



City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

CITY COUNCIL BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Regular Special

Meeting Date: January 20, 2026

Title: Lower Colorado River Tour 2026

Background: The Water Education Foundation conducts an annual tour of the Lower Colorado River. The tour began in Las Vegas, NV, and travels along the Colorado River visiting many of the critical users. Highlighted stops are the Hoover Dam, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Central Arizona Project, Metropolitan Water District intake pumping plant, Imperial Dam and many others.

Planned Stops Include:

- Hoover Dam
- Lake Mead
- Central Arizona Project's Mark Wilmer Pumping Plant
- Havasu National Wildlife Refuge
- Whitsett Intake Pumping Plant on the Colorado River Aqueduct
- Farms in the Palo Verde, Imperial & Coachella valleys
- Imperial Dam and the All-American Canal
- The Salton Sea

Planned Topics Include:

- Law of the River
- Drought conditions & contingency planning in the Colorado River Basin
- Lower Basin state perspectives – Arizona, California & Nevada
- Tribal water rights & use
- The Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)
- Warren H. Brock Storage Reservoir & lining the All-American Canal
- Binational water management
- Agricultural water use, drainage issues & salinity
- Urban use, history & development
- The Colorado River Basin Study
- Endangered species & the Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP)
- Salton Sea restoration
- Climate change

Tour Start & End Points:

- The tour starts at 7:30 a.m. on March 11 in Las Vegas and ends at Ontario International Airport in California at 6:30 p.m. on March 13.

The tour includes overnight stays in Lake Havasu City, AZ, and Winterhaven, CA, which are arranged by the Foundation and covered by the registration fee.



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The tour begins at the Hilton Garden Inn Las Vegas Strip South. Staff will drop off the Board Members in Las Vegas and pick them up at the Salton Sea to return to Needles.

Note: The tour is currently sold out; however, if any of the Board Members would like to attend, then staff will put them on the waitlist.

Fiscal Impact: General administration is \$999 per individual

Environmental Impact: None

Recommended Action: Authorize Commissioners _____ to attend the Lower Colorado River Tour scheduled for March 11 – 13, 2026; on the waitlist.

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 1/14/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____