

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

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

Dear Secretary Haaland, Secretary Blinken, and Commissioner Touton,

The ongoing Colorado River drought situation necessitates action by the federal government to assist in identifying new long-term sources of water to meet the needs of Lower Basin states. Arizona has long been a partner with the Basin States and the federal government to manage this critical resource and desires to continue to be partner with the federal government in augmenting Colorado River supplies.

Earlier this year, Arizona approved a \$1 billion investment for water augmentation projects. These recent actions demonstrate Arizona's commitment to invest in water supply projects that support the State's growing population and to confront the serious conditions on the Colorado River.

While the fund does not commit the state to any specific projects, one project under consideration would require a binational agreement between the United States and Mexico to support desalination efforts in the Gulf of California. According to a study undertaken by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2012, desalination in the Gulf of California has a potential yield of 200,000 acre feet of water per year¹. That water could be transported to the United States by pipeline or exchanged for a share of Mexico's Colorado River allotment. Arizona is prepared to discuss this effort in more detail but needs the assistance of the federal government to bring representatives from Mexico to the table.

¹https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy/finalreport/Executive%20Summary/Executive_Summary_FIN_AL_Dec2012.pdf

We urge you to support Arizona in discussions and use all of the diplomatic tools at your disposal to ensure that representatives of the Mexican government are engaging with the State and the International Boundary and Water Commission. Engagement with Mexico is vital to explore opportunities for augmentation and to address the serious drought situation on the Colorado River.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



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

/s/

Eli Crane
Member of Congress Elect

/s/

Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress Elect