislative matters. Mr. Beatty reported that the Budget Office and Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) fiscal staff submitted questions regarding the Commission's base budget. These questions were fewer in number and less complex than in previous cycles, indicating a stronger understanding of the Commission's operations. He confirmed the enhancement requests would be addressed as determined by the Governor.

Mr. Witkoski highlighted a recent visit by LCB fiscal representatives to the Commission's facilities, where they toured substation projects and gained insight into the operations. He emphasized the importance of educating stakeholders about the Commission's role in energy and infrastructure.

Discussion also addressed a state-requested reclassification study of unclassified and classified positions. Mr. Witkoski noted concerns about potential impacts, particularly the administrative burden of reclassifying positions established over 20 years ago. Chairwoman Premsrirut and Commissioners Kelley and Kirkpatrick stressed the significance of maintaining the unclassified status for flexibility and specialization, advocating for clear communication of the Commission's unique needs to new legislators.

Vice Chairwoman Kelley suggested reviewing positions to provide additional justification for their classification. Commissioner Kirkpatrick recommended preparing a

straightforward presentation, including comparisons to other states, to educate legislators about the Commission's role and challenges. Mr. Witkoski agreed to incorporate these recommendations into ongoing preparations for the legislative session.

**I. *For Information Only: Update on pending legal matters, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada filings and Federal Legislation.***

Mr. Witkoski provided an update on federal legislation. He highlighted ongoing efforts related to the Hoover Dam Act, which involves approximately \$48 million. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) unexpectedly assigned a fiscal score to the legislation, treating it as treasury spending despite previous assurances to the contrary. The Commission is collaborating with partners in Arizona and California to challenge this interpretation and expects further developments in the coming week.

No questions or comments were raised by the Commission.

**J. *For Information Only: Status update from Staff on the hydrological conditions, drought, and climate of the Colorado River Basin, Nevada's consumptive use of Colorado River water, basin negotiations, impacts on hydropower generation, electrical construction activities and other developments on the Colorado River.***

Mr. Turkett presented an update on hydrological conditions, drought impacts, and developments in the Colorado River Basin (Attachment A). He reported promising precipitation levels, with the Upper Basin at 111% of average precipitation for the start of water year 2025. Snowpack accumulation improved after an initial dry period in October, reaching 120% of the median, with additional precipitation and cooler temperatures forecasted.

He detailed projected elevations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, noting the anticipated runoff and variability in scenarios due to snowpack and side inflows. By December 2025, Lake Powell's elevation is projected to range between 3,579.1 and 3,538.4 feet, while Lake Mead is expected to be between 1,060 and 1,054.6 feet. Current projections indicate that Lake Mead will remain in a Level 1 shortage condition for the next two years.

Regarding water usage, Southern Nevada has recorded a 9% decrease in consumptive use compared to the three-year average, with 167,949 acre-feet consumed between January and September 2025.

Chairwoman Premsrirut noted that projections show a continued Level 1 shortage without crossing into Level 2 conditions, a more optimistic outlook compared to recent concerns. No further questions or comments were raised by Commissioners.



**K. Comments from the public. Members of the public are invited to comment on items on the meeting agenda or on items not contained therein. No action may be taken on a matter raised during public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item for possible action.**

Chairwoman Preamsirut asked if there were any comments from any member of the public present in the Chamber or any member of the public participating remotely that wish to address the Commission. There were none.

**L. Comments and questions from the Commission members.**


Chairwoman Preamsirut asked if there were any comments or questions from the Commission members. There were none.

**M. Selection of the next possible meeting date.**

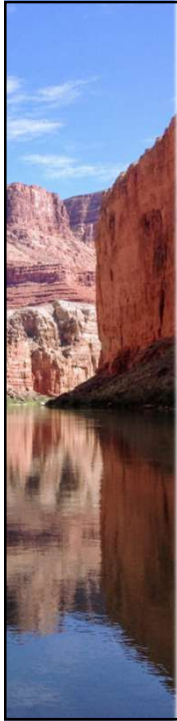
The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on December 10, 2024, at the Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.

