CAP
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

Resolution of the Board of Directors
of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District
December 2, 2024

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties, an area that represents approximately eighty percent of the population of Arizona, the Board oversees the management and affairs of the District, which diverts Colorado River water and delivers it through the Central Arizona Project to the three-county area; and

WHEREAS, the United States has undertaken a process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act for the adoption of successor guidelines to the expiring 2007 Guidelines for the Coordinated Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead (the "NEPA Process"); and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2024 the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada submitted to the United States for consideration in the NEPA Process the Lower Basin Alternative, a compromise proposal that protects the Colorado River, provides for significant cuts in use to the Lower Basin and modest cuts to the Upper Basin, and that is reasonable, feasible, and fully compliant with the Law of the River; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2024 the United States released its Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operational Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Narrative of National Environmental Policy Act Alternatives ("Alternatives Narrative"), listing the alternatives it proposes to analyze in the NEPA Process; and

WHEREAS, the Alternatives Narrative fails to comply with or consider the impacts on the United States and the Upper Basin of compliance with the Colorado River Compact of 1922 ("Compact"), including a Compact call (the requirement that the flow at Lee Ferry equal a minimum of 75 million acre-feet over a rolling ten-year period, plus one-half the annual amount of water necessary to meet the requirements of the 1944 treaty with Mexico), which renders the NEPA Process deficient; and

WHEREAS, the United States has indicated that it will not advance the Lower Basin Alternative for full analysis in the NEPA Process, prematurely excluding it and leaving no alternative under consideration that contemplates reductions to the Upper Basin, which also renders the NEPA Process deficient; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved:

> The Board calls on the United States to (i) evaluate the impacts of Compact compliance, including a Compact call, as a reasonably foreseeable event that must be analyzed under any alternative other than the Lower Basin alternative, and (ii) advance the Lower Basin Alternative for full analysis in the NEPA Process.

Terry Goddard
CAWCD Board President

Karen Cesare
CAWCD Board Secretary