



City of Needles
Present Perfected
Rights ("PPR")



City of Needles Present Perfected Rights ("PPR")

What are Present Perfected Rights?

Present Perfected Rights (PPRs) are the **most senior, earliest water rights on the Colorado River**, established under state law before federal acts like the 1922 Colorado River Compact, **giving them first priority for water use and making them last to be curtailed during shortages**, though their exact definition and quantification have evolved through Supreme Court cases like *Arizona v. California* and the "[Law of the River](#)".

These rights form a crucial, high-priority component of the complex Colorado River water allocation system, often tied to specific lands and uses, like those for Native American tribes or older



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- Since 1885, the City has had Present Perfected Rights ("PPR") under Contract No. 05-XX-30-W0445.
- The Contract is listed in the Consolidated Degree of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of *Arizona v. California et al.*
- PPR #43 - 1,500 acre-feet ("AF") of diversion from the Colorado River ("River"), which provides 950 AF of consumptive use.
- In 1995, the City purchased additional PPR from the Santa Fe Railway Company for 1,250 AF of diversion and 273 AF of consumption, PPR #44.
- Together, the City can divert up to 2,760 AF of



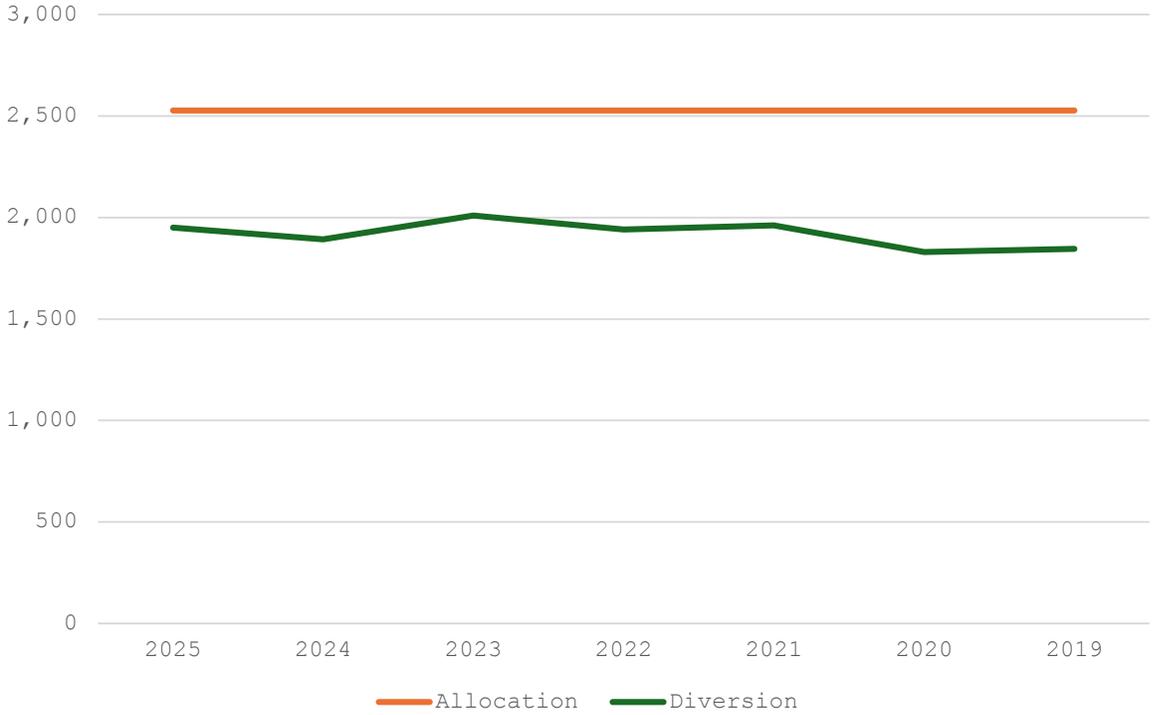
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- The City of Needles is also allocated 527 acre-feet per year through management of the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project.
- The City completed a Phase 1 SCIA pilot project for turf removal at the River's Edge Golf Course on April 15, 2016, which reduces the annual diversion by 232 acre-feet for ten years, expiring in 2026. In total, the City of Needles is allocated to divert 2,261 AF annually.



