



02/13/2008 Lake Mead Not Going Dry

"We were contacted by some newspaper reporters to respond to a report to be released by Scripps Institute that says Lake Mead could be dry by 2021," said Larry Dozier, Deputy General Manager of Central Arizona Project.

"That is absurd," he added.

The seven states that draw water from the Colorado River, in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), recently reached an agreement on management of the Colorado River. That agreement was reached after extensive studies about the drought conditions and how severe shortages could be avoided.

"The studies evaluated a broad range of potential hydrologic conditions and several alternative operating criteria," Dozier said. "Lake Mead did not "go dry" at any time during the various scenarios. Shortages were manageable."

In addition, CAP produced its own separate drought impact analysis in 2007 by creating a "worst case" scenario based on the University of Arizona's tree ring study and it showed that Lake Mead did not go "dry," Dozier said.

Terry Fulp, an area manager of Boulder Canyon Operations for BOR, which oversees water deliveries and hydropower output at Hoover Dam put the chances of Lake Mead running dry at almost zero, according to a story in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Ultimately, Fulp said, there is nothing new about the findings in the Scripps study. Such "doom and gloom" predictions have been circulating for years now.

"In my lifetime, I don't expect to ever see it," he said.

CAP is a 336-mile-long system that brings about 1.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water to its customers -- cities, businesses, agriculture and Indian communities -- in Pima, Pinal and Maricopa counties. An acre-foot of water is about 326,000 gallons.

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