**N. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

  
Eric Witkoski, Executive Director

APPROVED:  
  
Puoy K. Preamsirut, Chairwoman



# Colorado River Commission of Nevada

## Hydrology and River Updates

Warren Turkett

November 12, 2024

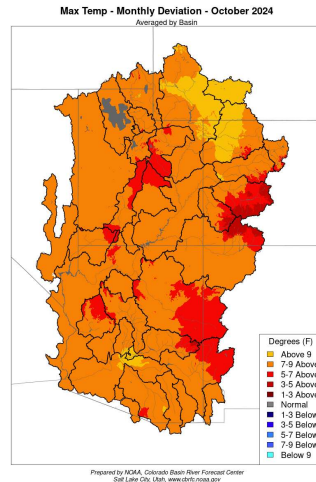
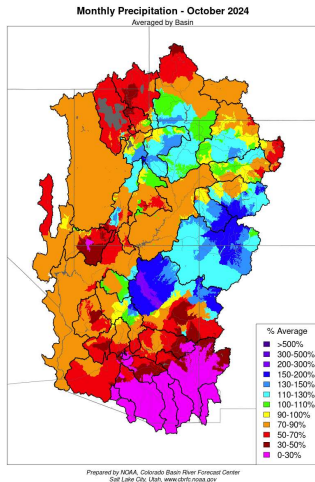


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## Precipitation and Temperature

