

Modeling California's Alternative for managing Lakes Powell & Mead through 2026

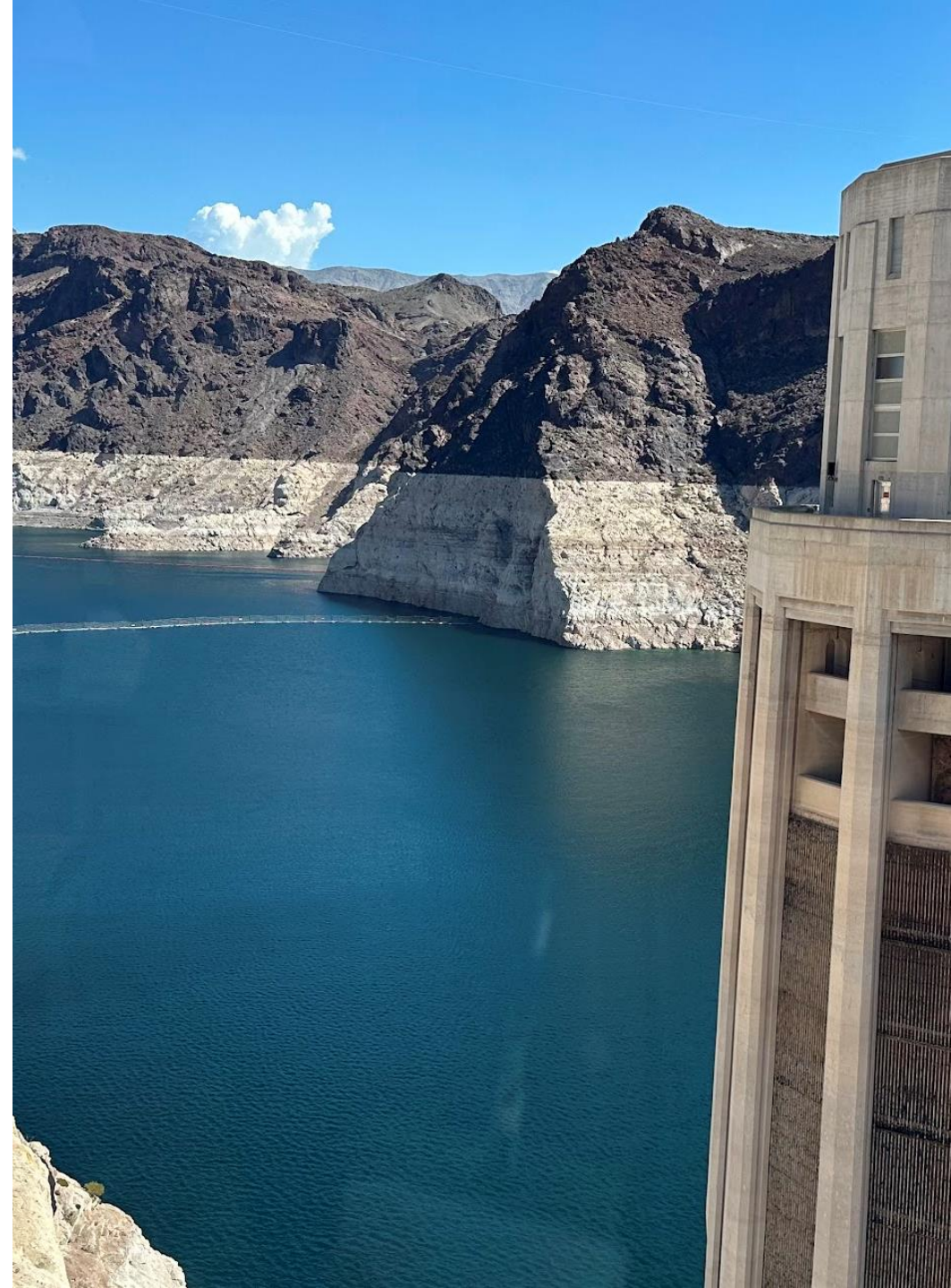
CWEMF – April 15, 2023

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Colorado River Board of California

Context

- **Millenium drought -> declining storage in Lakes Powell & Mead**
- In November, 2022 the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation issued a Notice of Intent to prepare a **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)** to modify the 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines for operating Lakes Powell and Mead, which expires at the end of 2026
- In late January 2023, two alternatives were submitted by Colorado basin states to help protect Lakes Powell & Mead:
 - “6-States Alternative” (all basin states except CA)
 - “California Alternative”
- At the Colorado River Board, we have been modeling the California Alternative