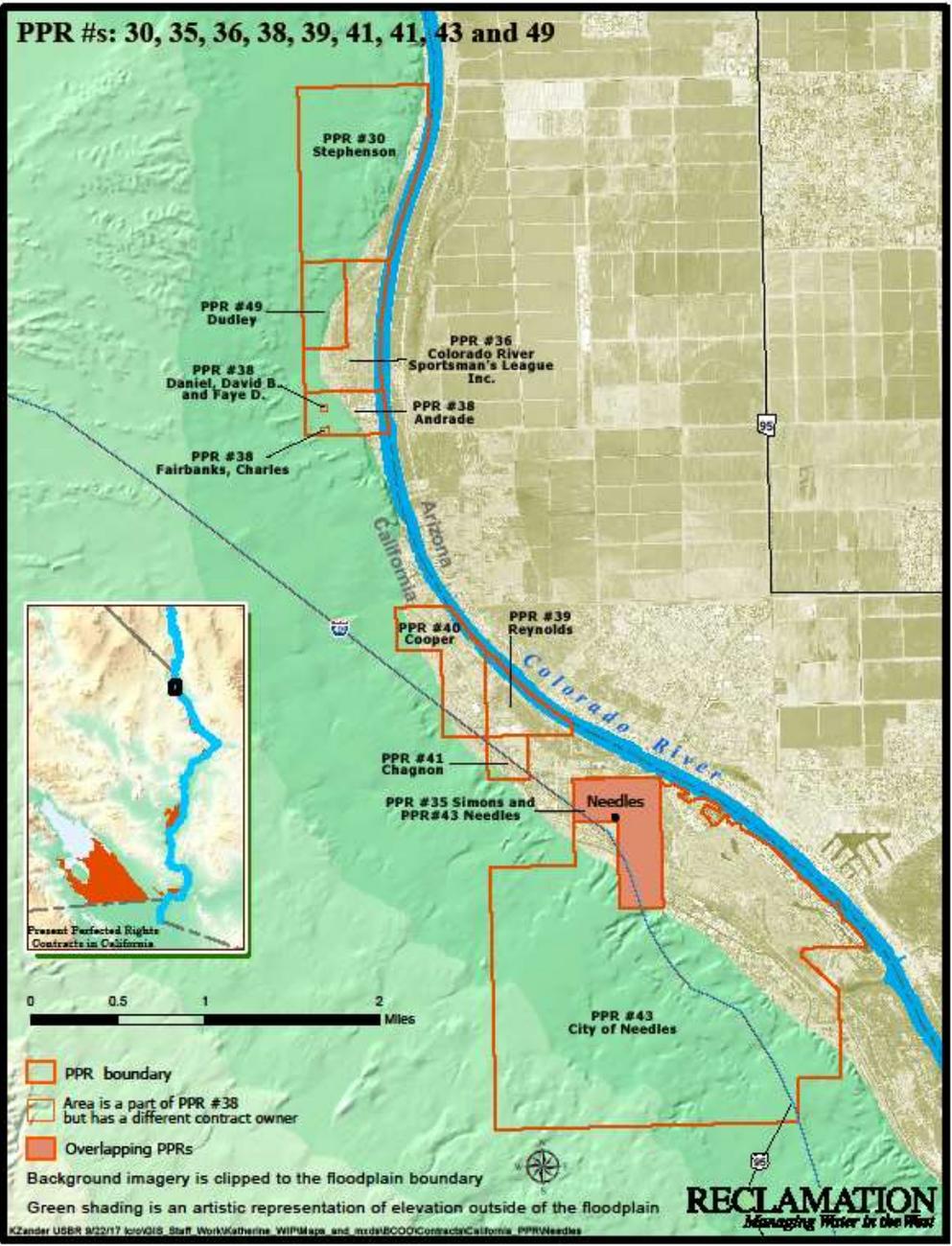
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Annual Consumption vs. Diversion





PPR #s: 30, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 41, 43 and 49





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Future

- A number of reservoir and water management decisional documents and agreements that govern the operation of Colorado River facilities and the management of Colorado River water are currently scheduled to expire at the end of 2026.
- The Draft EIS analyzes a broad range of reasonable alternatives for the operational elements identified in the proposed federal action. These alternatives were developed through extensive engagement with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, as well as the general public, over a period of over three years.
- Despite this extensive engagement, this Draft EIS does **not identify a Preferred Alternative** due to the current absence of a consensus-based approach to post-2026 reservoir operations among Basin entities.



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The Bureau of Reclamation's Post-2026 Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* today, January 16, 2026. This initiates the 45-day public comment period, which will close on March 2, 2026. Comments may be submitted via the following methods:

Email to: crbpost2026@usbr.gov

Telephone: (602) 609-6739

Mail to: Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: BCOO-1000, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006

Reclamation will hold two virtual public meetings to provide information on the Draft EIS. The schedule and registration links are provided below.

Virtual meeting – **Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Mountain Time (Registration Link:

https://swca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0YXCatFjSFC5Y_SYgcjS5g#/registration)