



October 25, 2022

Deb Haaland
U.S. Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

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

RE: Memorandum of Understanding

Dear Secretary Haaland and Commissioner Calimlim Touton:

The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to efficient and sustainable water resource practices in North America. Our members recognize the growing challenge presented by drought and climate change. We also understand the critical importance of conservation and efficiency in ensuring the reliability of essential water supplies, particularly in the Colorado River Basin (CRB), where current conditions are upending water and power security for 40 million people.

AWE values your work with the basin states to identify actions to rapidly implement strategies to reduce consumptive water demand and address both the immediate and long-term water crisis. Reclamation has a number of tools available, including the *WaterSmart* grant program and the \$4 billion recently appropriated with the Inflation Reduction Act for western drought response. (See our coalition letter to both of you on this topic dated September 1, 2022.) States can advance water efficiency by providing financial and technical assistance to local water agencies, businesses, and home owners and by adopting policies and requirements that help ensure best practices.

Because water services are generally delivered, and largely funded, by local water utilities and cities, local and regional policies and programs are very important for advancing water efficiency. With this in mind, we want to recognize municipal and public water use sector leaders within the CRB who have committed to expanding water efficiency programs to create sustained, cost-effective reductions in consumptive water use demand, including reducing non-functional turf, increasing reuse and recycling programs, and implementing a variety of water efficiency and conservation best practices.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by a growing number of water providers is a positive and necessary step to help address current Colorado River conditions. We urge other water providers within the basin to join their peers in prioritizing water conservation and efficiency to benefit the entire Colorado River community.

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AWE believes a sustainable, long-term plan for the CRB requires a coordinated suite of local, state and federal strategies to reduce water demand commensurate with what the CRB can realistically supply given the new normal of hotter, drier weather. AWE stands ready to support Reclamation and the CRB states as well as communities, businesses and individuals with tools and resources to pursue sustainable water management. Our programs provide a ready and reliable resource for Colorado River stakeholders as they work toward rapid implementation of proven water efficiency strategies to reduce consumptive demand.

Please let me know if we can be of assistance or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "B".

Ron Burke
President and CEO