

Peer Review Plan

Lower Colorado River Basin Mainstream Evaporative and Riparian Losses Report

Date: October 2023

Originating office: Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Basin, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006

Reclamation roles:

Director or delegated manager: Jacklynn Gould, Regional Director, Lower Colorado Basin, Bureau of Reclamation

Peer Reviewer Lead: Kerim Dickson, Lead Interdisciplinary, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Lower Colorado Basin, Bureau of Reclamation

Subject and Purpose:

The Lower Colorado River Basin Mainstream Evaporative and Riparian Losses Report by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Interior Region 8: Lower Colorado Region's Boulder Canyon Operations Office (BCOO) compiles data on evaporation and riparian losses along the mainstream lower Colorado River. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the evaporative and riparian losses data along the lower Colorado River and presents methodologies to develop those datasets. The report is not intended to make recommendations on how to account for system losses in the Colorado River Basin. The purpose of this Peer Review Plan is to facilitate expert review of the report and methodology used to compile the evaporative and riparian losses data.

Impact of Dissemination:

Under Reclamation policy CMP P14 Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments in fulfillment of the Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677) and implementation of the Information Quality Act (Pub. L. 106-554) the science informing the Lower Colorado River Basin Mainstream Evaporative and Riparian Losses Report is determined to be influential scientific information.

Peer Review Scope:

The subject of this review is the methodology and results presented regarding evaporative and riparian losses along the mainstem of the Lower Colorado River. The review team will be tasked with verifying the methodology, for the reaches defined within the report, is appropriate and provides the best available current data regarding evaporative and riparian losses for the area. Peer reviewers will be asked to provide responses regarding the following points:

- (1) Is the methodology appropriate for the application?
- (2) Have data updates (e.g., coefficients) been appropriately incorporated into the method and do those updates reflect current best available data?
- (3) Are data sources and methodology, with provided references, sufficiently comprehensive to allow for replication of the data presented? Are the results presented in a way that makes clear what each value represents?

This report does not make recommendations on how to account for system losses in the lower Colorado River mainstream and as such reviewers are requested to solely comment on whether the data provided is comprehensive and accurate, according to best available data.

Timing of Review:

The review period is expected to be October 1-31, 2023. The final Peer Review Report is expected to be finalized before the end of November 2023. The report is expected to initially remain internal.

Methodology of Review:

Review will be conducted by individuals. The identities of the reviewers will be disclosed in the final Peer Review Report. Review findings/comments will be attributed to the individual reviewer. The peer review process will not provide opportunities for public participation.

Number of Peer Reviewers:

It is anticipated that 3 peer reviewers will be utilized.

Reviewer Selection Process:

Internal Peer Input will be utilized in the review of this report. The peer reviewers will have experience with expertise in hydrology and water management. Peer reviewers will have education, professional experience, and peer recognition in their field.

Delivery of findings:

The peer review team members will each provide comments on their findings to the Peer Review Lead by the end of the review period. At a minimum, their report will include a brief description of their findings and comments. The report will be provided digitally to the Peer Review Lead.

Response to Peer Review:

At the conclusion of receiving peer review comments, the Peer Review Lead will prepare a final Peer Review Report for documentation purposes. The report will summarize the findings of the peer review and list the comments provided by the reviewers, as well as Reclamation's response to the comment, actions the agency will undertake regarding the comment, and reasons the agency believes those actions will satisfy any key concerns or recommendations. The Peer Review Report will not be posted to the Peer Review public website.

Federal Register Notice:

Federal Register notices will not be provided announcing the formation of a peer review team and completion of the final report.

Applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA):

This peer review is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) because the review does not involve open meetings or committee chartering and reviewers are being asked to provide individual reviews on the subject matter. Reclamation is not seeking consensus advice from the reviewers as a group.

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