



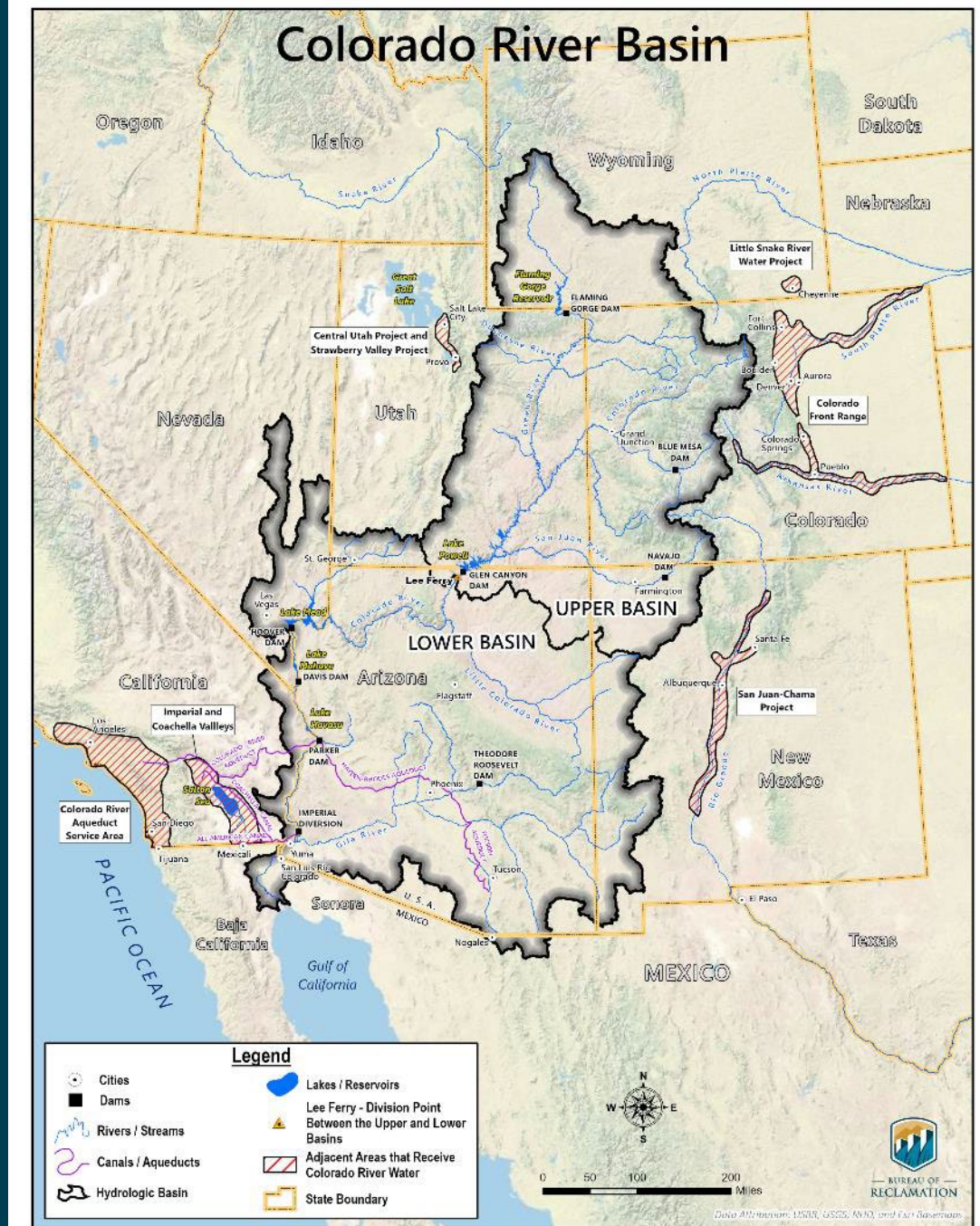
— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# Sustaining the Colorado River System

