

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

September 5, 2018

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water
2362-B Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur,

I write to express my grave concern about the decision of the Administration to defund critical programs that help protect the health and sustainability of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. This misguided decision could negatively impact the future of all seven states in the Colorado River Basin. I urge you to prohibit the Administration from pursuing this effort as you advance the Energy and Water appropriations process.

It is my understanding that the Western Area Power Administration was ordered by the Office of Management and Budget to send \$23 million from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund to the United States Treasury, starting October 1, 2018. This decision would jeopardize the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC), as well as other important programs. We cannot allow the reprogramming of funds which would have tremendous impact on the management of the Colorado River without Congressional approval.

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program provides an organization and process for cooperative integration of dam operations, downstream resource protection and management, monitoring, and research information. The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program is a dynamic process where critical stakeholders come together to make decisions in the best interests of the Colorado River and those who depend on it. The GCDAMP relies on the U.S. Geological Survey's Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center for scientific research to make the best decisions for the Upper Colorado River Basin. The GCMRC provides the public and decision makers with scientific information about the status and trends of natural, cultural, and recreational resources found in Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The Grand Canyon is a unique resource and we must protect it by ensuring we have access to the information provided by the GCMRC and by prohibiting the Administration from unilaterally ending it alongside the GCDAMP.

On behalf of communities across the West who depend on these critical programs, I urge you to prohibit the diversion of funds from GCDAMP and the GCMRC in the final Energy and Water appropriations legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress