



Southern Advisory Council (SAC) Recommendations to the CRAU Board on Post-2026 Operation Guidelines January 4, 2024

We would like to thank Commissioner Shawcroft for providing us with the opportunity to offer suggestions for the post-2026 negotiations.

It is our hope that in all post-2026 and other related discussions, as a general rule, the representatives from the state of Utah will push to ensure that decisions are made with realistic growth, housing, and conservation needs in mind. We also urge the state to seek ways to share any future curtailments or related sacrifices across all state water users and to ensure that certain regions do not bear disproportionate burdens.

On behalf of the Southern Advisory Council, we would like to formally submit the following nine recommendations for your consideration:

- Protect the Virgin River Basin for Utah's use
- Allow states to use their respective Colorado River allocations wherever needed within their borders
- Safeguard upper basin storage
- Establish and require consistent water use measurement and reporting processes amongst all system users, which include accounting for system loss and evaporation
- Create a sustainable structure where water use is based on allocations adjusted for hydrological conditions and available storage
- Federally created compensation incentives to minimize use should apply equally to users in the upper and lower basins
- Prioritize the settlement of any outstanding tribal water rights so states can better manage their respective river allocation
- Continue promoting and incentivizing conservation initiatives
- Support infrastructure investments, agricultural water optimization efforts, water reuse and desalination projects, and the installation of secondary water meters