Modeling SEIS with RiverWare

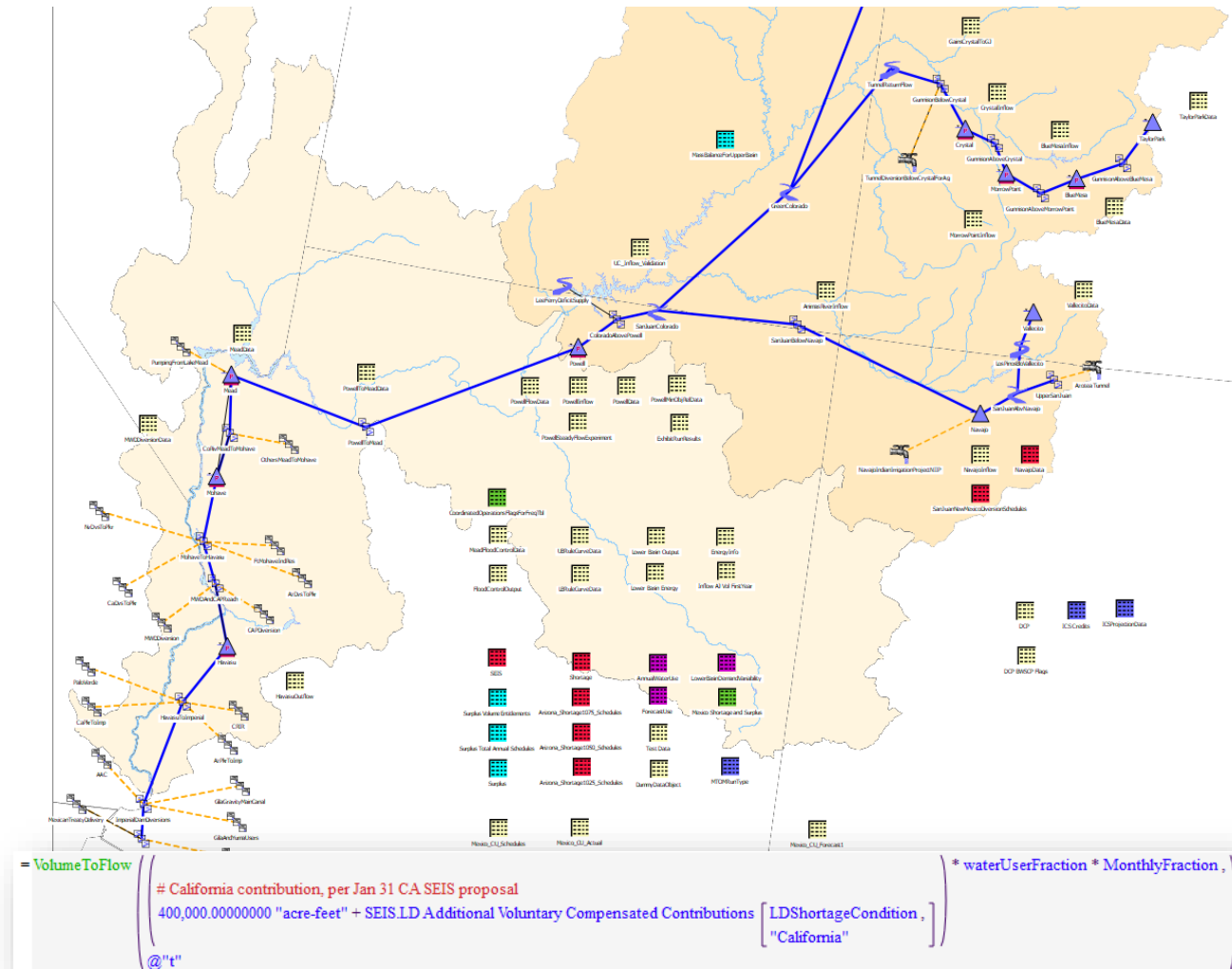
CA Proposal objectives

- **Keep Lake Powell above 3,500'**
- **Keep Lake Mead above 1,000'**
- **Minimize basin-wide shortages**

CA Proposal

- Upper Basin reserve releases up to 500 KAF
- Upper Basin demand reduction up to 500 KAF
- Lower Basin demand reduction up to 1.0 MAF if Mead $\geq 1,025'$
- Additional Lower Basin shortages if Mead projected to be less than 1,025'
- Other misc. operations

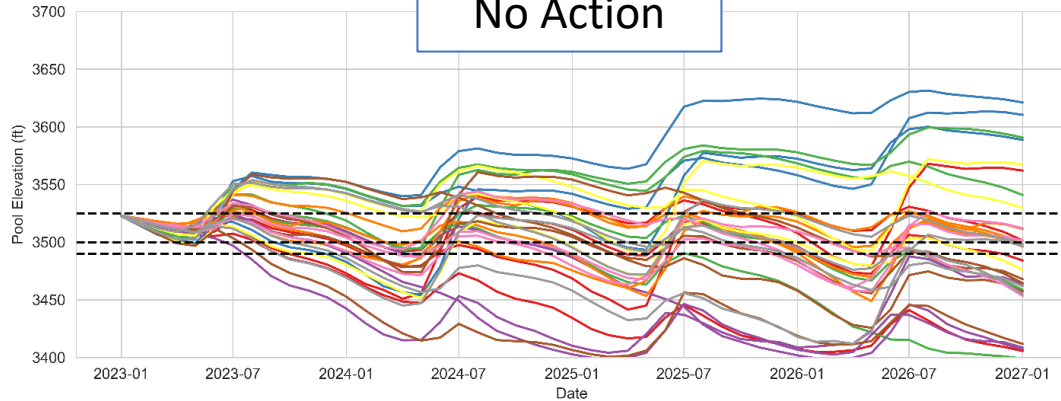
Colorado River Mid-term Modeling System (CRMMS)