Jaci Gould, Regional Director  
Lower Colorado Basin Region

# Colorado River Basin

- Nearly 40 million people rely on the Colorado River and its tributaries
- Irrigates nearly 5.5 million acres of land
- Hydropower facilities supply more than 4,200 megawatts of power
- Operated in accordance with the “Law of the River”, which governs operations and water deliveries
- In 2000, the Colorado River System was 95% full; today, it's 44%





1922



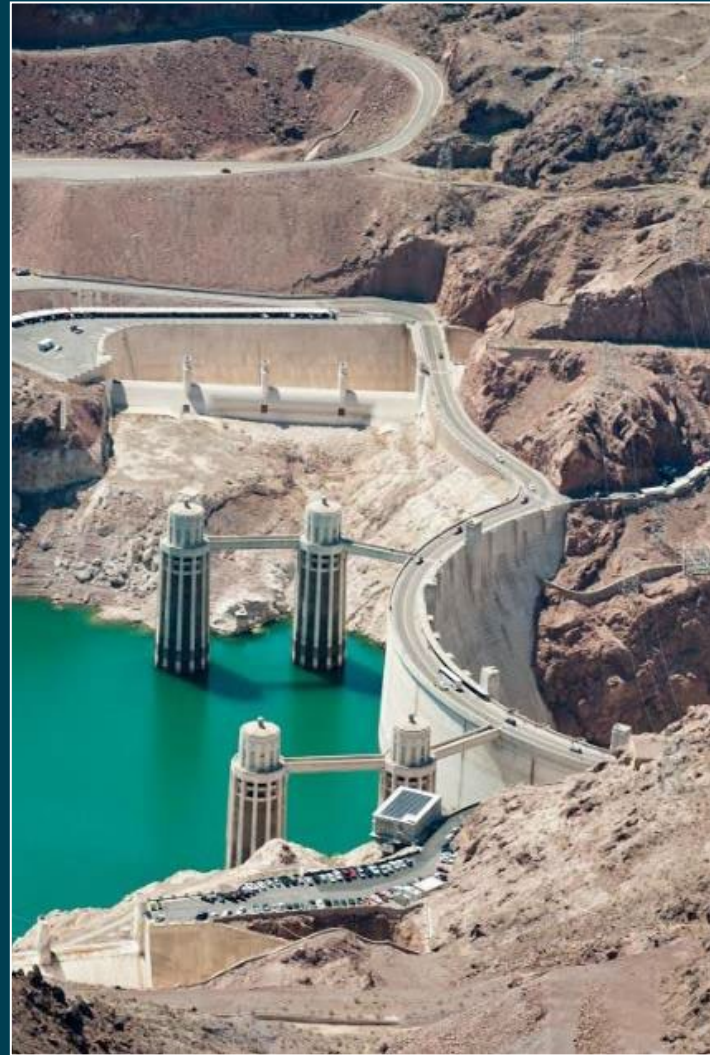
2022

# Colorado River Compact Collaboration



100+ years of the Colorado River Compact provides an opportunity to reflect on the past and collaborate to build on the future to sustain the Colorado River System for the next 100 years and beyond

