Table B-3
Minimum Flood Control Releases at Hoover Dam

Step	Flow Rate (cfs)
Step 1	0
Step 2	19,000
Step 3	28,000
Step 4	35,000
Step 5	40,000
Step 6	73,000

The lowest step, zero cfs, corresponds to times when the regulations do not require flood control releases. Hoover Dam releases are then made to meet water and power objectives. The second step, 19,000 cfs, is based on the Parker Powerplant capacity. The third step, 28,000 cfs, corresponds to Davis Powerplant's capacity. In recent years both Parker and Davis Powerplants have undergone an upgrading program to improve the efficiency of the individual powerplants. The current maximum releases are slightly higher for both the Parker Powerplant and Davis Powerplant outputs, as follows: 22,000 cfs and 31,000 cfs, respectively. The fourth step in the USACE release schedule is 35,000 cfs. This flow

corresponds to the powerplant flow-through capacity of Hoover Dam in 1987. However, the present powerplant flow-through capacity at Hoover Dam is 49,000 cfs. At the time Hoover Dam was completed, 40,000 cfs was the approximate maximum flow from the dam considered to be non-damaging to the downstream streambed. The 40,000 cfs flow now forms the fifth step. Releases of 40,000 cfs and greater would result from low-probability hydrologic events. The sixth and final step in the series (73,000 cfs) is the maximum controlled release from Hoover Dam that can occur without spillway flow.

Flood control releases are required when forecast inflow exceeds downstream demands, available storage space at Lake Mead and Lake Powell and allowable space in other Upper Basin reservoirs. This includes accounting for projected bank storage and evaporation losses at both lakes, plus net withdrawal from Lake Mead by the SNWA. The USACE regulations set the procedures for releasing the volume that cannot be impounded, as discussed above.