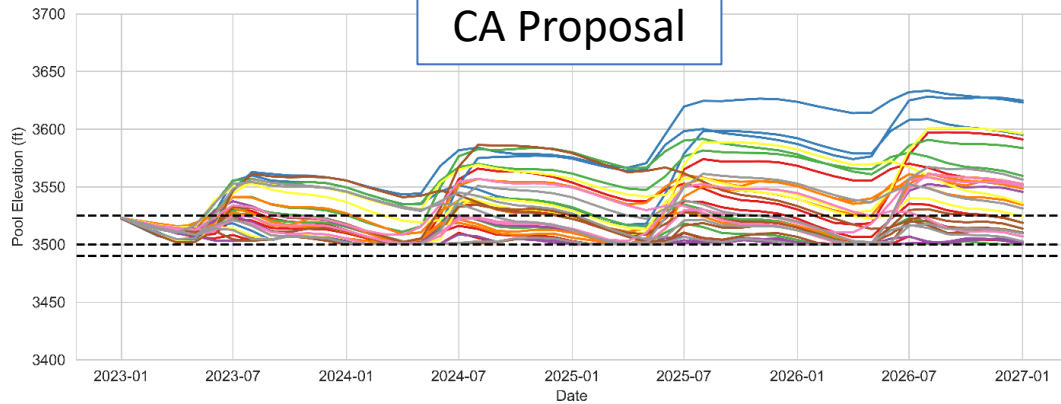
Modeling in RiverWare

Lake Powell Elevation

No Action

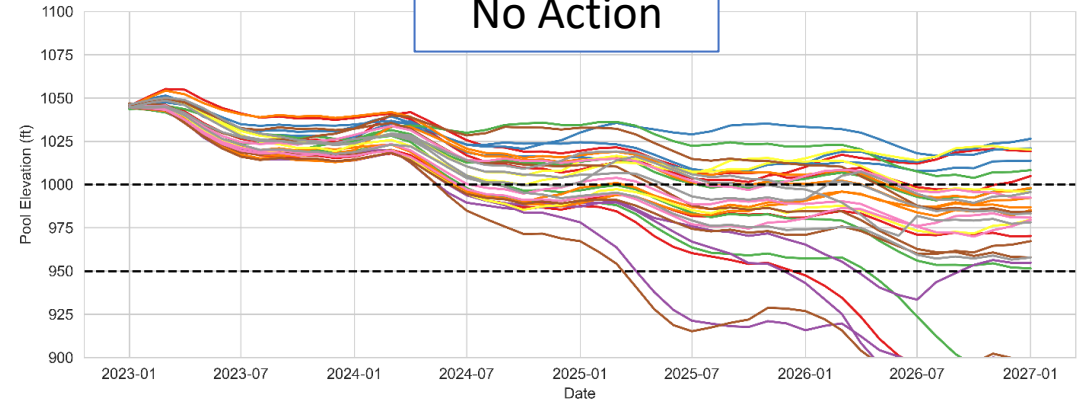


CA Proposal

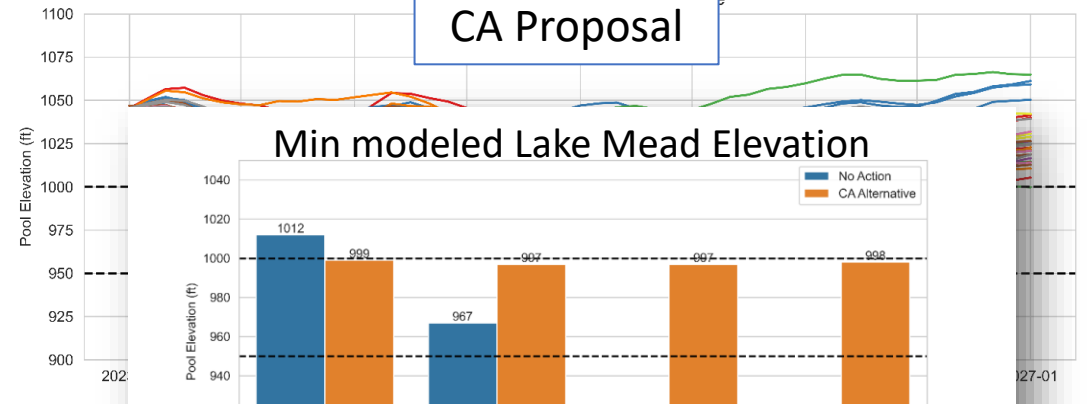


Lake Mead Elevation

No Action



CA Proposal



Min modeled Lake Mead Elevation