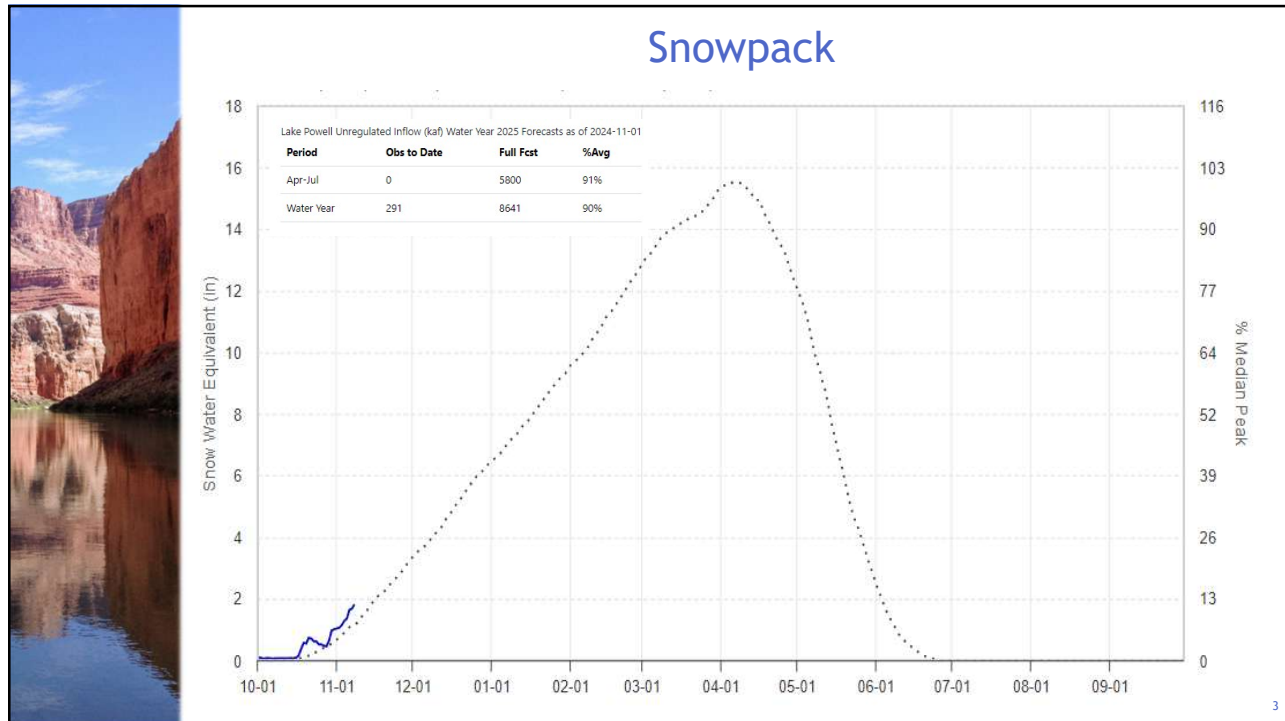


Lake Powell %Average Precipitation Water Year 2025

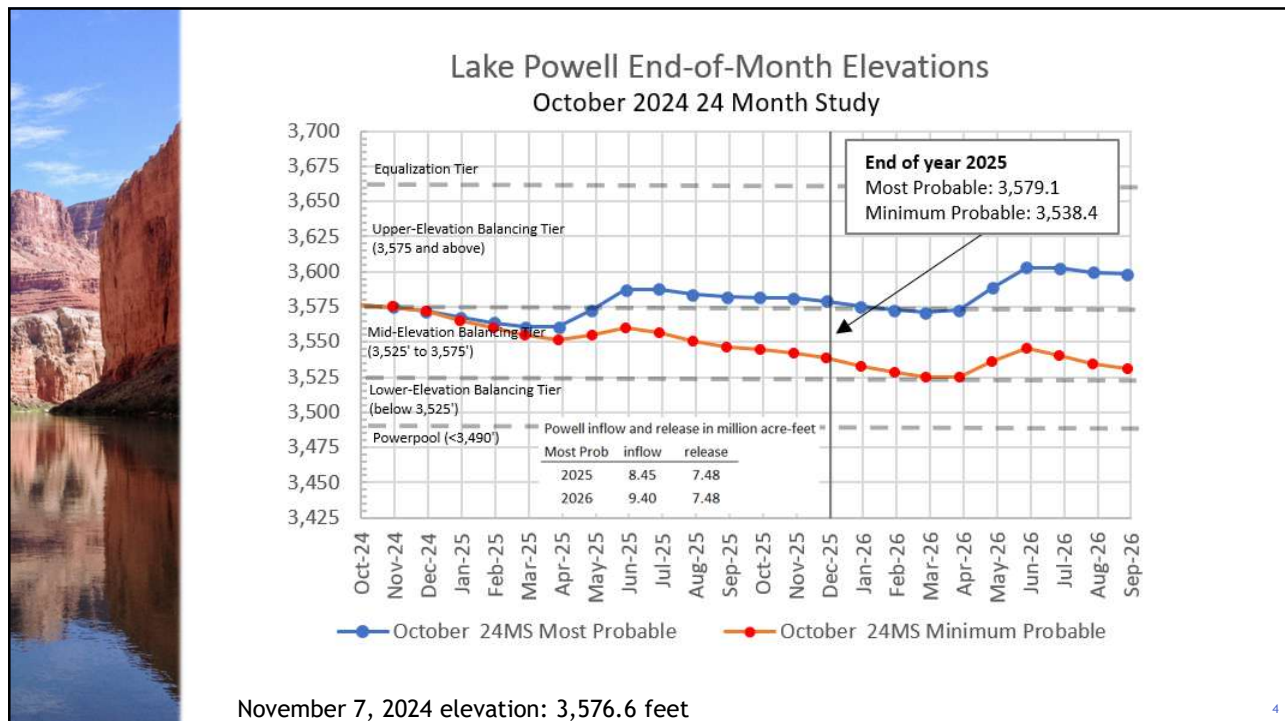
Area	Oct	Water Year
UC-Powell	111	111

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