# Colorado River Drought

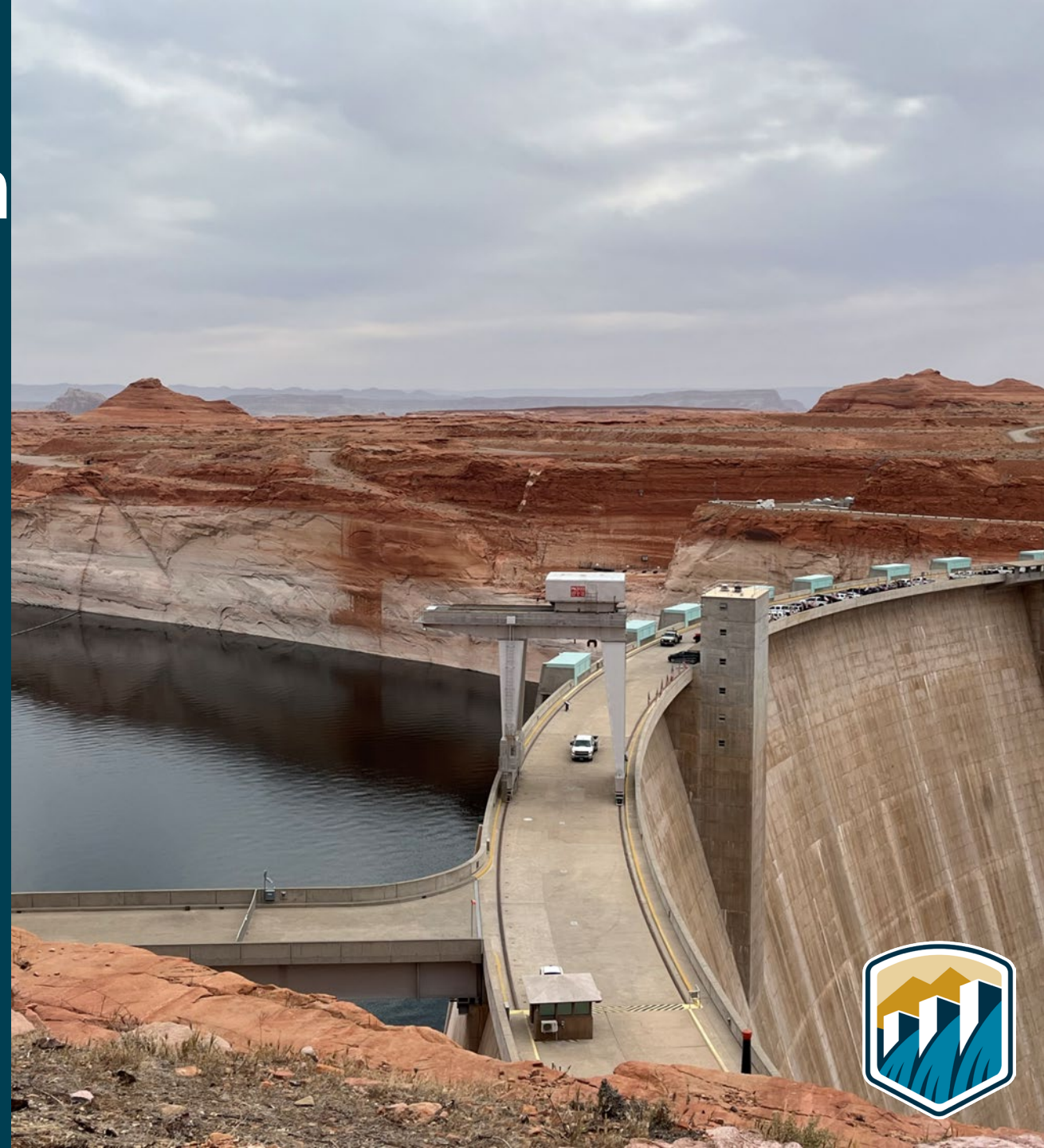


- Driest 23-year period on record
- Water Year 2021 – second driest Lake Powell inflow since 1964
- Lake Powell and Lake Mead near historically low water levels
  - Lake Powell 38% of capacity
  - Lake Mead 34% of capacity