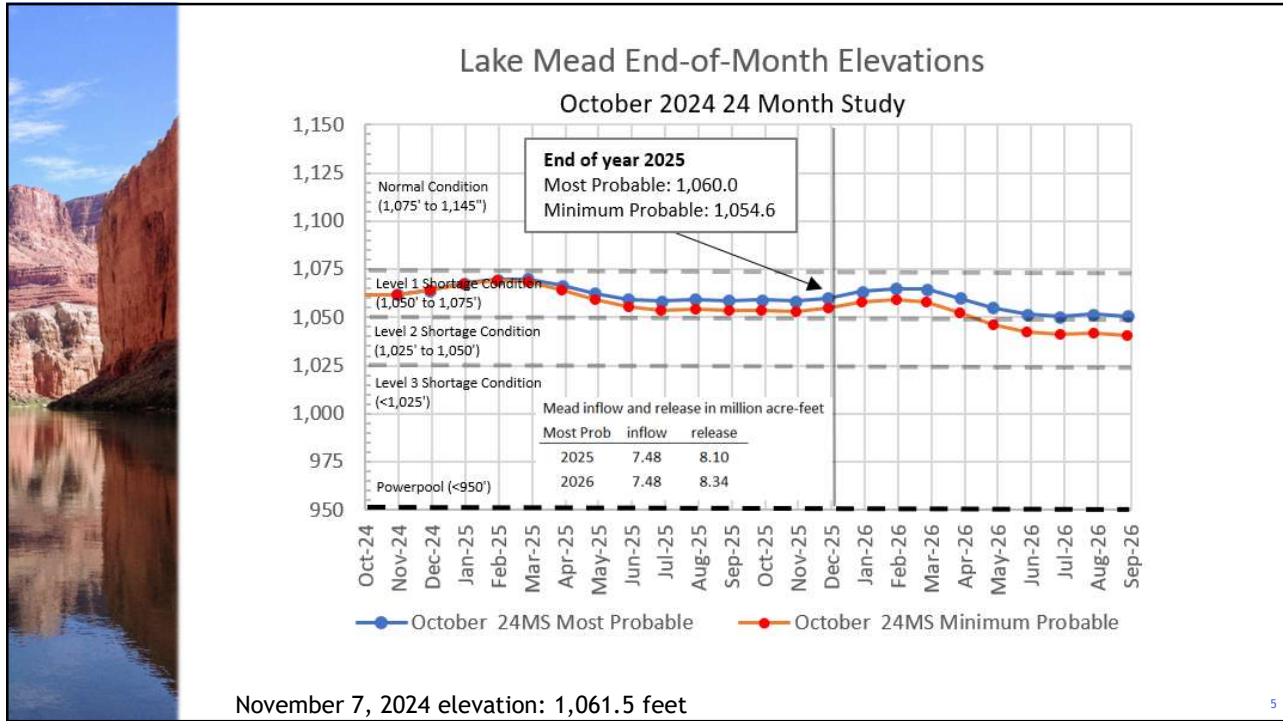
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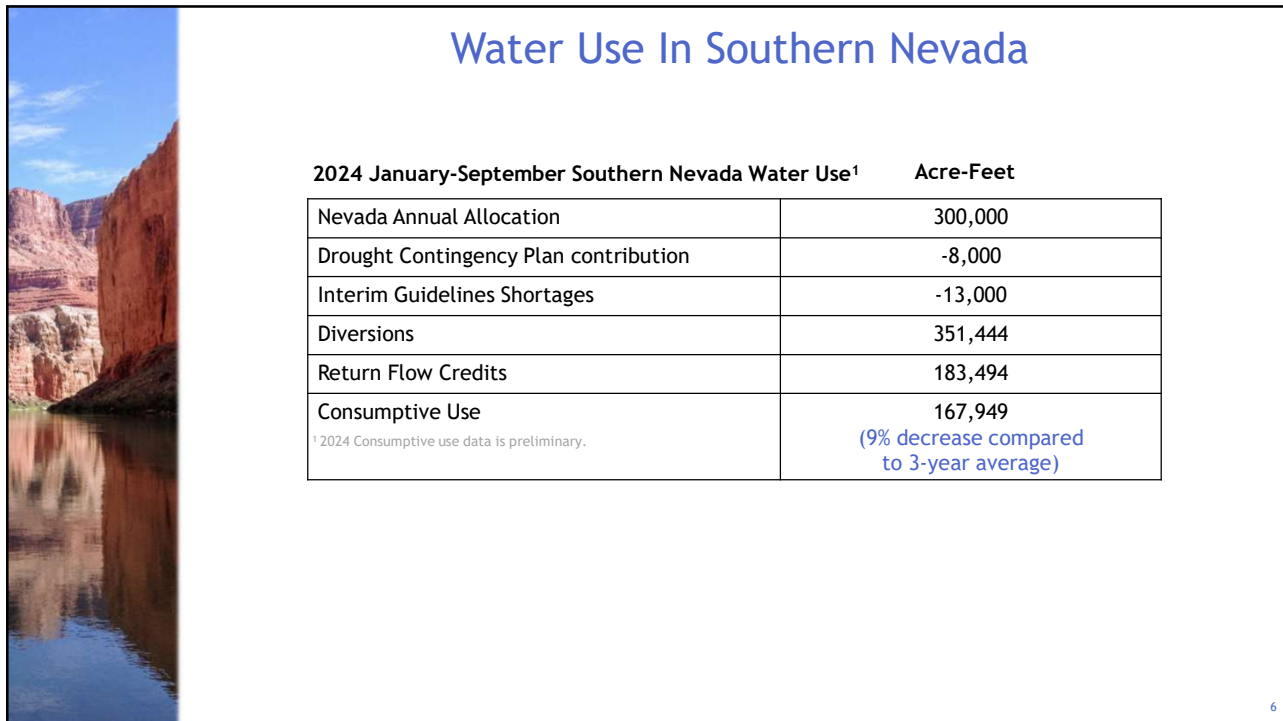
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