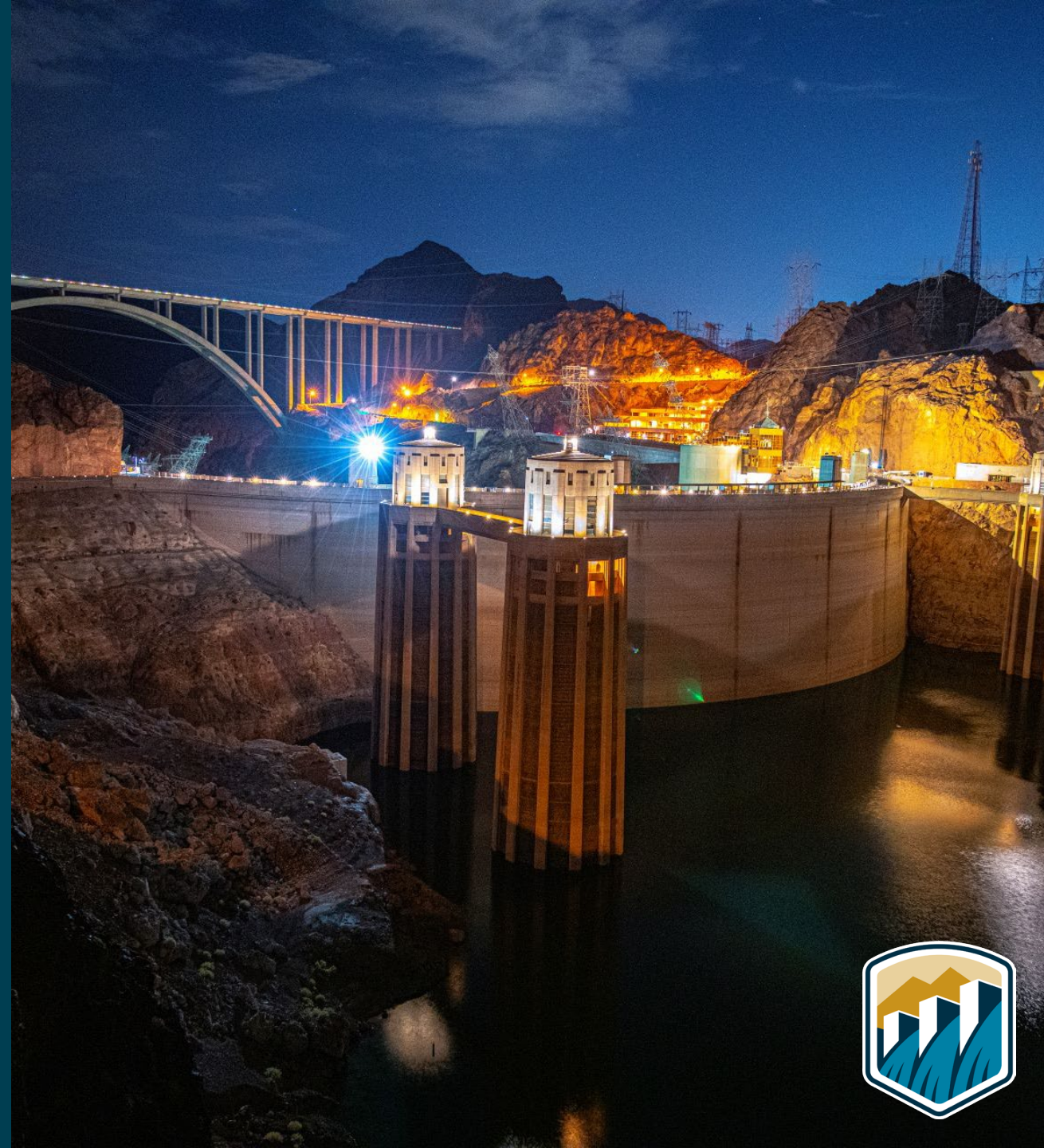
# Protecting the Colorado River System

- 2007 Interim Guidelines
- 2017 Mexico signed Minute 323
- 2019 Drought Contingency Plan
- 2021-2023 Drought Response Operating Agreement Actions
- 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan
- 2022 Reduce Glen Canyon Dam Release
- 2022-2023 Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan



# Administrative Funding

- Taking action to protect the long-term sustainability of the Colorado River System
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: historic \$8.3 billion investment to address water and drought challenges
- Inflation Reduction Act: includes \$4 billion in funding specifically for water management and conservation efforts in the Colorado River Basin and other areas experiencing similar levels of drought



# Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Programs



# Near-term and Long-term Guidelines

- The 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Drought Contingency Plans and Minute 323 expire in 2026
- Near-term: Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to supplement the 2007 Interim Guidelines, modifying the guidelines for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam
- Long-term: Colorado River Post 2026 Operations





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